Coast to coast protests demand

ABOLISH ICE

Reunite families

By Kathy Durkin

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in more than 700 actions in large cities and small towns across the U.S. on June 30, the National Day of Action for Immigrant Justice. They denounced the Trump administration’s war on immigrants, especially the inhumane separation of children from their parents at the U.S./Mexican border. Demonstrators called for family reunification, an end to detentions and the abolition of the hated Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Protests arose against the Trump administration’s “zero tolerance policy,” whereby all immigrants, including asylum seekers, are arrested, jailed and deported. Children are cruelly separated from their parents and detained.

Seeing young children in cages and hearing their plaintive cries for their parents has enraged sympathetic people and spurred them into action. Strong protests pressured the White House xenophobe in chief to announce an end to child separation policies on June 20. To him, the “visuals of caged children weren’t good optics.” But, as MSNBC reported on June 29, over 2,000 youngsters are still separated from their parents. Shockingly, young children must appear before immigration judges alone, without guaranteed public defenders.

In Washington, D.C., thousands of people rallied June 28 to demand the reunifying of immigrant families and an end to detentions, deportations and ICE terror. Signs read, “Abolish ICE!” Nearly 600 activists, mostly women, were arrested as they occupied the Senate Office Building. Families Belong Together initially called the June 30

Continued on page 6

− Athletes for migrants 3, 8
− Labor vs. ICE 4
− The Laundromat Campaign 5

Democratic Party & white supremacy 2, 10

Fake abortion clinics 8

#NoMuslimBan 9

Ocasio-Cortez An upset for the establishment

The ‘Supreme’ Court Myths & reality
Schumer, the Senate minority leader, said of Maxine Waters’ having thrown down the gauntlet to Trump: “No one should call for the harassment of political opponents. That’s not right; that’s not American.” Schumer formerly served on the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security.

Bernie Sanders, who identified himself as a socialist in the 2016 Democratic primary, expressed his support for the “let ‘em ‘be-civil” handwagon by saying, “Our opponents have the right to go into a restaurant and have dinner.” Sanders remarks came just days after Rep. Waters’ speech and Cont. on page 10

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

By Scott Scheffer
Los Angeles

At a rally hero on June 24, U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters came out hard against the vicious Trump “zero tolerance” policy on immigration, and specifically against the disgusting right-wing administration uncomfortable in public. She was responding to White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders being asked to leave a Virginia restaurant by the owner and workers, and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen being driven out of a Mexican restaurant by protesters. Rep. Waters’ words netted her a vile, racist and threat- ening response from Trump himself. Over the next several days her office received hundreds of threatening email and phone messages. Among these was a death threat sent to her and her office, immediately called for “unity and civility” in dealing with Trump and his right-wing coterie.

Pelosi, the powerful House minority leader, whose rights of the oppressed and now her courage in standing against U.S. wars, her impassioned fights for the voters who admire Maxine Waters for her principled po-

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

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

The US is the richest country in the world, yet no one owns and white supremacy

WtW commentary

In the U.S.

Janus decision and labor’s fightback

Rep. Waters, the Democrats and white supremacy

Arroyo: On Hurricane Carter and Mumia Abu-Jamal

LGBTQ pride in Detroit

Laundry Workers Center expose workplace abuse

On the picket line

Supreme Court: False abortion clinics have license to lie

Star player: “U.S. soccer is a rich white kid sport”

Rights groups resist as Court upholds “Muslim ban”

Migrant rights movement

Protesters say: Abolish ICE, reunite families

NFL players extend hand of solidarity to migrants

Labor in motion against ICE

FIRE: Live from the U.S./Mexico border

Editorial

Ocasio-Cortez: An upset for the establishment

Supreme Court: Myths and reality

Noticias en Español

Desde la prisión

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NFL players extend hand of solidarity to migrants

By Monica Moorehead

The Trump administration, along with its racist, repressive arm, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis for millions of migrant families. Tens of thousands of people in many sectors of society have expressed both their righteous outrage and heartfelt solidarity with migrants.

One of these sectors is the National Football League, the most popular professional sport in the U.S. Last September, in a letter Trump used the word “sons of b—-ches” about NFL football players who followed Colin Kaepernick’s lead in taking a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racist oppression.

Two African-American NFL players, Joshua Norman, a cornerback with the Washington football team, and Demario Davis, a New Orleans Saints linebacker, traveled to San Antonio on June 27 to assist RAICES Texas (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services). There, close to the U.S.-Mexico border, the two players helped to buy and pack clothes, medicines, food, water, toys and other vital supplies for at least 60 immigrant families, including children, who were recently released from detention centers.

Norman stated: “As a Black man in America, I know how this state treats minorities and people of color. I see it every day. Yesterday it was Muslims from certain countries, and today it’s immigrants. We don’t know who’s next. That’s why I’m here … to lend a helping hand to the people on the front lines fighting back in the courtroom and in detention centers. Seeing what’s happening with the kids and their parents, I felt like I couldn’t stand idly by. I needed to take action so I came out here with no questions asked and am here to help in any way I can. Packing backpacks all night last night was the best thing I’ve done all year.” (www.dailykos.com)

Through the NFL Players Coalition, Norman also donated $100,000 to hurricane relief in Puerto Rico, and Davis works with poor children in Jackson, Miss.

Bryant Arroyo: On the inside, speaking out

On Hurricane Carter and Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Ted Kelly

SCI Frackville, Pa.

In his address broadcast from prison to the 2018 Yale Environmental Forum, Bryant continued:

“As we struggle to put people, and not corporations, in charge of our lives and governance, who seek real and sustainable victories toward that goal, it is vital that we link our dissent, our strategies and our victories to their roots.”

“Strategies need to reflect an understanding of the current rule of law that excludes us, subduing the property few, organized in their worldview that brought us our present understanding of the current rule of law. With this worldview, it should come as no surprise that Bryant has been a thorn in the side of prison officials. High- ly litigious, never hesitating to issue a grievance when his rights are violated, Bryant also defends his fellow inmates as stridently as he defends himself. He helps them draft their own grievances, research statutes relevant to their cases and strategize for their parole hearings.

Since he has no shot at getting paroled before long, Bryant has never once been sent to the Restricted Housing Unit — except to assist his fellow prisoners who were placed there. This is remarkable for 25 years and counting, given how impulsively guards throw prisoners “in the hole.” This torture method is even more egregious when one considers the severe lack of mental health resources in U.S. prisons.

Part 2 of three parts of the story of Bryant Arroyo, a prisoner and political activist in SCI Frackville, where Kelly conducted this interview. As Kelly writes, this “was just one story. One story among millions.”

Bryant Arroyo was back among the generations of political activists who have been on the scene before, building democracy, who seek real and sustainable victories toward that goal, it is vital that we link our dissent, our strategies and our victories to their roots. Their friendship was eventually born when Mumia Abu-Jamal was back among the general population after 30 years in solitary confinement. His new cell was next to Bryant’s.

For his fellow inmates, Bryant’s assistance means a renewed chance at winning their freedom. All this has led to prison officials wanting to get Bryant out of their jurisdiction whenever he makes too much trouble. He’s been transferred to several different cell blocks and even to other prisons.

In one move, he was sent back to SCI Mahanoy’s F Block, which is actually the first place he landed after his bogus conviction. One morning after the move, Bryant woke up in his cell and caught a glimpse of a remarkably familiar figure. Though the man was unsteady on his feet from decades in the hole, stooped and shuffling past the cell door, there was no mistaking the wise eyes, that intelligent face and those long black dreadlocks.

