LGBTQ victory shows

Mass struggle wins rights

By Martha Grevatt

June 26 was a day of huge celebrations. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality. Laws defining marriage as “between one man and one woman” came down faster than you could pull down a Confederate flag. The traditional fallback position of Southern segregationists — “states’ rights” — collapsed as lawyers for Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee pleaded desperately to be allowed to keep their bigoted laws.

Ironically, it was Reagan appointee Anthony Kennedy, writing for the 5-4 majority, who stated that “no longer can this liberty be denied.” Two years earlier, Kennedy had argued against striking down the portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that left defining marriage to the states. Clearly, this historic ruling — like Roe v. Wade, Brown v. the Board of Education, and the upholding of the Wagner Act in the year of the sit-downs — was only achieved through militant mass struggle.

This is more than a shift in social status. Couples like Michigan plaintiffs April DeBoer and Jayne Rowe can finally jointly adopt the four children they have been raising together. With two adopted by Jayne and two by April, one mother would have been a “legal stranger” to two of the children if the other died.

Economically, denying the right to marry amounts to paying workers in same-sex relationships less money — a kind of “two-tier” system. More than 1,000 federal benefits are tied to marriage, from getting a tax break to collecting a deceased spouse’s Social Security or veterans’ benefits. There are benefits at the state level, such as receiving a workers’ compensation payment for a spouse killed on the job. Work-related benefits — health insurance, bereavement pay, family and medical leave, etc. — are tied to marital status, or taxed as income in the case of domestic partner benefits. The marriage fight was for the basic principle of equal pay for equal work. It is a crude, anti-working class formulation to suggest, as some “radicals” in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer movement do, that demanding the right to marry is “assimilationist.” Anyone with a progressive bone in their body should be celebrating with the happy couples.

The struggle is far from over

The marriage victory shows that struggle brings progress. With much more left to fight for, the ruling has buoyed and energized the LGBTQ movement to fight on.

In 2003, the Supreme Court overturned the 1986 Hardwick decision that upheld Georgia’s “anti-sodomy” law. No longer could two people of the same sex be arrested for a private intimate act. This was a huge victory but in no way ended LGBTQ oppression.

That is still the case, despite winning the right to marry. Only 19 states prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; three others only ban sexual orientation discrimination. There are still no federal civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community. The scenario of “married on Sunday, fired on Monday” has been achieved through militant mass struggle.

By Fred Goldstein

June 30 — As we go to press, rumors of a last-minute attempt by the Syriza government in Athens to ask the euro bankers for a third bailout have been rebuffed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Whatever the outcome, the fundamentals of the Greek situation will remain unchanged. The bankers of Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Rome and Wall Street are trying to extract blood from the Greek masses.

Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Athens’ Syntagma Square on June 29 against the terms of the “Troika” — the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission. The demonstrators opposed the continuation of debt slavery imposed on Greece by the bankers of Europe. After five months of negotiations between the left social-democratic Syriza government and the representatives of 18 other European governments, the Troika,
Come out for Pride! Come out for Workers World!

June is Pride month, with rallies and marches all over the world commemorating the 46th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Ri- bellion. Workers World has a proud history of reporting on the living struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender-queer rights and justice. Our reports have contributed significantly to that struggle by publishing WW contributor and staff member Bob McCubbin’s book, “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View” (Workers World, Third ed., 1993).

Drawing on the theoretical work of Frederick Engels and Dorothy Balfour to provide a dialectical materialist explanation of LGBTIQ oppression, McCubbin shows how early communal societies accepted all forms of human interrelations, but after material surpluses and equality. But WW also contributed theoretically to that struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer justice. We invite you to donate to the Workers World Fund Drive is a an annual campaign to help print and distribute this pro-worker, pro-ac- tivist newspaper and maintain its website at workers.org. Send checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Include your name and address and put “Fund Drive” in the memo line.

Additionally, we encourage you to join the WW Supporter Pro- gram, set up 38 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-LGBTIQ oppression, working-class and truth to build the many campaigns needed to end capitalism and usher in socialism. Donate generously online at workers.org/donate/. Or send checks to the above address, with “WWPF” in the memo line. We are grateful for your help in growing the revolutionary press in the U.S.

Liberation and solidarity in the age of the Black Lives Matter movement was the topic of discussion during a June 13 Workers World Pride Month forum held in Los Angeles at the Harriet Tubman Civil Rights Institute featuring Shelley Ettinger, Rebecka Jackson and John Parker. Ettinger spoke about being in solidarity with those fighting for equal marriage rights while struggling around is- sues that impact the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities even more, like the Black Lives Matter movement. She gave the statistics of violence and murder against Black trans women and stressed that this type of solidarity was essential to the struggle to end this capitalist system, which is necessary to end all oppression by the repressive state.

Ettinger, author of the novel “Vera’s Will,” also attended a local book signing at the Book Soup bookstore during her Los Angeles visit.

Rebecka Jackson and John Parker gave reports on the “Peoples Power Assembly Against Police Terror” in Baltimore on June 6, which was a resounding success with almost 200 people participating. The tribunal was organized by the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly and the Baltimore Southern Christian Leadership Conference in response to the police murder of Freddie Grey in April and the further degradation of public safety.

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Drawing on the theoretical work of Frederick Engels and Dorothy Balfour to provide a dialectical materialist explanation of LGBTIQ oppression, McCubbin shows how early communal societies accept- ed all forms of human interrelations, but after material surpluses developed and male supremacy arose, rigid rules governing gender and sexuality were adopted. That’s what we’re fighting to end today. That analysis drives WW’s view that the LGBTIQ struggle is a vital component in the overall struggle to end capitalist oppression. We invite you to donate to the Workers World Fund Drive is a an annual campaign to help print and distribute this pro-worker, pro-ac- tivist newspaper and maintain its website at workers.org. Send checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Include your name and address and put “Fund Drive” in the memo line.

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Trans immigrant Jennicet Gutiérrez challenges Obama

By Teresa Gutiérrez

How should the progressive or the immigrant rights movement respond to the Democratic Party’s policies and actions on immigration? Jennicet Gutiérrez has shown how.

On June 24, Gutiérrez, a Mexican transgender woman, boldly and courageously took center stage at the White House when she called out her concerns on migrant detentions so that President Barack Obama could hear her.

Gutiérrez was attending a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Pride event hosted by President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House. The people in attendance were LGBTQ advocates and activists, many of whom surely stood in front of the Supreme Court two days later to celebrate the victory of same-sex marriage rights.

