

Defend Black Lives Matter

End the police war on Black & Brown people

A call from Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, Workers World Party 2016 candidates for president and vice president.

July 12 — The time has come to open another front in the struggle against white supremacy. What happened in Dallas on July 7 has in the past, under different circumstances, provided the ruling class, the politicians, the mainstream media and the police with more weapons than they could possibly need to impose a chilling effect on the Black Lives Matter movement and the struggle against racist police terror.

The fall of 2014 was a high point for the Black Lives Matter movement. Thousands of marchers nationwide were shutting down highways, bridges and shopping malls across the country in the aftermath of the police murders of Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Tamir Rice.

But after two New York City cops were shot dead in December 2014, the pressure on the movement was so heavy that some activists canceled protests. It took months for the movement to recover from the political pressure orchestrated by the capitalist establishment.

However, in the aftermath of the Dallas shootings, the capitalist political establishment has so far not been able to freeze out or push back the movement. It's not that they haven't tried. The pro-cop talking heads have been all over the media trying to blame and demonize the movement for cops killed in Dallas.

Every politician who could find a microphone was eager to express solidarity with the police, call on everybody to support the cops and admonish the movement to stop the "anti-cop rhetoric." There's going to be much, much more of that in the coming days and weeks, especially starting with President Obama speaking in Dallas today at a memorial for the slain cops.

But the day after the Dallas shootings, the streets of Atlanta, New York, San Francisco, St. Paul, Baton Rouge and many other cities across the country, and even around the world, were filled with thousands of protesters demanding justice for Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, the two Black men executed by police last week and caught on video tape.

Since the killings of Sterling and Castile, over a dozen more people of color have reportedly been murdered by the police, including five Latinos. These killings have received little to no national attention, except via Twitter.

Up to this moment, the mass outrage over the latest victims of the police war against Black and Brown people is so deep, and so powerful, that the people are saying by their refusal to suspend the struggle, "No, this time we are not going to allow Dallas to be used as an excuse to blame us and stop us."

Even high-profile athletes like Carmelo Anthony, Serena Williams and Colin Kaepernick are speaking

Continued on page 6



Tamir Rice



Timothy Russell



Malissa Williams



John Crawford



Tanisha Anderson



Laquan McDonald



Philando Castile



Alton Sterling



Delron Dempsey



Anthony Nuñez



George Tillman



Michael Brown



Sandra Bland



Kimani Grey



Eric Garner



Aiyana Jones



Kajieme Powell



Ramarley Graham



Freddie Gray



Alva Brazier



Walter Scott



Barrington Williams



Akai Gurley



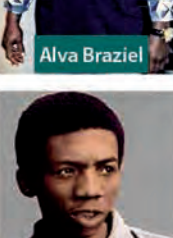
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Jamar Clark



India Kager



Alexia Christian



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Alan Blueford



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Kayla Moore



Meagan Hockaday



Nicholas Heywood



Rekia Boyd



Shantel Davis



Sam Dubose



Sean Bell



Jessie Hernandez



Anthony Baez



Denis Reyes



Amadou Diallo



Rashaun Lloyd



Ezell Ford

Names and faces of just a handful of those whose lives have been stolen by the police.

CONVENTION PROTESTS SET

• **RNC: Stop Trump**

3

• **DNC: Reject Clinton**

7

STOP KILLER COPS!

Coast-to-coast reports on uprising

5-7

CRIMES OF IMPERIALISM

• Troops in Afghanistan • NATO Summit targets Russia • Blair, Bush & Iraq

8

Editorial: War moves in Pacific

10

Mexican teachers • French workers 9

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Wisconsin

Petition blitz for Moorehead-Lilly campaign

By Workers World Staff
Milwaukee

Members and friends of Workers World Party from around the country joined WWP members and supporters in Wisconsin June 30 to July 11 to assist in gathering the signatures needed for ballot status for WWP 2016 national candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly.

Organizers, many youth and students, report the signature-gathering blitz was a smashing success. Almost 4,000 signatures were obtained primarily in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Madison. For ballot status, 2,000 valid signatures must be certified by the Wisconsin Election Commission. WWP should receive official notice by Aug. 5.

“The people of Wisconsin whom we met are enthusiastic about the Moorehead-Lilly campaign,” said Andrea Banuelos, who traveled from Rockford, Ill., and stayed 10 days. “Poor and working people here have a long history of resistance against capitalism — from historic labor strikes to current Black Lives Matter struggles.

“Many spoke at length about Dontre Hamilton, a Black man who was shot 14 times and killed by Milwaukee cop Christopher Manney on April 30, 2014. They had words for Gov. Scott Walker, who, on behalf of Wall Street interests, virtually eliminated collective bargaining for public sector workers and ushered in right-to-work-for-less in Wisconsin. We talked about socialism as the solution for



WW PHOTO:

Volunteers gathered 4,000 signatures to get WWP on the ballot.

these horrific attacks on our class, and we look forward to bringing Moorehead-Lilly back here this fall.”

Besides gathering signatures, organizers distributed election campaign literature and hundreds of Workers World newspapers. WWP Boston Branch member Gerry Scoppettuolo presented an LGBT Red, Black and Queer slideshow at Milwaukee’s LGBT Resource Center on July 6.

Stop the Bradley Foundation!

Organizers distributed thousands of palm cards and leaflets about two July 7 events in Milwaukee: a protest at the Bradley Foundation and a “Building People’s Power”

Continued on page 11

Vote4Socialism.org!

Workers World Party’s national election campaign, with Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president, is building the struggle to abolish capitalism, defend Black Lives Matter, disarm the police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and fight for socialist revolution. We aren’t running a campaign to win a seat in the White House; we are running to let people know that there is no way out of this crisis but to fight and organize — in the streets! A vote for Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly is a fist raised for socialist revolution!

Everyone can vote for our candidates online — two socialists fighting for Black lives whose 10-point program

uplifts the need of workers and the most oppressed everywhere. This includes prisoners, youth under 18, undocumented people and folks from other parts of the world — all can cast their ballot online for our candidates. Only the struggle for revolutionary socialism can change the dire conditions facing youth, workers and oppressed people worldwide.

Cast your vote today at our website, Vote4Socialism.org, and fill out the form there to get involved! We’ll connect with you on more ways to support the campaign and promote solidarity and unity in the struggle to build a workers’ world. □



Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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WORKERS WORLD
this week

★ In the U.S.

Wisconsin: Petition blitz for Moorehead-Lilly campaign 2
Vote4Socialism.org! 2
In Cleveland: March to shut down Trump and racism! 3
North Carolina: Protests confront Clinton, Trump 3
On the picket line 4
Iowa’s Good Park Rebellion. 4
Militant protests: ‘No more racist police killings!’ 5
Supporting the oppressed against the police 6
Books for the struggle. 10
Cuba Caravan says ‘End blockade!’ 10
Mississippi is still burning. 10

★ Around the world

Black solidarity with Bilal Kayed 4
Afghanistan: The longest war, no end in sight. 8
Blair is a war criminal (Bush, too) 8
NATO Summit talks peace, plans war 8
Teachers of Mexico say: ‘Our education is not for sale!’ . . . 9
France: A summer pause, but struggle will resume. 9
Labour Party ranks swell in rebuff to immigrant bashing. 11

★ Editorial

Ominous war moves in Pacific. 10

★ WWP Presidential Campaign

Defend Black Lives Matter 1
An appeal to boycott Olympics 3

★ Noticias en Español

Detengamos el racismo de Brexit
con solidaridad obrera mundial 12

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In Cleveland

March to shut down Trump and racism!

By Martha Grevatt

July 11 — Since launching his racist, violent, hate-filled campaign for U.S. president, Donald Trump has met militant opposition at every turn. The Republican National Convention, taking place in Cleveland July 18-22 and where Trump's nomination is expected, will be no exception. There will be a week of resistance — starting days before the convention even opens.

People will be coming from all over the country to march on Sunday, July 17. The march theme, "Shut down Trump and the RNC," should set a fighting tone for the many protests — both planned and spontaneous — that will follow in the next few days. The march will gather at 4 p.m. at 36th and Euclid. (Visit iacenter.org; for Facebook use the bitlink Bit.ly/NoTrumpRNC.) After a short warm-up rally, the demonstrators will step off and march through downtown. Participants will stop outside the Quicken Loans Arena, where the RNC will take place, and then resume the march and reassemble at Willard Park for the main rally.

"We will have speakers representing a wide range of struggles — Black Lives Matter, Palestine and the Right to Return, Indigenous demands to scrap the racist mascot of the Cleveland baseball team, doctors marching a few days later against Islamophobia, justice for migrants, LGBTQ rights, Detroiters fighting foreclosure, and many more," said Cleveland-based march organizer Susan Schnur. "We encourage people to bring signs and banners representing their own struggle against bigotry, economic injustice, and the capitalist system responsible for both."

More reason than ever to march against racism

The awful murders of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and at least five others over the past week at the hands of racist, trigger-happy police are reminding people that every manifestation of racism must be challenged. As Lydia Bayoneta, longtime Rochester, N.Y., activist and Workers World Party organizer explained, "The racist onslaught of police terror in the United States is part of a

worldwide mobilization of racist, Islamophobic, anti-immigrant and reactionary forces. In Cleveland, the eyes of the world will be focused not only on the reactionary forces, but also on the growing resistance within the U.S to racist police terror and all forms of oppression."

The march has the wholehearted support of Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union. "The union, for almost half a year, has been discussing, at well-attended membership meetings, the national political scene," explained Financial Secretary Steve Gillis.

"For Local 8751, with over 900 members, more than 90 percent immigrants, it's been very clear. The local has made resolutions and joined picket lines and street demonstrations to fight the overt racism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant bashing that is the Trump campaign. In May and June, Local 8751 voted to endorse and support, with resources, union members and members of the Boston community who want to join with the thousands of people who will be protesting both the Republican and Democratic national conventions. We walk the talk

when it comes to union solidarity."

