Black Lives Matter marches on

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

July 18 — Outrage over the unchecked police killing of people of color continues throughout the U.S. Militant protests surged in July after Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota were killed by cops. According to the Washington Post, Castile was the 123rd Black person killed by police in the U.S. during 2016. Despite attempts to demonize and criminalize the Black Lives Matter movement after police were shot in Dallas and Baton Rouge, La., the BLM movement is marching on, with growing community, labor and multinational support.

BATON ROUGE

The Baton Rouge community where Alton Sterling was killed by cops on July 5 is under siege by militarized police. The Black working-class community continues to resist. Marie Flowers, at neighborhood protests with her 12-year-old son, said, “Black boys are being killed and this is just the culmination of what has been going on for decades.” (tinyurl.com/hwtkmk7)

Following the influx of Black New Orleans residents after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Baton Rouge police “were under orders to be so hard” that evacuees would not settle in the city. Local cops were later publicly exposed as “engaging in racially motivated enforcement, physically abusing prisoners, and stopping, questioning and searching people without any legal justification.” (Times Picayune, July 6)

On July 10, police attacked people who were peacefully protesting Sterling’s death, ordering them to disperse but then preventing them from doing so. According to a recently filed American Civil Liberties Union suit, the cops “used excessive force, pointed live automatic weapons at protesters, arrested legal observers and journalists without probable cause, and subjected protesters to indiscriminate mass arrest — all to intimidate them from protesting excessive force in the future.” (tinyurl.com/zydpbon)

When protesters took shelter at a private home, invited by the woman living there, a squad of cops in SWAT gear invaded to arrest them. The National Lawyers Guild has raised $300,000 for bail support and defense of more than 200 arrestees over the past weeks.

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5,000 people marched in support of Black Lives Matter in the city of Inglewood in Los Angeles County on July 10. See p. 6-7 for more coverage.

What next for SANDERS CAMPAIGN?
Italian activists: Solidarity with BLM

Workers World received this letter from political activists in Italy.

Even though separated by great distances, we join our comrades, our brothers and sisters in Newark, culminating with the entire group of 75-plus people filing into the Newark City Council meeting. It is said that the city of Newark had never seen a protest until now. The family brought it strong, marching in the streets, taking a long loop around the city center, from the vigil site behind a Kentucky Fried Chicken store, where Valencia was killed, to the Newark Civic Center. The chanting and enthusiastic crowd made it clear that there is a strong community standing behind the family.

The family’s demands to the City Council were the following:
1) Justice for Valencia — a retraction and public apology from the Newark Police Department and that the officer who killed Valencia be named, fired and prosecuted
2) Demilitarize the Newark Police Department — the removal of AR-15 assault rifles and similar combat weapons and that police be trained to use minimum force.

In the council chambers, the family and supporters occupied all the seats and the surrounding wall space. One by one, family members spoke, often tearfully. Then, a number of community members spoke to back them up. The council was attentive but silent through all of the talks. However, when one of the last community speakers, Ruby of AAPPT simply asked the council to say Valencia’s name, they exposed how cold-hearted they were about this terrible loss of life. Not one of them was able to utter the name “Teo Valencia.” The room filled with “Teo Valencia” every time Ruby looked to the audience, but each time she asked the council again to say his name, her simple humanitarian request was met with stone-cold silence.

This is why, to contribute to the fight for justice, we dedicate a revised version of a poster we did in Italy, that was put up in the streets of Rome and Milan and other cities [showing Italian victims] a few years back, to the victims of police brutality and racism in the United States. Let it also symbolize the internationalism of our values and our struggles, because we may be in different countries, but we are all in this together. You are not alone.

— Voxkomm collective (Rome - Italy)
By Dolores Cox

Black farmers in the South filed a federal lawsuit in 1992 against the USDA, which lost vs Glickman in 1997. Timothy Pigford was a Black farmer; Dan Glickman was the U.S. secretary of agriculture. The lawsuit covered a 16-year period during which African Americans applied for farm credit or program benefits. Plaintiffs said they were prevented from applying for loans, denied loans or given loans with unfair terms; they claimed this treatment of their loan applications led to economic damage. They also said the agency failed to process racial discrimination complaints.

USDA farm programs were set up in the 1930s. From the beginning, Black farmers faced discrimination. During the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, USDA staff denied loans in retaliation for their Civil Rights activism and refused to assist with their agricultural needs and concerns.

The farmers won their historic case in 1992. A U.S. District Judge L. Friedman issued a consent decree in the class action lawsuit which covered African-American farmers who farmed or attempted to farm between 1981 and 1996, applied for farm credit and program benefits, and filed a complaint against the USDA by July 1992.

In July 2007, Congress member John Conyers introduced H.R. 3073, which provided a way to determine the merits of claimants who met the class criteria in the Pigford lawsuit vs USDA. The lawsuit was filed to bring to light USDA against Black farmers. The courts ruled that a Black person “whose ancestors were brought into the United States as slaves, free or enslaved, has no right to sue under the Constitution in federal court as a citizen. … [and] has no rights which a white man is bound to respect.”