As Obama began to deliver his speech, Gutiérrez interrupted him.

She declared: “President Obama, release all LGBTQ immigrants from detention... I am tired of the violence we’re facing.”

What ensued from the audience was unfortunate. Gutiérrez was booed and heckled by LGBTQ people who yelled out “unfortunate.” Gutiérrez was booed and held, workers will be forced to migrate to the U.S.

In the U.S., the detention of immigrant workers continues unabated and is part of a cruel and unusual punishment.

“The detention of immigrants has become big business and a source of profit,” said Silky Shah, co-director of Detention Watch Network, in a newly issued report. “Local quotas with private contractors and the infrastructure of detention itself have driven this market: all at a huge expense to families detained arbitrarily and to taxpayers footing the bill.”

In fact, detaining entire migrant families has become an increasingly alarming practice. More and more families, including babies and children, are being held with their parents in detention centers.

Detention is big business

Despite some modest efforts, even by Obama himself and many Latino/a and African-American Democrats, their efforts on immigrant rights have been far from enough.

In fact, Obama has deported more people under his administration than any other U.S. president. Furthermore, because of their ties to the capitalist system, the Democrats are incapable of addressing the crisis of migration in a real way.

Not a single policy on immigration, for example, has dealt with the root causes of migration. These include pro-U.S. corporate economic policies, state-sponsored repression in countries like Mexico, Honduras and Haiti, and Pentagon intervention abroad. As long as these policies hold, workers will be forced to migrate to the U.S.

The burdens of bigotry are compounded or an education — let alone a job with vacation or one that even pays enough to afford a honeymoon. Millions of LGBTQ people are struggling to get by. Even with the tax advantages that marriage affords, the court ruling will not lift a single low-wage worker out of poverty, or solve the high unemployment problem in majority African-American cities like Detroit.

A marriage license will not protect a Black gay man from being the next Michael Brown or Trayvon Martin; the child of a Black lesbian could be the next Tamir Rice. Undocumented LGBTQ immigrants — as Jennicet Gutiérrez courageously exposed — are as vulnerable as before.

There is a crisis facing all working-class and oppressed people in this country: the genocidal assault on the African-American nation. We are seeing an exponential spike in police murders; driving, walking and breathing while Black are dangerous activities. The “school-to-prison pipeline” is a new form of enslavement that profits the prison-industrial complex. Foreclosures have depleted the collective wealth of Black people. Attacks on voting rights, life-threatening water shut-offs, gentrification and the list goes on.

But the ruling classes never plan for resistance. They always plan on the oppressed acquiescing to repression and terror. The capitalists haven’t learned from Denmark Vesey, whose church was the site of that horrific massacre in Charleston. People fight back. “Black Lives Matter” isn’t just a statement. It’s a mass movement. It’s a rebellion! We cannot allow this movement to be isolated. We cannot allow the capitalist class to use racism to keep us all divided and exploited.

Same-sex couples everywhere are saying their vows of love. But what would we have come this far, to a victory unimaginable just 10 years ago, without the solidarity of others? If we are committed to real liberation, let us take a solemn vow. We will put our bodies on the line in solidarity with the Black nation, with Latino/a, Asian, Native and Arab people, and with every nation on the planet oppressed by capitalism and imperialism. Until every last vestige of oppression and exploitation is gone: Stonewall means fight back! 

LGBTQ victory shows mass struggle wins rights

Continued from page 1 on Monday” is not unrealistic. Imagine celebrating your nuptials on the week end, and then reporting your new marriage to your boss the next day. This “taking the day off to check a little box marked “M” or “F” is not unrealistic. Imagine a marriage license will not protect a Black gay man from being the next Michael Brown or Trayvon Martin; the child of a Black lesbian could be the next Tamir Rice. Undocumented LGBTQ immigrants — as Jennicet Gutiérrez courageously exposed — are as vulnerable as before.

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Trans immigrant Jennicet Gutiérrez disrupting President Obama.
**Baltimore**

**Water shutoff moratorium needed**

By David Card

Baltimore is a city that has been in the headlines in recent weeks because of the Black Lives Matter movement and the righteous rebellion against police terror in the wake of the murder of Freddie Gray. However, what has been overshadowed is the current crisis of water shutoffs in the city.

Beginning in early April, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works began shutting off water to properties that were behind on their water bills. This list includes about 25,000 properties and $40 million in unpaid water bills. While the debt may seem considerable to some, it was discovered that roughly 845 million of it was caused by fewer than 400 commercial properties.

It was also discovered that none of those commercial properties, some owning millions of dollars, had their water service turned off, while many poor and working people were forced to lose their water supply.

In response to this human rights crisis, the People’s Power Assembly began a campaign to halt the water shutoffs. Several caravans were set up to travel the city and organize the most impacted communities to fight back.

One of the major demands of the PPA was that the City Council hold hearings and enact a moratorium on any further shutoffs of residential properties until the commercial properties had paid their bills. Hundreds of petition signatures were collected demanding an end to the shutoffs.

In early June, City Councilmember Carl Stokes introduced such a resolution that would put a moratorium on residential shutoffs until the commercial accounts had been paid. Hearings were scheduled for June 24.

On the day of the hearings, the People’s Power Assembly and other Baltimore activists held a press conference and picket outside of City Hall.

Inside during the hearings, protesters urged support for the resolution, while also demanding that more be done to help the most economically oppressed sections of Baltimore. Activists raised the connection of water affordability to the ongoing problem of gentrification.

As a proposed partial solution to the water crisis in Baltimore, the PPA brought the council’s attention to a recent bill passed by the Philadelphia City Council that ties the price of water to the income of the resident.

Such a water affordability system would be a strong first step to ensuring access to clean water for everyone. It would also place the majority of the financial burden of paying for the water system on the wealthy and those most able to pay.

With the current level of technological development, clean water is a fundamental human right which should be freely accessible and available to all.

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**Support fired Liberato workers:**

*Their victory is for all of us!*

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Pam Africa, minister of confrontation for MOVE and chairwoman of the uncompro mising Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, toured Milwaukee and Madison, Wis., June 26-27, speaking and visiting with a variety of progressive and revolutionary activists.

Durham WWP launches political film series

Fifty community members were present as the Durham branch of Workers World Party launched the Liberation Restaurant & Bar.

This month’s film was “Cointelpro 101,” a documentary on the FBI’s counterintelligence program, which brutally repressed political activists for crimes they never committed, resulting in decades of incarceration, and often through outright assassinations.