Many protesters, including the Boston bus drivers, will not stop with opposing the RNC; they will be back in the streets of Philadelphia a week later opposing the Democratic National Convention. As Gillis stated: "For hundreds of our members who were born in Haiti, the Clinton campaign has brought up much anger over the Clinton Foundation's failure to rebuild housing and infrastructure after the 2010 earthquake, while taking in hundreds of millions of dollars. At every conversation, it is raised that Hillary Clinton's brother has received a 50-year contract for the profits of the largest gold mine in Haiti."

"The drivers in March voted unanimously to endorse the presidential campaign of Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly as reflecting their priorities of better jobs, housing and health care for the drivers' families and their communities."

Teresa Gutierrez, the Moorehead-Lilly campaign coordinator, will be speaking on Monday, July 18, at 6 p.m. at the Black on Black Center, 15415 Kipling Ave. in Cleveland. □



By Workers World Durham Bureau

On July 5, protests confronted both capitalist presidential candidates, who were holding campaign rallies in North Carolina.

In Charlotte, N.C., Hillary Clinton spoke alongside President Barack Obama at the first joint rally the two have held. They both spoke on the necessity of stopping Donald Trump and lauded their own supposedly progressive positions on immigration and other issues. After their formal talks, they came to greet people who had filled the overflow space at the Charlotte Convention Center to capacity.

A group of teachers and students with the #Not1More coalition held up a banner

that read, "Release them now, stop deporting our students, #FreeWildin" and chanted, "Stop deportations!" Their action stopped Clinton's remarks to the overflow audience.

The #Not1More group demands a moratorium on deportations, the immediate release of the 12 students who are currently being held in detention centers by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for Hillary Clinton to stay true to her promise of ending the raids that seize students for deportation.

Currently, ICE is holding nine students from North Carolina and three from Georgia in detention. In total, these students have been in ICE facilities for the past six months. Wildin Acosta — one of the students from Durham, N.C. — was sentenced to 45 days of solitary confinement for helping an inmate translate a letter into English.

North Carolina

Protests confront Clinton, Trump

Recent graduate Diana Vieyra, who was protesting, told Workers World she participated because, "I felt it was important for me, as an undocumented student, who had the privilege of graduating high school, that the 12 other students held in detention centers by ICE be given the same opportunity." She urged Clinton to follow through on her promise, saying, "Hillary has come out against the immigration raids, as well as met with Dreamers, but it's now time for her to actually meet our demands."

Defy thunderstorm to condemn Trump

Later that same day, racist billionaire Donald Trump held a campaign rally at Memorial Auditorium in downtown Raleigh, N.C. Despite heavy thunderstorms, people held a spirited rally directly in front of the venue for several hours.

Chants of "No Trump! No KKK! No

racist, fascist USA!" and "Hey hey! Ho ho! Deportations have got to go!" rang out and confronted the crowd as they filed out of the auditorium at the end of the rally. A brief standoff ensued as Trump supporters shouted racist slogans and chants at the demonstrators, who refused to give up any ground.

Many from North Carolina are planning to mobilize to join protests in Cleveland at the Republican National Convention and in Philadelphia at the Democratic National Convention, later this month. Both Trump and Clinton have also made it clear that they will be returning often to the state until the elections in November — and organizers have announced their intentions to organize protests to disrupt, confront and shut down these rallies of the capitalist candidates every time and anywhere they are held in the state. □

As athletes speak out against police brutality

An appeal to boycott Olympics

The statement below was issued on July 6 by Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, Workers World Party's 2016 candidates for president and vice president. Since then, a number of well-known Black football, basketball and baseball athletes in the U.S. have spoken out against police brutality, including Serena Williams, the world's number one tennis player; Women's National Basketball Association's members of the New York Liberty and Minnesota Lynx; the National Football League's San Francisco 49er's quarterback Colin Kaepernick; Carmelo Anthony and Bradley Beal from the National Basketball Association's New York Knicks and Washington Wizards, respectively; and Leonard Fournette, a running back with Louisiana State University. White athletes who also have called for justice for Alton Sterling and Philando Castile include Hudson Street, a pitcher with Ma-

jor Baseball League's Los Angeles Angels, and Chris Long, defensive end with the NFL's New England Patriots.

Michael Smith, a co-host with ESPN's "His and Hers" sports talk show announced July 11 that the USA Basketball team should strongly consider boycotting the 2016 Olympics out of protest against police brutality. His co-host, Jemele Hill, urged that white athletes take a visible stand against police violence.

As Workers World Party's presidential and vice presidential candidates, we appeal to you, Black athletes — who are loved, admired and respected by millions of people, especially youth, here and worldwide — to boycott the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio. We urge you to take this stand in protest of the escalating war against Black and Brown people by racist police, which continues the long, violent history of slavery and Jim

Crow thereafter.

How can one represent one's country with pride when a large section of the U.S. population is being treated as less than human — when Black and Brown lives are considered expendable by the police, especially if they are young and poor?

We are so damn angry, along with millions of other Black people and people of good conscience, over the recent lynchings of Delron Dempsey, a Black man shot to death on July 4 by a racist off-duty police officer in East New York, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Alton Sterling, while pinned to the ground, captured on video being fatally shot multiple times on July 5 by a racist Baton Rouge, La., police officer. Both Dempsey and Sterling were 37-year-old husbands and fathers, who did not deserve to die.

On July 6, police in the Minneapolis area gunned down Philando Castile, a 32-year-old Black cafeteria supervi-

sor at J.J. Hill Montessori School in St. Paul. Castile was driving with his woman friend and her young daughter when he was pulled over, allegedly for having a faulty taillight. A cop fired point-blank at least four times at Castile as he reached for his wallet, with the killing's aftermath shown livestream on Facebook by the woman friend, who recorded it. Millions of people have seen the recording, just as millions saw Sterling murdered in cold blood. Protests sparked by the killings of Sterling and Castile have continued all over the country.

Also on the night of July 9, Houston police executed Alva Brazier by shooting him near a gas station at least 10 times while his hands were up. His murder was captured by a surveillance camera.

They are the latest victims on a long list of over 500 people who have been killed thus far in 2016 — an alarmingly

Continued on page 11



On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust

United flight attendants demand unified contract

United Airlines’ flight attendants may soon see across-the-board pay increases, some as high as 31 percent, pending ratification of the tentative contract between the company and the Association of Flight Attendants. The contract will finally unite the airline’s 25,000 flight attendants, who have remained under separate collective bargaining agreements since the 2010 merger of Continental Airlines and United. Under the current contract, flight attendants originally hired by Continental are barred from working alongside United hires. (New York Times, June 30)

Workers from United, Continental and Continental Micronesia, the three pre-merger bargaining groups, have protested at airports around the world to demand a unified contract. A statement posted at the AFA website explains: “Management will have the opportunity to divide and distract us as long as we are operating under different agreements. They play games with flying allocation and attempt to keep us at odds with each other. A divided workforce gives management leverage they can and will use against us.” (OurContract.org, Feb. 9) The AFA bargaining committee, with representatives from each pre-merger group, has unanimously approved the tentative agreement. Members will vote to ratify it beginning July 15. (OurContract.org, June 29)

Workers strike at Trump Taj Mahal

A thousand service workers, including housekeepers, kitchen staff and bellhops, walked off the job July 1 at Atlantic City’s Trump Taj Mahal hotel and casino. “We’ve given them every chance possible to do the right thing,” said Mayra Gonzales, a 26-year Taj chef. “Now we’re going to take it to the streets.” (unitehere.org, July 1)

The workers, unionized by UNITE HERE Local 54, are fighting to recover wages and health care benefits cut by as much as 35 percent when the Taj Mahal declared bankruptcy in 2014. Billionaire Carl Icahn, the hotel and casino’s principal investor and owner as of February 2016, has raked in enormous profits from workers’ low-paid labor. Many are paid only 80 cents more an hour than when they started over a decade ago. (Trump founded the hotel in 1990, but later sold it to Icahn; Trump gets a percentage of the profits for the use of his name.)

A report by corporate watchdog groups Hedge Clippers and Take on Wall Street says that Icahn’s investments in insurance, air travel and software industries have caused some 35,000 workers to lose their jobs and 126,000 to lose their pensions and health plans. It also notes that billionaire Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate, is considering Icahn for Treasury secretary, if elected. (Fortune.com, July 5)

Home care workers make gains

The Supreme Court confirmed on June 27 that millions of domestic care workers, the majority immigrants and women of color, are entitled to minimum wage and overtime protections when it declined to hear the case of Home Care Association of America v. Weil. The for-profit home care agencies sued the federal government to overturn a 2015 Labor Department rule that reclassifies home care workers as employees, rather than “companions” exempt from labor laws. (New York Times, July 3)

The 1937 “Fair Labor Standards Act” granted most employees the right to a minimum wage and overtime pay. But racist Southern Democratic lawmakers successfully lobbied to exclude domestic workers and agricultural workers, mostly people of color, from the law’s scope. So millions of home care workers and farmworkers have had to work long hours at poverty wages ever since.

In a July 8 editorial celebrating the decision, SEIU Healthcare Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas President Keith Kelleher wrote, “For nearly 80 years, women and men of color have been fighting against the injustice baked into our basic workplace rules — and we’re winning.” (ProgressIllinois.com)

Workers’ global solidarity vs. Walmart

Since 1996, U.S.-based retail giant Walmart has expanded operations in China, opening some 400 stores and employing over 100,000 workers. Like its U.S. counterpart, Walmart China does all it can to push down wages and increase productivity, even flagrantly violating China’s robust labor laws.