Word went around quickly that Mumia Abu-Jamal was back among the general population after 30 years in solitary confinement. His new cell was next to Bryant’s. Prisoners flocked to Mumia like they have to every prophet throughout history. But Bryant kept his distance at first. He did not want to overwhelm the revolutionary who had finally, miraculously, emerged from the hell on earth that is death row. Their friendship was eventually born out of Bryant’s unflagging compassion.

He started dropping F Block survival tips to Mumia: what to wear on your way to the shower, which days to keep your cell clean for inspection, who you can trust, who to avoid. A bond soon formed and before long the two could often be spotted in the yard walking long laps around the track, talking and theorizing.

The former Black Panther and Philadelphia radio journalist turned to Bryant and said, “You know, B, you got a great radio voice.” Normally, that alone would be a huge compliment coming from an orator like Mumia Abu-Jamal. But Bryant was floored for an entirely different reason.

“Mu had no way of possibly knowing this, but my father was an AM radio jockey for WLAN. When I was a kid, I did impressions of him all the time.” While telling the story, Bryant breaks into a flawless parody of classic Spanish-language morning radio tags: “Buenos dias, esta escuchando una 99.7 Ramon y Lucia. No toques esa esfera …”

It seems fated that Bryant Arroyo would cross paths with Mumia Abu-Jamal and adopt him as his mentor. One of Bryant’s biggest heroes was Rubin “Hurricane” Carter, the heavyweight boxer who won his freedom after being falsely imprisoned for 20 years. He had hoped to meet him one day, but this dream was never realized when Carter died of prostate cancer in 2014. “But Mu got to meet him,” Bryant says. “Hurricane went to see Mu. That’s just as good.”

The Trump administration, along with its racist, repressive arm, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis for millions of migrant families. Tens of thousands of people in many sectors of society have expressed both their righteous outrage and heartfelt solidarity with migrants.

One of these sectors is the National Football League, the most popular professional sport in the U.S. Last September, in a letter Trump used the word “sons of b—-ches” about NFL football players who followed Colin Kaepernick’s lead in taking a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racist oppression.

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Janus decision and labor’s fightback

By Sara Catalinotto

The Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York called a “slap in the face” demonstration in New York’s Foley Square to protest the anti-worker Janus decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 27. The PSC-CUNY, supported by many other public service and private unions in NYC, including the Hotel Trades Council (also pictured here), expressed their commitment to public sector unionism by picketing outside the federal and state courts. Teachers and school workers, on their first day of vacation, brought family members in support. The 300-strong picket included private sector unions, among them Communications Workers Local 1100, Laborers and other building trade workers fresh from a C-1000/Mein March, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; Taxi Workers Alliance; Union of Clerical, Administrative and Technical Staff; and graduate workers from private universities represented by the United Auto Workers, plus writers, actors and stagehands from the Broadway theater industry.

— Report by Sara Catalinotto

Continued from page 1

To require employees to pay their share of the cost of representing them — as long as the money was not used to support political candidates or “ideological” positions. The 1977 Abood decision stated that, because public sector unions are legally obligated to represent members and non-members alike, charging agency fees did not violate the First Amendment. Since then the National Right to Work Committee and other right-wing groups have continued to finance empty words raised by “free speech” issues in an effort to reverse Abood. Up to this point they were unsuccessful. Their Trump card in Janus was recent appointee Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Even before today’s ruling, agency fees could not be required in the 28 “right-to-work” states. In the 22 other states, the ruling now affects 5.2 million public sector union workers. Essentially all public workers in the country will now be forced to work under open shop conditions — meaning “free-riders” can avoid contributing to the union, cutting into union power.

The original plaintiff was not Janus but Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, who sued to have the agency fees declared illegal. Three state employees, including Janus, joined the case. Janus became the lead plaintiff after a court ruling that the governor could not sue because he was not a union-represented employee, and later the other two state workers dropped out.

Janus is no accidental activist simply trying to keep a few extra dollars in his paycheck. In his own words, the case is “forced to support the government union as a condition of employment” and argues: “This is a gross violation of my First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of association. ... What is unfair and unconstitutional is forcing me and millions of other American workers to pay for activities we oppose.” (Chicano Sun-Times, June 24)

But the only “policies” these fees can legally pay for are better pay, benefits, working conditions, and fair treatment on the job.

Violation of workers’ rights

The high court’s outrageous ruling has deemed it a First Amendment violation for the state of Illinois to make Janus pay the union $70,000-a-year salary and benefits. As AFSCEM explained before the decision, “If fair share is the union’s ‘speech’ then the payments the union makes for Janus and employees who benefit from the gains that the union makes will not have any payment toward the cost of that representation. If the billionaires and corporate CEOs behind this case get their way, they will take away the freedom of working people to come together and build power to fight for the things our families and communities need: everything from affordable health care and retirement security to quicker medical emergencies.”

Abood. Up to this point they were unsuccessful. Their Trump card in Janus was recent appointee Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Janus lost the case, he still would not be out of pocket even a penny. The Chicago-based Liberty Justice Center and the National Right to Work Legal and Defense Foundation represented Janus pro bono. The latter, a tax-exempt front group for the notorious union-busting Taft-Hartley Act. Other employers were leaders in the Janus campaign, including prominent right-wing donors such as the Koch brothers, the Bradley Foundation, the Coors Family and Walmart.

Not a death sentence for labor

AFSCME and other government unions are rightly worried that the loss of agency fee income will push them into a major financial crunch, limiting their ability to adequately represent members. But unions aren’t throwing in the towel.

While SCOTUS has dealt organized labor a heavy blow, the surge of education worker strikes — many of them illegal — has demonstrated the resilience of those workers already in a compulsory open shop. These strikes have all been in states that ban agency shop contracts with public workers in the public sector— as well as banning union shops — where union membership is a condition of employment — in the private sector. Some of these states even bar public workers from collective bargaining.

Janus gives the lie since the education workers’ strike wave began in West Virginia — have been of major significance. Some have gone beyond typical bargaining issues such as pay, benefits and security. Strikes have pushed back the expansion of charter schools and Teach for America and have boosted school funding.

When workers are presented with this evidence of struggle and victory, it may be hard to win over those not currently union members.

For public and private sector workers alike, the union is their first line of defense when faced with aggressive, anti-worker bosses and their friends in government — including the highest court in the land.

An immediate response to the Janus ruling came from the United Electrical Workers, which is organizing new strikes to continue to organize and defend our rights to decent living and work standards despite court decisions and laws forbidding “fair share” fees.

The UE statement continued: “Vocal and militant actions by UE public-sector members and locals around the ‘right to work’ South show the possibilities available to public workers to continue to defend and improve their working lives.”

This week the Supreme Court also upheld Trump’s xenophobic, Islamophobic immigration ban. SCOTUS and its senior negligence of Janus if unions are given no choice but to return to class struggle unionism of past decades. That’s what it took to win the right to organize in the first place.

A united, militant mass movement can turn back Janus and all of these temporary setbacks.

PHOTO: NATIONAL NURSES UNITED

Labor in motion against ICE

By Sara Catalinotto

The terrorist tactics of Immigration and Customs Enforcement come from the top, but can be disrupted in the workplace, especially if unions put muscle into the fight against raids and deportations. Recent examples are presented below, by industry, to get readers thinking about what more can be done.