— Patrick Snipes

**MARXISM, REPRESSION & the Black Freedom Struggle**

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

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination

Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery

Sam Mardy

Black Youth, Repression & Resistance

Latiri Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key

Monica Moorehead

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Racism & Poverty

Jalil Muhammad

Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions

Pat Chin

Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights

Imani Henry

Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Solidarity

M. Khadijah Muhammad

Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation

Conversia Lee

Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion

John Parker

Available at online and other bookstores.
Detroit

By Jerry Goldberg

A powerful report on Detroit’s foreclosure crisis was published in the Detroit News June 25-27. (See tinyurl.com/ncymc9f.) The articles were the product of months of investigation by reporters Joel Kurth and Christine McDonald. They document what Workers World News June 25-27. (See tinyurl.com/ncymc9f.) The articles were the product of months of investigation by reporters Joel Kurth and Christine McDonald. They document what Workers World newspaper has stated for years: the banks are responsible for the destruction of Detroit’s neighborhoods and the loss of 240,000 residents since 2005. McDonald and Kurth set out the following facts:

1. More than one in three Detroit homes have been foreclosed in the past 10 years. Since 2005, 339,699 of Detroit’s 384,672 homes have been foreclosed because of mortgage defaults or unpaid taxes.

2. There have been 65,000 mortgage foreclosures since 2005. This doesn’t include so-called zombie foreclosures in which lenders initiated foreclosure, and many foreclosed tenants, but abandoned proceedings before they were complete. Zombie foreclosures were more prevalent in Detroit than anywhere else in the United States.

3. Fifty-six percent of all mortgage foreclosures are now blight properties or have been foreclosed again for nonpayment of taxes; 13,000 homes are slated for demolition at a projected cost of $393 million.

4. Of the 84,000 properties on the city’s blight list, 76 percent are foreclosed properties. 5. Homes sold for $22,000 on average in Detroit, down 73 percent from the peak before the housing crash and the lowest among 50 big cities. Detroit’s decline in property values cost homeowners an estimated $1.3 billion in lost personal wealth.

6. Detroit’s population fell by nearly 240,000 residents from 2000 to 2010, with the bulk of the population loss occurring after 2005.

How did the crisis happen?

Kurth and McDonald show how mass foreclosures in Detroit were a direct result of predatory practices by real estate monopolies to deny housing to people based on racism, xenophobia or national origin. In Detroit, which formerly enjoyed the highest rate of African-American homeownership of any U.S. city, $4 billion in subprime loans were written in the four years before the 2008 housing and financial crash. In Detroit, 78 percent of foreclosed homes financed through subprime loans are now in poor condition or tax foreclosed.

All banks and lenders were active participants in the subprime market because the rate of profit on subprime loans when sold to investors was eight times greater than the comparable rate on traditional fixed-rate loans.

Federal government and tax foreclosures

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government corporations operated by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, are listed as the foreclosing entity on 7,700 homes in Detroit, of which 46 percent and 38 percent are respectively blighted or abandoned.

The Federal Housing Authority was listed as the foreclosing entity on 2,453 homes in Detroit, of which half are blight or abandoned. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the FHA stand behind the banks that actually foreclose on homes, with the government then paying the subsidy to cover the full value of the inflated wage foreclosures after foreclosures.

McDonald and Kurth’s series demonstrates that in Detroit, mortgage foreclosures occurring in 2005 to 2010 and the property tax foreclosures that predominate today. Many of the banks sold homes after foreclosures at prices tens of thousands of dollars below the loan values and thousands of dollars below tax values upon which the property taxes were assessed.

The purchasers of the homes, such as investors who purchased blocks of Detroit foreclosures for $10 a unit, never paid the property taxes on these homes. Many homes that originally were subject to mortgage foreclosures are now subject to property tax foreclosures as well. In the meantime, the homes remained vacant and were vandalized, and homes are blighted and slated for demolition.

Had the banks worked with homeowners to modify their subprime mortgage loans, they could have reduced the amounts owed to the true value of the homes, the homeowners and their families would have been able to stay in their homes. The spate of foreclosures worked to help dispossess homeowners who had not been avoided. Rational planning, however, never occurs to finance capital, whose only interest is maximizing profit with complete disregard to the human consequences.

Coalition demands moratorium

“Stop the Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs first,” is the demand for a mortgage halt or halt on all foreclosures and foreclosure-related evictions in 2007, when the crisis was just starting to unfold.

A coalition member joined a invited to a televised town hall meeting on Michigan’s economic crisis with liberal Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm. The Moratorium NOW! representative explained to Granholm that under Michigan law she could declare a state of emergency and impose a moratorium to halt all foreclosures. He told the governor about the 1930s Michigan moratorium moratorium that lasted for five years during the Depression. Foreclosures were banned then and courts were mandated to set payments based on the family’s ability to pay. The Michigan moratorium law and similar moratoria in 25 other states were upheld in court by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gov. Granholm’s response to putting a moratorium on foreclosures: “The banks file lawsuits like it.” For demanding for a moratorium for one year moratorium was then introduced by State Senator Hansen Clarke, but it was stonewalled in the Legislature by Republican Democratic Governor Rick Snyder, is sitting on $200 million in unspent federal Helping Michigan’s Hardest Hit Homeowners Funds — funding expressly designated for foreclosures in Detroit and other cities in the state. The governor was under federal pressure for the cost Detroiters an estimated $1.3 billion in lost personal wealth. When 240,000 residents are driven out of the city and the wealth of the remaining residents is decimated, the banks, the money and the dollars and the money they spend on purchases within the city are lost as well.

In addition, the same banks which caused the financial crash and the loss of hundreds hundreds then the city placed itself in a federal bankruptcy condition, often tied to inter- est rate swaps. The city lost approximately $1.3 billion to the banks in the years since 2005, as has been outlined previously in Workers World magazine.

Snyder is seeking approximately 20,000 occupied Detroit homes are facing tax foreclosure, with 25,000 other families facing de facto eviction through water shutoffs. For example, Pauline Haynes, 74, who lives with her 84-year-old husband, is sitting on $200 million in unspent federal Helping Michigan’s Hardest Hit Homeowners Funds — funding expressly designated for foreclosures in Detroit and other cities in the state. The governor was under federal pressure for the cost Detroiters an estimated $1.3 billion in lost personal wealth. When 240,000 residents are driven out of the city and the wealth of the remaining residents is decimated, the banks, the money and the dollars and the money they spend on purchases within the city are lost as well.