In a May 20 open letter to U.S. Walmart workers, the Walmart Chinese Workers’ Association urges “further communication and mutual support between the Walmart workers in China and the U.S. in the future.” The association was formed in 2014 to connect Walmart workers across China as “Walmart flagrantly violated the trade union law of China and the five-point memorandum that was agreed to by Walmart and the ACFTU [Chinese labor federation] in 2006. Secondly, in its stores across the country, Walmart has conducted a series of actions to illegally manipulate union elections, suppress trade union activists, and appoint fake representatives for union negotiations.” The letter notes that Walmart workers’ struggles in the U.S. to unionize and demand regular scheduling are not unique to them. “We ... believe that your conditions today will be ours tomorrow.” International solidarity against Walmart is the key to victory in both countries. To read the full letter, go to bit.ly/29sHnxG. □

Black solidarity with Bilal Kayed

On July 8, “Black Solidarity with Palestine,” a coalition of 49 Black organizations and nearly 1,200 individuals, released the following statement in support of Bilal Kayed. Kayed, a prison leader with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has been on an open hunger strike against his “administrative detention” by Israel. His struggle is the focus of protests in Palestine and worldwide, including a current week of global actions coordinated by Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

Today, on the 44th anniversary of the assassination of the revolutionary Palestinian novelist and activist Ghassan Kanafani, second anniversary of Israel’s last assault on Gaza, the 49th year of ongoing Israeli occupation and the 68th year of Palestinians’ ongoing Nakba [catastrophe], we express our firm solidarity with Palestinian prisoner Bilal Kayed, who is in the 23rd day of his hunger strike against his indefinite detention by Israel.

Kayed completed a 14.5-year sentence in Israeli prisons and was slated for release on June 13, 2016. Instead, Israeli officials extended his imprisonment for an additional six months without charge or trial, under the Israeli practice of “administrative detention.” Kayed and hundreds of his fellow prisoners are now

on hunger strike in protest of this injustice.

As people who live within the belly of a beastly system that thrives off the incarceration of our bodies, we recognize the violence of Israel’s ongoing use of administrative detention to create political prisoners and stifle Palestinian resistance.

Similar to the experience of our Palestinian comrades, the United States government silenced and neutralized our own revolutionary movement through incarceration and targeted assassinations during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. A political war has been waged against our communities as a whole, incarcerating millions of our people and victimizing many through police and state abuse.

This week in particular, we grieve the further loss of Black lives to extrajudicial killings by the state. We express our solidarity in the midst of immense pain because we understand that these violent acts are not “isolated incidents” for us or Palestinians, but systemic to the U.S. and Israel.

In the midst of these wars on our existence, we submit that all of our prisoners are political prisoners, that all Palestinian prisoners are political prisoners, and that we have to fight to liberate everyone by abolishing the cages around us. We stand firm in our solidarity with Bi-



lal Kayed and the over 7,000 Palestinians detained within the Israeli prison system, including more than 750 Palestinians being held without charge or trial.

Bilal, we salute you and your comrades struggling against incarceration and for the liberation of Palestine. We send you the solidarity of roughly a dozen of our own political prisoners from the Black Panther Party, Black Liberation Army and other struggles — including Mumia Abu-Jamal; Sundiata Acoli, comrade of the revolutionary Assata Shakur; and Kevin “Rashid” Johnson, the Minister of Defense for the New Afrikan Black Panther Party, Prison Chapter.

We will not remain silent so long as the Palestinian people are subjected to the daily violence of administrative detention and political imprisonment. We will stand by them so long as their resistance to the racist and colonial violence perpetuated by the state of Israel continues. We will continue to demand an end to the myriad systems of Israeli oppression until every Palestinian can live without fear of losing their home, their land, their family to state violence. We refuse to believe that peace will only come at the expense of justice.

United we fight against prisons, united we fight for Palestine, and united we fight for the people. □

Iowa’s Good Park Rebellion



By Mike Kühlenbeck
Des Moines, Iowa

Fifty years ago the “Good Park Rebellion” helped inspire the founding of the Black Panther Party in Des Moines, Iowa.

On July 4, 1966, nearly 200 Black youth at Good Park stood up to police brutality. Police cars were rocked and the park was barricaded. The outrage started the night before when two cops rough-handed two Black youth for staying at the park past 10 p.m.

The Des Moines Register reported that tension had been “brewing for several nights.” On the night of July 5, the cops conducted a random sweep of the area, arresting seven teenagers.

Dr. Reynaldo Anderson said, “Although Des Moines did not have a major ghetto like Los Angeles, the heartland city had serious urban problems such as racial unrest, segregated education and police brutality.”

Whites and Blacks in Des Moines traditionally lived in separate worlds, according to historian Victor Cools. Urban

renewal threatened the city’s Black neighborhoods when the federal government funded two slum clearance and construction projects in a Des Moines “model cities” area.

Center Street in northwest Des Moines was mostly inhabited by members of the Black community. By the early 1960s, most of the neighborhood was torn down. “Many Center Street residents lost their homes. Businesses closed or moved to new locations and the city lost a vibrant business district.” (Iptv.org)

Later that year, the national Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was founded in Oakland, Calif.

Iowa State Historical Society scholars Bruce Fehn and Robert Jefferson conclude, “The July 1966 Good Park riots were a prelude to the emergence of a new, more radical politics, later mobilized by members of the Des Moines chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.”

In 1967, shortly after graduating from high school, Des Moines resident Mary Rem went to Oakland to visit relatives. She met Bunchy Carter, head of the Los Angeles chap-

ter of the Black Panthers, and other revolutionaries.

As noted by Dr. Anderson, “Rem yearned for a new kind of organization in the Midwest that would organize for political change and mobilize against the oppressive conditions in the Black community.”

Shortly after returning to Des Moines, Rem’s meeting with activist Charles Knox led to the founding of the Des Moines, Iowa, Black Panther Party, with an official branch established in 1968.

At the group’s peak, the Des Moines Panthers had over 100 members. They operated a successful Free Breakfast program to feed children of elementary and junior high school age.

Even though that particular chapter in history is closed, revolutionary-minded workers should remember the following from the Black Panther Party’s Ten-Point Program:

“We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society.” □

Agonized, militant protests coast to coast

‘NO MORE RACIST POLICE KILLINGS!’

By Workers World Staff

July 11 — Hundreds of protests, militant marches and highway blockades have been held across the country in the past week as the killings of Black people by racist police continue with impunity. The July 5 murder of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., by two white cops was videotaped and seen worldwide. The day after, police in Falcon Heights, Minn., shot and killed 32-year-old Philando Castile; his fiancée videoed the aftermath of the gunshots.

In Baton Rouge, some form of protest has been held every day since Sterling’s death. Neighborhood gatherings have grown into marches to the police station. Peaceful protest has been met with cops in riot gear, pounding batons on shields. Hundreds have been arrested.

Five thousand marched in St. Paul, Minn., after Castile’s death and hundreds protested at the Minnesota governor’s mansion on July 7. An into-the-night blockade of Interstate 94 beginning on July 9 ended with police violence and more than 100 arrests.

Scores have also been arrested and threatened by police in various cities as militant demonstrations took place. An uprising against racism and police terror continues to grow. The following summaries from WW activists show the breadth and depth of protest in a few cities across the U.S.

ALBANY, N.Y.: ‘Enough is enough’

More than 200 people rallied July 8 in Albany, N.Y., organized by the Upstate New York chapter of Black Lives Matter, to protest the police killing of five Black and Latino men in the U.S. in the last seven days: Alton Sterling, Delrawn Small, Anthony Nuñez, Philando Castile and Pedro Erik Villanueva. “We raise up our voices and say enough is enough is enough,” emphasized Patrick Avery, pastor at Kingdom Reigning Worship Center. (timesunion.com, July 8)

The rally ended with a stirring speech by 11-year-old Alicia Clemente. “I’m afraid to walk to school,” she yelled into a megaphone. “I’m tired of being scared. I’m scared to be next. I’m scared of the next. I don’t want to hear ‘Say her name’ every time I turn on the news. I don’t want to see bombs go down in Afghanistan. I don’t want to see it anymore.”

— Chris Fry

ATLANTA: 10,000 march

Determined demonstrators have marched, chanted, blocked traffic, shut down interstates, danced and sung for hours every night since July 7. These protests covered miles of Atlanta streets, beginning in the early evening and lasting until the following morning. Despite attempts by police agencies to thwart movement with barricades and patrol cars, the marchers have stayed in the streets, joined by new recruits and supported by motorists caught in traffic.

On July 7, some 1,000 people, mostly youth, blocked the Downtown Connector of I-75 and I-85 that passes through the heart of Atlanta. The following day, 10,000 people took over key sites, from the CNN Center to Peachtree Street and Centennial Olympic Park. For more than five hours, thousands faced off against a small army of police and state troopers at the Williams Street entrance to the interstate. Participants represented every seg-

ment of the Black community, including families, elders, and faith and Civil Rights organizations.

Black Lives Matter activists were key to six- to eight-hour protests on July 9 and July 10. A dozen or so were arrested. A July 11 action is moving to the affluent Buckhead neighborhood, where two elite shopping malls are located.

While many signs and chants refer to Sterling and Castile, the names of local victims of police violence — Anthony Hill, Kevin Davis, Nick Thomas, Alexia Christian and others — make clear that Atlanta families have suffered similarly and received no justice.

— Dianne Mathiowetz

BALTIMORE: protesters criminalized

On July 8, some 1,000 people, organized by the People’s Power Assembly, shut down traffic coming off Interstate 83 as protesters marched to Baltimore police headquarters.

Two PPA organizers, one of whom is five months pregnant, plus two other people were arrested and handed a number of various charges. Released the following afternoon, one of the four was hospitalized after being attacked and beaten by police.

In an attempt to criminalize and violence-bait protest, the Baltimore Sun printed mug shots of the four, along with their ages and city of residence, in an article in the “crime” section of the website on July 10. In an earlier article the Sun reported, ominously, that along with police helicopters “officers were positioned on rooftops along the route” of the march. (July 8)

On July 9, marchers took over downtown streets and blocked the main police headquarters. They also shut down Interstate 83, a major Baltimore artery, and blocked traffic on East Pratt Street.

