



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 \$2 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 \$400 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 \$50 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.

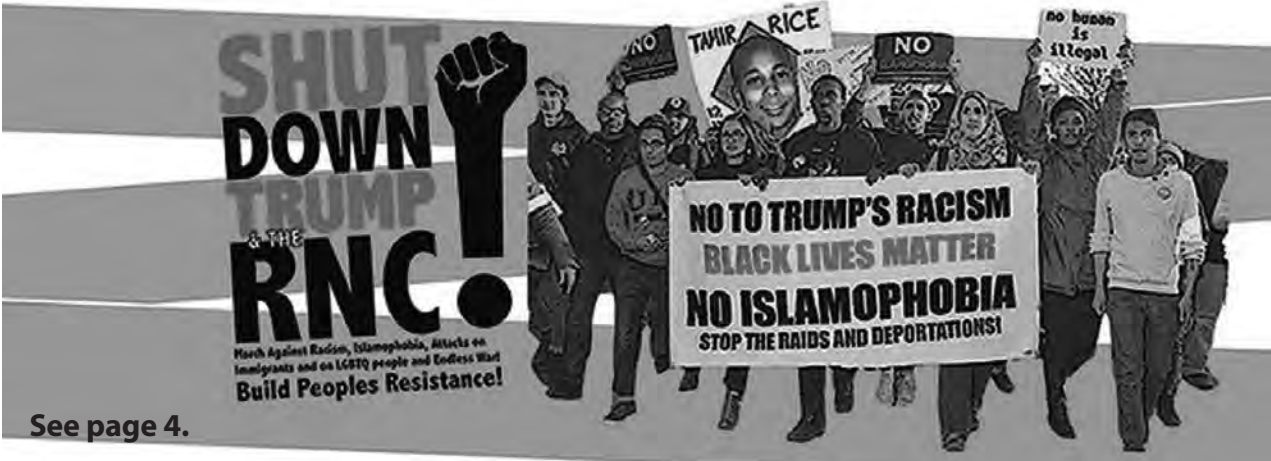
As a result, what is happening in Puerto Rico is that the majority of the people have become enormously dissatisfied with their government and with their undefined colonial status.

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. com-

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 AFRAM. 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 6
- Build worldwide worker solidarity 7

Cops killed man in wheelchair 2

DNC protesters: ‘We have right to rise up!’ 4

Move 9; Leonard Peltier 3

Okinawa says no to U.S. military 9

Editorial Mexican teachers on strike 10

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Cops kill man in wheelchair, no charges

By Edward Yudelovich

Delaware Attorney General Matt Denn has refused to charge four Wilmington police officers in the shooting death of Jeremy “Bam” McDole, a 28-year-old African 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 Dellose for “extraordinarily poor police work” during the incident. Prosecutors initially considered filing a felony assault charge against Dellose. (delawareonline.com)

The report found Dellose fired at McDole with a shotgun about two seconds after ordering him to put his hands up and said Dellose “should not be employed by the city police in any role where he would carry a firearm in public.” It noted that 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 911 transcript in which 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 communities 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.

McDole’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 Delaware has ever been charged with a crime for the fatal use of force on a civilian. Blacks suffer three times the death rate of whites at the hands of police nationwide.



PHOTO: DAMIAN GILLETTO

Jeremy McDole, 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 Power Assembly (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. Dedicated to the memory of McDole, 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!”

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 World Party activist with emotional and one-sided hearing loss disabilities.

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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this week

★ In the U.S.

Cops kill man in wheelchair, no charges	2
An urgent appeal from one of the MOVE 9	3
Peltier on 41st anniversary of ‘Incident at Oglala’	3
Roll back the rent!	3
‘Shut down Trump and the RNC’	4
‘DNC protests to go on with or without permits’	4
W. Va./Ohio Valley protests Trump and coal bosses	5
A global crisis: Nearly one in 100 forced to migrate	6
The Brexit vote:	
The need for global working-class consciousness	7
Black hockey players	8
Out of the headlines, Flint’s water still unsafe	8
Al-Quds rallies protest apartheid Israel	11

★ Around the world

Puerto Rico’s new phase: People resist financial junta	1
French unions will stay in the streets	6
Okinawans resist U.S. military bases	9
A century of wars since ‘the great slaughter’	11

★ Editorial

Mexico: Working-class warriors in the battle of ideas	10
---	----

★ WWP Presidential Campaign

Baltimore WWP candidates wage successful petition blitz	1
WWP petitioning for ballot status in Wisconsin	5
Solidarity with anti-fascists in Sacramento	5

★ Noticias en Español

Nueva fase de lucha en Puerto Rico	12
Cumbre OTAN en Varsovia amenaza guerra a Rusia	12

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An urgent appeal from one of the MOVE 9



Michael Davis Africa

The following appeal was written by Michael Davis Africa, one of the unjustly imprisoned MOVE 9 and a member of the Move Organization.

On The Move!

On Aug. 8, 1978, the MOVE Organization's headquarters was attacked in a pre-dawn raid by several hundred Philadelphia cops and officials. Under cover of smoke, tear gas and thousands of gallons of water from water cannons, the cops fired thousands of bullets at us from all directions. During the assault 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 minimum 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 courts all collectively agree that none of the MOVE women could possibly be guilty of the death of that cop. Yet Debbie, Janet and Janine have now spent 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 denied parole in June of 2016. The parole board, at the insistence of Philadelphia officials, continues to deny their release. And even worse, the parole board actually gives the MOVE women longer sanctions than the MOVE men. The issue is not what the

parole board will do the next time around. Anyone claiming to be conscious knows full well that the decision they claim to be contemplating in 2016 and beyond was already decided back in 1978, when we survived their murderous assault.

At this point we are asking people to urge all their friends and justice-minded people to sign the petition aimed at U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, urging her to investigate the wrongful and ongoing imprisonment of the MOVE 9. People can sign the petition by going to www.causes.com/campaigns/92454-free-the-move-9.

People have to demand justice not just from the 1 percent but also from the masses in the ranks of the 99 percent who will never fight to occupy anything other than jobs that exploit for the one percent cops, parole agents, prison guards feeding their families while enslaving yours.

On The Move! Long Live John Africa! □

Peltier on 41st anniversary of 'Incident at Oglala'

June 26, 2016

Sisters, brothers, friends and supporters:

June 26 marks 41 years since the long summer day when three young men were killed at the home of the Jumping Bull family, near Oglala, [S.D.], during a firefight in which I and dozens of others participated. While I did not shoot (and therefore did not kill) FBI agents Ronald Williams and Jack Coler, I nevertheless have great remorse for the loss of their young lives, the loss of my friend Joe Stuntz, and for the grieving of their loved ones.

I would guess that, like me, many of my brothers and sisters who were there that day wish that somehow they could have done something to change what happened and avoid the tragic outcome of the shootout.

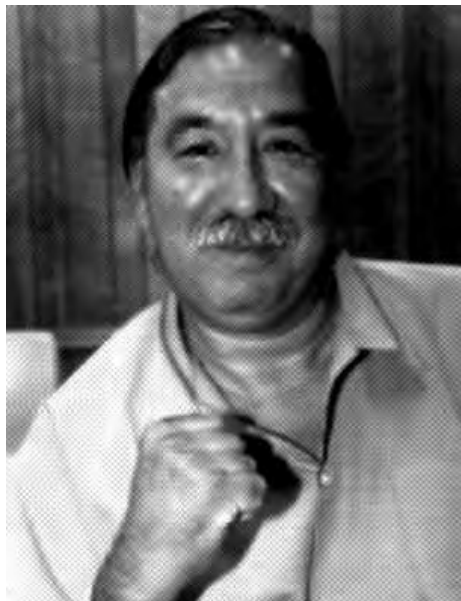
This is not something I have thought about casually and then moved on. It's something I think about every day. As I look back, I remember the expressions of both fear and courage on the faces of my brothers and sisters as we were being attacked. We thought we were going to be killed! We defended our elders and children as they scattered for protection and to escape.