In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that even as late as 2007, Black farmers were being denied due process. The Supreme Court has continuously denied due process to Black farmers. The USDA has circumvented the law in order to take all property belonging to affected farmers and to circumvent the statute mandating payments to relatives of deceased Pigford claimants. The question is whether the Supreme Court will prohibit these illegal tactics which affect thousands of socially disadvantaged farmers and their descendants.

The USDA is referred to as the “last plantation,” alluding to the deeply ingrained culture of racism that the agency manifested in how subsidy and loan programs were administered and whom it hired to run them.

One question raised in July 8, 2013 protest, said the AAA, was: Are Black farmers in 2016 the new Dred Scott — denied full due process? Dred Scott was enslaved in St. Louis, Mo., and sued for his freedom in 1847. His trial lasted 3 years. In 1857, the Supreme Court denied his plea, determining that Black people were “inferior” to whites.

The court’s horrific landmark decision ruled that a Black person “whose ancestors were imported into the United States as slaves, whether free or enslaved, has no right to sue under the Constitution in federal court as a citizen. … [and] has no rights which a white man is bound to respect.”

Additional sources: Huffington Post, May 2014; mysettlementclaims.com; Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Miss.; WashingtonPost.com; University of California, Berkeley, Philadelphia, indybay.org, San Francisco.

Black farmers still seek justice

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By By Dolores Cox

The American Agriculturist Association stated, “Black farmers continue to be put out of farming, denied opportunities to make a living and lose land. That impacted quality of life for them and the rural communities in which they live. … While many people in this country think that the Black farmers across this nation got justice during the Pigford Class Action, the opposite is the truth. … Black farmers are continuously denied due process, a right to have a formal hearing on the merits of their case before the Administrative Law Judge of the USDA.”

President John Boyd stated: “This is a bittersweet victory” for Black farmers. “A lot work has gone into it,” he said. “It’s been a long, arduous battle.”

The AAA says there has been a breach of the Pigford Consent Decree and Congress will hold a hearing on the merits of the Pigford Remedy Act. The association notes the USDA is denying hearings for claims brought by Black, Native American, Latino/a and other women farmers.

Black farmers demand justice

On July 8, Black farmers from the South and other areas protested at the Supreme Court to demand justice from the courts. They sought to bring to light the unfairness of the Pigford settlement and continuing discrimination by the USDA against Black farmers. Their demonstration raised the case of Eddie Wise and Dorothy Wise whose North Carolina farm was foreclosed. They were evicted from their property on Jan. 20 by armed federal marshals and county deputy sheriffs without being granted a hearing. The Wise family is challenging the USDA’s practice of denying Black farmers hearings before an administrative judge.

The Wise family is also petitioning the Supreme Court regarding a 2015 statute that bars all monetary claims other than that for use of a marketing order. This includes all farm-operating loans for Pigford claimants. The USDA has circumvented the law in order to take all property belonging to affected farmers and to circumvent the statute mandating payments to relatives of deceased Pigford claimants. The question is whether the Supreme Court will prohibit these illegal tactics which affect thousands of socially disadvantaged farmers and their descendants.

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Many hundreds march to ‘shut down Trump & RNC’

By Ben Carroll

July 28 — In the months leading up to protests at the Republican National Convention, the state, the right wing and the corporate media went out of their way to sow and tend to the illusion that people are coming from to protest.

Cleveland had received a multimillion dollar grant from the federal government to further militarize the police. The corporate media had promoted the fact that Ohio is an open carry state. They circulated the call by the Traditionalist Workers Party — the fascist organization that stabbeth counterprottesters in Sacramento, Calif., on June 26 — that they would be coming armed to defend Trump.

The FBI, Cleveland police and various state agencies knocked on doors of activist and harassed protest organizers for weeks before the convention.

Cleveland is where 12-year-old Tamir Rice was gunned down by police in 2014 and where Melissa Williams and Timoth y Russell were shot 137 times by police in 2016. John Crawford III was shot by police in 2014 in a Beavercreek, Ohio, Walmart.

Militant protest takes the streets

From the bed of a pickup truck, speakers addressed the crowd gathered at the opening rally called by L.T. Pham from Durham, N.C. Many in the crowd lived in or around Cleveland and were joined by delegations from Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Michigan, Florida, Texas and as far away as Utah.

ATahoma, workers denounced Trump’s demagoguery and the entire two-party system, and raised the need not only for unity and solidarity, but for a militant anti-imperialist anti-capitalist struggle to fight for a revolutionary socialist future.

Abbas Hamid, of Al-Awda: The Palestine Right of Return Coalition, told the crowd, “The Palestinian people are being murdered every single day by racist, colonialist police. And this same entity trains the police here in the U.S. ... It is natural for the Palestinian people to stand with all oppressed people — with the Native Americans here, with Black people, with Latinos, with Mexicans, against the rac ist Donald Trump! Black lives matter!”

Bee Schrull, with the Cleveland American Indian Movement, called on the demonstration to boycott the Cleveland Indians until they change their racist name: “I watch many people shout every day. We are the group most likely to be killed in police interactions. Our women are most likely to be the victims of sexual assault, most often at the hands of non-Native people. ... We are dehumanized every single day, and we demand the recognition of our humanity!”

By Sue Davis

Workers World Party vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly told the crowd. “We are descendents of the Black Power movement. We are descendents of the Civil Rights movement ... We are the people and we will not be turned around!”