Transportation

Fly attendant Hunter Palmquist announced via the Houston Chronicle on June 19 that after witnessing ICE agents taking migrant children to “relocation” in Texas by plane, he decided to never work another flight that separates families. Palmquist vowed to “immediately resign” from the trip due to the nature of this unconscionable act by my government, and my employer’s complicity.” He added, “I have told my story to many of my flight attendant colleagues and they have pledged to do the same.

The next morning, major U.S. airlines — American, United, and Frontier — each released statements and tweets distancing themselves from the practice. American Airlines “requested the federal government to immediately refrain” from using its planes to transport separated children. Were they afraid of “optics” or a job action by their unionized workforce?

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1100 represents Greyhound bus drivers. The local shares articles such as “Greyhound Should Just Say No to the Border Patrol’s Bus Sweeps” on its social media.

Technology

On June 19, Microsoft workers put out an open letter against the corporation’s $9.4 million cloud computing contract with ICE, saying, “As the people who build the technologies that Microsoft profits from, we refuse to be complicit.” By the middle of June 21, there were 140 employee signatures. Coverage of this incident said various employees were considering leaving the company. (tinyurl.com/y9hrhe6p)

Food Industry

After ICE attacked and detained 1,400 of 2,800 workers represented by the Retail Warehouse and Department Store Union on June 19 at Ohio Fresh Mark plants, the national union funded legal and financial aid for the family members of those workers.

Our union will not stand for violence against immigrants; we will not stand for tearing families apart; and we will not stand for the terrifying tactics of the Trump administration. The RWDSU is committed to assisting workers affected by this ICE raid and will continue to fight against any and all heartless attacks on immigrant workers seeking to provide for their families,” said Stuart Appelbaum, RWDSU president.

The plants had recently been denounced for Occupational Safety and Health violations. (tinyurl.com/yrhybr6p)

Building trades

Painters Local 456 launched Alliance Laborer Worker Resource Center in the southeast Nashville, Tenn., Latinx community, to reach immigrant workers who otherwise face abusive tactics like wage theft. Among the workplace hazards about which the center holds training are ICE raids. According to organizer Rosa Ponce, employers can deny entrance to agents lacking a warrant. (AFSCME.org)

Outraged nurses march against border detention facilities in El Paso, Texas, on June 19.

Workers.org

Continued on page 9
Hundreds of LA caregivers march for higher wages

Hundreds of in-home care workers marched through downtown Los Angeles June 26 to the County Board of Supervisors meeting to demand higher wages, at least a $15 an hour raise. The day before, the board had approved a $31 billion budget without an increase for the 170,000 in-home supportive services (IHSS) workers, mostly older women of color, many of whom are immigrants. The IHSS caregivers earn $11.88 an hour and provide care—bathing, meals, transporta-
tion, tracking medications and household tasks—so that more than 206,000 seniors and people with disabilities can stay in their homes and live as independently as possible.

Large groups of caregivers, members of Service Employees Local 2035, packed the boardroom June 26, wearing vibrant purple T-shirts with the union logo. One IHSS worker, who cares for an 84-year-old woman who can’t walk on her own, challenged the board: “I just want to invite you—all the supervisors—to come and work a day in our shoes. Then maybe you’ll realize how much we need that raise.” (my-
newsla.com, June 26)

San Diego hotel workers demand better pay

Hundreds of hotel workers and supporters marched through downtown San Diego June 27 over a contract dispute and briefly blocked the driveway entrance of the Marriott Marquis on Harbor Drive. The demonstration was among many UNITE HERE held that day in cities across the country, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston.

Marriott has 44 properties in San Diego County, with more than 13,000 hotel rooms. “We believe they need to set the standard for the best wages, the best benefits, and they don’t,” said Brigette Browning, president of UH Local 30. Contracts have expired or are expiring for workers in the Marriott-owned Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter in Horizon Plaza, and Local 30 representatives say the two sides are still far apart.

Among the marchers was Karen Betancourt, who has delivered mail-service rooms at a Marriott for four years. “We love our job,” she said. “We love this property. We just want to make enough money to live here.” Having to work two jobs to make ends meet, Betancourt is paid minimum wage supplemented by tips, but she doesn’t get enough hours to qualify for health insurance.

“We want what is very simple,” said Chris Guerra, who sets up tables at the Westin. “To work just one job and be able to own our homes. If they take care of us, we’ll take care of them.” (San Diego Union-Tribune, June 27)

UE Local 228 members arrested at ‘People’s Hearing’ in N.H. state house

As part of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Re-

vival, United Electrical Workers Local 228 members rallied in the New Hampshire state house in Concord June 11 to demand a living wage and end “the assault on the rights of organized workers.” (The state abolished its minimum wage in 2011.) Members of Local 228, who work at the National Visa Center in the U.S. Department of State, helped occupy the Governor’s Executive Council Chamber and held a People’s Hearing where workers aired their grievances and demanded redress.

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“We want what is very simple,” said Chris Guerra, who sets up tables at the Westin. “To work just one job and be able to own our homes. If they take care of us, we’ll take care of them.” (San Diego Union-Tribune, June 27)

Money for education, not for war, demands Chicago Teachers Union

Delegates in the Chicago Teachers Union unanimously passed a resolution June 26 titled “End Unjust Wars of Aggression Leave All Children Behind.” After noting that public schools in working-class communi-

ties and communities of color in Chicago and throughout the U.S. “are consistently underfunded” and the federal government could end that if underfunding of education were a priority, the resolution states that Trump’s budget increases military spending by $880 billion and describes the many countries like Venezuela where the U.S. has a war against “the oppression of the people of the Americas.” The resolution calls to “end the federal government’s recognition of a nuclear or other pre-emptive strike on Iran, North Korea or any other country and to prioritize peace and social spending [instead of] mili-
tary expansion and war-mongering.” The resolution ends by proclaim-
ing “that the Chicago Teachers Union will support and participate in mobilizations and other actions ... to stop a ramp-up to war” and will work for quality education for all students.

The Laundry Workers Center exposes workplace abuse

By Toni Arenstein and Mary Owen

New York City

The Laundry Workers Center launched a new campaign on June 28 against the exploitation, marginalization and unsafe working conditions of New York City’s pre-
dominantly Latinx, immigrant laundro-
mat workers, with a successful protest and

walk-in at an East Harlem laundromat.

“The Laundromat Campaign is a mul-
tifaceted, women-led campaign to trans-
form the retail laundromat industry for the better,” states the center’s website.

Joined by supporters and accompanied by the Rude Mechanical Orchestra, the LWC led a march of about 50 protesters through pouring rain to the laundromat at 1166 East 167th Street. There, laundromat workers spoke, the LWC presented the workers’ demands—and the owner’s son agreed they would abide by the law.

“For many years the employer has allegedly violated the rights of workers,” read the LWC’s campaign leaflet. “After nine months of orga-

nizing and training, the laundromat workers in Harlem have decided to stop exploitation and abuse in their workplace.”

Employer violations include not paying the minimum wage or overtime, paying salaries monthly, making illegal salary deductions, dis-
crimination, long hours with no breaks, failure to provide safety masks or gloves, and forcing workers to buy their own toilet paper.