— Sharon Black

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA: ‘Shut it down!’

Thousands turned out in the Bay Area to angrily protest the police killings. In Oakland on July 7, crowds gathered downtown at Oscar Grant Plaza in response to a call by Live Free, the Anti Police-Terror Project and the Frisco 500. People took the street and marched to the Oakland Police Department Headquarters for another brief rally.

The crowd marched up the I-880 freeway off-ramp adjacent to OPD’s headquarters, shut down one side of the freeway and then climbed over the barriers to shut down the entire freeway in both directions. Led by members of the clergy, marchers linked arms at the front of the crowd.

Someone with a projector displayed images of Sterling and Castile on the side panel of a friendly semi-trailer truck. Marchers chalked graffiti about Black lives all over the road and barriers. When asked by a news reporter about someone needing to get through for an emergency, Pastor Michael McBride responded that his people have been in a state of emergency for 400 years.

Protesters shut down the freeway for more than four hours. As they left, they found a display denouncing the police across the entire front of the OPD headquarters. The front doors had been splattered with red paint.

The next night a rally began at Chelsea



Manning Plaza in San Francisco. Swelling to about 2,000 people, protesters marched to Powell and Market, where people sat down in the street before continuing to City Hall. That rally was co-sponsored by the Answer Coalition, Bayard Rustin Coalition, Justice 4 Alex Nieto Coalition, Justice 4 Mario Woods Coalition, Latin@ Young Democrats of San Francisco, San Francisco Black Leadership Forum, San Francisco BLM and West County Toxics Coalition.

On July 9, a group of recent high school graduates converged for another protest. The crowd grew to about 500 and began an afternoon-long march blocking three different entrances to the Bay Bridge and entrances to a shopping mall and various shops.

— Terri Kay

BOSTON: ‘Unite and fight’

Hundreds rallied July 9 for five hours of protests and two marches. They targeted the Boston Police Headquarters, located in the Black community, then marched through Boston’s oppressed communities of Roxbury and Dorchester.

Protesters remembered police brutality and murders in New England. Many of the families of murdered Black victims attended and spoke, remembering Burrell Ramsey-White, Jeffrey Pendleton and others. Usaamah Rahim’s mother testified that her 26-year-old Black American Muslim son, in a vicious Homeland Security operation, was gunned down by Boston police and FBI agents in 2015 in the Roslindale neighborhood.

The day was organized by MASS Action Against Police Brutality, Boston’s Black community, other communities of color, the Muslim community, the Nation of Islam, unions, fast food worker-organizers, Fight for \$15 and other supporters. MASS Action called for a protest on July 13 at Boston Police Headquarters to “unite and fight for our fallen.”

— Stevan Kirschbaum

DES MOINES: solidarity with BLM

“Des Moines in Solidarity with BLM” demonstrators rallied at Cowles Commons and marched through the streets of downtown on July 8. The event was hosted by Black Lives Matter activist Kaija Carter. Members of grassroots organizations such as Iowa Citizens for Justice and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement also attended. The rally was followed by a march to the Des Moines Police Department.

Attorney Tina Hassane Muhammad of

Justice Law Firm, founder of Iowa Citizens for Justice, told WW that the organizers’ goals were to stand in solidarity and to highlight the police terror and systematic racism that are taking Black lives every 28 hours.

— Mike Kuhlenbeck

HOUSTON: Sandra Bland, now Alva Brazil

Daily protests are taking place in Houston, sometimes two or three a day, since the killings of Sterling and Castile. Added to those outrages is Houston’s latest victim of “death by cop.”

Alva Brazil, a 38-year-old African-American man, was shot and killed in the early hours of July 9 as he was looking for his stolen horse. Black Lives Matter Houston called a press conference July 9 at Discovery Green, a popular downtown park. As the crowd grew, a decision was made to march to City Hall, where a large rally with an open mic was held. Community members, many of them young people, expressed anger, sadness and outrage. The multinational crowd continued to rally for several hours as Houston cops stood by.

Events have been held at a statue of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in MacGregor Park. Students for a Democratic Society at the University of Houston held a militant protest in front of the Houston Police Department headquarters on July 10 and then marched through downtown. Later that day clergy, politicians and police held what amounted to a love-in for the dead Dallas cops. They weren’t pleased when BLM activists appeared and turned attention to the victims of the police.

July 10 was the one-year anniversary of Sandra Bland’s arrest in Prairie View, Texas. An event called “The Shout” was held at the site where the arrest took place. There is an ongoing memorial there with fresh flowers, stuffed animals and photos. Some of the activists went to the Waller County Jail, where they plan to spend the next three nights holding vigil until the exact time Bland’s body was allegedly discovered hanging in a jail cell on July 13, 2015.

— Gloria Rubac

LOS ANGELES: Black and Brown unity

More than 200 people responded July 9 to a call from Unión del Barrio for an emergency demonstration in front of the Los Angeles Police Department. The protest called for unified responses to police

Continued on page 6

DEFEND BLACK LIVES MATTER

End the police war on Black & Brown people

Continued from page 1

out. There are also rumblings from below for other high-profile athletes, such as Team USA basketball, to either boycott the Olympics or carry out a symbolic protest at the upcoming Games in Rio.

Build broad anti-racist solidarity

Why is this so important? In order for the police to wage their war against Black and Brown people, the movement against this war must be marginalized, isolated, demonized and ultimately repressed.

The more it becomes clear that police repression is not only unpopular but will no longer be tolerated by the masses, who face dehumanizing treatment on a constant basis, the more difficult it becomes for the police and the system to kill and incarcerate people of color on an ever-increasing scale. Even the call for disarming the police is becoming more popular among the masses.

The police depend on the political support of the people, or at least public indifference over their actions. The capitalist establishment, which depends on police repression to maintain its rule over the population, understands this very well, and devotes endless energy and resources toward maintaining political support for the police.

The police are acutely aware of this political need, particularly when it becomes apparent that they are losing a critical mass of support.

Racist police repression cannot be ended, once and for all, until the decaying capitalist system, which is becoming more and more desperately dependent on police repression, is ended. It must be replaced with a system that is based on meeting human needs, not exploitation to make profits: socialism.

In lieu of that, recent events indicate that opposition to police repression has reached a turning point.

The time has come to open up a new front in the struggle against police repression. It could be called the “No Support for the Police War on Black People” movement.

At least two conditions are essential to opening such a front:

One, it needs to be based on mass, militant action that is local, but also national and even international. Two, it is absolutely essential that it is not only Black and Brown young people taking to the streets, but white people as well, and not just young people, but people of all generations, nationalities, genders, gender expressions, abilities, etc.

The percentage of young white people who have taken to the streets in support of Black Lives Matter has been rising. This bodes well for the struggle, especially if it becomes consistent and continues to grow. □

WW PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO



PHOTO: MIKE CHICKEY



Boston

WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

New York

PHOTO KAYLEE KNOWLES



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

Phila

WW PHOTO: JO

‘No more racist police killings!’

Continued from page 5

killings of Black and Latino/a people in Los Angeles. About 10 organizations were represented, including Workers World, BAYAN-USA, Brown Berets, L.A. Community Action Network, as well as Black activists and spoken word artists. People blocked the intersection in front of the LAPD, which had an almost invisible presence even when the streets were taken.

ABC’s Channel 7 asked Maggie Vascassenno, of the People’s Power Assembly, why she was there: “I think it’s very important for white people especially to be here today, in solidarity with our Black and Brown sisters and brothers facing tremendous repression.” John Parker, of Workers World Party, talked of the historic unity of Black and Brown peoples, from slavery to the formation of the Black Panthers, Brown Berets and Young Lords. Parker praised the Black Lives Matter movement for sparking a struggle that can only get stronger with greater unity.

Francisco, a Black veteran, spoke of the irony that the ambush of Dallas police was a tactic the shooter had been taught in order to kill people in U.S. wars abroad.

— John Parker

NEW YORK CITY: ‘No justice, no peace!’

For four consecutive days, thousands surged into the streets of Manhattan to express outrage over the police murders of Sterling, Castile and Delawn Small. Massing at Union Square on July 7, protesters headed north on Fifth Avenue facing rush-hour traffic, tying up Midtown and outmaneuvering the cops. Motorists honked and waved support as marchers chanted “No justice, no peace! No racist police!”

The huge multinational and multi-generational crowd headed to Ninth Avenue, then marched across 42nd Street to Times Square. They held that famous intersection until 8:20 p.m., when police attacked, arresting more than 40 people. Nonetheless, protesters stayed in the streets until well past midnight, marching north to Harlem, more than 100 blocks from the starting point.

On July 8, demonstrators took to the streets in anguish and rage in many parts of the city, including Harlem and Union Square. On July 9, 1,000 marched from the Brooklyn Bridge to Union Square, where they held a brief rally, and then marched throughout the city. There were

a few arrests at Union Square. Demonstrators repeatedly went around the barricades that cops spread across intersections. Marchers took over Fifth Avenue and then 42nd Street until they reached Times Square. Bystanders on sidewalks and in cars clapped and yelled in support. The march went on for hours and eventually shut down the Franklin D. Roosevelt East River Drive.



#Yes, ALL Cops: Supporting the oppressed against the police

Statement by the Appalachian Workers Alliance, July 9

The Appalachian Workers Alliance stands uncompromisingly with the current movements of the people against systemic police brutality and murder of Black and Brown men and women. These modern lynchings are not acts of isolated “bad apples,” but are instead the institutionalized practice. The police are the foot soldiers of national and racial oppression in the United States. The origins of the police are as slave catchers and strike breakers. Their function is to protect the status quo, no matter how unjust it is, and the status quo is anti-working class and white supremacist.