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party candidate for president, explained the party’s election campaign: “We don’t give a damn about these elections. We are using them to put forth a message to defend Black Lives Matter, to stop the deportations and raids against our migrant sisters and brothers and their families, to abolish capitalism and to fight for a new socialist society.

“It is a victory that we are out on the streets today,” Moorehead continued. “But one of what happened at Lemon Grove and at Baton Rouge, the state wants to divert attention away from the righteous struggle of the Black Lives Matter movement ... The fact you are here today is a testament that our movement is not going anywhere; in fact, it’s going to grow stronger and more multinational!”

Teresa Gutierrez, WFP election campaign manager, told those lining up: “We are gonna march to shut down the RNC and Trump! We are gonna march to shut down the DNC! The world knows that the movement is here. ... We are holding our heads up and we’re gonna march!”

The march moved through downtown, navigating around police barricades and Trump supporters with a variety of milit ant chants denouncing Trump, racism, the police, Islamophobia, attacks on LGBTQ people and women, and solidar ity with migrants, Black Lives Matter, the struggle for the liberation of Palestine and all people fighting to free themselves from the yoke of U.S. imperialism.

Participants chanted “Black Lives Mat ter,” “Hands off Palestinians to Montreal,” “border walls have got to go;” “No Trump, No KKK, No racist fascist USA!” and “March on with no fear, we’re doing this for you.”

Protests continued today with a march by the Coalition to Dump Trump and March on the RNC. Organizers reported that 1,000 people came into the streets, approaching the sites where the RNC was taking place.

Workers are planned through out the week, and many are gearing up to travel to Philadelphia next week to join protests at the Democratic National Convention.

SVP nominee Pence: Trump’s far-right puppet

July 28 — One hundred fifty people stood outside Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue on July 7 and shouted: “Donald Trump—KKK!Racists, homophobes, bigots and our worse!” They were demanding business behemoth Walmart denounce billion-aire Trump’s racist, woman-hating and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric.

“Making Change at Walmart,” a campaign of the Walmart workers protest Trump

Workers and community members demand end to financing for Trump’s bigoted statements. (Workers Union-Wage Wage)

Food and Commercial Workers, called the rally. Besides its members, other protesters included members of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, representing Macy’s workers. Showing solidarity were “Make the Road-New York,” a group that builds Latina/o and working-class community, and the Black Institute, which focuses on public policy affecting Black people and people of color “throughout the diaspora.” The protest was part of a national day of action demanding that big business withdraw financial support from the Republican National Convention. Other protests were held in Chica go, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. (makingchangeatwalmart.org)

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What next for the Sanders campaign?

By Fred Goldstein

Bernie Sanders has given an early, pre-convention endorsement of Hillary Clinton as the Democratic Party nominee. Thus, the battle that he promised of fighting all the way to the convention, is largely over.

Sanders officially got 12 million votes. He probably received at least 1 to 2 million more in California, which have not yet been counted. Several million more Sanders supporters could not vote for him because they opposed primaries and restrictive registration rules in major states.

From the very outset, the Sanders campaign was wrapped in a severe contradiction. Sanders was advocating a rebellion against Wall Street, against income inequality and for basic economic rights. Yet he had to fight against the Democratic Party, which is the party of Wall Street, big business and the Pentagon, as it has been for the last century. Now he has chosen to help build the Democratic Party, whose leadership is profoundly opposed to Sanders’ goals.

To be sure, Sanders would never have been able to have the national impact he did had he not run in the Democratic Party presidential primaries. This is a reflection of the undemocratic nature of the U.S. electoral system. The winner-take-all elections, the absence of proportional representation, the enormous financing obstacles to getting on the ballot, and the control of electoral publicity by the media monopolies are guaranteed to keep the working class and the left on the margins of electoral politics.

Despite that, the Sanders campaign has shown the great potential for a real grass roots movement against the political establishment. It has also helped to his present contradiction of backing Hillary Clinton, the very establishment candidate fought from within the Democratic Party.

But that is his contradiction. The movement that supported him must not be locked into that contradiction.

Independent road to fight big business

The question for millions of followers of Sanders is: What do you do now? Should they hold their noses and run to the Clinton camp on the grounds that Trump must be defeated, or should they chart an independent course?

The answer at the moment is that the most important thing to do for the future of the movement in the U.S. is to chart an independent course. The answer for what to do about Trump right now is to fight him with demonstrations and disruptions wherever he and his racist, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-women forces appear.

The electoral question should not become a reason to give up the freedom to wage an independent struggle against the big-business establishment, as represented by the two capitalist parties — the Democratic Party leadership as well as the Republicans.

The elections must not be the hands of Sanders followers who want to continue and deepen a progressive and revolutionary struggle. The Sanders movement must be a movement of the people, not one that they were fighting for when they voted for Sanders in the first place.

It must escalate the fight against the rich and powerful and their lobbyists, and, in the interest of the people, support their income and racial rights, and fight against all those who have been betrayed by the system.

The Sanders leadership must chart a course that at least includes an independent electoral program, or should it be broadened to an independent course that at least includes the possibility to wage an independent electoral campaign. But it must be accompanied by a campaign of struggle.