Native people have experienced such assaults for centuries, and the historical trauma of the generations was carried by the people that day — and in the communities that suffered further trauma in the days that followed the shootout, as the authorities searched for those of us who had escaped the Jumping Bull property.

As the "First Peoples of Turtle Island," we live with daily reminders of the centuries of efforts to terminate our nations, eliminate our cultures, and destroy our relatives and families. To this day, everywhere we go there are reminders — souvenirs and monuments of the near extermination of a glorious population of Indigenous Peoples.

Native Peoples as mascots, the disproportionately high incarceration of our relatives, the appropriation of our culture, the never-ending efforts to take even more of Native Peoples' land and the poisoning of that land all serve as reminders of our history as survivors of a massive genocide. We live with this trauma every day. We breathe, eat and drink it. We pass it on to our children. And we struggle to overcome it.

Like so many Native children, I was ripped away from my family at the age of nine or so and taken away to get the "Indi-



Leonard Peltier

an" out of me at a boarding school. At that time, Native Peoples were not able to speak our own languages for fear of being beaten or worse. Our men's long hair, which is an important part of our spiritual life, was forcibly cut off in an effort to shame us. Our traditional names were replaced by new European-American names.

These efforts to force our assimilation continue today. Not long ago, I remember, a Menominee girl was punished and banned from playing on the school's basketball team because she taught a classmate how to say "hello" and "I love you" in her Native language. We hear stories all the time about athletes and graduates who face opposition to wearing their hair long or having a feather in their cap.

With this little bit of my personal history in mind, I think it is understandable that I would then, as a young person in the 1960s and 1970s, be active in the Indigenous struggle to affirm our human, civil and treaty rights. Our movement was a spiritual one to regain our ceremonies and traditions and to exercise our sovereignty as native or tribal nations.

For over 100 years some of our most important ceremonies could not be held. We could not sing our songs or dance to our drum. When my contemporaries and I were activists, there were no known sun dances. Any ceremony that took place had to be hidden for fear of reprisals.

One of our roles as activists for the welfare of our Peoples was to create space and protection for Native Peoples who were trying to reconnect to our ancient cultures and spiritual life. This was dangerous and deadly. It meant putting

our lives on the line because people who participated in these ceremonies, and people who stood up for our elders and our traditional way of life, were brutally beaten, killed or disappeared. Paramilitary groups and death squads ruled some reservations and each day was a battle.

If an uninvited, 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 500 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

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 after attending a militant rally outside. The June 27 meeting was the final Rent Guidelines Board hearing for a million New York City apartments. Classified as regulated, the rents on these homes of mostly working-class tenants have risen to increasingly unaffordable levels.

More and more tenants must pay over one-third of their income for rent. As gentrification and homelessness abound in the city, community organizing of tenants has 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 soon attacked this decision.

The struggle continues to control the rents so that they are affordable for all tenants in the city, whatever their income.

— Report and photo by Anne Pruden

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 World 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.

“There are many reasons this march is important to me,” she said. “My reasons can be summed up in the words of Tavis Smiley and Cornel West: ‘There are over 150 million poor people in America [USA] who are not responsible for the damage done to them by the elite society. The poor did not create the deindustrialization of America, the poor do not start wars, and the poor didn’t create greed.’ The bought-and-paid-for government in the USA obliges Wall Street on the backs of the poor, and the poor are paying a

heavy price.”

The Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association is sending a delegation to the march. DAREA President Bill Davis explained: “I think we all have to stand up for the rights of all people. We will not stand by and let the RNC take us back to the 1930’s Nazi Germany!”

Southerners are mobilizing too. “This year we have decided to mobilize a caravan from North Carolina to Cleveland because it is an especially polarizing time for our class,” said Dhruv Pathak, a Charlotte, N.C., labor and community activist. “Racist billionaire Donald Trump is bringing out the most hateful, racist, Islamophobic sections of this country. So it is our duty as activists, organizers and socialists to mobilize to show these bigots that hate won’t be allowed, and wherever there is hate that it will be met with a fightback.”

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 firearms are prohibited, they can brandish their guns in public.

The people of Cleveland, especially people of color, are facing threats simply by living there.

Terrea Mitchell, an organizer and activist with New York People’s Power Assembly, 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 be there with the purpose 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 intimi-



dation 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 made 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 “Dump Trump” 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 [RNC] people but are going to be tough on the left contingent.”

People all over the country are refusing to be intimidated. Shut down Trump and the RNC! See iacenter.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 (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 28. Several also denounced efforts by Mayor Jim Kenney to ban marches in Center City during morning and afternoon rush hours during the DNC. Groups that have frequently marched in the city during rush hour accused Kenney of trying to use the DNC to set a precedent that could then be used against future demonstrations.

While the actual convention will be held at the Wells Fargo Center, miles away from Center City, most DNC delegates will be staying at hotels in downtown Philadelphia, and are expected to spend considerable time there.

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 plans to hold demonstrators.

“We don’t trust the city,” charged Mines. “Mayor Kenney proclaimed that protests would be decriminalized, yet



News conference, June 28. A dozen groups call for shutting down the DNC.

he is planning space in several prisons to hold protesters at the DNC. He says he supports freedom of speech, and now he’s banning ‘rush hour’ protests. He’s the same person who ran on a platform to end the racist stop-and-frisk policies, yet has failed to do so.”

Deandra Jefferson, also of R.E.A.L. Justice, denounced Philadelphia’s plan to spend \$60 million on the DNC instead of reopening shut-down city schools. “The DNC is not coming to Philadelphia to address gentrification,” she stressed. “They will not even be talking about racism in the city where the MOVE organization and an entire Black community was bombed under another Democratic mayor.”

Scott Williams, of Workers World Party, noted that Wells Fargo, one of the biggest banks in the world, which was founded on profits from slavery, is hosting the DNC. “The DNC has a sordid history of cutting welfare, expanding prison populations and promoting wars abroad,” said Williams. “We are concerned that labor, LGBTQ, impoverished, immigrant and Black and Brown communities — those who have the most reason to protest in the streets — could be denied their rights long after the DNC leaves town. Philadel-

phia has a shameless legacy of arresting activists — from communists during the McCarthy period to members of the Black Panther Party, the MOVE Organization and, more recently, activists marching under the Black Lives Matter banners.”

Civil rights attorney Larry Krasner asked: “If Philadelphia can shut down Center City streets for the annual Mummers Parade, or after major wins by sports teams, shouldn’t allowing access for First Amendment protests be more important?”

Krasner also reminded the city that attorneys in Philadelphia have a “remarkable record” of wins at trials of protesters, including the 400 people who were arrested during an earlier DNC and several recent anti-police brutality actions in Philadelphia.

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 Katherine Roper; Cheri Honkala, with the Poor Peoples’ Economic Human Rights Campaign; Jody 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 Asa Khalif, with Black Lives Matter, whose cousin 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 incident on June 30 shows how the police interpret the new law on citations. R.E.A.L. Justice organizer Rufus Farmer 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 precinct.

“They took the cuffs off, handed me a \$300 citation, and told me 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 have one of the highest reported rates of police brutality.”

Farmer was wearing a “Free Mumia” T-shirt, which was torn by the police. He reported that police called him a “professional protester,” 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 2000.

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, WWP members from Detroit, New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Rockford, Ill., and Durham, N.C., were joined by members and friends in Wisconsin at farmers’ markets, campuses, supermarkets and numerous other locations to gather 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 Wil-

liams, from the Philadelphia Branch of WWP, is out in the streets of Milwaukee daily to get Moorehead-Lilly on the ballot. He says the majority of workers and oppressed people he and fellow organizers are meeting 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 class, 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-imperialists attacks.”