The severe sentences handed out to Black and Brown workers in this country every day for minor crimes (if these “crimes” weren’t frame-ups, as they often are) stand in stark contrast to the inconsequential slaps on the wrist officers receive for their state-sanctioned murders of oppressed people — if they are even condemned and punished at all. We will show no solidarity with the police or their so-called “unions.” The Fraternal Order of Police and the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association are not labor unions because police are not workers. Police are armed enforcers of a state and economic system that exploits workers and oppresses people of color. Real unions pledge to not cross picket lines while police, in fact,

bust unions and break up picket lines. The PBA was founded with support from the Ku Klux Klan and the far-right John Birch Society.

The Appalachian Workers Alliance is committed to real change and real justice for all workers. As a part of these goals, the Appalachian Workers Alliance also upholds the right, individual and collective, of oppressed people to self-defense. The popular cliché that violence only begets violence is just a smokescreen used to disarm and endanger workers, especially workers of color. When racist police aim their guns at the people, the people must be able to defend themselves and each other.

#YesAllCops

On July 10, hundreds of demonstrators marched through Midtown with their fists raised, chanting “Black lives matter!”

— Bill Dores, Kathy Durkin and Brenda Ryan

PHILADELPHIA: ‘Racism and capitalism are intertwined’

On July 6, the REAL Justice Coalition (RJC) and the Black and Brown Workers Collective (BBWC) responded immediately by calling a “no business as usual” march through Philadelphia’s busy downtown shopping district streets, eventually occupying the on- and off-ramps of the I-676 expressway. Seasoned activists and first-time demonstrators spoke out against police terror for an hour before cops began threatening arrests. Twelve people sat down in a line across the on-ramp. After cops arrested the 12, 50 supporters waited outside the police station until they were released.

On July 8, hundreds marched for four hours through North Philadelphia, growing in numbers as they passed through many neighborhoods. Marchers held short rallies wherever there were crowds, and many who didn’t join listened and raised their fists. Outrage against police brutality, poverty and mass incarceration is so common that most people of color easily understand why someone would start shooting at cops, as in Dallas the day before.

At the intersection of Erie and Germantown, Shani Akilah of BBWC got the crowd chanting “Racism and capitalism



Los Angeles

WW PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO



Bay Area



PHOTO: KELLY JOHNSON

SHUT DOWN THE RNC & DNC

BUILD THE MOVEMENT TO SMASH CAPITALISM & RACISM

Cleveland Sun. 7/17 4pm
bit.ly/NoTrumpRNC

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BLACK LIVES MATTER

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Philly Coalition for Racial, Economic And Social Justice

Moorehead-Lilly '16
WORKERS WORLD PARTY

917-740-2628
RNC: NoTrumpRNC@gmail.com
DNC: WWPhila@workers.org



Philadelphia

PIETTE

are intertwined.” Protesters then surprised the police by getting on the Broad Street subway bound for City Hall. When bicycle cops later confronted demonstrators at a Center City intersection, protesters briefly surrounded the police. When the cops saw they were surrounded, they quickly retreated.

In the third Philly protest in four days, RJC called a Rage Against Police Terror march on July 9 in the oppressed neighborhood surrounding the notorious 25th Police District. Hundreds of activists and Black and Brown area residents marched, stopping at intersections where people were congregated for short open mic rallies. Many residents raised their fists as marchers filed past with a banner that read, “You have nothing to lose but your chains.”

Up to 300 participants marched right up to the precinct steps, then stood toe-to-toe against a line of cops for an hour, chanting between revolutionary talks by RJC and BBWC activists, as well as North Philly victims of police crimes. Cops were visibly angry but did not respond.

— Joe Piette

ROCHESTER: Police riot

On July 8, 400 multinational demonstrators stopped traffic in a series of protests in Rochester, N.Y., which began about 4 p.m. at the Liberty Pole downtown and lasted until nearly 1:30 a.m. the follow-



Rochester, N.Y.

PHOTO: ANTHONY HARPER

ing day. The demonstrations were led by BLACK (Build Leadership And Community Knowledge), a local African-American youth group affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The main confrontation came at about 10 p.m. when demonstrators blocked the intersection of East Avenue and Alexander Street in a gentrified part of the city filled with upscale nightclubs and bars.

Although the protests were thoroughly peaceful, city police showed up in full riot gear. In a showdown of more than two and a half hours, they arrested 77 people, including two African-American TV reporters from the local ABC affiliate.



Houston

WW PHOTOS: GLORIA RUBAC

The station’s general manager, Chuck Samuels, speculated this was racial profiling: “There were white TV reporters standing right there near them and they were not handcuffed. Whether it was [profiling] or not, I don’t know. But how can you not raise the question?” (democratandchronicle.com, July 10)

The police used considerable violence. There were images of one demonstrator with blood pouring from a head wound and reports of demonstrators treated in nearby hospitals. The cops sent squads to forcibly take down individual demonstrators, even though they had complied with orders. — Gene Clancy

SEATTLE: War on Black America

More than 1,000 protested the war on Black America on July 8. The multinational demonstration, called by Black Lives Matter, marched to the federal building, the federal courthouse and Seattle police headquarters. Marchers tried a quick rush to take Interstate 5, but were blocked by a huge force of cops, who used stun grenades and pepper spray to repel the militant action.

The march also protested the February police killing of Black community member Che Taylor. Investigations have revealed that the gun taken from Taylor’s car had been registered to a county sheriff, raising suspicion that it was planted. Taylor was out of the car, hands up, when he was shot.

— Jim McMahan



Oakland

PHOTO: KELLY JOHNSON



Afghanistan

The longest war, no end in sight

By Chris Fry

In October, the Pentagon will have occupied Afghanistan for 15 years. It is already the longest-running U.S. imperialist war in history. And there is no end in sight.

Despite earlier presidents’ promises to end the U.S. occupation years ago, and Obama’s promise that the U.S. would completely withdraw its troops by the end of his term in office, the president announced on July 6 that 8,400 U.S. troops would remain in Afghanistan “into next year,” through the end of his administration. Obama said that “the security situation in Afghanistan remains precarious.” Pro-war senators like Republicans John McCain and Lindsey Graham hailed this decision.

After the 9/11 attacks, using the excuse that the Taliban regime was “hosting” al-Qaida in Afghanistan, the Pentagon in October 2001 invaded that country, one of the poorest on the planet, installed a “friendly” government, and has tried to crush any opposition to its occupation with a full array of its most modern weapon systems, including its dreaded drones. That effort has failed.

As of a year ago, the war, which has spilled over into neighboring Pakistan,

had cost at least 149,000 lives, 92,000 in Afghanistan. At least 26,270 Afghan civilians had been killed, as many as 3,800 by drone strikes. (Washington Post, June 3, 2015)

In October 2015, U.S. AC-130 gunships repeatedly bombed and strafed a hospital in Kunduz operated by the charity group Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières. At least 42 people were killed, including doctors, nurses and patients lying in their beds. MSF called this savage attack “relentless and brutal.” (Aljazeera.com, April 29)

Some 2,382 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, including 38 in the last year, even though the U.S. had declared an end to its combat operations. Some 1,173 “civilian” contractors — who are U.S. mercenaries — have been killed. More than 20,000 U.S. soldiers have been wounded. More than 1,100 troops from other “coalition” countries — U.S. allies — have also been killed in this war. (icasualties.org, July 9)

The U.S. has spent vast sums from the people’s treasury to fund its war in Afghanistan. By the end of 2014, the total was \$1 trillion. In a country of 30 million people, where the average annual income is just \$670, the Pentagon has spent more than \$33,000 per Afghan citizen to wage

its devastating war. (blogs.reuters.com, Oct. 1, 2015)

Along with his troop level announcement, Obama had to admit that the war has aggravated the global refugee crisis. At least 15 percent of the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their homes from the Middle East, South Asia and Africa to Europe are from Afghanistan, he said.

The Obama administration, with Hillary Clinton at the helm at the State Department, escalated the already existing war in Afghanistan. U.S. troops grew from 25,000 in 2007 under George W. Bush to 100,000 in 2010 as Obama conceded policy to the Pentagon generals. Declaring that the U.S. had “met its goals,” the Pentagon began to withdraw troops. Obama announced that the U.S. would be able to have all U.S. troops removed by the end of 2016.

But the July 6 announcement means that the U.S. brutal war and occupation have failed to quell the insurrection that the occupation itself generated.

The origins of the Taliban, like al-Qaida, can be traced directly back to the CIA proxy war in the 1970s and 1980s against a progressive government that was supported by the Soviet Union. A full six months before the Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan, the CIA began

a huge operation to funnel arms and supply training to feudal warlords in order to topple the government in Afghanistan.

Asked if he thought that backing Afghan reactionaries like al-Qaida was a bad idea, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was U.S. security advisor under President Jimmy Carter, responded: “Regret what? The secret operation was an excellent idea. ... The day the Soviets officially crossed the border, I wrote to President Carter: We now have the opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam War.” (Stanford.edu, June 3, 2002)

Called Operation Cyclone, this was the largest single CIA operation ever. “Somewhere between \$3–\$20 billion in U.S. funds were funneled into the country to train and equip Afghan resistance groups with weapons.” (liveleak.com, Oct. 7, 2008) The ensuing U.S.-supported, decade-long civil war devastated Afghanistan, costing 1 million Afghan lives and forcing 3 million to flee into Pakistan.

U.S. imperialism has created a hell on earth in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Libya, in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere. These brutal wars and occupations create more outrage and hatred and only benefit weapons dealers, oil companies and Wall Street bankers. They must be opposed at every turn! U.S. out of Afghanistan! □

Chilcot Report confirms

Blair is a war criminal (Bush, too)

By John Catalinotto

It is rare that something positive for the working class comes from an imperialist government’s report. So there is some surprise that the British government’s inquiry known as the Chilcot Report has established that former Prime Minister Tony Blair lied, ignored warnings and twisted arms to push his government into invading Iraq in March 2003.