What the establishment really responds to is mass resistance, protest, demonstrations, occupations, sit-downs, strikes and everything that interferes with business as usual. History shows that legislative victories that improve the life of the people in a significant way are the result of mass struggle.

The right to organize mass unions was won by hundreds of plant occupations and sit-down strikes in the 1930s. Civil rights were won by African Americans and their allies in the 1950s and 1960s all over the South, confronting the police and racist forces, at great sacrifice. Poverty programs and affirmative action were won after hundreds of urban rebellions in the North. The right to abortion was won by mass marches and countless demonstrations by women all over the country. Gay and lesbian rights began with the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969 and countless mass demonstrations after that. Such examples could be multiplied endlessly.

Democratic Party trap

Now Sanders and many of his top supporters in the Democratic Party are claiming that the victory of his campaign is represented by “the most progressive program” in party history.

A notable exception is Cornel West, an African-American professor who campaigned for Sanders and was appointed as one of his representatives on the Democratic Party platform committee. West has announced that he will be supporting Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate for president, in the general election. West wrote: “We are tied in a choice between Trump, who would be a neofascist catastrophe, and Clinton, a neoliberal disaster.”

The Democratic Party platform committee accepted some of Sanders’ program, but rejected major portions of it. However, that is not the fundamental problem. The real problem is that the first thing to go into the waste basket if the Clinton machine gains the White House is the program. That is has been true of all previous Democratic Party programs.

The Democratic Party is a capitalist party. As such, no bourgeois leadership is bound in any way to carry out the party program. This is unlike a working-class party, in which the leadership and the rank and file alike are bound to support and fight for the party program. In working-class parties, the program is decisive. In bourgeois parties, the program is just window dressing.

Sanders is trying to persuade his followers that progress in the Democratic Party program is a step on the road to a political revolution in the U.S. Should Hillary Clinton get into the White House, however, she will be at home surrounded by Pentagon generals, the CIA, the FBI, bankers, the entire upper echelon of the capitalist state, not to mention business lobbyists, influence peddlers of all types.

Bill Clinton had to abandon U.S. capitalism and U.S. imperialism.

Generations of progressive activists and even revolutionaries have tried time and again to gain a foothold in the Democratic Party in order to “transform” it and push it to the left. This has always been a trap. They have always had to sacrifice their principles and their programs while the imperialist Democratic Party leader attacks the masses and carries out one war after another — from World Wars I and II to Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and on and on.

And let’s not forget that Hillary Clinton, as President Obama’s secretary of state, was the leading force advocating regime change in Libya; was a strong supporter of the overthrow of the Assad government in Syria; and defended the coup in Honduras.

She also denounced “supercorps,” referring to black youth, in support of Bill Clinton’s crime bill of 1996, which greatly increased mass incarceration.

Let’s not forget how the Clinton machine destroyed welfare, known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, throwing millions of single mothers and their children into poverty.

Sure should we forget the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which severely limited habeas corpus appeals by death row prisoners. All this this he be to her attempts to paint herself as “progressive” in the current presidential campaign.

Let’s remember how the Clinton machine launched the Yugoslav War and the bombing of civilians in Serbia, continued the Iraq sanctions started under George H.W. Bush, which killed half a million children and repealed the Glass-Steagall Act, which had been enacted during the Great Depression to put some regulations on Wall Street. This is just a selection of some of the reactionary policies of the Clintons, as well as previous Democratic administrations.

A political revolution needs a social revolution

What the Sanders campaign represented a sweeping electoral rebellion against the Democratic Party establishment, his program was a relatively mild one. But U.S. politics are so reactionary, including Democratic Party politics, and the crisis of the people is so deep on so many fronts, that the Sanders program can be understood and understandably generated enormous enthusiasm.

Big business is so dominant in U.S. politics that even government programs like breaking up the big banks, Medicare for all, free college tuition, eliminating student debt, strengthening the right to organize, opposing anti-worker so-called “free trade deals” and so forth were like a breath of fresh air and captured the imagination of millions.

Sanders talked about carrying out a “political revolution” in the U.S. By political revolution he meant his reformist program. While he was more of a social- democrat, he never attacked capitalism as a system. He never called for socialist measures to end the people’s suffering.

A political revolution means that the workers, the oppressed communities, women, LGBTQQ people, immigrants —


Black Lives Matter marches on

Continued from page 1

On July 15, Sterling’s memorial was held at Southern University, a historically black college. Hundreds of community people came to pay their respects. Speakers included the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

Two days later, a lone African-American gunman killed three Baton Rouge cops and wounded another in a shooting that lasted for nearly 10 minutes. This act can only be viewed in the context of the systematic implementation of racist policing and state terror in Baton Rouge, in the South and throughout the U.S.

BUFFALO

A Black Lives Matter protest on July 15 was one of several rallies and gatherings in Buffalo during the preceding week. A poster carried by a demonstrator listed just a few of the hundreds of Black lives lost to racist police and vigilante brutality: Samuel Dubose, Sandra Bland, Sean Bell, Tamir Rice, Ramarrey Graham, Oscar Grant III, Renisha McBride, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Greg Gunn, Michael Brown, Marlo Woods, Laquan McDonald, who were killed by police and the police to dialogue to iron out differences in order to work more closely together. This narrative plays into the myth that since everyone should be viewed as equal, the responsibility to end violence should be equally shared.