On July 2 “The Grass Is Greener” radio show on Riverwest Radio 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. (riverwestradio.com)

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 p.m at 1241 N. Franklin Pl., Milwaukee, and the “Building People’s Power” community conversation, which Moorehead will join via Skype, will be at 7 p.m at 734 N. 26th St., Milwaukee.

For more information about these events, visit wibailoutpeople.org and facebook.com/wibailoutpeople, or call 414-395-0665. To make a much-needed contribution to help cover expenses for the WWP “Put Socialism on the Ballot” Wisconsin campaign, see gofundme.com/wwpwisconsin.



WW PHOTO

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



Monica Moorehead for president. Lamont Lilly for Vice President.

The following statement was issued on June 29 by Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, the 2016 Workers World Party presidential and vice presidential candidates.

The Workers World Party national election campaign sends its warm greetings to Anti-Fascist Action Sacramento and salutes its members for freezing out the fascist, misnamed “Traditional Workers Party” and preventing their rally from taking place on June 26. Our hearts are with Antifa in the aftermath of this violent TWP attack, which specifically targeted people of color and transpeople. We wish all the anti-fascists wounded in this attack a full and speedy recovery. We need these courageous warriors back on the streets.

We denounce fascist groups like the TWP. We despise their name, which employs the classic Hitlerite tactic (the official name of the Nazis was National Socialist Workers Party) of attempting to dupe white workers into thinking that fascists represent their interests. The fascists do not. The billionaire fascist Trump does not. Michael Heinbeck, founder of the TWP, has personally assaulted anti-Trump protesters. He then had the nerve to paint Trump support-

ers as victims and build a rally around this fraudulent claim. Heinbeck does not speak for white workers. TWP is not a workers’ party in any sense of the word. The TWP is an extra-legal terrorist organization that works hand-in-hand with police violence like the KKK.

These fascists are making another fraudulent claim — that white workers are the “traditional” workers — as if wage slaves who are African-American, Latino/a, Asian, Indigenous, Arab, Muslim, migrant, LGBTQ, differently abled or women are somehow newcomers or outsiders. Long before this country was even founded, the 1% of the day profited from the genocidal theft of Native lands and the unpaid labor of enslaved Black people. The Industrial Revolution was financed by the slave trade. Even before a third of Mexico was stolen by the U.S., its original inhabitants slaved in the mines. All members of the multinational working class on July 4, 1776, were “traditional workers.”

A history of workers resistance

The multinational working class has a militant, fighting tradition which includes every oppressed nationality and

Solidarity with anti-fascists in Sacramento

group inside the U.S. There has never been a whites-only or English-only or U.S.-born-only labor movement. You can see that in the names of great labor leaders like Lucy Parsons, Mother Jones, A. Philip Randolph, Ferdinand Smith, Humberto Silex, Emma Tenayuca, John Handcox, Odis L. Sweeden, George Ades, Stanley Nowak, Larry Itilong and Cesar Chavez.

Also names of U.S. labor’s martyrs put shame to the fascist, stereotyped formulation of the “traditional” worker: August Spies, Louis Lingg, George Engel, Adolph Fischer (Haymarket Martyrs), Joe Hill (IWW), the Ludlow Massacre victims (Western Federation of Miners), Ella Mae Wiggins (National Textile Workers Union), Ralph Gray (Sharecroppers Union), Curtis Williams (Ford Hunger March), Virgil Duyungan and Aurelio Simon (UCAPAWA), Nagi Daifullah and Juan De La Cruz (UFW), Danny Lee Overstreet (CWA), the five Greensboro Communist Workers Party martyrs massacred in North Carolina by the white supremacist KKK in 1979, among many others.

All fascistic movements, from Trump to the forces behind the Brexit vote in Britain, are tools of the capitalist class whose

prime motive is to keep those within our class — the workers and oppressed of the world — pitted against one another. The ruling class is the only class that fascists serve, despite their demagogic rhetoric. We do not believe in “free speech” for violent and divisive hate rhetoric. We also differ with those now criticizing the cops for not intervening and arresting people in Sacramento. We know what that would have looked like — more of our comrades injured, since the police are the enemies of the workers and oppressed peoples.

We are concerned to hear the police are combing through videos and pictures, looking for opportunities to arrest people. We stand in solidarity with any anti-fascists who may face arrests as a result. We support the right of anti-racist and anti-fascist forces to defend themselves from right-wing terrorism by any means necessary.

Although WWP was only able to be present with Antifa in a limited way on June 26, we are with you 1000 percent: SHUT THEM DOWN! Shut down the whole racist, capitalist system of wage-slavery! Workers of the world and oppressed peoples of the world unite and fight for socialism! □

W. Va./Ohio Valley protests Trump and coal bosses

By Jeremy Baumann
Wheeling, W.Va.

An angry crowd of mostly youthful protesters confronted the racist presidential candidate, Donald Trump, outside the WesBanco Arena in Wheeling, W.Va. Trump was the featured speaker for an “invitation only” fundraiser on June 28 with coal company executives and other capitalist officials from the Ohio Valley area.

Protesters chanted, “Racist! Sexist! Anti-gay! Right-wing bigots go away!” and “No Trump! No KKK! No fascist USA!” as the candidate’s mostly white and middle-class audience members in business suits were escorted into the side of the hockey arena. Meanwhile,

sharpshooters in military fatigues stood on the rooftops of buildings across the street.

The anti-Trump crowd was unintimidated by the militarized police presence. Some Trump supporters yelled incomprehensible epithets, but they were outnumbered and quickly shut down.

West Virginia state NAACP President Owens Brown, a former coal miner, participated in the protest and told Workers World, “Wherever Trump goes, it is important people respond and show that they do not agree with his bigotry.” Brown further explained, “While some people in this area might say they ‘like Trump because he promises to bring back coal mining jobs,’ one cannot support a candidate that is endorsed by the terrorist Ku

Klux Klan and not be a racist.”

The reactionary fundraiser was put together by an evangelical coal baron named Robert Murray, who is the CEO of Murray Energy Corporation. Murray has a history of participating in right-wing politics. In 2012, he was under investigation for “violating federal election laws” in Ohio.

Also in 2012, Murray laid off 156 coal miners — for which action he blamed the re-election of President Barack Obama — shortly after he forced them to listen to a prayer he had written. As a self-serving proponent of resource extraction, it is not surprising that Murray is also an outspoken denier of global warming.

Labor also had a presence at the anti-Trump protest. Marcus Long, a

proud, card-carrying member of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Local 33, told WW: “While Robert Murray wants to brag about owning union coal mines and wants to call himself a philanthropist, to me, he is just another racist union-buster. He and Trump should both be shut down.”

The confrontation took place just a couple of weeks before the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, where Trump and his band of bigots will be confronted by “Shut Down Trump and the RNC.” Workers World newspapers and fliers announcing protests at both July capitalist party conventions were distributed throughout the crowd, encouraging them to attend the events that are planned and to march on July 17. □

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.

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 capitalists 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 dislocation of humanity since World War II. That is a stunning fact.

This amounts to World War III. That the working-class and progressive 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 impe-

rialist 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 — Gadhafi 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 \$236 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 \$8.36 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.

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



A collapsed capitalist economy and NATO aggression forces millions to migrate.



Teresa Gutierrez

Now, almost half of Syria's 23 million people have been displaced.

Furthermore, people from Western Africa are forced to leave after decades of International Monetary Fund structural adjustment policies. Even the IMF itself admitted that its

schemes are “flawed, have increased inequality and [have] not ... delivered economic growth,” all of which are, of course, utter euphemisms. (African Independent, June 24)

Hidden casualties of war

The crisis of forced mass migration has many victims. Articles have been published about the tens of thousands of migrant children that are “missing” in Europe, purported victims of criminal gangs, an unspeakable tragedy. And that is a woefully conservative figure. (Politico, May 3).