The facts on working conditions

The successful action came just two days af-

ter the LWC issued its groundbreaking “Report on Working Conditions in the Retail Laundro-

mat Industry: New York City 2018.” The report is available online in English and Spanish at ti-

nyurl.com/ryvdbpx7.

Since 2012, the LWC has recovered 82 mil-

lion in back wages from unscrupulous employ-

ers. The center has organized migrant work-

ers who face harassment, low pay, and unsafe, unhealthy workplace conditions. The LWC has fought for a New York and New Jersey mini-

imum wage and other laws to uplift these low-
wage workers.

The new report continues this effort, summarizing three years of work by trained LWC members and organizers who logged ob-

servations at 100 laundromats throughout New York City and administered 50 surveys about working conditions in English and Spanish to workers at 78 unique retail laundromats.

Who are the laundromat workers?

The LWC study found that “86 percent of surveyed workers identified as female. About one in ten (12 percent) identified as male and

1 percent identified as a different gender iden-
tity.” Ninety-nine percent identified as people of color, including 61 percent who identified as Latinx and 17 percent who identified as Black.

Seventy-nine percent are immigrants, and for 66 percent, Spanish is their primary language.

“We also found there are many Asian work-

ers,” said LWC Organizing Coordinator Rosan-
na Rodriguez at the June 26 release of the re-

port, hosted by the Worker Institute of Cornell

University’s School of Industrial and Labor Re-

lations. She indicated the LWC would be look-

ing to reach out to them as well.

A pattern of employer violations

The LWC documented important informa-

tion about where and how laundromat workers do their jobs by looking at the physical work-

place (size and services offered) and evaluating workplace responsibilities (washing/drying/ folding clothes, cleaning and customer service).

They also documented apparent employ-

er wage-and-hour violations. Seventy-seven percent of surveyed workers work more than 30 hours per week. Yet in 5 who reported an hourly wage make only $10 per hour or less (a violation of New York state’s minimum wage law), with only 3 percent earning more than $12 per hour.

Thirty-six percent of surveyed workers in-
dicated they were underpaid, or not paid at all, for overtime work. Thirty-one percent said they received neither sick time nor time off (a violation of New York state’s paid sick leave law), and 78 percent said there was no break room.

Harassment and other hazards

“Our research finds that laundromat workers are subjected to high levels of harassment, with more than half of workers (54 percent) report-
ing some form of harassment,” the report states.

The majority of workers (86 percent) iden-

tified customers as the source of the offensive conduct, which is not uncommon in other ser-
vice industries. That includes insults or put-
downs (44 percent), racial slurs (25 percent), offensive jokes (20 percent), threats or intimi-
dation (16 percent), physical assaults and sexual harassment (6 percent) or other harassing con-
duct (2 percent).

In addition, 49 percent of workers reported exposure to at least one workplace hazard such as bleach and other chemicals, soiled clothing, repetitive movements, heavy lifting, and slip-

pery or hazardous floors. As a result, respon-
dents reported work-related muscle pain (44 percent), allergies (27 percent), skin conditions (21 percent), emotional and mental health chal-

lenges (16 percent), respiratory problems (12 percent) and other issues (10 percent) such as bed bugs, cuts and burns, and hair falling out.

A call to action

“Laundromat workers know best what they need to do to have a safe, equitable work environ-

ment,” says the Call to Action at the end of the LWC report.

Among recommendations for laundromat workers are safety and health training on work-

place hazards, free employer-provided protec-
tive gear, workplace safety plans and violence prevention programs, and ergonomic work-

spaces to prevent physical injuries. Above all: Organizing! “In 1881, African-American laun-
dresses organized a strike of 3,000 workers and won a wage increase, and we can organize the same way,” said Rodriguez.
Coast to coast protests demand Abolish ICE, re-unite families

Continued from page 1

demonstrations. In solidarity with migrant families, hundreds of groups mobilized and participated, including Workers World Party and the newly formed Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere. Here are highlights of demonstrations that WWP and FIRE joined:

A FIRE delegation, comprised of activists from many states, joined protests in Texas border towns to support im/migrant families. Hundreds of local residents joined the June 30 demonstration in the city of McAllen. It was the first protest for many, whom the migrant crisis motivated to participate in this intergenerational, multinational, multigendered action. The day’s action took place outside a U.S. Border Patrol station. ICE and the Department of Homeland Security dominate McAllen, the site of the U.S. largest detention center. A delegation organized and encamped the rally, and in the open mic session, welcomed FIRE speakers Richard Kosssaly, Gabby M., Lizz Toledo and John Parker. After they spoke, someone made a sign reading, “No one is illegal on stolen land!” The delegation talked with local Brown Berets and Poor People’s Campaign organizers. Many demonstrators signed FIRE’s mailing list, some interested in establishing a FIRE chapter centered in McAllen.

— Nat Heathman, Gabby M., John Parker, Lizz Toledo

Two days earlier, 3,000 people joined a statewide demonstration in Brownsville, a border entry point, gathering across the street from the federal courthouse where detained migrants appear before judges. Signs called for ICE’s abolition.

Activists from the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas along the Mexican border joined that protest, which was organized by the American Civil Liberties Union. Members of La Unión del Pueblo Entero (FIRE) and People’s Power Assembly members and the New York Civil Liberties Union. The multinational, multigenerational and multigendered crowd was organized by the Syracuse Immigration and Refugee Defense Network in conjunction with the Workers’ Center of Central New York, New York Immigration Coalition, Syracuse Peace Council, Palestine Solidarity Collective, Syracuse Child Care Collective, Syracuse Tenants United, Indivisible Syracuse, ISO-Syracuse, Democratic Socialists of America and others. Security was provided by Service Employees 199 members and the New York Civil Liberties Union.

— Minnie Bruce Pratt

People finishing the service at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah in quiet Rhinebeck, N.Y., joined others outside on the lawn. Over 200 people condemned the U.S. government’s mistreatment of migrants, asylum seekers and their children.

— John Catalinotto

In Kingston, a small city 100 miles north of New York, a few hundred people gathered on the City Hall lawn for a bilingual Spanish-English rally. A favorite placard slogan was “Nobody leaves home—” which was also the defiant name of one of the organizing groups. Planned Parenthood was another key organizer.

— Sam Ordóñez

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— John Catalinotto

Over 400,000 people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. WWF, FIRE and People’s Power Assembly members marched with a left coalition of groups in the migrant movement, including the Committee against Anti-Asian Violence, Laundry Workers Center, Families for Freedom, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Equality for Flatbush, Flatbush Tenants Coalition, DESIS Rising Up & Moving, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice and Community Action for Safe Apartments. The contingent’s signs and chants called for abolishing ICE and the racist police and prison system, and ending the occupation of Palestine and all U.S.-sponsored wars.

FIRE’s impressive banner called for closing detention centers, opening the borders and granting refugees asylum. The crowd cheered the contingent and passing drivers honked, showing popular support for a radical movement against ICE in this city.

— John Steffin

Led by the group Juntos, over 4,000 people packed Logan Square in Philadelphia to condemn racist attacks on immigrants and refugees. WWP helped convene an anti-imperialist contingent, which included the Comité Boricua Filadelfia-Camden, Mobilization for Mumia.

Continued on page 11
Fighting for IM/Migrants & Refugees Everywhere

The FIRE delegation (Fight for IM/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) reported live from the U.S./Mexico border to a June 28 Workers World forum in New York City. WWP Secretariat members Sara Flounders and Monica Moorehead commented from NYC. This is a lightly edited transcript.