LeBron James made a plea for all violence to stop. How can that be when the U.S. is the world’s most powerful capitalist country, built on the backs of slavery, the theft of Indigenous lands and two-thirds of Mexico, wars, occupation and the superexploitation of workers’ labor despite borders?

CAPITALISM relies on class relations in which a tiny, ruling elite of billionaires, widely known as the 1%, needs a huge repressive state to keep it in power to make more and more profits off the backs of oppressed labor. These rulers rely on the police to keep them in power and the masses in check. What other reason could there be that 99.9 percent of killer cops don’t face arrests, indictments or convictions, when Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples are expendable in their eyes? Instead, the most these cops may face is “administrative leave,” “desk duty” or rarely, “firing.” The laws under capitalism exist to legally shield the cops, not to bring them to justice.

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from dire poverty — homicide rates and drug abuse take place in disproportionately higher numbers.

The police as a repressive force are armed occupiers of these communities who become judge, jury and executioner. Killings and brutality based on racial profiling are rubber-stamped by the capitulation of both the federal and state forces of the bosses and bankers. The reality is that the police, along with other repressive institutions like the FBI, CIA, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the prisons, etc. are above the law because they maintain the racist status quo.

Many of these athletes are now trying to figure out how to turn their sport into actions. Some are afraid that if they speak out too loud and too militantly, they risk alienating potential donors and sponsor- ments. Others may fear losing some of their fan base. And, of course, many fear some kind of retaliation from the police, just another name for mass incarceration.

What is most important for revolution- aries to prioritize is to continue broadening the political support for Black and Brown activists who refuse to let denazification marginalization and isolation push back the Black Lives Matter movement, espe- cially in light of the Dallas killings, the Baton Rouge shooting of police on July 17 and other diversions the police and politi- cians may use to gain back any dwindling sympathy for them.

The strengthening of this political sup- port will reinforce confidence among ath- letes to take bolder actions, like those of the great Muhammad Ali, when he refused to be recruited into the military to fight in Vietnam, or Tommie Smith and John Car- los, who raised clenched fists at the 1968 Olympics to protest racism at home. They will continue to bring attention to police violence, with the understanding that they will not be alone in their efforts.

Another protest demand was to take money budgets for jails and prisons and redistribute the funds for jobs and com- munity needs such as recreation centers. After a street protest, participants oc- cupied the police department lobby and blocked the doors for hours to make their demands heard.

Also on July 11, the Coalition for Jus- tice in Milwaukee sponsored a powerful "We Will Never Stop" rally at Red Arrow Park, followed by a march through the streets. The marchers included the family of Dontre Hamilton, killed by cop Christopher Manney in 2014, and the family of Don- tre. Hamilton, police brutality.

Workers "Unite2Fight" racism

The AFL-CIO launched a social media campaign with the hashtag #enough, "One union: Labor against racism," to reinforce the need for solidarity against racism. For- warded widely by groups like Pride at Work, an organization of LGBT labor activists, a recent tweet honored Sandra Bland on the July 13 anniversary of her death in Texas police custody after being stopped for failure to signal a lane change. Labor solidarity has ranged from pro- tests and vigils to resolutions. On July 9 and July 13, Boston activists, mem- bers of the militant, "old-school" Boston School Bus Drivers, steelworkers Local 8751, joined thousands to say "no" to rac- istic police murder. Vice President Stevan Kirschbaum spoke wearing a sign, "Jus- tice. Jail Killer Cops." Also marching in the "Unite2Fight" action were red-shirted members of UNITE HERE Local 26. The protests were organized by MASS Action Against Police Brutality.

In Chicago, National Nurses United marched with signs reading "Racism is a deadly disease." They stated in a July 12 press release that "from racially moti- vated police shootings to the courts to incarceration, and racial disparities in health care," racism is a matter of con- cern to them as working nurses. (tinyurl.com/jaa4dde) In Brooklyn, Hotel Trades Council members came out to march on the anniversary of Sandra Bland's killing. A Facebook post by the Philly Coalition of Labor Union Women called attention to "the hundreds if not thousands of Black and Brown lives taken without regard for how precious their lives were." (tinyurl.com/ro7j7k)

International solidarity has come from the International Transport Workers’ Fed- eration, representing 5 million workers

’d Giuliani, you’re the racist!’

Rudy Giuliani’s July 18 speech to the Republican National Convention is ru- mored to be his audition for the post of secretary of Homeland Security, if Don- ald Trump were to become president.

Giuliani began his political career by presenting himself as a U.S. attorney cru- sading against corruption and organized crime in New York City. He ran for may- or of New York in 1989 and lost to David Dinkins, the first Black person to become mayor of the city.

He ran again against Dinkins in 1993 and won, later winning a second term against Ruth Messner.

Giuliani’s campaign against Dinkins, who lived in Harlem for more than 50 years, when he egged on a rally of 10,000 cops at City Hall as they were protesting Dinkins’ plan to institute a civil- lian review board in police bru- tality. The media noted that all the cops were armed and some were drunk.

After he became mayor, he appointed Bill Bratton as po- lice commissioner.