The Politico article stated: “The closure of European borders and lack of an effective strategy to cope with wave after wave of refugees ... often leave unaccompanied minors crossing into Europe with nowhere to turn. And that makes them easy prey for smugglers and traffickers.”

One can only imagine the unspeakable pain of a parent fearing that their child may have gotten caught up in the European sex trade.

On July 1, the International Migrant Alliance distributed a statement from the World Council of Churches dated June 28, 2016. As documentation of worldwide forced migration varies from source to source, and is conflictive, the WCC statement is important to publish.

The statement said, “The world is in the midst of a historic crisis of forced dis-

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 passed this reactionary law, the unions argue it should not be enforced.

The CGT labor confederation points out in a communique issued June 28 that even the U.N. International Organization of Labor has declared that this law violates international conventions.

The 11th major national demonstration on June 28 drew 200,000 protesters and strikers throughout France. Some

FO (Workers' Force) contingents in the march called for a general strike, according to video clips.

In the Dordogne Department (county), according to France Bleu radio station, 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 (FINL).

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 FranceTV.info shows hundreds of people booing him.

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

THE BREXIT VOTE: The need for global working-class consciousness

This article is based on closing remarks given by Workers World Party First Secretary, Larry Holmes, at a June 30 meeting in New York City. Go to youtu.be/6-r_fxzMFO0 to hear opening and closing remarks.

placement — of people obliged to leave their homes, communities and countries to escape conflict, persecution, repression, natural and human-made disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives, freedom or livelihood.

“During 2015 ... displacement ... surpassed all previous records, exceeding 65 million people — or one out of every 113 people on earth. Conflicts and insecurity in the Middle East — especially the tragically continuing war in Syria and in parts of Africa — have been major drivers of this exodus.

“In the same year, more than a million people crossed the Mediterranean to Europe as refugees and migrants. More than 3,770 people perished during 2015 in the course of this hazardous crossing, and more than 2,850 more are thought to have been lost already so far this year.

“In Central America ... the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stated that the number of asylum seekers from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador increased from 20,900 in 2012 to 109,800 in 2015.

“These crises have demonstrated that, in today’s world, it is impossible to remain insulated in one’s own safety and comfort from the suffering experienced by such vast numbers of people seeking refuge. Closing one’s eyes and ears to the plight of the victims was never acceptable, and now it is no longer feasible. ...

“All too often, the response by governments and societies of countries in which suffering people have sought safe haven has been one of fear, rejection and exclusion. All too often, political actors have sought to galvanize public concern and to increase fear for political advantage. ...

“Longstanding and fundamental principles of international humanitarian law have been questioned and undermined, including the right of asylum — the fundamental principle that all people ... are entitled to seek international protection regardless of ... any criterion other than need.

“This principle ... is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948. The Refugee Convention was a collective international response to the suffering of — mostly European — refugees in the aftermath of the Second World War. The principles and obligations defined ... are just as relevant and necessary in the context of the current global crisis as they were then in the post-World War II European refugee crisis.”

How to answer Brexit and Trump?

In light of this global humanitarian crisis, what should the working class and revolutionary movements consider in response? Here is a suggestion. Build a global movement of solidarity that demands:

- ▶ U.S., NATO out of Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and everywhere!
- ▶ Reparations for Africa!
- ▶ Stop U.S. death funds in Central America and Mexico! U.S. out of Latin America! Cancel the debt of Puerto Rico!
- ▶ Demand refugee status for all the displaced from wars, climate change or economic violence!
- ▶ Build solidarity, not walls!
- ▶ Make December 18 “World Day of Migration” and June 20 “World Refugee Day,” global days of class solidarity! □

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 to wage war on the oppressed. However, those who think that the Brexit vote was progressive are 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 benefiting from the vote, but racist and fascist forces are.

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 contradictions. The ruling class of the world is not happy about what happened. One of the important things for capitalism is having their political establishment — the ruling class parties — be able to control what happens in their capitalist elections.

Why did they spend so much money and time? Why do the media prop up these political institutions of capitalism and imperialism? So that they can manipulate the working class and the masses and that things come out their way in elections. It is a symptom of the political situation of capitalism that is in deep crisis that things are not going their way. They’re not that thrilled about Donald Trump but that doesn’t change Trump’s character.

This was a big blow to the big bourgeoisie, to the extent that it’s crumbling in many ways. This was a blow to their establishment for what they’ve been trying to do ever since the end of the first and the second imperialist world wars, that is, to strengthen these institutions, whether it’s NATO or the United Nations or the World Trade Organization or NAFTA or the European Union, in order to compete but also to have these institutions and these agreements help them wage their war to exploit the workers at a greater magnitude. We will see the fallout. It’s a contradiction. That is one point.

But it is a mistake to downplay the racism. We don’t have to live in Manchester or London or any other place — speaking as a Black communist in New York City — to understand racism and understand what a lot of white workers and a lot of white middle-class people can be pulled into.

What are we talking about? Let’s say a little bit about it because it’s a big problem in uniting the working class. The British working class has a different history. But it’s not unlike the U.S. working class in many respects. The strength of it and the strength of British imperialist stability was based on a white working class that, relatively speaking, was more privileged than the oppressed, whether they be in Britain or whether they be in one of the colonies. We know all about that in the U.S.

Now what’s happening is that globalization is pauperizing even those formerly



International working-class solidarity and battling racism are the main goals. May 1, New York City.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Larry Holmes, below

relatively more privileged workers, here and there. They’re getting frantic, and this should drive them towards revolutionary socialism and against capitalism and to embrace their Black and Brown sisters and brothers.

We have not given up on the white workers, but we’re not naive either. We know, especially if there’s the absence of a strong revolutionary alternative, racists and fascists will pull them in and tell them that the way to bring it back to the way it was — when you were a little more privileged — is to turn the clock back, meaning close the borders and push out all those Black and Brown workers that you see driving cabs and ringing cash registers, etc. This is what’s going on there.

We’re not writing white workers off, but we are not going to abandon the oppressed workers, who frankly — and there are exceptions to this but historically this is generally true — are the vanguard of the struggle for revolutionary change. We hold them up. We hold them up unabashedly, unapologetically.

Challenges for the movement

Our Party more than any other party is against ridiculous, opportunist, self-serving polemics. We have nothing whatsoever to gain from it. We are completely open to discussing everything with comrades or potential comrades anytime anywhere. If there’s something that they can shed light on that we don’t know about, okay. But we refuse to be naive about racism.

We would advise them: Don’t get dug into a bad position; don’t become captive because for some reason you decided to downplay and minimize the role of racism. Based on that, we can all go forward.

Actually, this is such a big event coming at a time when the capitalist system is so fragile. This is one of the contradictions, too. This is what has them worried. It’s really a continuation of an earlier point. The capitalist system is so fragile that anything, any political upset, any economic upset, whether it’s in the financial markets, whether it’s the collapse of a bank, it can be the snowball, so to speak, that starts the whole thing crumbling. That’s good. But that doesn’t negate the danger that this poses.

Why is it such a tremendous danger now? We don’t want to sound like moralists. We are scientists. We are communists. We are dialectical materialists.

That’s how we view this development.

What has globalized high-tech capitalism 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, those who have 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 don’t see 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.

Who wants to come together now on the basis of this goal and talk about how we’re going to build a revolutionary worldwide working class? How are we going to strengthen internationalism, not just with rhetoric but actually and practically? And how are we going to forge unity with the more oppressed sections of the working class?

These are the big questions on the table. No matter what disagreements we have now and historically with other groups, Workers World Party is prepared to sit at that table. □

SOULS ON ICE

Black hockey players

By Dolores Cox

The 2015-16 National Hockey League has ended. But 22 years before the NHL was established, the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes was formed in 1895 in Canada. Initiated by Black Baptist churches in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the league was comprised of the sons and grandsons of enslaved Africans who had escaped from the U.S. The league consisted of teams from Africville, Amherst, Dartmouth and Halifax. The CHL formed 25 years before the U.S. Negro Baseball League was established.