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Billionaire racist rhetoric trumped

By Teresa Gutiérrez

Billionaire mogul Donald Trump announced his bid for the 2016 U.S. presidential elections on June 15. Normally it would have been nothing to combat the paper this is printed on to mention this. But Trump’s comments on immigration were so incendiary, racist and over the top that they launched a firestorm of protest. And rightly so.

Trump delivered an outlandish and even stupid presidential announcement filled with right-wing rhetoric and erroneous and inflammatory comments on everything from China to President Barack Obama to the economy. Only in the U.S., where money yields power more than intelligence or integrity, can someone so ridiculous fill the airwaves.

CNN’s Twitter feed was filled with outrage. Many people demanded to know why CNN would even cover it.

CNN commentators responded with, “Well, that’s free speech.” Of course if Workers’ World or some other left party held a presidential announcement, that would not fall under “free speech coverage.”

Trump stated: “The U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else’s problems... When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re bringing terrorism.

Immediately, Latino/a celebrity types and a slew of responses from the masses filled cyberspace. Wonderful “corridos” (Mexican ballads) were created criticizing Trump, denunciations were made, and a genuine backlash ensued.

Even representatives of the Mexican government, no friends of the Mexican people, were forced to comment.

Mexican Foreign Secretary José Antonio Meade, Trump “ignorant and prejudiced.” Interior Minister Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong said, “The remarks by Donald Trump seem prejudicial and about us...”

Unfortunately, the Mexican government, with total and absolute U.S. complicity, continues to deny justice to the families of 43 students from Ayotzinapa who disappeared six months ago, in a burning example of the tide of repression sweeping across Latin America.

The protest to Trump’s remarks included the cancellation of the Miss Universe Pageant, to be aired on July 12, by the parent company of the Miss Universe Pageant, Univision. Trump is part owner of the Miss Universe organization.

Thus, what the Trump-hosted “Celebrity Apprentice,” was forced to announce that “Trump’s opinions do not represent those of NBC.” (deadline.com, June 20)

A Latino immigrant launched a petition campaign calling on NBC to cancel the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants now hosted by Trump as “Celebrity Apprentice.” In just four days, the petition gained more than 200,000 signatures. On June 29, NBC announced they were getting all ties with Trump, dropping both pageants and Trump as host of “Celebrity Apprentice.” (variety.com, June 29)

A tremendous show of solidarity was exhibited from Venezuela. TeleSUR English reported: “President Nicolás Maduro showed his solidarity with the Mexican people and lashed back at Donald Trump for his racist remarks... I totally reject the statements of Donald Trump. Crook. Thief. Flimflam man. I call you a ‘white nationalist.’” (June 19)

“Venezuela raises its voice in defense of the people of Mexico, offended by this magazine, this ‘pelucón,’” said Maduro, using a local colloquialism that loosely translates as ‘elitist snob.’ What indignation,” he added. “Whoever messes with Mexico, messes with Venezuela.” (June 19)

That is the future: a kind of leadership working class, instead of the racism and rhetoric of the U.S. ruling elite.

The Trumps of the world will soon see the reality of the superrich in this country are the number of hate groups has been on the rise since 2010... The number of hate groups has now reached an all-time high of 1,360 in 2012. The number fell to 874 in 2014.

Dylan Roof’s horrible racist crime did not occur in a vacuum. A significant portion of the superrich in this country are very fearful of the rising popular movements against low wages, racism, sexism, anti-LGBTIQ bigotry and police brutality. They are pouring huge amounts of money behind right-wing politicians and media whose agenda is divide and conquer. Some of it trickles down to the far-right extremists and also feeds their paranoia and hate.

The source of this fear, instability and hatred — globalization — must be abolished in order to root out the right-wing ilk.
As Black churches burn, where are the feds?  

By Deirdre Griswold

The capitalist state in the U.S. coexists cozily with right-wing terrorists. This vile fact has once again been confirmed in the aftermath of the murder spree by racist terrorist Dylann Roof.

As of June 29, six Black churches in the South have either been destroyed or suffered severe damage from fires since Charleston. At least three are confirmed to have been caused by arson, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The loss to the people of these communities comes to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Worse, the torchings are a threat of further violence to a people whose painful history at the hands of white exploiters comes with right-wing terrorists. This vile fact has once again been confirmed in the aftermath of the murder spree by racist terrorist Dylann Roof.

As Black churches burn, where are the feds?  

By Bill Starr

Columbia, S.C.

June 27 — As Bree Newsome climbed the pole in the early morning of June 27, James Tyson stood at the bottom and helped her take down the pro-slavery Confederate flag in front of the state Capitol here. A group of supporters had come with them from North Carolina. Newsome, who is Black, and Tyson, who is white, were arrested. They are environmental activists from North Carolina who have done a lot of protests involving scaling buildings. It was a cool operation, done with rappelling equipment. They are charged with defacing state property and face a possible three years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

Both were released on bond; Michael Moore had offered to post it. The state put the flag back up within an hour, in time for a pro-Confederate flag rally at 11 a.m. When I got there, a small group of anti-flag protesters were holding their ground on the monument, surrounded by about 50 Confederate flag wavers. But soon more anti-racists arrived and were able to occupy the center.

A young Black man arrived with a big U.S. flag and people cheered; that’s the irony of the situation down here. But shortly afterwards, a young Black woman arrived with the Black Liberation flag, which provoked some great discussion. By mid-afternoon militant Black youth and white supporters were surrounding the monument, while the Confederate flag supporters were driving around the Capitol with the secessionist flag on their vehicles. The overwhelming sentiment from those driving and walking by, Black and white, was to take the rag down.

An eyewitness report from Columbia, S.C.

Standing with Charleston massacre victims

A protest and speakout against the Charleston, S.C., terrorist massacre and systemic racism was held in downtown Detroit on June 26. Called by the Mora-torium NOW! Coalition, activists lined Woodward Avenue during the busy after- noon rush hour as Detroit Tigers Major League Baseball fans were pouring into nearby Comerica Park. Many drivers and passersby signaled their support. Pictured right on the microphone is Tachae Davis of the youth organization FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together), who called for an end to the killing of transgender women of color and all racial violence.