Tonight our delegation is going to a vigil tonight by the Border Patrol. The vigil is in San Benito, Texas. Two of the people in our delegation are Teresa Gutierrez from New York City, Gloria Rubac from Houston, John Parker from Los Angeles, Joe Piette and Steph Davies from Philadelphia, and Nat Heathman from Boston.

Gloria Rubac: Today, a few miles from the Mexican border, we participated in a demonstration, “Families Belong Together” — by a group of people of color and working-class organizers, to travel to the border, learn about the struggle there, do support actions and eyewitness tours, and then come back and help organize resistance.

Speaking live from the Border are FIRE delegation members Teresa Gutierrez from New York City, Gloria Rubac from Houston, John Parker from Los Angeles, Joe Piette and Steph Davies from Philadelphia, and Nat Heathman from Boston.

Teresa Gutierrez: Our banner today was so popular at the protest is that FIRE is making a militant call, including for the abolition of ICE.

People know the causes of migration and immigration are U.S. economic and military wars — in Central and South America, in Libya, Iraq, Syria — that are causing the refugee crisis. And the border is tied to the attacks by police in the U.S. on Black and Brown people. In fact, one of the chants today was “No justice, no peace, no racist police!”

Nat Heathman: At the rally today, yes, there were a lot of liberals there, but also there were people with more militant politics. We can be proud of how we represented FIRE.

Steph Davies: It was an impressive crowd today and a very striking event. The organizational leadership was definitely trying to keep things in a more liberal, moderate direction — of the speakers talking about voting. But once the momentum of the people built and the crowd had control of the situation, how powerful their politics were! It was a striking overture for FIRE’s launch. It showed that conditions are in place for change because people want to abolish ICE, people want to prosecute the crimes that are being committed against migrants.

Joe Piette: Today, first there was a rally, and then the marchers lined up in two and converged on the courthouse where deportation hearings were happening. The crowd surged to the doors, but the lead organizers urged them back. There is militancy here.

There were some workers’ organizations, including the Fuerza del Valle and the Texas teachers’ union. Evidently, last week they organized their own rally. It’s an important development to have workers here.

Yesterday, a few of us protested during the execution of Danny Bible in Huntsville, Texas. [Ed.: Since 1976, Texas has executed more than one-third of the national total of prisoners victimized by capital punishment.]

Teresa Gutierrez: What FIRE aims to do is be the left flank of the movement supporting migrants who are under attack.

We don’t want to leave the issue in the hands of liberals. We don’t want to fight liberals — they are doing important work, taking cases and saving lives. What we do want to do is influence the movement, and not have the movement be determined by liberal politics.

Some speakers today gave militant talks, about fighting back, taking it to the next level, and get great applause — but they also got great applause when they said, “Register to vote in the November elections.”

But we know that there are tens to hundreds of thousands of people fed up with the Democratic Party machine, who know that the November elections are nothing to set their sights on, that Demo-}

To contact FIRE: www.workers.org, email info@ourfire.net, address FIRE, c/o Solidarity Center, 147 West 24th St., 2nd flr., New York, NY, 10011, or call 212.653.6646.
Supreme Court: Fake abortion clinics have license to lie

By Sue Davis

June 26 — The Supreme Court today handed the well-funded, well-organized, reactionary, Chris- tian, anti-abortion movement a sweet victory of red roses with its decision on California’s Reproductive Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care and Transparency (FACT) Act.

The court in a 5-4 ruling, written by Justice Clarence Thomas and sup- ported by the other two conservative justices, affirmed the so-called First Amendment rights of “crisis pregnancy centers” (CPCs) and gave them permission to continue lying to and emotionally bullying, manipulating and coercing mostly poor women, often women of color, to keep unplanned pregnancies.

For years, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) vs. Becerra (California’s attorney general), was brought in 2015 by NIFLA to defend approxi- mately 200 such CPCs in the state of California. The state had then just passed a law that required the centers to make specific disclosures to their patients or in their advertising.

As part of the testimony the Californ- ian legislature heard from before formulating the law, anti-choice groups presented their expensive experiences at CPCs, and clinicians discussed problems imposed when preg- nant women who want a child don’t receive essential prenatal health care right away.

The law stipulated that centers li- censed to provide medical services had to post notices to inform patients that they could obtain free or low-cost abor- tions by calling the phone number of the state attorney general and could not state licensed abortion and reproductive health care providers. The unlicensed centers had to post 29-word disclaimers in advertisements — in some cases in up to 13 languages — that their services do not include medical help.

NIFLA and the U.S. Justice Depart- ment’s briefs argued that both requirements violate the First Amendment for licensed centers because requiring such informa- tion conflicted with their anti-abortion mes- sages and singles them out in a “gerrymandered” fashion. And for unlicensed centers because requiring such extensive disclo- sures would make it “almost impossible to spread their anti-abortion message.”

According to a 2010 NARAL Pro- Choice California investigation of clinics in the state, 41 percent of counties did not have an abortion provider (that number is lower now), while 41 percent had at least one CPC. The majority of CPCs are located in rural areas, and those CPCs in urban areas tend to target primarily low-income women of color.

The centers investigated, 70 percent wrongly advised clients that abortion in- creases the risk of breast cancer, while 60 percent incorrectly claimed that condoms are ineffective in reducing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. (Rewire, News, March 20)

Concluding that both kinds of CPCs “are likely to succeed on the merits of their claim that the FACT Act violates the 1st Amendment,” the Supreme Court reversed the 9th Circuit Court’s ruling in favor of California and sent the case back to lower courts for new proceedings in light of today’s ruling. A vigorous defense and new tactics to fight back are definite- ly in order.

Minority opinion affirms:

Women need ‘informed consent’

Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the dis- senting opinion, joined by the three lib- eral justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. Breyer con- tended that both requirements for notices would pass constitutional muster. As for the licensed centers, he argued that if a state can require a licensed clinician to notify a woman seeking an abortion about adoption as an alternate option, why can’t the state also require a pregnancy center to tell a woman about abortion?

A lawyer summarized in his dissent: “[W]hat is sauce for the goose is normally sauce for the gander.” With that, he was arguing for “informed consent,” a long- time requirement for women’s health care services, which originated with the publication of “Our Bodies, Ourselves” in 1970.

As for unlicensed centers, he said it was “self-evident that patients might think they are receiving qualified medical care when current- ent facilities that collect health information, per- form obstetric ultrasound or sonograms, diagnose pregnancy and provide counseling about pregnan- cy options, are other providers of care.” Breyer noted the re- quirement that unlicensed facilities provide disclosures in multiple languages could not be unconstitutional or impose an “undue burden” when only two languages — English and Spanish — would be required in “the vast majority of California’s 58 counties.”

History of ‘crisis pregnancy centers’

Even before the Supreme Court le- galized abortion with the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, evangelical Christians and Catholics opposed to abortion began “sidewalk counseling” outside clinics to dissuade women from having abortions.

When that wasn’t effective, abortion ad- vocates began setting up fake clinics near hospitals and licensed health clinics to confuse potential clients (and in poor Black and Brown neighborhoods).

Many women, desperate for conve- nient, low-cost health care, do not know the difference between a CPC and a li- censed abortion clinic. Some CPCs offer free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, while staff dress in scrubs and provide individual counseling. Clients receive fake counseling like “having an abortion could prevent them from having a lat- er pregnancy, that it causes breast cancer or may lead to guilt.” One woman told HuffPost that she was grilled about her sex life, including when she lost her virginity, and she came away feeling ashamed and ridiculed.