The CHL helped pioneer the sport of ice hockey. Despite the racist beliefs of many whites about what Black athletes were capable of in a cold-weather sport, CHL players defied the established myths. Unfortunately, their contributions were ignored or simply stolen as white teams and hockey officials copied elements of the Black style or sought to take credit for Black hockey innovations.

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 Hockey League during the 1930s were one of the early all-Black teams.

A score of firsts

Canadian Herb Carnegie from Fredericton, New Brunswick, was the first star in the Colored Hockey League. He began his career in 1938 with the Toronto Young Rangers, then went to the Buffalo Ankerites, who played in mining towns in Ontario and Quebec. In the semi-pro Quebec Provincial League, Carnegie was named Most Valuable Player in 1946-48.

Born in 1930, Canadian player Art Dorrington, center, was the first Black



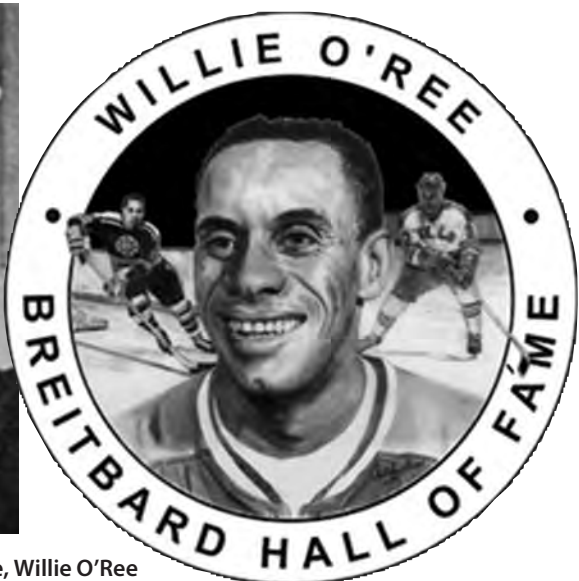
Black hockey stars Herb Carnegie, Willie O'Ree and Angela James.

player to sign an NHL contract with the New York Rangers in 1950. But he never made it to the ranks of the pros, despite his good statistics in the minor leagues.

The first professional Black player in the NHL was Willie O'Ree, born in 1935, also from Fredericton. He is referred to as the "Jackie Robinson of ice hockey" because he was the first Black player to break the NHL color barrier. Previously, the first hockey player of color to break the barrier was Chinese: Larry Kwong in 1948, a decade before O'Ree.

O'Ree was playing in the minor leagues with the Quebec Aces when the Boston Bruins called him up to replace one of their injured players. He made his debut with them in 1958 against the Montreal Canadiens. That year he became the first Black player in hockey league history to appear in two NHL games.

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 the Los Angeles Blades and San Diego Gulls. He won two scoring titles in the Western Hockey League (WHL). In 1978 he retired from hockey at age 43. Now his retired number hangs from the rafters in the San Diego arena.

In 1984, O'Ree was inducted into the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame. In 1998 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. That same year, his hometown of Fredericton honored him by naming a new 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.

Alton White was the second athlete of African descent to play on a U.S. major league ice hockey team. In the 1970s, he played in the WHL for the New York Raiders, Los Angeles Sharks, Michigan Stags and Baltimore Blades. White was the first

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 around 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 add anti-corrosive chemicals.

Today, outside of Flint's surrounding area, headline stories are infrequent. One that did draw attention was the June 28 report by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, stating that filtered Flint water was safe to drink, even for pregnant women and children under six. The recommendation was based on the drop in lead levels in filtered water.

On the surface that seems like wonderful news. But the reality is more complex. Leaving a filter and spare cartridges with instructions on someone's doorstep — as some agencies have done — is not going to help someone who can't read or whose primary language is not English.

Now volunteers are going door to door, checking on who needs filters and/or replacement cartridges. They are seeing people with filters that are broken, don't fit their faucets or are not attached properly. They are also seeing cartridges that have expired or don't fit the filters people have. Some homes still don't even have filters.

Michael Hood, who runs Crossing Water, which is coordinating a number of 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're seeing have filters that are not working."

Not every medical expert agrees that filtered water is now safe for everyone. Genesee County Medical Society, a Flint area doctors' group, advises high-risk populations to still use bottled water and tells everyone to keep testing their water for lead.

This is because a recent water flushing program — intended to force more water through the system to make anti-corrosive chemicals effective — "may have dislodged more of the particulate matter and we're concerned it may have gotten caught in aerators and may have increased the amount of lead in the system."

Dr. George Natzke, of GCMS, urged anyone whose filter is not functioning to keep drinking bottled water. (wnem.com, June 29)

Based on Hood's and Natzke's assessments, it is likely that a majority of Flint's 100,000 people still depend entirely or partially on bottled water. With the Michigan National Guard no longer assisting with distribution, bottled water is harder to come by.

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 additional pneumonia-related deaths, such as that of 68-year-old Bertie Marble, were actually caused by undiagnosed cases of Legionnaires'.

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 whole 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 already among the highest in the country. The massive infusion of needed funds has not been forthcoming from either Washington or the state. So far, 33 service lines have been replaced. The most recent state budget bill, which includes more money for Flint, will only pay for another 500 line replacements. The Michigan House of Representatives passed the bill just before its summer recess after a massive grass-roots call-in campaign.

Meanwhile, the Natural Resources Defense Council released a report June 28 stating that — based on EPA data — 5,363 U.S. water systems serving 18 million people do not comply with the federal Lead and Copper Rule. Violations include failure to test the water and inadequate treatment. That means over 5,000 Flints are waiting to happen!

The report does not indicate how many of these water systems have been privatized. Veolia, the world's largest private water company and a notorious union buster, is being sued by the state of Michigan for its role as a paid consultant in 2015. Veolia's report on Flint water quality falsely stated that the water was safe to drink and was in compliance with federal regulations.

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

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 Education Workers (CNTE), announced an indefinite teachers’ strike beginning July 5.

That Mexico’s teachers need solidarity from laboring people everywhere was brutally proved in Nochixtlán, Oaxaca, on June 19 when federal police fired on teachers, students and Indigenous people who had taken the teachers’ side. Thirteen died and over a hundred were wounded.

This is not the first murderous attack by the Mexican state on teachers. In 2014, 43 student teachers were kidnapped from activist Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers’ Col-

lege and have remained “disappeared.” The Oaxacan section of the CNTE has been militantly resisting state repression and attempts to break their union.

Workers in the U.S. should pay close attention to how the state is attacking the teachers’ union. Before the federal government brought out their guns, the state first imposed new certification testing for who could teach. These requirements were culturally biased and designed to eliminate teachers from rural, impoverished and Indigenous backgrounds. Those teachers are the most militant fighters for economic and social justice for workers and oppressed peoples.

The capitalist bosses need school systems to produce workers to be unthink-

ing and apathetic cogs in profit-making machines. Big business doesn’t want workers asking critical questions about how they can take charge and tear down the system exploiting them. Let alone replace capitalism with a system they run in their own interests.

In the U.S. there are ongoing, insidious neoliberal attempts to privatize public education, “standardize” the curriculum to fit the plans of big business and strip teacher unions of the power to fight for their students. Right-wing legislators are attacking university programs that teach histories of fightback, especially liberation lessons from people of color and women.

Militant U.S. teacher organizations see the connections between their strug-

gles and those of Mexican teachers. Immediately, the Chicago Teachers Union, the California Teachers Federation and MORE, the movement of rank-and-file educators in the Social Justice Caucus of the United Federation of Teachers in New York City, sent messages of solidarity to the CNTE. Some U.S. teacher unions held demonstrations and “die-ins” to educate the public about the struggle in Mexico. Class-conscious teachers are warriors in the battle of ideas between the working class and the ruling class.