In Philadelphia, by marchers holding signs bearing the names and photos of the nine Black men and women murdered in Charleston, S.C., a couple hundred protesters walked about four miles, despite rain, in outrage against violence by racists both in and out of uniform. Following a rally at the corner of Broad Street and Erie Avenue in the heart of North Philadelphia, marchers chanted “Justice for the 9 in

By Joe Piette contribut-ed to this article.
Origins of vicious bankers’ debt cycle

The bankers have justified their austerity demands on the grounds that such measures will pave the way for economic growth and an end to the economic crisis. This is the line dreamed up by the bankers to make their greed and lust for profit seem as if they sought benefits for Greece.

The Greek people have already had austerity. Instead of growth they got a Great Depression in which the economy shrank by 25 percent, the unemployment rate went up to 27 percent and youth unemployment to 50 percent, with 50 percent of Greeks living at the poverty level or below. And 25 percent of businessmen having gone bankrupt — all to pay the bankers their pound of flesh.

The so-called Greek bailout began in 2010. Bankers and investors had earlier bought Greek government bonds to make a profit on the interest they would receive. When the economic crisis hit in 2008, it caused a decline in government revenue. In order to pay back the bankers and other bondholders, the Greek capitalist government had to borrow more money from bankers — to pay back bankers.

Soon the financiers cut off Greek borrowing in the bond market, forcing the government to go to the IMF. It was the bailout conditions imposed by the Troika — the IMF, the ECB and the EC — that repeatedly constituted an atmosphere that stricken the Greek working class and the middle class.

The Troika lent the Greek government 150 billion euros. But by 2015 the government, due to high interest payments and economic collapse, was still deep in debt. It had to ask the bankers for another bailout of 70 billion euros — which came with more austerity conditions.

So the Greek governments of the last five years have been imposing austerity measures on the masses in order to pay back interest on the loans. The high payback on the loans created more debt. This required more borrowing, which in turn required more payback.

June 29 anti-austerity protest in Athens.

Of all the hundreds of billions that the Greek government borrowed, it is estimated that only about 10 percent of the money ever got to the government to pay for expenses; the other 90 percent went to financial institutions.

Tsipras’ partial capitulation not enough for Troika

The Syriza government, led by Alexis Tsipras, has made numerous concessions to the demands of the Troika in the past month. But those concessions were not enough for the bankers. To try to improve the government position, Tsipras has called for a July 5 national referendum on whether or not to accept the Troika’s proposals. The referendum is supposed to be a simple “Yes” or “No” vote on the proposals.

The origins of the referendum go back to the breakdown of negotiations on June 23. On June 22, a proposal from Syriza to a Eurogroup summit meeting of ministers was in direct contradiction to Tsipras’ post-election pledges to defy the austerity measures and demand debt relief, as well as in opposition to the left wing of his party. At that meeting Syriza’s proposal included 7.9 billion euros in savings to meet the demands of the Troika. Among the concessions was a pledge to defy the austerity measures and demand debt relief, as well as in opposition to the left wing of his party.

The Tsipras wing of Syriza has repeatedly emphasized the resistance of the bankers. It has talked over and over about an “honorable settlement,” it pledged to fight austerity. That is what it should do, to fight the bankers who are trying to skin it alive.

Referendum vs. leadership

Having a referendum on the austerity terms proposed by the Troika is no doubt an appealing idea. To put the bankers’ terms up for a popular vote puts the question out there. Whatever anyone thinks of Syriza, now that the referendum has been proposed and assuming that it comes off, everyone must cast their ballots for the strongest possible “No” vote.

The Tsipras wing of Syriza has repeatedly emphasized the resistance of the bankers. It has talked over and over about an “honorable settlement,” it pledged to fight austerity. That is what it should do, to fight the bankers who are trying to skin it alive. Having a referendum on the austerity terms proposed by the Troika is no doubt an appealing idea. To put the bankers’ terms up for a popular vote puts the question out there. Whatever anyone thinks of Syriza, now that the referendum has been proposed and assuming that it comes off, everyone must cast their ballots for the strongest possible “No” vote.

The first thing to be done was to reject the terms of the referendum and to be prepared, if further negotiations take place over a deal. The bankers will demand capitulation, concessions, hardships for the masses, payoffs for themselves, etc. Everything that has occurred in the last five months shows that the next phase of the struggle calls for defiance, mass mobilization and the willingness to do whatever it takes to break the stranglehold of the bankers.

The struggle so far shows the inherent contradiction of trying to fight finance capital while remaining in a framework defined by and governed by finance capital. This is the inherent contradiction of every existing social democracy.

The struggle is far from over, however. The very greed of the bankers has the capability to further destabilize the situation to a point of revolution — a struggle which must be directed at Greek capitalism as well as European finance capital.

In politics, if you are going to war, you had best be prepared for battle. The Troika was fully prepared, but Syriza was divided and irresolute.

To be sure, the relationship of forces was highly unfavorable to the Greek government. It is impossible to overlook the power of European and U.S. bankers. The first thing to be done was to reject the terms or rules of the struggle imposed by the enemy. But Syriza declared in July before its referendum with the euro and to come up with a settlement that honored the eurozone.

Even for a capitalist government, such as Syriza, there are limits to being in an arrangement where Greece has no sovereignty over its own currency and the bankers who are trying to skin it alive are also in charge of its currency, then Syriza has to find a way to live with favorable terms to the financial predators.

Finance capital and social democracy

The current predication of the Greek working class is the result of the relationship of forces between the big European and U.S. bankers, on the one hand, and Greece, a small imperialist country that is also a semi-colony of Germany and many other powers, on the other.

Tsipras’ call for a referendum is an abandonment of the responsibility to lead. The Syriza government was elected to fight austerity. That is what it should do, to defy the bankers who are trying to skin it alive.

There are many other ways to call out the popular masses to demonstrate support and strengthen your negotiating position. That is what Syriza should have been doing since last January.

Furthermore, it is clear what the Troika is demanding — an abandonment of the position. That is what Syriza should have been doing since last January.

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For more information on these books and others by Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com

Available at all major online booksellers.
By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Warpplanes deployed by the Saudi Ara- bians, along with the Gulf Cooperation Council and their allies, all backed by U.S. imperialism, are continuing the war aimed at regime change in Yemen into the fourth month.

Since March 26 when the bombing of Yemen started, some 2,600 to 4,000 people have died, according to various sources. Telecommunications infrastructure, airports, ports, residential areas, hospitals and power stations have been targeted.

On June 29 TV Press TV, said, “Saudi mil- itary aircraft conducted attacks against a residential area in Sarwah district of Ye- men’s central province of Ma’rib... Nine members of a family lost their lives and three others sustained injuries. ... Six civilians, along with two women and three children, were also killed as Saudi warplanes struck Shabam Kawkaban dis- trict in the western Yemeni province of al-Mahra... Saudi jets carried out over 20 aerial attacks against Saaber and Majz districts of Yemen’s northwestern province of Sa’ada.”