The report, published July 6 after seven years of painstakingly slow research and procrastination, contains 2.6 million words — about 25 times that of the average novel.

As demonstrators in London pointed out, the report means that Blair should be tried as a war criminal. Of course, it also means that former U.S. President George W. Bush, former Vice President Dick Cheney and a bunch of other U.S. top politicians are even bigger war criminals. They committed the greatest war crime of all against Iraq: unleashing a

war of aggression.

It was the Bush-Cheney administration, using the attack of Sept. 11, 2001, as a pretext to mobilize the U.S. for war, which led the U.S.-British alliance into battle. Blair was their toady across the pond. In a memo in July 2002 he wrote to Bush, “I will be with you, whatever.”

The Bush administration lied more than 900 times in the closing months of 2002 to try to justify war against Iraq. Chief liars were Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Without United Nations’ or even NATO’s blessing, the U.S.-British alliance finally invaded Iraq and occupied the country, destroying its infrastructure and making all its former officials and key managers outlaws. Later NATO came on board.

The occupiers faced a determined Iraqi resistance movement through 2004 and 2005. To weaken the resistance, the U.S.-British occupiers exacerbated religious and ethnic differences among Iraqis. Between imperialist repression and

sectarian warfare, over 1.5 million Iraqis died, and the country was in ruins, with thousands of GIs dead or maimed — all the fault of Bush-Cheney-Blair aggression.

In March 2003, the majority of the U.S. ruling class went along with the attack on Iraq, and so did the establishment media, the New York Times, the Washington Post and the big cable and broadcast networks. They all chose to believe Bush’s promises of an easy and profitable victory. None of this was true.

The Chilcot Report reflects the ruling class’s disappointment with the unkept promises. It will be useful only to prove to any who might still doubt it that Blair is guilty as charged, as are Bush and Cheney. In summary, Sir John Chilcot’s inquiry shows that the Iraq War, a six-year conflict for Britain, was unnecessary and disastrous, and that Blair exaggerated the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and his alleged “weapons of mass destruction.”

Families of some of the 179 British mil-

itary personnel killed in the war have described Blair as a “terrorist.” In the July 8 Guardian, a British newspaper, Simon Jenkins wrote, “Blair emerges as other Iraq historians have already portrayed him, as a pathetic and self-regarding figure in awe of the transatlantic power.”

It is satisfying to know that the people of Britain are condemning Blair. The anti-war movement there knew of Blair’s war crimes for over a decade, but now everyone knows and no one can deny it. The exposure comes at a good time, as it implicates Blair’s allies in the right wing of the Labour Party. It opens a path for the current, more leftist Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, to attack his rightist enemies as complicit in Blair’s crimes.

Whatever happens to Blair, there remains a bigger job for the anti-war movement in the U.S. That is to use the Chilcot Report in the best way possible to expose the war crimes of Bush and Cheney and put them on trial. □

A conclave of imperialists

NATO Summit talks peace, plans war

By John Catalinotto

President Barack Obama had to rush his participation at the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Poland. As head of the imperialist U.S., he was mobilizing European countries to confront and threaten Russia, but had to spend much of his time responding to the crisis unfolding in the U.S. itself.

While Obama professed that the U.S. was a united country, other articles in this issue of Workers World show that the U.S. consists of both an oppressor state and oppressed nationalities. He spoke of making “peace” at home between the oppressive state — the racist police, prisons and

legal system — and the Black and Brown communities. But his role in Warsaw was to increase the danger of war in the world.

The July 9 photo the New York Times published showed Obama shaking hands with the heads of Italy, Britain, Germany and France — all major former colonialist powers — and the president of Ukraine. Including Ukraine emphasized imperialist support for the regime these powers embraced when they backed neo-fascist elements to take over in what had once been a Soviet republic.

Mass protests of people in Warsaw and other European capitals against NATO showed that the anti-war forces in Eu-

rope saw Obama not as a peacemaker, but as symbolizing the threat of another war. Just to hold the summit in Poland, which borders Russia’s Kaliningrad province in the north and Ukraine to the east, is itself meant to provoke a nuclear-armed Russia and raises the danger of a devastating war.

To underline that threat, NATO had held “Anaconda” war maneuvers through early June, in which 31,000 troops and armored vehicles rolled eastward through Poland and 6,100 troops, 45 warships and 60 warplanes maneuvered in the Baltic Sea.

In 1990, during negotiations between the U.S. and then-Soviet leaders, Wash-

ington promised not to move NATO eastward. An article on Nov. 26, 2009, in the German magazine Der Spiegel made clear that during these negotiations: “There was no doubt that the West did everything it could to give the Soviets the impression that NATO membership was out of the question for countries like Poland, Hungary or Czechoslovakia.” They lied. NATO has since expanded to surround Russia from the west and south. (tinyurl.com/nvm476v)

NATO now includes not only Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia, but also some of the former republics in

Continued on page 9

Teachers of Mexico say: ‘Our education is not for sale!’

By Judy Greenspan
Morelos, Mexico

July 10 — Many public schools in the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas, Tabasco and others will remain closed tomorrow even though the school year has not ended. The real education will take place in the streets of Mexico, where teachers, parents and other supporters continue their strike against the privatization of public education.

On July 11, thousands of members of the CNTE (Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación), which has a membership of over 200,000 teachers, will march in the capital, Mexico City, to demand an end to so-called “educational reforms” that will in effect lead to privatization and the end of public education in Mexico.

The CNTE, a radical alternative to the official teachers’ union, the SNTE (Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación), has rejected President Peña Nieto’s demand that all teachers take a national exam in order to keep teaching. According to the CNTE, this evaluation is punitive, costly and has nothing to do with changing the educational system. In addition, like in the United States, students are now forced to take costly standardized exams. Parents are being forced to pay for school supplies, books and exams. Each “public school” now requires parents to give up at least one day’s pay per year for their child’s education. Parents are mandated to pay a fee or work at the school cleaning, painting or doing other tasks. For most parents in Mexico, these educational “reforms” are impossible to meet.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Supporters of embattled teachers’ union CNTE march in Morelos.

On June 19, the police opened fire on a group of protesters supporting striking teachers in the southern state of Oaxaca. Oaxaca’s people have a long history of organizing to overturn the privatization of public services. Twelve protesters were killed by the police and at least 100 injured, although the government denies using bullets. (The Mexican government lives in a state of denial.) A number of leaders of the CNTE have been incarcerated for several months.

According to Jonathan Ackerman, a political analyst from TeleSUR, “We have, on the one hand, our completely unarmed, peaceful teachers, who are defending their jobs, who are defending the

tradition of humanist critical education in Mexico, and on the other hand, the government, which is doing everything possible to impose a so-called education reform on these teachers.”

The CNTE and the communities in Oaxaca, Chiapas and other states have responded by calling an indefinite strike until the Mexican government and its secretary of education (SEP) enter into a dialogue with striking teachers. In the first week of July, hundreds of roadblocks were set up by teachers, parents and their supporters in Mexico City, Oaxaca, Chiapas and other areas. The response of the state continues to be one of repression against the teachers.

In addition, the government has waged a disinformation campaign from the beginning of the teachers’ struggle, attempting to turn the population against the teachers. However, the recent massacre of unarmed demonstrators in Oaxaca, the indefinite incarceration of CNTE leaders and the exposure of government lies about the teachers are breaking through the government’s plans. One day, the SEP announces that it will pay reparations to the families of the murdered protesters. The next day, it withdraws the offer. SEP says it will meet with the CNTE and then refuses. The parents of Mexican public school students, particularly in the impoverished states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas and Michoacán, have allied themselves with the striking teachers.

This week, the Zapatistas of Chiapas (EZLN) announced full support for the teachers and are donating 10 tons of food to the struggle for justice. Many unions and communities of Indigenous people have joined the picket lines, the blockades and the marches, despite the ultimatum of Interior Minister Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong that they must dismantle the struggle or else.

The CNTE has called for a large protest in Mexico City on July 19, exactly one month after the massacre in Oaxaca. Teachers will drive in convoy from Oaxaca and other areas starting on July 17 before a massive convergence in the capital.

The union will continue its indefinite strike until it wins changes from the government. International solidarity by teachers’ unions and others in the U.S. and around the world is needed for this important struggle. □

France anti-labor law A summer pause, but struggle will resume

By G. Dunkel

It didn’t take long to pass the new labor law in France once it came back to the National Assembly from the Senate. As soon as the July 5 session started to consider the bill, Prime Minister Manuel Valls took the floor and declared it passed, using some wrinkles in the French Constitution that allow the government to avoid a vote.

Valls expected to lose a vote on the bill itself, but the majority that would have rejected the new labor law didn’t have enough votes to block his move. The law is set to be fully implemented in August, when some enabling regulations are adopted.

The coalition of unions leading the opposition to this law, which has organized

11 national demonstrations and one-day strikes since March, had another day of protest on July 5 to mark passage of the law and call for its repeal.

The cops did everything in their power to limit participation in the Paris march, from doing body searches of retirees three times to exercising police powers under the current state of emergency to keep named individuals from participating. Still, according to the CGT, the biggest labor confederation, 45,000 protesters came out in Paris and about 100,000 nationwide.

At a meeting held in Paris on July 7 that drew 700 people, mainly union and student militants, CGT leader Philippe Martinez said: “We are neither tired nor resigned. Let President [François]

Hollande and Prime Minister Valls hear this message well. We are here and now preparing for the end of vacations in September. Confronting this unjust and illegal law, we are not going to slacken: the struggle continues.”

(By law, every French worker gets at least 30 days of paid vacation and millions take four weeks in the period between the second week of July and the first week of September.)