The two began a policing policy of “zero tolerance of broken windows,” which is another name for mass incarceration.

MSNBC knew all this when they invited Giuliani to spew his racist clap- trap on the air on July 8. On air, he called Black Lives Matter “inherently racist” and “the reason there’s a target on police officers’ backs.” About 50 people gathered July 14 in Grand Central Station and marched there to protest Giuliani’s racism at his office in the MetLife Building. It was cov- ered by TV channels 11 and 47 as well as the New York Daily News.

One union: labor against racism

Philando Castile’s “death by cop,” along with that of Alton Sterling, has sparked massive protests against racist state terror across the U.S.

Castile’s life, as a union member and be- loved school cafeteria worker for 13 years, has reignited a commitment to labor sol- idarity in the struggle against police brutality and racist injustice. Castile was a member of Teamsters Local 320, Minnesota AFL-CIO.

In Philadelphia, a “Justice for Philando” protest emphasized that “Black lives matter” and “Black work matters,” UNITE HERE Lo- cal 5343, the high school food ser- vice workers, called the event, say- ing, “He was one of us.” More than 100 union members and activists gathered on July 14 in front of Benjamin Franklin High School, where a Black student was brutal- ized in May by school police. Some flew red flags with the union solidarity mes- sage: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

UNITE HERE’s press release demand- ed: “Our country needs to organize to change the economic conditions and so- cial biases that perpetuate this culture of violence and hate against people of color.” Their members were joined by the Phila- delphia Federation of Teachers, Ed- ucators Caucus, Teamsters, Service Employees Locals 1201 and 32BJ, along with students from the Philadelphia Student Uni- on and Youth Unite. New Change to build labor solidarity against racist po- lice brutality.

Growing solidarity in the increasingly nationalized U.S. working class, includ- ing by nonunionized workers, is visible in widespread support for Black Lives Matter in the “Fight for 15” minimum wage move- ment. In the wake of the recent police kill- ings, a statement from the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance “condemns the continual mistreatment, brutality and murder that the Black community faces, and stands firmly with the Movement for Black Lives.” (apalanet.org)

Representing farmworkers, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, called for Brown unity with Black strugg- ling after the killing of Castile and Ster- lling. President Baldemar Velasquez de- nounced “systematic racism” in the U.S., saying: “Now is the time when solidarity matters most in this movement for jus- tice. … Join us in standing with our Black brothers and sisters as we all fight for a country where traffic stops don’t end in death.” (foc.com)

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

"Workers Unite2Fight" racism

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International solidarity has come from the International Transport Workers’ Fed- eration, representing 5 million workers

Continued on page 10
Nice and the question of ‘terrorism’

By G. Dunkel

More than 100,000 people were at a Bastille Day fireworks display in Nice on the French Riviera July 14 when a truck was driven into a crowd of people on France’s national holiday. This was so shockingly unexpected and so extensively covered that politicians throughout the world immediately deplored it. The terrible event in Nice was just one example of the human suffering inflicted on people around the world in recent months — much of it caused by U.S./NATO aggression and subversion and the general atmosphere of violence generated by such wars.

Most of this gets little publicity in the corporate media or reaction from politicians in the West. For example, in early June, the Pentagon provided air power for the Iraqi government’s recapture of the city of Falluja from the Islamic State group. In total, 500,000 people who escaped the city went without food and water, while another 50,000 were trapped inside while Falluja was systematically burned down. At least 700 civilians and another 250 Iraqis were killed by U.S. warplanes.

Another example is the civil war in South Sudan, a country that only exists because of the U.S./Soviet intervention. A U.S.-led civil war began in the late 1980s when the U.S. first in line — broke up Sudan into two parts. Their goal was to exploit the South Sudanese natural resources more effectively — especially oil — and to keep China out. Since December, South Sudan has been in a civil war that has created another million refugees.

During this period, the deaths of migrants on the high seas have continued to take a grim toll of children, women and men, including whole families, trying to escape the wars.

Then came the highly publicized horror that took place in France on July 14. Within two days, the plane number in Nice set up to provide psychological counseling and guidance to those impacted by the attack had received 14,000 calls and 2,100 emails.

Was it terrorism?

What to call the attack in Nice has become a political question with major implications. The Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris in January 2015 had political roots because of the magazine’s anti-Muslim cartoons. Al Qaeda took responsibility.

The Bataclan nightclub attack last fall was carried out by a coordinated group with a political message, the Islamic State group took responsibility.

This atrocity, however, was carried out by a U.S. citizen. After a month of little planning, and no political demands attached, yet all the imperialist politicians are handling it as political “terrorism.”

These attacks are steps in such attacks.

Politicians in office are on the defensive and call for more policing. Those out of office are on the attack and call for even greater repression. None have a real solution.

French President François Hollande spoke on national television a few hours after the attack and immediately blamed a “terrorist character” and added that all France was “under the threat of Islamic terrorism.”

The next evening, France’s most watched news show on France 2, Prime Minister Manuel Valls called the driver of the truck a “terrorist” who was “without doubt linked to radical Islam.” Then he added that an investigation should be done to confirm this charge.