U.S.-backed forces aim to destroy

On June 28, at least three people, in- cluding two women, were also killed when Saudi war planes struck the Fallah dis- trict in the northwestern province of Sa’ada and fighter jets pounded a neigh- borhood in the Saqin district in the same province, destroying two schools.

The Saudi-GCC backed fugitive and ousted President Abd Rabuh Mansur Hadi’s regime-in-exile announced in late June that there was no need to resume talks after the unsuccessful negotiations in Geneva. After delays in the talks due to obstacles placed on Ansarullah Move- ment (Houthi) representatives reaching Switzerland, the negotiations failed as a result of the obstructive posture of the Yemeni-backed forces.

Hadi took the position that if he was not reinstalled as the leader of the un- derdeveloped Middle Eastern state, then there was no basis for the cessation of the bombing and ground offensives launched against the Ansarullah as well as civil- ians in the country. The Ansarullah have taken large sections of Yemen since last year, forcing Hadi to flee to the southern port city of Aden and later to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to secure refuge.

The West and its surrogates present the war as a proxy conflict between Sau- di Arabia and GCC on one hand and the Islamic Republic of Iran and their allies, namely the Ansarullah in Yemen, on the other. Efforts by the United Nations to reach a political settlement, for example, by convening the June meeting in Gene- va, have led nowhere.

After the talks failed, an Omani plane carrying Houthi delegates back to Sas- a from Geneva was denied the right to land, since the U.S.-backed Saudi-GCC bombers control the airspace. The plane returned to Muscat, Oman.

At present the U.N., while periodically condemning the airstrike, has imposed no sanctions against the U.S. and the Saudi-GCC alliance, which is attempting to bomb Yemen into submission. Despite the war being waged for months, the An- surallah Movement, allied with a coalition of other forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, has largely main- tained its positions on the ground.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s June 24 statement strongly objected to the imperialist-backed-coalition air strike, which severely damaged a U.N. Development Program facility and called for a return to negotiations.

Population conditions worsen

Humanitarian aid groups say that the situation is growing worse every day, with shortages of food, water, medicines and other essential services. Millions of people in Yemen need assistance. A June 29 statement taken by the relief organization Doctors Without Borders from Jasmin Mohammed Ali, 26, a teach- er in the primary school in Qatabah, and her sister Asia Mohammed Ali, 25, pro- vides a glimpse of their daily lives in Qata- bah since the Saudi-GCC bombing began. Ali, the teacher, is the breadwinner of the family. “Because of the ongoing cri- sis, the school I work in is closed; has been closed for three months. Recently, the school (which was luckily empty at the time) was affected by the airstrikes as it is close to the central security office which was targeted; all the windows of the school were shattered.

“There isn’t any running water any- more in Qataha as the main water facility for the town and the surrounding villages stopped working due to a fuel shortage. We have no water in our house and cannot even fill up the tanks either. ... Airstrikes and shelling [are] making us terrified and we can’t sleep well” [msn.org].

The U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Is- mail Ould Cheikh Ahmed of Mauritania, warned on June 24 that the war-ravaged nation was one step from widespread fam- ine, where 35 million people are in desper- ate need of food, water, medicines, cloth- ing, blankets and other basic services.

The fighting is continuing to spread into Saudi Arabia where the Ansarullah and other loyalists are conducting cross-border raids that have killed and injured Ki- yadh’s soldiers and other security forces. This war remains largely hidden from the U.S. public where the corporate me- dia have deliberately ignored the massive Saudi-GCC aerial bombings and ground operations carried out by militias sup- ported by Riyadh, as well as the role of the Pentagon in engineering the crisis. The State Department claims it wants a peaceful resolution to the war, but con- tines to rationalize Washington’s in- tellectual and financial ruin and refusal of Saudi-GCC forces.

The assault on Yemen represents yet another failed and deadly war that has been started and expanded by successive U.S. admin- istrations whose aim is to control the Middle East at any cost to the population in those states.

Global warming kills thousands in Asia

By Chris Fry

For the last two months, the Indian subcontinent has suffered through the grip of an unprecedented heat wave. Thousands of people have perished in both India and Pakistan. Ramzan Chipp- pa, who runs a volunteer ambulance service in Pakistan, told a reporter, “Most of the bodies we are recovering are people dying in the streets. They’re just drop- ping dead. Graveyards have filled up.” (nbcnews.com, June 28)

In India, temperatures as high as 117 degrees Fahrenheit caused 2,200 deaths. The Economist magazine of June 27 wrote that “the number of extreme weather and climate-related events is rising. Serious storms have more than doubled in fre- quency since the early 1980s. Floods and heat waves have more than tripled.”

The paper referenced a study published in the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change, which suggested that earlier estimates by the World Health Orga- nization and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change regarding the future effect of global warming on health are un- derestimates “because they failed to take into account vulnerabilities caused by aging, migration and population growth.”

Local scientists point out that other factors in addition to the temperature make this heat wave particularly deadly. “The heat index was higher than the actu- al temperature because the air pressure was quite low and the humidity was very high in that area,” said Muhammad Har- mun of the Lahore University of Science and Technology.

In Pakistan, scientists in the region say that the same climate change that has accelerat- ed extreme weather events like floods, droughts, cyclones and wildfires has cer- tainly intensified heat waves. “Warming has occurred, at a country scale, across most of South Asia over the 20th centu- ry,” states a report by scientists in the global energy markets, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Struggles have broken out in India and Pakistan, with people demanding that both governments provide more emer- gency assistance. Local utility company blackouts have prevented relief for many thousands. (tribune.com.pk, June 27)

Capitalism in its early stages was a driving force for technical and industrial development, such as factories, railroads, steamships and so on. This came at a terrible cost, with the slaughter of Indig- enous populations, the enslavement of millions of African people and the harsh, brutal exploitation of labor, including child labor, to feed the industrial ma- chine and enrich the capitalist barons.

In the current era of imperialism, with everything dedicated to servicing finance capital and the transnational monopo- lies, the new technological task has to be fought back when it comes into conflict with vested interests.

For example, some $6.4 trillion is spent each year in the global energy markets, most of it on fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. They have produced the bulk of the greenhouse gases that are sharply raising the planet’s tempera- ture through the “greenhouse” effect. Various technologies like solar, wind and geothermal energy generators have been around for some time. But the bank- ers and corporate tycoons who rule over the global economies refuse to allow the mass conversion to those technologies, as it would cut into some of the fabulous prof- its that come from the current systems.