Just as U.S. unionists have begun to show support for the valiant general strike of French workers against their capitalist government, now is the time for all-out working-class solidarity. □

Puerto Rico’s new phase: People resist financial junta

Continued from page 1

panies, including those contained in Plan Krueger 2015 — have driven the people into poverty and despair.

To list just a few of the situations that impact the people and diminish their quality of life:

- Increased violence and crime, including theft and carjacking that have become a daily occurrence.
- Foreclosures of mortgages on homes and repossession of automobiles.
- Deterioration of health caused by the high cost of medical services and the lack of doctors and other health professionals who migrate to the U.S. daily.
- Hunger and poverty exacerbated by layoffs, lack of basic services and the high cost of living as a result of multiple taxes the government has imposed to remedy the lack of available funds.
- Add to the above an epidemic of the Zika virus and the loss of trained workers and professionals recruited by U.S. government agencies.

On the last point it is important to report a dangerous development regarding police recruitment that occurred a few days ago.

The fact that there is an impoverished but well-trained workforce in Puerto Rico, which is bilingual and has U.S. citizenship, attracts U.S. agencies that offer better salaries than on the island. Workers not only earn less in Puerto Rico, but those fortunate enough to have jobs are at risk of losing them.

U.S. agencies have already been to Puerto Rico from the United States to re-

cruit nurses, teachers, doctors and other professionals. Even more troubling is the recruitment of police. With the excuse that there are more Latinos/as in U.S. cities now, they recruit Boricuas to be used against Black and Latino/a people. This is what none other than the police force of Baltimore has done — the city where the murderers of Freddie Gray go unpunished! Some 1,600 Puerto Ricans have registered to take the police exam!

The struggle begins!

Although there is still no unity of action, different sectors in Puerto Rico are mobilizing.

With consistent and militant actions, teachers have managed to stop one measure in the Puerto Rican Legislature, the “Bhatia Plan.” This plan aimed to implement the privatization of many schools, the dismissal of thousands of teachers and the destruction of public education, among other regressive provisions.

The United Front Against Aerial Fumigation, composed of several environmental, health, agriculture, social justice and other organizations, has called for various actions, including demonstrations against aerial spraying of the deadly toxin Naled, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention proposed be used to “eradicate” the mosquito that carries the Zika virus.

In Puerto Rico there is enormous opposition to its use not only because it’s harmful to people, but also for its damage to bees, which in turn would harm

agriculture. Puerto Rican experts have proposed other, more appropriate ways to counter Zika, but the government has not listened to them. Thanks to protests, however, the fumigation that would have begun on July 1 was stopped. The United Front continues with demonstrations the week of July 4 when public hearings are being held on the use of Naled.

On June 30, the militant and class-conscious union UTIER, representing the workers of the Electric Energy Authority (AEE), held a successful, islandwide 24-hour strike to protest and fight against the attempt to privatize and restructure the AEE. That is being reorganized under the guidelines of Lisa Donahue of Alix-Partner for the benefit of bondholders. Among Donahue’s proposals are to reduce medical plan benefits and retirees’ pensions. During the strike, the workers marched from the AEE main office and packed the streets on the way to the Capitol and the governor’s residence in San Juan.

Ángel Figueroa Jaramillo, president of UTIER, highlighted the importance of the union when he declared, “We in the UTIER have struggled to build fundamental rights for the whole working class of our country. It is with this principle that we defend with all our power our medical plan and retirement system, which should be guaranteed for all citizens. But unfortunately that is not our reality as a people, which must not stop us from fighting to achieve it.” (utier.org, July 1)

As soon as the U.S. Senate announced

its approval of PROMESA, a large group of youth assembled early on June 30 in front of the gates of the Federal Court in San Juan. There, they set up a “Camp Against the Junta” and said they will not leave until their demands are heard. Their call is for people to unite against the Financial Control Board (Junta), against colonialism, against spraying Naled and in defense of the beaches, public education and the people. Through their Facebook page (@Campamento Contra La Junta), they publicize their demands and receive messages of solidarity from organizations and individuals on the island as well as from the United States.

On July 1, federal agents threatened to evict the camp, but gave no deadline. Since then, however, the camp has been growing as more people show up.

Organizers called for a day of action on July 4 with the following message: “We call this demonstration as an action to show opposition to the colonial status of all Puerto Ricans and, through educational media and artistic means, to denounce the imposition of a Financial Control Board. This event is symbolic because as the United States celebrates its independence, it is simultaneously establishing projects to enslave and imprison its colonies. Now is the time for the Puerto Rican people to speak out together as one: #NoALaJuntaDeControlFiscal, #NoALaDeuda, #SíALaDescolonización

To follow this movement on Facebook and to send messages of solidarity, access the page at tinyurl.com/hzvvpj6.

Nueva fase de lucha en Puerto Rico

Continúa de página 12

perjudicaría la agricultura. Han sometido otras formas más adecuadas para combatir el zika, pero aún el gobierno no las ha aceptado. Sin embargo, gracias a las protestas, se detuvo la fumigación que iba a comenzar el viernes 1ro de julio. El Frente seguirá con movilizaciones esta semana cuando se celebrarán vistas públicas sobre el uso del naled.

El jueves 30 de junio, el militante y clasista sindicato UTIER que representa a las/os trabajadoras de la AEE, tuvieron un exitoso paro de 24 horas para protestar y luchar contra la intención de la AEE, ahora reorganizada bajo las pautas de Lisa Donahue, de Alix Partner, que buscaba la privatización y reestructuración de la agencia estatal para beneficiar a los bonistas. Entre las propuestas de Donahue están la reducción de benefi-

cios en el plan médico y las pensiones de las y los jubilados. Durante el paro, que se dio a nivel de toda la isla, celebraron una concurrenda marcha desde las instalaciones de la AEE recorriendo calles del área metropolitana.

Ángel Figueroa Jaramillo, presidente de la UTIER, resalta la importancia de este sindicato cuando declara que “Nosotros en la UTIER hemos luchado por construir una base de derechos para toda la clase trabajadora de nuestro país. Es con ese principio que defendemos con fuerzas nuestro Plan Médico y Sistema de Retiro, los cuales deberían ser garantizados para todos los ciudadanos. Pero lamentablemente esa no es nuestra realidad como pueblo, lo que no debe impedir que luchemos para lograrlo”. (UTIER.org, 1 de julio)

Tan pronto se dio a conocer la aprobación de la “Promesa” por el senado es-

tadounidense, un puñado considerable de jóvenes fue a manifestarse frente a los portones del edificio del Tribunal Federal en San Juan en la madrugada del jueves. Ahí establecieron un Campamento Contra la Junta (#campamentocontralajunta) y dicen que no se irán hasta que sus demandas sean oídas. A través de su página de Facebook, envían y reciben mensajes y hacen conocer sus demandas. Su pedido es la unidad del pueblo contra la JCF, contra el coloniaje, contra la fumigación de naled, y en defensa de las playas, la escuela pública y el pueblo.

El viernes, los agentes federales amenazaron con desahuciarlos aunque no dieron fecha. Sin embargo, desde entonces el campamento ha ido creciendo mientras más personas se suman. A través de su página reciben mensajes de solidaridad de organizaciones y personas

tanto en la isla como en EUA.

Convocaron un día de acción para el 4 de julio con el siguiente mensaje: “Convocamos esta manifestación como un acto de demostrar oposición a la condición colonial de todxs lxs puertorriqueñxs y denunciar la imposición de una Junta de Control Fiscal a través de medios educativos y artísticos. Esta manifestación es simbólica ya que mientras los Estados Unidos celebra su independencia, simultáneamente establecen proyectos para esclavizar y encarcelar a sus colonias. Es momento de que el pueblo puertorriqueño se una para decir en conjunto: #NoALaJuntaDeControlFiscal; #NoALaDeuda; #SíALaDescolonización

Para seguir este movimiento por Facebook y enviar mensajes de solidaridad, pueden ingresar a su página tinyurl.com/hzvvpj6

The battle of the Somme, 1916

A century of wars since ‘the great slaughter’

By John Catalinotto

Political leaders from France and Britain, along with observers from other countries, met in France on July 1, the centennial of the First Battle of the Somme River. One of the bloodiest battles of World War I, it was the epitome 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 colonial world. The war itself, which lasted four years, was rightly called “the great slaughter.”