But when at the exact same time Bernard Cazeneuve, the minister of the interior in charge of the national police, the gendarmerie and much of French intelligence, asked on America’s Fox News that the driver “was linked to radical Islam,” he answered, “No.”

Later the administration tried to resolve the discrepancy among its spokespeople by inventing the expression “rapid radicalization.” This supposedly explained how the driver was a terrorist without being linked to terrorism.

Pollard and Hullans, who have been in a months-long struggle with the imperialists are acting now to protect neither democracy nor the working-class parties, but their own assets. In Turkey, these are in the military.

Erdogan accused cleric Fethullah Gulen, a former ally-turned-enemy of being behind the coup plot and called for Washington to extradition him. Gulen, who has set up his own religious schools in the United States and in the mostly Muslim Central Asian republics, denied involvement in the coup — after it had been crushed.

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South Korean farmers protest U.S. missile system

By Carl Lewis

Amnesty Law repeal & U.S. intervention

By By Lyn Neeley

“We oppose THAAD with our lives!” shouted thousands of angry south Korean farmers during a July 13 protest. The demonstration followed Washington’s July 8 announcement that it would deploy the anti-ballistic Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the protesters’ county of Seogu in Byeon. Daily anti-THAAD protests have continued around the country. Local leaders in Seoguïn became a hunger strike and cut their fingers to write the words of the chant in their own blood. Some are refusing to send their children to school. The farmers vowed not to lose the land of their ancestors to THAAD.

In an attempt to appease local sentiment, Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn visited Seogu on July 15, but he never finished his remarks when the crowd of at least 3,000 began pelting him with eggs and water bottles, forcing him to retreat into a government building. Protesters also threw salt, a traditional act to dispel evil spirits. When Kyo-ahn tried to leave through a back gate, protesters blocked his minibus with a large tractor, holding him and his convoy for hours. Seogu, 135 miles southeast of Seoul, is a rural county of about 45,000 farm¬ers who grow 60 percent of south Korea’s melons. The people fear the strong elec¬tronic signals from THAAD radar will threaten their health, ruin their agricul¬tural economy and make them primary targets if regional war breaks out.

Washington and its lackey-ary President Park Geun-hee are telling south Koreans that THAAD intercept missiles will protect them from north Korean missiles. But, as protesters point out, placing the missiles in Seogu doesn’t protect the 10 million Koreans living in Seoul, which lies outside THAAD coverage.

U.S. advances ‘Asian NATO’

The U.S. calls THAAD a defense sys¬tem against what they claim are threats from north Korean missiles. But every show of force by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has been to defend themselves against Washington’s escalat¬ing aggression toward them. Now Washington that still refuses to negotiate a peace settlement with north Korea, though the Korean War ended in 1953, is the U.S. It is that for more than 60 years has threatened the DPRK with nu¬clear weapons and is intensifying its mil¬itary occupation in the region with the THAAD system.

China and Russia say deployment of THAAD will change the strategic bal¬ance in the region, undermine their se¬curity and worsen tensions. Chinese say the main target of this new Pentagon system is China, not north Ko¬rea. The U.S. already employs a THAAD system on Guam and sends satellites over China.

Earlier this month WW wrote: “The Obama administration’s ‘pivot toward Asia,’ together with NATO’S more ag¬gressive stance in Eastern Europe, are sobering reminders that global capital¬ism’s stagnation and decline are driving the major imperialist powers toward new war crises of their own making.” (work¬ers.org, July 12)

Long history of occupation, resistance

Washington has occupied south Korea since the end of World War II. The 1950-53 war against north Korea cost more than 5 million Korean lives.

Today 28,000 U.S. soldiers are sta¬tioned in 50 military bases throughout south Korea. More than 40 joint mili¬tary drills take place each year. The larg¬est was an eight-week exercise begun in March carried out by 300,000 south Korean soldiers and 13,000 U.S. soldiers, including aircraft carriers equipped with nuclear weapons, seaborne aircraft and a U.S. guided-missile cruiser.

South Korea’s defense minister stood by the U.S. Army Commander when the announcement of the THAAD deploy¬ment was made in south Korea on July 8. The south Korean government will pro¬vide land in Seogu and build the base for Washington’s THAAD system.

President Park Geun-hee, like her fa¬ther Park Chung-hee before her, uses the outdated National Security Law to carry out the suppression of freedom of speech, jailing those demonstrating against U.S. occupation and repressive government policies and those calling for reunification of Korea.

In related news, Han Sang-gyun, presi¬dent of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was sentenced to five years in jail on July 4 for leading protests against Geun-hee’s repressive labor policies. Han was arrested for “inciting violence” during an “unauthorized” protest in November 2015, despite promises of “freedom of speech” in south Korea’s Constitution.

South Koreans once had the highest rate of union organization in the world. But now less than one in ten workers is union¬ized. Geun-hee’s repressive labor policies now make it easier for companies to fire workers, roll back benefits, reduce wag¬es of older workers and hire more young workers at low wages.

The KCTU, founded in 1995 during a massive strike against anti-labor legisla¬tion, now has 678,000 members. Within Han in the forefront, KCTU has led the resistance to south Korea’s growing aus¬terity measures and ruthless government crackdowns on peaceful resistance. Han has led 13 protests and a major sit-down strike, and has called for a national work¬ers strike so the government will feel the workers’ outrage.