Martinez thanked all the workers who lost a day’s pay every time they were protesting — were insulted, arrested, accused by the head of the big business association of being terrorists and threatened with having their protests prohibited under the state of emergency.

(L’Humanité, July 9)

He ended his talk, saying, “A good way of starting our vacations would be skipping the tolls on the autoroutes.” (Force Ouvrière, July 8)

Jean-Claude Mailly, the head of the Force Ouvrière (FO) union confederation, was quoted in L’Humanité as saying: “My comrades, I’m asking you to welcome government ministers as they should be received when they make their vacation visits. This law must be the chewing gum that sticks to their shoes in the weeks and months to come.”

The so-called Socialist Party (PS), which is currently running the French state for the French bourgeoisie, has lost popular support. Polls show that its favorable ratings are in the low teens. The PS claimed it was calling off its summer mass meeting because of the threat of violence, but most French militants said the real reason was that nobody wanted to come. Someone, probably angry workers, replaced the “Parti Socialiste” signs on 30 of the PS’s local offices with “Pourris Salauds” (rotten pigs) during the night.

The workers of France, who are determined to enjoy their hard-earned vacations won by historic struggles, are equally determined to come back stronger to struggle in the fall. They intend to defeat the austerity that aims to make them work more to earn less, and to reject the job insecurity that their bourgeoisie and its European class allies — who are also competitors — intend to put on their backs. □

Continued from page 8

the Soviet Union, including Georgia. The U.S. also pulled both Sweden and historically neutral Finland — which had for decades been a neutral buffer between Russia and the West — into the recent anti-Russia war exercises. Since the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, NATO waged a war on Yugoslavia from 1995 to 1999 that dissolved and destroyed that multinational country, as well as intervening in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

NATO had already, before the summit, agreed to establish battalions of 800 to 1,200 troops from different countries in Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, along with a brigade of four additional

battalions stationed in Bulgaria and Romania. U.S. officers will command the battalion in Poland, which is almost completely made up of U.S. troops.

Although it was U.S. and NATO military intervention in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria that disrupted those societies and caused mass migration, NATO leaders have used the migration crisis as a pretext for more intervention in the destabilized countries, specifically Afghanistan. NATO’s other response to the migration/refugee crisis has been to deploy naval forces to stop ships bringing refugees across the Mediterranean.

NATO agreed July 9 to use troops from various countries to train Iraqi

government forces. On July 11, the U.S. announced that it would send an additional 560 troops to Iraq to take part in the fighting for Mosul, a major northern Iraqi city of 1.5 million people.

On the way back to the U.S., Obama visited Spain, including a stop at a U.S. military base in the south of the country. In response, thousands of people demonstrated in Madrid on July 10, saying, “Obama go home” and “No NATO, no war.” (Email release from Red Roja, July 10)

In the United States, where anti-war demonstrations also raised slogans protesting racist police killings in the U.S., there were anti-NATO protests in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. □

WORKERS WORLD

this week

Ominous war moves in Pacific

The Pentagon has announced it will deploy an advanced missile defense system, known as Thaad, in south Korea. Washington has also imposed sanctions on Kim Jong Un, the leader of north Korea — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In response, the DPRK has cut off its official diplomatic channel to the U.S. government. The DPRK, China and Russia have all opposed the Thaad as a destabilizing move by the U.S. that threatens the entire region.

As usual, the corporate media here play down the aggressive role of the Pentagon, the world's most dangerous military power with bases, ships, planes and troops circling the globe. They ignore the real reasons for the tense situation on the Korean peninsula.

Since the end of the Korean War in 1953 — 63 years ago! — the DPRK has sought an end to the state of war with the U.S. There has been no peace treaty in all these years and the Korean nation remains divided.

Instead of sitting down with representatives of the DPRK and working on a solution to the dangerous tensions resulting from the war, Washington has stonewalled dialogue while permanently stationing a large presence of U.S. troops in south Korea — still around 28,000. For years, the Pentagon has been staging massive annual war “games” in south Korea that simulate an attack on the north, using nuclear-capable bombers.

This is the hair-trigger climate that the DPRK has had to endure for an entire generation as it struggled to rebuild after the horrible damage inflicted by the U.S. Air Force in the 1950-53 war and the loss of so many of its people, civilians as well as soldiers. Nevertheless, it has done wonders. Education and health care are universal in this country building socialism, allowing it to forge ahead in many areas.

One of these areas is the north Koreans' ability to strengthen their defense by producing nuclear weapons. Was this their choice? Wouldn't they have preferred to devote all their hard-won scientific and technological resources to solving other problems?

But the U.S. ruling class gave them no choice. As early as 1953, Washington was threatening the DPRK with nuclear weap-

ons. An article in the New York Times on June 8, 1984, titled “U.S. Papers Tell of '53 Policy to Use A-bomb in Korea,” confirmed: “Documents released today give details on a decision by President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Administration in 1953 to use atomic bombs in North Korea and Communist China, if necessary, to end the Korean War.”

The threat from the huge U.S. nuclear arsenal continues to the present. Meanwhile, a huge propaganda blitz, from print and electronic media to Hollywood films, has reviled the leaders of the DPRK for their efforts to defend their country. According to apologists for imperialism, it's OK for the U.S., the one country to ever use them, to stockpile more than 7,000 nuclear warheads, but the DPRK is “irrational” and worse to even think of building any bombs of their own!

Analysts in the DPRK have reported in recent weeks on dangerous developments coming from Washington. A report from the Korean Central News Agency noted that B52H strategic bombers carried out an exercise in south Korea on June 15 that simulated the dropping of nuclear bombs on the DPRK. It concluded: “The U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK and U.S. forces' presence in south Korea are aimed not only to bring down the ideology and social system in the DPRK but to dominate Asia and the rest of the world.”

On June 28, the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK pointed out that joint military exercises by the U.S., Japan and south Korea, including the recent testing of a missile defense system in waters off Hawaii, represent the emergence of an Asian version of NATO that “will inevitably spark off a new arms race and a new Cold War in Northeast Asia surrounding the Korean peninsula.”

This is the reality that is not in the headlines in the U.S. The Obama administration's “pivot toward Asia,” together with NATO's more aggressive stance in Eastern Europe, are sobering reminders that global capitalism's stagnation and decline are driving the major imperialist powers toward new war crises of their own making.

Which makes it more important than ever to demand an end to these hostile acts: U.S. troops out of Korea! Sign a peace treaty now! □

Books for the struggle

Many of the books here can be read online at www.workers.org/books/ and are available in pdf format. All can be purchased at major online booksellers. Also online at workers.org are many other works by Sam Marcy, founder of Workers World Party.

Capitalism at a Dead End: Job Destruction, Overproduction and Crisis in the High-Tech Era — A Marxist View, by Fred Goldstein.

El Capitalismo en un callejón sin salida, por Fred Goldstein.

Gaza: Symbol of Resistance, edited by Joyce Chediac.

Haiti: A Slave Revolution: 200 Years after 1804, edited by Pat Chin, Greg Dunkel, Sara Flounders and Kim Ives.

High Tech, Low Pay: A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class, by Sam Marcy, introduction by Fred Goldstein.

Low-Wage Capitalism: Colossus with Feet of Clay — What the new globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S., by Fred Goldstein.

Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle, edited by Monica Moorehead.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba, by Leslie Feinberg.

The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View, by Bob McCubbin, preface by Shelley Ettinger.

A Voice from Harper's Ferry, by Osborne Anderson, preface by Vince Copeland, essays by Monica Moorehead and Mumia Abu-Jamal.

War without Victory: The Pentagon's Achilles' Heel, by Sara Flounders.

What Is Marxism All About? A street guide for revolutionaries, by Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) activists. □

Mississippi is still burning

By Kevin Moran
Special to Workers World

Both the Black Lives Matter movement of today and the Civil Rights Movement of Freedom Summer 1964 were ignited by police murders of African Americans.

Fifty-two years after the vicious “Mississippi Burning” murders of Civil Rights activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner in Philadelphia, Miss., it remains an ongoing practice for police to kill Native people and African Americans with impunity in Neshoba County, Miss.

Rexdale Henry, a Native American member of the Choctaw tribe, medicine man and longtime community activist, was found brutally beaten to death in a jail cell in Philadelphia on July 14, 2015. He was first detained on July 9 after failing to pay a traffic fine, according to Neshoba County Sheriff Tommy Waddell.

Henry's death occurred one day after the body of Sandra Bland was found in a jail cell in Waller County, Texas. She was also jailed on a “traffic” offense.

“There is a circumstance that we have to deal with throughout this country, where we find people who are dying in suspicious circumstances while in the custody of those we look for protection from,” said Chokwe Antar Lumumba of Jackson, Miss., Henry's attorney.

Rexdale Henry was the second person to die recently in the custody of the Neshoba County jail.

Michael McDougle, an African American, died there on the evening of Nov. 1, 2014. “According to eyewitness testimony, Brittany McDougle's husband, Michael McDougle, while in handcuffs, was beaten and Tasered by officers of the Philadelphia Police Department,” said attorney Carlos Moore, who filed a lawsuit on behalf of Brittany McDougle. “Mr. McDougle was found dead in his jail cell



PHOTO: NATIVE NEWS ONLINE

Rexdale Henry, Choctaw activist, dead in police custody, Philadelphia, Miss.

around 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 2.”

These two brutal deaths are eerily reminiscent of the events of June 21, 1964, when three Civil Rights activists seeking to register African Americans to vote, were arrested for allegedly speeding and taken to the Neshoba County Jail. The three men — James Earl Chaney from Meridian, Miss., and Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner from New York City — were handed over to the Klan by a deputy police chief. After an extensive search was conducted by thousands of federal troops, their tortured, broken bodies were found buried in an earthen dam 44 days after their arrest.

The nation and the world were appalled. These racist murders of Freedom Summer spurred passage of the Civil Rights Act.