The horror of the war was so unbearable that it led to a social revolution in Russia that terrified the ruling capitalists. 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 ganging up together and using NATO, a Euro-military under U.S. leadership, in attempts to reconquer their lost empires from Yugoslavia to Afghanistan, or even from risking war with now-capitalist Russia.

The British generals who in 1916 faced German forces at the Somme fit the caricature of the ruling-class twit, whose stupidity is matched only by his arrogance. They thought they had a foolproof plan: a week of unbridled British artillery fire



Northwestern France. A million casualties, and the line moved seven miles.

would soften the German lines. It turned out that their artillery barrage, begun the last week of June, had killed few German troops, disarmed few machine guns and destroyed few of the barbed-wire obstacles.

Oblivious to this failure, on July 1, 1916, the British generals ordered the planned offensive against the German army to proceed. Following their orders, British troops, laden with equipment, walked clumsily 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.

While the bulk of the casualties were English, German and continental French, the imperialist powers also ordered troops from the colonies into battle. Counted among the British casualties of World War I were soldiers from Ireland, India, Nigeria and even sparsely populated Newfoundland — Newfoundland was not then part of Canada; casualties 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 imperialist democracies of France and Britain, as well as those in the monarchies in Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia, had entered the war in 1914 without hesitation, even with enthusiasm. The rulers of each country believed their army would win a quick victory. Their mouths watered at the thought of conquered territory and new colonies — as was shown later when the successful workers’ revolution in Russia revealed and published treaties that the rulers had kept secret.

It was not heroic battles that the troops experienced, but the overbearing damp, cold, hunger and boredom of trench warfare, broken only by the occasional thud

of artillery and the fear of a sudden or, worse, a lingering death. Along with the misery imposed on the masses of Europe, the intense suffering of the troops would swing open the door to revolutions such as hadn’t been seen before on the Eurasian land mass. Playing a leading role in these revolutions would be the very soldiers and sailors who the ruling classes had armed, taught to fight and turned into warriors.

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

Now the European and U.S. ruling classes take steps to export war to the former colonial world, just as they export 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 because they fear that that suffering will lead to revolution that upends their rule.

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

Al-Quds rallies protest apartheid Israel

By Michael Mchahwar

International Al-Quds Day is celebrated 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 international opposition to Zionism. (Quds is the Arabic name for Jerusalem.)

In **Dearborn, Mich.**, the Al-Quds Committee organized its annual rally with the slogan, “Americans First, Not Apartheid Israel.” The majority of protesters were of Lebanese descent, together with Palestinians and other nationalities.

The rally’s general message was opposition to the \$3.7 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 communities near Dearborn where pressing issues are more in need of the billions sent to Israel. These include the collapsing Detroit Public School system, yet to be bailed out, as well as the Flint water



Al-Quds Dearborn

crisis, where the city has received less than \$100 million in aid to fix its crumbling 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 Israeli apartheid.

No matter who is in office, capitalist forces will still be in control. Veolia, the major company partially responsible for the water crises in Detroit and Flint, is



Al-Quds New York City

also responsible for the water crisis in Gaza. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement is forcing Veolia’s businesses out of occupied Palestine.

The action we need to take is to continue getting out in the streets and demanding that human rights and needs have to be placed above profit.

At the Al-Quds rally in **New York City**, hundreds of people gathered in the rain in Times Square and demanded an end to all U.S. aid to Israel. They

also called for the return of Palestine to the Palestinian people and protested a recent executive order by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo targeting the BDS movement.

The rally was sponsored by Samidoun, the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network; Al-Awda, the Palestinian Right to Return Committee; the International Action Center-NYC; and dozens of other groups. Later, an Al-Quds Iftar Dinner and Cultural Program, organized by Students for Justice in Palestine, was held at the International Action Center.

At the **Boston** Al-Quds rally in Copley Square, Sister Nuzaiha Haider called for opposition to imperialism and Zionism fomenting instability in the Middle East and for solidarity with the “oppressed of the world.” Placards proclaimed “U.S. dollars fund Israeli war crimes.” The rally was coordinated with worldwide actions sponsored by the Muslim Congress. Also participating was the International Action Center-Boston with a banner demanding “Self-determination for all Arab nations, Victory to Palestine!” □

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FOTO: TELESURTV.NET

Nueva fase de lucha en Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Cuando el presidente Barack Obama firmó el jueves 30 de junio, la Ley de Fiscalización, Manejo y Estabilización Económica de PR - Promesa por sus siglas en inglés - desató una nueva fase de lucha en la isla/archipiélago.

La Ley aprobada por el senado estadounidense un día antes, y calificada en la mayoría de los medios corporativos como una “ayuda” a PR, tiene al contrario, la intención de establecer una agencia de cobro a través de una Junta de Control Fiscal para el beneficio de los bonistas y a expensas del pueblo boricua.

El apuro para su aprobación se debía a que el 1ro de julio vencía el pago de casi dos mil millones de dólares en intereses y principal, de los más de 70 mil millones en deuda pública que la isla ha acumulado a través de los años. En la isla, ya el gobernador Alejandro García Padilla había sometido a la Legislatura puertorriqueña una ley para declarar una moratoria al pago de la deuda, anunciando que el gobierno no tenía la suficiente liquidez para hacer los pagos de la deuda y a la vez proveer los servicios básicos y esenciales para el pueblo.

De hecho, el viernes 1ro de julio se produjo el tan discutido impago, sumándose al impago de más de 400 millones el pasado mes de mayo.

El mismo día, pero horas antes, como preludio al anuncio del impago, la firma auditora KPMG publicó su volumino-

so informe - muchas veces exigido por acreedores y el congreso estadounidense – sobre el estado financiero del gobierno para el año 2014. Según KPMG, el gobierno ya tenía para ese entonces un déficit acumulado de \$50 mil millones y cuestionaba la capacidad del gobierno para seguir operando. (elnuevodia.com, 1 de julio)

Quien lee las declaraciones de García Padilla sobre el impago y la necesidad de anteponer las necesidades del pueblo, pensaría que gobierna en beneficio del pueblo. Nada más lejano a la verdad. Tanto García Padilla como la y los gobernantes anteriores, tanto populares del PPD como estadistas del PNP, en la mayoría se han aprovechado de su posición, enriqueciéndose y llenando de corrupción sus administraciones mientras gobernaban sometiéndose a los intereses del imperio estadounidense.

Como resultado, si algo está ocurriendo en PR, es la enorme insatisfacción de la mayoría del pueblo por el gobierno y el indefinido estatus colonial.

Convergencia de situaciones adversas

Para entender mejor esta nueva fase de la lucha en PR, sería conveniente ver el contexto en que acontece.

La situación de crisis fiscal ha tenido graves consecuencias en muchos renglones del país. Las medidas que el gobierno ha implantado - con asesorías de firmas estadounidenses, incluyendo las contenidas en el Plan Krueger de 2015 -

han llevado a la pobreza y desesperación del pueblo.

Enumerando sólo algunas de las situaciones que están impactando al pueblo y que disminuyen la calidad de vida son: aumento de la violencia y la criminalidad, incluyendo robos y “carjacking” que se ha vuelto una ocurrencia diaria. Ejecuciones hipotecarias de viviendas y autos. Deterioro de la salud por el alto costo de los servicios médicos y la falta de médicos y otros profesionales de la salud que a diario emigran hacia EUA. Hambre y pobreza que se ven agudizadas por los despidos, la falta de servicios básicos y el encarecimiento de la vida resultado de los múltiples impuestos con los que el gobierno ha querido remediar la falta de liquidez.