As a result, they make far too much money from oil bomb trains, polluting oil wells, fracking and coal strip mining to be moved by the devastating effect this is having on the world and its people.

This leaves the oppressed and workers around the world taking the brunt of cli- mate catastrophes like this terrible heat wave, with even worse to come. While many valiant efforts are being made to mitigate global warming, the fundamen- tal task has to be deposing this capitalist system based on production for private profit and replacing it with social own- ership – socialism – so that economic life can be organized to benefit the health and welfare of the world’s people.
Some 6.4 million people breathed a sigh of relief on June 25. On that day, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in the King v. Burwell case to uphold the Affordable Care Act’s subsidy provision. The law, passed on March 23, 2010, was intended to ensure that everyone could have access to health insurance. However, 36 states were excluded from Medicaid expansion. A reaction to this decision, the ACA affiliates declared that expanded the program. However, 36 states were excluded from Medicaid expansion. A reaction to this decision, the ACA affiliates declared that 21 reactionary state legislatures, many Republican, opposed the appointment of new Supreme Court justices. This has left millions of low-income individuals still uninsured. This is a progressive measure, it is still based on the capitalist profit system for individuals to buy policies in the marketplace. Deductible costs are too high, say many workers. The struggle must continue to block conservatives’ attempts to undercut the ACA, Medicaid or Medicare — and to demand Medicaid expansion in every state. “Improved Medicare for all!” is the slogan, the single-payer advocates, should be supported. Ultimately the slogan “Free health care for all!” should prevail. It’s the capitalist system that is the most expensive. But it fails compared to that in so many countries in ‘access, equity, quality, efficiency and healthy equity’ as the Commonwealth Fund in June 2014. This is because U.S. health care is an employer insurance plan. Health care is a basic human right and a top priority on the socialist island.

Even though the ACA is a progressive measure, it is still based on the capitalist profit system for individuals to buy policies in the marketplace. Deductible costs are too high, say many workers. The struggle must continue to block conservatives’ attempts to undercut the ACA, Medicare or Medicaid — and to demand Medicaid expansion in every state. “Improved Medicare for all!” is the slogan, the single-payer advocates, should be supported. Ultimately the slogan “Free health care for all!” should prevail. It’s the capitalist system that is the most expensive. But it fails compared to that in so many countries in ‘access, equity, quality, efficiency and healthy equity’ as the Commonwealth Fund in June 2014. This is because U.S. health care is an employer insurance plan. Health care is a basic human right and a top priority on the socialist island.

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Report from Santo Domingo

Gov’t scapegoats Haitian workers

By a foreign resident
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Another human tragedy against the Haitian people is in making as official events in the Dominican Republic prepare to deport hundreds, thousands, or hundreds of thousands of Haitians. Families are being ripped apart as Haitian workers are expelled.

For the last year, the government of President Danilo Medina of the Dominican Liberation Party and conservative political forces have been whipping up a campaign of hysteria against Haitian workers in the DR.

Haitians in the DR are largely employed in public and private construction (80 percent of the labor force in construction), in agriculture (95 percent of the workforce in agriculture) and in domestic services. They are often paid off the books and receive the lowest of wages while employers avoid paying the monetary deductions required for medical care and other social protections.

For example, Haitian construction workers can be paid 450 pesos per day or less, down from 50 dollars per day to 7.50 pesos per day. At current exchange rates, this converts to 85 pesos per cent.

Agricultural workers can earn 210 pesos per day, or less. Dominican construction workers labor six days per week and may receive 5,000 pesos ($113) per month.

Some businesses call immigration agents at the end of a pay period and have their workers deported, so as to avoid having to pay Haitian workers any salary at all.

Intimidation, threats of deportation

Minister of the Interior and Police José Fadul has announced repeatedly that solicitation for applications will con-

Solidarity caravan for Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

“The blockade has not been lifted. We cannot miss that point,” emphasized Gail Walker, Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization director and daughter of Pastors for Peace founder the Rev. Lucius Walker. She spoke June 24 at the Florida Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., to begin the 26th Friendship Caravan. The program included a video message from Kenia Fadul, Gov’t speaker and daughter of the late Minister of the Interior and Police of the Dominican Republic José Fadul, repeated every week that thousand of Haitians are being deported and losing their personal belongings and documents.”

This April, it was alleged that Haitians had murdered a Dominican youth in the city of Mogano. As a consequence of the an-
ti-Haitian hysteria, mobs of Dominican youth attacked and expelled 500 Haitians from Moca.

This racist attack was recorded and shown on Dominican television, and is posted on YouTube under the title “Saca los negros de Moca para que se den cuenta de las sus pertenencias” — “Haitians are expelled by force in Moca and their belongings are destroyed.”

The mob attacks in Moca galvanized both racist and anti-racist forces in the DR, compelling many Dominicans to de-
nounce racist mob violence against Haitians.

Another horrendous racist crime that demonstrates the effects of the govern-
ment campaign against Haitians is the lynching of “Títle” (Jean Claude Harry), a shoeeshine worker with a wife and chil-
dren. He was lynched in a public park in Santiago in February, his body beaten and his hands and feet bound by rope. Santi-
ago is the second-largest city of the DR.

Even though this atrocity was widely condemned by Dominicans and Haitians, it shows the real threat that Haitians face.

According to Fadul, Haitian deportees

will be2 taken to Haiti through four border points: Dajabon, Jimani, Pedernales and Elias Phila, where Haitian authorities will receive them.

Under daily psychological pressure, intimidation by Dominican authorities and violent racist attacks, thousands of Haitians have already left in fear of being deported and losing their personal belongings.

Immigration police continue de-
taining and deporting at will, separating families that have lived here forever.

Many adults expelled are facing perma-
nent separation from their children.

Racist violence against Haitians

The Haiti Action Committee held a rally in San Francisco on June 24 at the United Nations Plaza to protest the mass deportations of Haitians by the Dominican Republic. Pierre LaRoussier of the HAC spoke about how second and third gen-
deration Dominicans who are classified as Haitian have been stripped of citizenship and declared “migrants.” Other speak-
erics decried how vigilante mobs and legal authorities alike are pushing out people of their homes and taking their property. Anyone who is Black and under the age of 85 may be classified as Haitian, even if they were born in the DR and have no ties to Haiti. They are being expelled from the country and made stateless.