Today there are about 2,700 CPCs in the U.S., compared with about 800 re- productive health clinics that pro- vide abortions as well as cancer screen- ings and other routine gynecological care. There are also women’s clinics that provide reproductive health care and basic check-ups, but not abortions.

In some states such as Texas and North Carolina, fake clinics receive state funding. A May 24 Rewire-News article reported that fake clinics in Texas out- number abortion providers 10 to 1 and 50 in the number of state funding since 2005. An April 26 article in Rewire-News detailed that the North Carolina legis- lature has (illegally) directed $400,000 and $1 million to the next from its federal Maternal and Child Health block grant to the Carolina Preg- nancy Care Fellowship, an umbrella group of “faith-based” centers, which ac- cording to their bylaws are expected to abide by “biblical principles.”

Linking struggles is needed now

A number of news sources have not- ed that this conservative 5-4 ruling, like those in the past, could have happened if the Republican-controlled Senate had not refused to consider Pres- ident Obama’s liberal nominee, Merrick Garland, to replace archconservative Justice Scalia who died in February 2016.

Instead the racist, sexist, white su- premacist reactionary in the Oval Of- fice was able to appoint anti-worker, anti-people-of-color, anti-women, an- ti-LGBTQ Neil Gorsuch to the court, who has indeed done the Trump administra- tion’s right-wing bidding in case after case this spring.

But the conclusion to draw from this is not to feel depressed or defeated by this series of court-imposed losses for the 99%, but to be mindful that the Trump administra- tion’s rule of law could still be restored if the majority of the 1% — the ruling class made up of bankers and corporate magnates who are pulling his strings. That’s how patriar- chal capitalism functions.

And the ruling class is oblivious to, in fact ignorant of, the dialectical material- ist law that repression sparks resistance. As the broad anti-people Trump agen- da continues to be revealed — from white supremacist rage and murder in Charlottesville last summer to today’s merciless, heartless catastrophe of im- migrant family separation at the border — the peoples’ movement has now been emboldened to take to the streets all over this country and the world in resistance.

In the past few years reproductive jus- tice advocates have become bold and more vocal and visible as they have be- come Blacker and Browner. Protecting and promoting families is one of the core human rights at the heart of the repro- ductive justice movement. Now is the time to link arms in resistance with allies in the struggle to counter our common enemy and defend the human rights of all working and oppressed people.

Davis is a longtime reproductive justice activist and author of the pro- choice novel “Love Means Second Chances.”

Star player: ‘U.S. soccer is a rich white-kid sport’

By Monica Moorehead

Hope Solo is a former goalkeeper for the U.S. women’s national soccer team, a two-time Olympic medalist and a World Cup champ. Her voice also white. So when she spoke, at a Hashtags sports conference in New York City on June 28, on why the U.S. soccer team didn’t win this year’s World Cup FIFA World Cup in Russia, her answer shocked many.

She stated that U.S. soccer is a “rich, white sport” and said: “We have alienated the Hispanic com- munities. We have alienated our Black communities. We have alienated the underrepresented families, even local communities. … No wonder why we are not qualifying for the World Cup when

when she and her team- mates brought a sex discrimi- nation lawsuit to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against U.S. Soc- cer two years ago, she said of the women’s team, “We are the best in the world, have three World Cup championships, four Olympic championships. Yet, the men ‘get paid more to just show up than we get paid to win major championships.’”

(The Nation, April 5, 2016)

Solo’s recent comments struck a nerve by exposing the racist, elitist nature of U.S. soccer. With- in the U.S., discrimination rules in the world’s most popular sport, while winning

teams from around the world are comprised of talented players from so many oppressed countries and nations.

 Hope Solo (second from left) celebrates a victory with teammates on the U.S. women’s national soccer team.

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 Hope Solo (second from left) celebrates a victory with teammates on the U.S. women’s national soccer team.
Rights groups resist as Court upholds biased ‘Muslim ban’

By John Catalinotto

During its last sessions, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Trump administration’s biased policy by deciding against workers, women, and the Muslim religion. The court’s majority tried to cover this up with constitutional verbiage, but even its own minority answered this fraud. Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s dissent skewered the decision, upholding the president’s “Muslim ban” of January 2017.

The Islamiophobic ban, which had been shot down by a federal judge in Hawaii last year, is what led to this judgment. It bars entry into the U.S. by citizens of Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Syria and Libya. All these countries have a large majority of Muslim citizens. They are also countries where hostile U.S. policies and outright wars have created conditions forcing people to flee.

The order also bars entrance to citizens of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and some Venezuelans who support the independence of their country from U.S. domination. While there is little doubt that Washington is also hostile to these individuals, they were included in the same executive action as a prop.

What Sotomayor argued, and was joined by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, was that during his campaign Trump said he would “ban Muslims,” and he sought to “ban the ban,” you are not upholding this country’s most basic principles of freedom and equality.” (Pavone Reu, June 26)

Need for solidarity
CAIR joined those protesting the government’s immigration policies on June 30 while pressing their own demands. Many of the existing pro-migrant-rights groups recognize the attack on Muslims as part of the attack on all migrants. Many of the signs carried by the June 30 marchers brought up the need to defend Muslim rights and strike down the ban.

This attitude of solidarity could also be seen among the descendants of World War II internment of Japanese people by the U.S. government, which also used the pretext of “national security.” In an act scaling the pinnacle of hypocrisy, SCOTUS reversed the 1944 U.S. v. Korematsu court decision that upheld the internment of Japanese origin.

Karen Korematsu, the daughter of the Japanese-American man named in the 1944 case, said, “For the Supreme Court to overrule my father’s Supreme Court case in this way I feel like, dishonors him and all the civil rights work he did over the years.” (Time magazine, June 28)

The administration and the Supreme Court have taken brutal steps to oppress migrants, but the reaction of the people shows that these steps have aroused attention to the growing need to build solidarity with those targeted.

WWW SUPPORTER PROGRAM

Continue defense of Cuban Revolution

On July 26, 1953, Cuban revolutionaries stormed the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Less than six weeks later, Fidel and his guerrillas ousted the U.S.-backed dictatorship, marching into Havana in early January 1959.

That same year, Workers World newspaper began to publish. After more than a decade of anti-communist reaction in the U.S., the Cuban Revolution helped revive interest in revolutionary socialism. The more outrageous the anti-Cuba propaganda in the corporate press, the harder Workers World has worked to tell the truth about this great victory over U.S. imperialism.

In 1961, when the U.S. announced that it would cut off economic aid to Cuba, WW’s first editor, Vincent Copeland, led a protest inside the United Nations, his booming voice proclaiming the U.S. “speaks for the bankers, not the people.”

In the early 1990s, Cuba endured great economic hardships after the Soviet Union fell and the U.S. tightened its economic blockade. This helped build the Peace for Cuba International Appeal to end the blockade, the travel ban and all intervention against Cuba.

Despite the chocking blockade, the Cuban Revolution only grows stronger and more respected as it sends life-saving medical teams all over the world. As the Trump administration increases its hostility to the socialist country, Workers World remains dedicated to defending revolutionary Cuba. Donations from WW supporters have helped get our pro-Cuba writings in print, distributed and posted to border detention centers. Bonnie Castillo of NNU covers these actions in medium.com.