A esto se añade una epidemia del virus del Zika y la reducción de trabajadoras/es entrenados y profesionales, por el reclutamiento de agencias de EUA, entre otras situaciones. Sobre este último apartado es importante informar de un peligroso desarrollo ocurrido hace pocos días.

El hecho de que en PR hay una fuerza laboral empobrecida pero con buena preparación, son bilingües y además tienen la ciudadanía EUA, atrae agencias estadounidenses que ofrecen mejores sueldos que en la isla, donde no solo ganan menos, sino que sus trabajos están en riesgo de perderse, en caso de quienes afortunadamente tengan empleos.

Ya han ido a PR desde EUA para reclutar enfermeras/os, maestras/os, médicos

y otros profesionales. Pero es el reclutamiento a la policía lo que es aún más preocupante. Con la excusa de que hay más latinas/os en las ciudades de EUA, reclutan para enfrentar a boricuas contra el pueblo negro y latino. Esto es lo que hizo nada menos que la policía de Baltimore. La ciudad que vive la impunidad de los asesinos de Freddie Gray. ¡Mil seiscientas personas en PR se registraron para tomar el examen!

¡Comienza la lucha!

Aunque aún no hay una unidad de acción, los diferentes sectores en PR se están movilizand

Las/os maestras con sus acciones consistentes y militantes lograron detener una medida, el “Plan Bhatia”, en la legislatura de PR que entre otras provisiones, quería implantar la privatización de muchas escuelas, el despido de miles de maestras/os, y la destrucción de la educación pública.

El Frente Unido en Contra de la Fumigación Aérea, compuesto por varias organizaciones ambientalistas, de salud, agricultura, justicia social y otras, han convocado diversas acciones, incluyendo manifestaciones en contra de la fumigación aérea del tóxico Naled propuesto por la CDC para “erradicar” el mosquito que lleva el virus del Zika. En PR hay una gran oposición a su uso por no solo ser perjudicial a las personas, sino también por el daño a las abejas, lo que a su vez

Continúa a página 10

Cumbre OTAN en Varsovia amenaza guerra a Rusia

Por John Catalinotto

La ubicación de la próxima cumbre de la OTAN es en sí misma una provocación contra Rusia. Los líderes de la OTAN se reunirán el 8 y 9 de julio en Varsovia-Polonia, a menos de 200 millas de la provincia rusa de Kaliningrado.

La reunión ocurre tras maniobras militares de la OTAN bajo el mando de EUA que amenazan a Rusia. El 5 de junio, un ejercicio de mar llamado Baltops 16 comenzó en el Mar Báltico con 6.100 soldados, 45 barcos y 60 aviones de combate de 17 países, mientras bombarderos volaban hacia las fronteras de Rusia. Un ejercicio militar del 7-16 de junio llamado Anaconda 16 trasladó 31.000 soldados y miles de vehículos, incluyendo tanques, de 19 miembros de la OTAN y otros seis estados, a través de territorio polaco.

Se espera que la cumbre de Varsovia acuerde la colocación de miles de tropas y equipo pesado en Polonia y los estados bálticos - Estonia, Letonia y Lituania - en o cerca de las fronteras rusas.

Esto acontece cuando 51 funcionarios del Departamento de Estado pidieron al gobierno EUA emprender acción militar contra Siria - lo que significa atacar su aliado, Rusia. Tomados estos puntos en conjunto, apuntan al aumento de la agresión militar EUA y peligro de guerra.

Estrategia de EUA/OTAN: 1949-1989

La OTAN siempre ha sido una herramienta de la política imperialista es-

tadounidense. En 1949, Washington fundó la OTAN para evitar las revoluciones obreras en Europa Occidental - devastada por la guerra - y para enfrentarse a la Unión Soviética y sus aliados en Europa del Este. Es sólo más tarde que la URSS establece el pacto de Varsovia con sus aliados.

En 1990, durante negociaciones entre los líderes de EUA y la URSS, Washington se comprometió a no mover la OTAN hacia el este. Un artículo publicado en la revista alemana Der Spiegel el 26 de noviembre de 2009, dejó en claro que durante estas negociaciones “no había duda de que Occidente hizo todo lo posible para dar a los soviéticos la impresión de que la membresía a la OTAN estaba fuera de cuestión para países como Polonia, Hungría o Checoslovaquia”. (tinyurl.com/nvm476v)

Ahora estos antiguos miembros del Pacto de Varsovia y otros que habían formado parte de la Unión Soviética no sólo son estados capitalistas, sino que han sido envueltos en una alianza militar contra Rusia.

Nuevo papel de la OTAN: policía mundial

La desintegración inminente de la URSS en 1991 y la disolución del Pacto de Varsovia terminó el propósito declarado de la OTAN.

Pero desde 1991, lejos de disolver la OTAN, Washington amplió el pacto militar, siempre bajo su mando. Los EUA anunció en un documento de estrategia militar publicado por el New York Times

en 1991, que utilizaría la OTAN para mantener la misma hegemonía en Europa como lo haría en todo el mundo.

Incluso los aliados imperialistas de Washington como Bretaña, Francia y Alemania estarían impedidos de anteponer sus propios intereses frente a los del imperialismo EUA. Los EUA volvió la OTAN en una especie de fuerza policial para la intervención militar imperialista - y no sólo en Europa. Bajo el mando de EUA, la OTAN se ha convertido en una fuerza de intervención en todo el mundo al servicio de los monopolios transnacionales que explotan el trabajo y los recursos del mundo.

La primera agresión real EUA-OTAN destruyó Yugoslavia. Intervenciones militares de la OTAN lideradas por EUA siguieron: Afganistán en Asia Central, Irak en el oeste de Asia después de la invasión EUA-Bretaña de 2003, y Libia en el norte de África.

La OTAN no sólo defiende los intereses imperialistas. Durante los últimos 25 años ha intentado reconquistar las zonas del mundo que habían ganado algo de independencia del imperialismo durante la existencia de la Unión Soviética. Ahora Rusia, el único país con suficientes armas nucleares para hacer frente a EUA, es el blanco de provocaciones de guerra EUA-OTAN.

Cumbre despierta oposición

Los ejercicios de Anaconda 16 trasladaron efectivos de la OTAN cerca de la provincia rusa de Kaliningrado. Fue

la primera vez que tanques alemanes se han movido hacia el este a través de Polonia desde el ataque de la Alemania nazi a la Unión Soviética en julio de 1941.

No sólo las grandes potencias de la OTAN participaron en Anaconda 16. Lo mismo hicieron Suecia - no es oficialmente parte de la OTAN - y Finlandia. Antes de 1989, Finlandia fue siempre un estado neutro entre la URSS y Occidente. Este nuevo paso añade otro país fronterizo contra Rusia.

Incluso muchos funcionarios de Europa Occidental reconocen los peligros de un ejercicio tan provocador de guerra. El ministro de Asuntos Exteriores alemán, Frank-Walter Steinmeier criticó los ejercicios, que califica de “ruido de sables”, y habló de una mayor cooperación con Rusia. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 de junio)

El Consejo Mundial de la Paz y otros grupos han convocado manifestaciones en todo el mundo el 9 de julio en oposición a los planes de guerra de la cumbre OTAN. Manifestaciones y una cumbre contra la guerra se planifican en la misma Varsovia.

En EUA, la Coalición Nacional Contra la Guerra, que envía un representante a la protesta de Varsovia, así como el Consejo de Paz EUA, Veteranos por la Paz, el Centro de Acción Internacional y otras organizaciones han convocado una concentración en la ciudad de Nueva York el 9 de julio a las 2 pm en el Centro de Reclutamiento del ejército en Times Square. (Para obtener más información, consulte unacpeace.org.) □