— Terri Kay

San Francisco

“Can’t we all be illegal?”

The Haiti Action Committee held a rally in San Francisco on June 24 at the United Nations Plaza to protest the mass deportations of Haitians by the Dominican Republic. Pierre LaRoussier of the HAC spoke about how second and third generation Dominicans who are classified as Haitian have been stripped of citizenship and declared “migrants.” Other speakers decried how vigilante mobs and legal authorities alike are pushing out people of their homes and taking their property.
Por: Un residente extranjero en Santo Domingo.

Otra tragedia humana en contra del pueblo haitiano se está fabricando, a medida que el gobernante Duval Medina del Partido de la Liberación Dominicana (RD) se prepara para devolver a decenas de miles de haitianas/os, si no cientos de miles. Familias están siendo destruidas con las expulsiones de estas/os trabajadores.

Durante el último año, el gobierno del presidente Duval Medina del Partido de la Liberación Dominicana (RD) se prepara para deportar a decenas de miles de haitianas/os, si no cientos de miles. Familias están siendo destruidas con las expulsiones de estas/os trabajadores.

De acuerdo a Fadul, solo 4.600 inmigrantes tienen "cumplidos" con los requisitos del Plan de Regularización, es decir menos del 2 por ciento de las/os solicitantes, que ahora tendrán 45 días para hacer sus trámites de la RD. Esto restante de las/os solicitantes no cum- plen con los requisitos del Plan de Regularización, también enfrentarán deportación.

El llamado “Plan de Registro” tiene requisitos irrealizables.

Los requisitos del Plan de Regularización incluyen: pasaportes, certifica- dos de nacimiento, tarjetas de identidad, pasaportes de jóvenes de 16 años, tarjetas de crédito, documentos de matriculación de vehículos, recibos de bienes muebles, etc. - requisitos inalcanzables para una población empobrecida a la que se les vem- dieron en la RD, han vivido y trabajado deportados. Estas/os dominicanos nacidos en la RD, deben pagar el 30% del sueldo mensual de la RD, y los que trabajan en el campo deben pagar "los libros de la contrabando" (recibiendo los salarios más inferiores), mientras las/os trabajadores evitan pagar las deducciones monetarias para seguros médicos, pensiones y otras protecciones.

Por ejemplo, para los trabajadores haitia- nos de la construcción se les paga $450 pesos o menos por día. Trabajan de 7 am a 7:30 pm. Utilizando la tasa de cambio actual, eso se convierte en 85 centavos de (U.S.) dólar por hora. Trabajadoras/es agrícolas haitianos pueden ganar $250 pesos o menos por día (lo cual se convierte en 5 dólares por día). Las/os trabajadores del servi- cio doméstico laboran 6 días por semana y pueden recibir 5.000 pesos por mes (111 dólares al mes).

Algunos empresarios insespiculanos llaman a los agentes de inmigración para que hagan los trabajadores haitianos, y así evitan pagar ningún salario.

Intimidación y amenazas de deportación

El Ministro de Interior y Policía, José Fadul, ha anunciado frecuentemente que soldados y agentes de inmigración realizarán las deportaciones (usando la palabra “repatriaciones”) de haitianos/os comenzando después del 17 de junio, fecha en que las/os extranjeros en la RD tenían que registrarse bajo el Plan de Regularización. En total, 288,466 personas se han inscrito en las/os 688,783 inmi- grants contados en el censo nacional de 2012 (de ellos 688,145 eran de Haití). To- dos menos una pequeña minoría enfer- tan tras la RD. La República Domini- cana tiene una población de 9,700,000.

Además de las personas mencionadas, otras/os 20,012 dominicanos de descen- dencia haitiana también enfrentan ser deportados. Estas/os dominicanos nacidos en el campo tienen el sueldo mensual de los dominicanos, que se ha mantenido y trabajado aquí por décadas, desde antes de que la nueva Constitución de 2010 fuera esta- blecida por los políticos capitalistas, re- definieron el concepto de la ciudada- nería dominicana, a fin de excluir a las personas de descendencia haitiana.

Por otro lado, según el periódico de izquierda Haití y Rep. Dom., han vivido y trabajado deportados. Estas/os dominicanos nacidos en el campo tienen el sueldo mensual de los dominicanos, que se ha mantenido y trabajado aquí por décadas, desde antes de que la nueva Constitución de 2010 fuera esta- blecida por los políticos capitalistas, re- definieron el concepto de la ciudadanía dominicana, a fin de excluir a las personas de descendencia haitiana.

La inmigración haitiana beneficia a la economía de la República Dominicana, ofreciéndole a las empresas una mano de obra joven y salarios relativamente ba- jos, dice el Banco Mundial en su informe "Haití y República Dominicana: más que la suma de sus partes.

No es extraño que la burguesía esté tan feliz con las ganancias récord extraídas de las/os trabajadores haitianos y domi- nicanos.

En la RD la mayoría de la fuerza la- boral se clasifica como "informal", las/os trabajadores informales no están regis- trados como empleados de una empresa y por lo tanto no reciben cobertura médica, pensiones u otras protecciones.

No existe un salario mínimo nacional. De hecho, hay 13 escalas de salarios míni- mos diferentes correspondiendo a dife- rentes sectores de la economía: agricul- tura, construcción, empresas pequeñas, medianas y grandes, zonas francas (de libre comercio), empleadas/os del gobier- no, etc. El 65 por ciento de la población trabajadora activa ganaba menos de 10,000 pesos al mes (56 dólares por semana) y el desempleo real se estima en más del 20 por ciento.

Si no fuera por las remesas enviadas por las/os trabajadores dominicanos des- de otros países, que ascendieron a 4,6 mil millones de dólares en 2014 (un promedio de $474 dólares por cada persona en la RD), las condiciones económicas hubie- ran causado una explosión social.

Necesaria la unidad dominico-haitiana, y la solidaridad internacional.

Como se puede ver en la crisis actu- al, el racismo y la opresión nacional no sólo esclaviza a las/os haitianos, sino que también fortalece la opresión de las/os trabajadores dominicanos, porque am- bos, trabajadores/es haitianos y domini- canos, son explotados/os por los mismos capitalistas.

Lo que la coyuntura actual necesita es que surja una lucha unida de las/os trabajadores dominicanos y haitianos en contra del sistema capitalista que es- claviza a todas/os trabajadores. En este momento de crisis, gestiones de soli- daridad internacional en defensa las/os trabajadores haitianos en la República Domini- cana serían oportunas y muy útiles.