The 1989 movie, “Mississippi Burning,” chronicled the federal Civil Rights violation investigation that years later resulted in guilty verdicts for the deputy police chief and several Klansmen. Despite evidence of a widespread conspiracy involving police, White Citizens Council members and the Ku Klux Klan, no one was ever convicted of murdering the three young Freedom Summer activists.

Decades later, as the record of police impunity grows, the distrust and anger of communities of color toward official law enforcement accounts of deaths while in police custody deepen.

Kevin Moran is a volunteer investigator for Chokwe A. Lumumba, Esq., Lumumba & Associates, Jackson, Miss.

Cuba Caravan says ‘End the blockade!’

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

The 27th U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment Caravan has been launched and is now conducting educational work about the important role people can play in ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba. A July 5 demonstration at Seattle City Centre demanded that Washington end this inhumane policy. The rally was organized by the Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee and set off the annual caravan sponsored by IFCO/Pastors for Peace.

A similar protest was held on July 3 at the Canadian/U.S. border outside Vancouver, backed by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba. Seattle demonstrators carried signs demanding an end to the blockade and the travel ban, which is still in force. Other placards called for the U.S. to return the U.S.-occupied Guantánamo Bay area to Cuba.

Speakers included Gail Walker, executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace; Isel Calzadilla Acosta, a leading LGBTQ activist from Cuba; the Rev. Robert Jef-

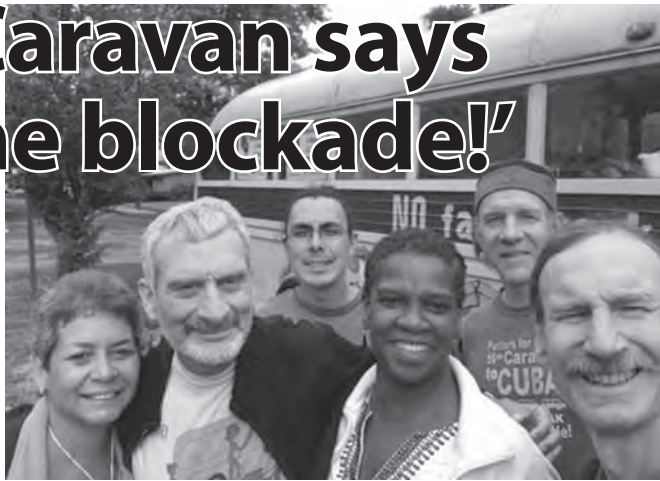


PHOTO: IFCO/PASTORS FOR PEACE FACEBOOK

West Coast route of Friendshipment Caravan prepares to leave Portland, Ore.

fery, from New Hope Missionary Baptist Church; Angela Gilliam, professor emeritus of Evergreen State College; Xochitl García, a U.S. graduate of the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana; and Thomas Davies, of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba. The many cultural performers included the New Hope Missionary Baptist Choir. All these individuals and organizations represented a wonderful spectrum of support for Cuba.

The next day, demonstrators went to local offices of members of Congress to call for an end to the inhumane 55-year blockade. If organizing continues to increase working-class solidarity with Cuba, the blockade should soon come tumbling down. □

After ‘Brexit’

Ranks of Labour Party swell in rebuff to immigrant bashing

By Deirdre Griswold

Since the right-wing of Britain's Conservative Party, together with the even further right United Kingdom Independence Party, initiated a referendum mandating that Britain leave the European Union, the capitalist media generally have spun the victory for “Brexit” as evidence that white workers in Britain are afraid of and hostile to immigrants.

This certainly must be true of some, who were bombarded with the most vicious and false anti-immigrant propaganda before the vote, in the same way that the constant drumbeat in this country's tabloids and talk radio blaming immigrants for the layoffs and plant closings has panicked some white workers here to be for billionaire Donald Trump.

But this is not the whole story. There is a healthy rejection of immigrant bashing

and racism in both countries. It can be seen in the U.S. in the large numbers of young whites who have joined the Black Lives Matter movement to protest killings of Black and Brown people by police.

In Britain, the news that hasn't been picked up by the U.S. media is that 200,000 people joined the Labour Party in the two weeks after the referendum. And they mostly joined in order to support the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, who opposed the anti-immigrant campaign but then was censured by Parliamentarians in his own party. They charged that he couldn't lead the party to victory in the next general election.

These politicians who hold down seats in Parliament don't really represent the membership of the Labour Party. This was shown yet again when the rank-and-file members of the party then voted in their local constituencies to support Corbyn.

This comes from an online journal put up by the Red Flag group in the Labour Party: “The attempted coup launched by Labour's parliamentary rebels has failed to oust Jeremy Corbyn — but it has provoked a renewed membership surge.

“Figures confirmed by the New Statesman show 200,000 people have joined the party in the last two weeks, taking total membership to 600,000. Labour is now the biggest it has been for 50 years and the biggest left party in Europe. ...

“Local parties report that the bulk of new recruits are joining to defend Jeremy Corbyn. Alan Johnson's constituency party, Hull West, recently voted overwhelmingly to endorse Corbyn's leadership, as did Angela Eagle's branch in Wallasey.

“Right wingers have been joining too, but the heirs to Blair who lost the 2010 and 2015 elections have been completely

outmatched by the mass of people joining who want to see a new kind of politics.” (redflagonline, July 7)

This refers to Tony Blair, a former prime minister of Britain from the Labour Party, who went along with George Bush's war against Iraq and also carried out austerity attacks on the British workers. He has just been exposed by a special commission as having knowingly accepted Washington's lies about “weapons of mass destruction,” which Iraq never had, but which were used as the excuse for going to war against that oil-rich country.

These developments could lead to a renewed struggle by workers in Britain, whatever their national origins, religion or language, to overcome the negative aspects of Brexit and unite to beat back the bosses' plans for austerity and further job cuts. □

Wisconsin: Petition blitz for Moorehead-Lilly campaign

Continued from page 2

community meeting with vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly, both sponsored by the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement (wibailoutpeople.org) with WWP support.

A militant picket targeted the Bradley Foundation, an anti-worker think tank, which funded the racist tract “The Bell Curve” and has promoted many nationwide attacks on poor and working people — from union busting to defending killer cops.

A speak-out led by WWP organizers and members of other groups described the many ways the Bradley Foundation is an enemy of the people. Speakers stressed that racist foundations like Bradley create the conditions for police and vigilante ter-

ror aimed at oppressed peoples. Others focused on Bradley board members like millionaire Art Pope, who has advised Wall Street and its servants in Wisconsin about how to bring more Jim Crow laws, policies and conditions to the state.

You can't reform capitalism — Build People's Power!

Danielle Boachie, from the Chicago Branch of WWP, opened the “Building People's Power” community meeting featuring Lamont Lilly with a poem by Assata Shakur that has become a Black Lives Matter anthem. Then WWP Campaign Manager Teresa Gutierrez introduced Lilly. Later, presidential candidate Monica Moorehead spoke via conference call.

“This racist, capitalist, patriarchal, imperialist system must be destroyed, sisters and brothers — from the root to the fruit,” said Lilly, addressing the latest police murders of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling as well as the important role of the Black Lives Matter movement. “You cannot reform racism. You cannot reform white supremacy. You cannot reform imperialism. You cannot reform sexism. You cannot reform capitalism. And you sure as hell cannot reform the Democratic or Republican parties. Both of those f---ers are foul.”

Lilly stressed the need to fight for socialism to end poverty, racism and war once and for all: “If we want to survive, sisters and brothers — if we love the peo-

ple; if we call ourselves revolutionaries; if we want our communities, environment, land, earth and water supply to all thrive — all of this s---t has to go!

“As Brother Malcolm X stated in his beloved ‘Message to the Grassroots,’ ‘NOBODY can give you freedom. NOBODY can give you equality or justice. If you're a man, woman or full human being, you TAKE it! Down with the cops and up with the people. Workers and oppressed MUST unite. Revolution is the only solution! All power to the people!”

During the discussion, many Black women called for action in response to ongoing police terror, occupation of their communities such as Sherman Park, and police harassment in areas like the Milwaukee lakefront. Members of the Latino/a community described Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and deportations and pledged solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. Others expressed solidarity with the LGBTQ people killed in Orlando at the Pulse nightclub. □

An appeal to boycott Olympics

Continued from page 3

disproportionate number being Black and Brown people. The deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland and hundreds more since 2014 attest to the dehumanization of Black lives when it comes to the lack of arrests, convictions and sentencing of police who kill with impunity.

Back in the late 1960s, a number of prominent Black athletes, led by the late great heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, National Football League star fullback Jim Brown, National Basketball Association center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and others attempted to organize a righteous boycott of the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City by Black athletes due to the second-class treatment of Black people.

We appreciate the Black athletes today who have also taken a stand against police brutality by wearing “I can't breathe” and “Justice for Tamir Rice” T-shirts. At the University of Missouri, the football team threatened not to play in protest against racism on that campus late last year.

So until Black and Brown lives truly matter, we hope that you, along with athletes of other races, strongly consider not representing the U.S. t the Olympics in August. This will certainly send a strong message of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, which has been on the front lines of fighting for racial justice and equality.

#NoJusticeNoOlympics
#BoycottOlympics #OlympicsSitOut
#Socialists4BlackLives

Monica Moorehead for President • Lamont Lilly for Vice President
Workers World Party Election Campaign 2016
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- ▶ If you hate the class system that keeps mostly women and people of color in low-wage jobs
- ▶ If you're sick and tired of bankers and bosses making workers pay for the crisis they didn't create
- ▶ If you worry that the capitalist crisis isn't going away anytime soon
- ▶ If you want to fight for a better way of life based on economic planning, equitable distribution of wealth and justice for all
- ▶ If you're lucky enough to still have a job

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Cuando llegue ese día, los días que le queda a la clase capitalista estarán nombrados. □