Castillo cites NNU board member Mar- tese Chism, who went from Chicago to pro- test in El Paso, saying, “I felt compelled to come here … because today is June 19, the day that Texas freed the slaves, and so I’m here to tell [our government] to do the right thing and free the children.”

Castillo adds that “NNU’s RN Re- sponse Network disaster relief program — for volunteers to be on standby for providing first aid to detained immigrant children and families — netted over 900 sign-ups in just a few days.”

Labor in motion against ICE

Continued from page 4

“but the general contractor is not going to refuse to let ICE in unless we’re organiz- ing and having these conversations with the boss.” (tinyurl.com/yaga6td0)

Health care
National Nurses United members have bolstered rallies against ICE/private prison collusion, notably at Texas march- es to border detention centers. Bonnie Castillo of NNU covers these actions in medium.com.

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Workers World newspaper

Learn more. Available online without charge. Find it at: workers.org/books

Protest of anti-Muslim travel ban decision at the U.S. Supreme Court, June 26.

These union nurses are alerting the medical field that the trauma of separation, on top of war and violence experienced in home countries and during the journey to these borders, is a long-term public health crisis. (tinyurl.com/yvf7djhx)

Labor-community organizing
Many Fight for $15 formations and unions — International Longshore Association, Service Employees International Union 1999 Healthcare Workers and 32BJ SEIU, for instance — are engaged with the new Poor People’s Campaign, which marched on Washington on June 23. Speakers there added the crimes of ICE to their list of injustices that Martin Luther King Jr. called out 50 years ago: racism, capitalism and militarism. Twitter footage of the march that day shows working-class crowds chanting, “Raise up my people, my comrades and eagles! No human being will ever be illegal!” Con- dors and eagles refer to the Indigenous cultures of South, Central and North America.

The fact that working people — in in- dustries capable of servicing ICE logisti- cally, industries which employ many mi- grants and others — are openly opposing the racist “zero tolerance” program pro- vides hope that we can ultimately organize to withhold our labor on a mass scale and stop ICE.

Catalinotto is a member of the Work- ers World Party Labor Fraction.
When Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won the primary in New York’s 14th Congressional District, it was not to the satisfaction of the Democratic Party establishment. She was an upset for many as this economy turns millionaires into billionaires, and workers into paupers.

Generally, “democratic socialists” do not risk themselves in revolutionary struggle, the kind that would truly break the capitalist rulers’ hold over the wealth of society and the means of production. Whether here or in Europe, they spread illusions that real change can come through the “democratic process” — even though that process is overwhelmingly bought and paid for by the ruling class, and has all kinds of tricks to disenfranchise the people, especially those most oppressed. But history has shown that to reach the point of really being ready to chuck the system onto the garbage heap of history, a mass of people need to see with their own eyes that there is no easy way to do it — that it takes organization, mobilization and revolutionary leadership. If Ocasio-Cortez is able to stick to her program once she’s surrounded by the slick compromisers in Congress, she could help show people that capitalism always works to corrupt the political process supposedly “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” She could be part of the process of people understanding why they need to mobilize independently of the system’s political machinery.

For Pelosi and Schumer it was more important to placate the capitalist class than to call out Trump’s white supremacy. As for Sanders, he has previously taken positions that have disappointed his followers, but this is a striking cave-in. He has chosen not to close ranks with an unelected member “It’s never over ’til it’s over” — granted now — although we should remember “It’s never over ’til it’s over” — Ocasio-Cortez will have the opportunity to really shake things up. No one in the House or the Senate, including Bernie Sanders, had called for abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement before Sanders, had called for abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement before the recent massacre in Gaza.

Rep. Waters, the Democrats’ Caucus have rallied around her. And none of them have denounced the “socialist” Bernie Sanders — denounced by the party establishment — as much a creature of the billionaire ruling class as the Republican Party. She has been telling pollsters that they favor socialism than prefer capitalism. That is a understanding of the court and its role as an alarmingly undemocratic institution — its unelected members appointed for life, its heavy blow against labor unions and the whole labor movement. At the end of the court’s term on June 27, longtime Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his imminent retirement, thus opening the court for a replacement while Republicans have a majority of both houses of Congress. Coming after the string of attacks on workers and oppressed people, Kennedy’s announcement deeply alarmed many progressives, who fear Trump’s next pick will give the Supreme Court an unbeatable ultra-right majority.

Supreme Court: Myths and reality

Every kid who attends school in the United States is taught that the Supreme Court is one of the pillars of democracy. As the first line of defense of democratic People’s Republic of Korea. It gave its blessing to anti-abortion “counseling services” positing as reproductive rights clinics which lie to women. And it sided with bosses in the Janus case, striking a blow against workers and labor unions and the whole labor movement. When the workers and oppressed people are understandably worried by the prospect of a Trump Supreme Court appointee. But history shows that the answer is not panic, or desperate pleading with Democrats to bargain for a “lesser-evil” reactionary appointee acceptable to all ruling-class factions. The answer is to build a militant, independent struggle to defend the lives, the movement for Black Lives, women’s and LGBTQ people’s rights, and the rights of workers. Or as labor martyr Joe Hill — a victim of the Utah version of the Supreme Court — told fellow workers before his execution in 1915: “Don’t mourn — organize!”

WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Marcia Meltzer, including: The Struggle for Socialism is Key; Racial, National Oppression & Self-Determination; Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery; Black Youth; Repression & Resistance; The Struggle for Socialism is Key; Demand a Bill of Rights; Black & Brown Unity • Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior • Alabama’s Black Belt • The 1965 Watts Rebellion

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Abolish ICE, re-unite families

Continued from page 6

the International Action Center and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. Protesters called for an end to family separation. For over 40 years, there has been a struggle to close the Berks County Detention Center, located 70 miles outside Philadelphia.

Speakers expressed solidarity with the struggles of immigrants and refugees worldwide, including the Palestinian people. One speaker received an enthusiastic response when explaining that U.S. imperialism causes migration and displacement. Many speakers stressed that building a fighting movement is the way to win justice. After the rally, hundreds of people marched to the regional ICE office.

— Ben Carroll

South

Some 7,000 people converged on downtown Raleigh, N.C., to march and rally. Co-hosting organizations included El Pueblo Inc. and North Carolina Asian Americans Together.

Speaker Eva Panjwani, who mentioned FIRE, denounced the racist, classist rhetoric used to dehumanize immigrants and stressed that U.S. imperialism causes people to leave their homelands. At the front of the massive WWP contingent, Mariana Sanchez read: “Abolish PolIcE! End Border Militarization! #ChingaLaMigración!” The protest ended at Bicentennial Plaza outside the North Carolina General Assembly.

Martha Hernández, a Latinx mother, immigrant and beloved community organizer with Comité de Acción Popular, condemned ICE and police department collaboration, citing the 287(g) delegated authority program implemented in Wake County.

On June 30, over 60,000 Chicagoans into the streets of Chicago. A number of children whose parents were arrested at work and detained spoke at the rally of the fight to release them. To show solidarity with the families, Twitter hashtags #LosNinosDeCores.

— Myles Flowers

An Immigrants Rights Vigil was held in First Ward Park in Charlotte, N.C., to condemn U.S. immigration policy. Indivisible Charlotte, Action NC, Comunidad Inmigrante, Charlotte IFA, the Latin American Coalition, Shining Stars Academy and the Coalition for Cultural Compassion planned the event.

Speakers condemned Trump’s family separation policy and migrant detention camps, and some called for abolishing ICE and militarizing the border.

Imam Yahya Ederer, representing the Muslim Community Center of Charlotte, condemned the U.S. genocidal history: “This country was founded on class warfare and racism. … Natives that lived here were genetically taken out by white Europeans. … We can change the future.”

— Enzo Niebuhr

Several thousand people descended on Atlanta’s City Detention Center in solidarity with detained immigrants, some of whom looked out from their cells through small slits.

Then the crowd, which stretched for blocks, marched through the city. Calls rang out to abolish ICE and unite families. At the Richard B. Russell and Martin Luther King Jr. federal buildings, speakers and protesters chanted: “Abolish ICE! Open Borders!” and distributed thousands of copies of WWP newspaper. People in four other cities in this large county also staged protests.

— Workers World Atlanta bureau

Midwest

Over 2,000 people demonstrated in downtown Cleveland on the national day for immigrant rights called by Families Belong Together.

There have been two major workplace raids in northeast Ohio during the current wave of ICE terror. One of the raids was conducted on Corso’s Flower and Garden Center in Sandusky where ICE dragged away 144 workers.

A number of children whose parents were arrested at work and detained spoke at the rally of the fight to release them. To show solidarity with the families, Twitter hashtags #LosNinosDeCores.

— Susan Schnur

Multiple actions took place in Chicago against ICE, family detention and the criminalization of immigrants. On June 29, many people in the Pilsen neighborhood heard testimonies by people whose loved ones had been detained or deported.

On June 30, over 60,000 Chicagoans congregated in Daley Plaza to support persecuted immigrants and demand an end to family separations. Forces advancing the abolition of ICE and the police formed a contingent comprised of youth of color — who were drumming and leading chants — socialist organizations and militant immigrant rights groups. They expressed the role that municipal administrations play in the deportation machine; ICE leases jail from suburban governments to house people slated for deportation. Demonstrators called for freeing everyone held captive in Illinois.

— Kaitlyn Griffith

West Coast

Thousands in San Diego rallied at downtown Waterfront Park, condemning the racist immigration policy of Washington’s capitalist government. WWP members hacked a banner reading, “Abolish ICE! Open the Borders!” and distributed hundreds of copies of WWP newsletter, Open Borders.

Congressperson Maxine Waters got the greatest response. She has received death threats after calling for people to confront Trump administration officials over their zero tolerance policy and separation of migrant families. Singer John Legend encouraged everyone to join the movement.

The ICE Out of LA Coalition demonstrated at the mayor’s residence. Also, hundreds of people gathered outside the federal detention center, which imprisons many immigrants. In a moving scene, protesters held signs and chanted messages of solidarity while detainees rapped on their cells’ glass windows in acknowledgement.

— Scott Scheffer

T hous ands turned out in California’s Bay Area, with the largest event in San Francisco, beginning at Dolores Park in the Mission district and exiting at the Civic Center. Signs read, “Abolish ICE!” “Queers for Open Borders!” “From Palestine to Mexico, Racist Walls Have Got to Go!” and “No human being is illegal.” Heart-breaking signs mentioned separated loved ones.

Over 1,000 people rallied at the Richmond Detention Center, where 200 people are in ICE custody. Cat Brooks, African-American candidate for mayor of Oakland and Anti Police-Terror Project leader, spoke: “I stand here as a Black woman who knows what it feels like to have the boot of white supremacy on my neck. This is state terror. This is an American concentration camp, not a jail.”

Hundreds rallied at the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park in Berkeley. Another rally took place at Lake Merritt in Oakland.

About 10,000 people protested at the Seattle-Tacoma Federal Prison where 200 immigrants, mostly women, are jailed. One-third of them have been involuntarily separated from their children. The crowd shouted, “Shame! Shame!” Women from the Latinx community chanted: “No es tú sola! You are not alone!” to reach their sisters inside.

Mary Mora Villapando, Northwest Detention Center Resistance coordinator, won a temporary reprieve from an ICE court on June 26. The agency had tried to silence her by ordering her deportation. That day, 250 people rallied outside the court in solidarity with her.

Afterwards, they marched to the federal courthouse and joined another 250-person rally opposing Trump’s anti-Muslim travel ban, organized by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, One America and other groups.

— Jim McMahon
Bryant Arroyo: Desde el interior de una prisión

Incluso desde los confines de una institución correccional estatal en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento.

Las llamadas se desconectan después de quince minutos. En el evento de mesa redonda en Filadelfia, Bryant solo pudo responder una pregunta del grupo antes de cortarse la llamada. Es por eso que su discurso de Yale fue pregrabado y subido a PrisonRadio.org, donde se pueden escuchar muchas de sus charlas. Cada grabación contiene una voz que es reflexiva y deliberada al enunciar una oratoria altamente organizada.

En persona, Bryant es enérgico y hablador. Su comportamiento jovial no está restringido por el uniforme militar que lleva: “Estos prisioneros tienen el poder en nuestra sociedad. El pueblo no lo tiene. Los inversores corporativos no lo han arrebatado. Raíces de la lucha”

Habiendo pasado un cuarto de siglo en la prisión, Bryant Arroyo sabe lo que significa estar encarcelado. Él es uno de las 2,2 millones de personas que están encarceladas en este momento por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos y, por lo tanto, del sector más organizado de la clase trabajadora en este país. Él describe la posición del presidiario como “completamente indigente”. “Estas estrategias deben reflejar una comprensión del estado actual de derechos que nos pone a nosotros, las personas, subordinadas a los propietarios, organizados en sus formas corporativas, y deben reflejar nuestro compromiso a revertir esa ley”. En movimiento

Con esta cosmovisión, no debería sorprendernos que Bryant haya sido una espina para los funcionarios del país. Altamente litigioso, sin dudar en denunciar un agravio cuando se violan sus derechos, Bryant también defiende a sus compañeros reclusos tan estrictamente como se defiende él. Él los ayuda a redactar sus propios reclamos, investigar estatutos relevantes para sus casos y organizar estrategias para sus audiencias de libertad condicional. Como él no tiene ninguna posibilidad de obtener la libertad condicional, el Departamento de Correcciones tiene, irónicamente, una amenaza menos que pueda mantener sobre la cabeza de Bryant. Aun así, Bryant nunca ha sido enviado a la Unión de Prisioneros de los Estados Unidos. El Departamento de Correcciones tiene, irónicamente, una amenaza menos que pueda mantener sobre la cabeza de Bryant. Aun así, Bryant nunca ha sido enviado a la Unión de Prisioneros de los Estados Unidos.

Los prisioneros acudieron a Mumia como al guía de un vuelo en cada profeta a la llamada de la libertad. Pero Bryant mantuvo su distancia al principio. No quería abrumar al revolucionario que, final y magistralmente, había trastocado el mito de la tierra que es el corredor de la muerte. Su amistad finalmente nació de la infatigable compañía de Bryant. Emparejó a arrojar consejos de supervivencia del Bloque F a Mumia: “¡Estoy de gira!”, Exclamó Bryant en una de nuestras recientes conversaciones telefónicas.

“¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países uno! Incluso desde los confines de una institución correccional estatal en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento. Solo en los últimos meses, ha hablado en la Universidad de Harvard y en la zona rural de Pensilvania, Bryant Arroyo está en movimiento.