Even Amnesty International says Han is being punished for being a successful leftist organizer and pivotal leader in labor militancy.

El Salvador

Amnesty Law repeal & U.S. intervention

By By Carl Lewis

A 4 to 1 vote, the Supreme Court of El Salvador ruled Monday that they stated was “unconstitutional.” This July 13 decision argued that repeal¬ing the law would put closure to the civil war that lasted from 1980 to 1992 and claimed 75,000 lives, including 8,000 “disappeared,” from the country’s 5mil¬lion people.

The roots of this issue stem from Jan. 16, 1992, when, after 20 months of intense negotiations, the government of El Salva¬do and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) signed the Cha¬dor and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) signed the Cha¬

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For Bill Director James Comey publicly scolded Hillary Clinton about the “careless” handling of her emails while she was secretary of the U.S. State Department but did not indict her, the right wing was incensed. To them, Clinton had committed a grave crime by placing her emails on her private server and subsequently deleting the server, the Pentagon and Wall Street out of their oversight. By putting her emails on a private server operated from the Clinton mansion, Clinton chose to keep her contacts secret even from the Obama White House. This is the fourth chapter of the longstanding division within the U.S. political establishment as to which faction can best serve the interests of the capitalist ruling class. Neither side has the slightest interest in bettering the lives of the workers or poor, here or abroad.

But to the oppressed people of the world, Clinton’s emails, their content and the decisions that were made while she headed the State Department, bear witness to her many war crimes and crimes against humanity that have caused suffering and devastation around the globe.

An April 2011 email to Clinton from her trusted advisor Sydney Blumenthal detailed the threat to both French and U.S. imperialist interests, of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s plans to create a new gold-based currency for the unemployed and underpaid living in the U.S. The currency would have replaced the French franc and promoted these countries’ development.

The U.S., France and other imperialist countries backed rebel forces against the Gadhafi government with tons of weapons and NATO bombing raids. Other Clinton emails show that she tacitly approved the rebel death-squad “ethnic cleansing,” particularly of Black African residents in Libya.

In October 2011, Gadhafi was brutalized by the rebels and American Special Forces, murdering brave Through Honduras, murdering brave workers.org

In the U.S. overall, the income of the top 1% is 30 times higher than the average of the remaining 99%. In New York state, it’s 43 times higher.

Meanwhile, New York state cities like Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo have some of the nation’s lowest proportions of African-American and Latino/a people living in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Whatever they may say about “lifting up the middle class,” politicians from both parties are only interested in lining the pockets of their corporate sponsors off the backs of the workers and oppressed. In this capitalist system, only resolute struggle will win jobs with living wages for the unemployed.

One union:

Cops out of labor unions!

Philando Castile’s Teamsters Local 320 is part of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, which also represents “law enforcement personnel” in some jurisdictions. The cop who killed Castile was not a member of the police union.
Free Chelsea Manning!

By Kathy Durkin

May 27 marked six years that Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning has been held in military custody. The heroic 28-year-old WikiLeaks whistleblower and transgender activist is currently jailed in the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., serving a 35-year prison sentence for releasing classified military documents. Her intention was to tell the truth about U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in what she calls “the war diaries.” Manning’s real transgression: exposing U.S. war crimes. However, even from prison Manning has continued political activism, especially through her writings, often published in the Guardian newspaper and on social media. She has international support from anti-war activists and members of the transgender community. Scores of human rights, civil liberties, and other progressive and legal organizations and individuals have denounced the extremely brutal punishment meted out to her by the U.S. military.

Manning’s attorneys reported that she tried to commit suicide at the prison on July 5, and that they and her family were not informed of her condition after that date. Manning was taken on July 5, and that they and her family were not informed of her condition after that date. Manning was taken to the hospital, and that the Army would not inform her friends and supporters on her behalf.

“Last week, Chelsea made a decision to end her life. Her attempt to take her own life was unsuccessful. She knows that people have questions about how she is doing and she wants everyone to know that she remains under close observation by the prison and expects to remain on this status for the next several weeks. For Chelsea’s sake, please respect her privacy. The family endures an excruciating wait to hear from her, and we ask that you offer them the support and respect they deserve. They have asked that we respect their privacy as they continue to support Chelsea. You can support Chelsea by signing the petition at FreeChelsea.com.”

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Labor against racism

Continued from page 10

of his union. But all over the U.S., cops and prison guard groups are submitting as “unions” into organized labor.

Castle’s death exposes the deadly contradiction of calling people in these groups “workers” when they are armed and paid by the state to repress workers. The Appa-

lachian Workers Alliance delivered a pow-

erful message about this in a statement titled “Yes, ALL Cops: Against Police and in Support of Oppressed People.”

“The police are the foot soldiers of national and racial oppression in the United States. ... Police are not workers. Cops are armed enforcers of a state and economic system that exploits work-

ers and oppresses people of color. Real unions pledge to not cross picket lines while police, in fact, bust unions and break up picket lines.”

If labor wants “one union” of workers, get rid of the cops and prison guards!”

Sara Calitri, Sarayya Scoppeittra and Scott Williams contributed to this report.

What next for the Sanders Campaign

Continued from page 3

all must be in charge of their fate. They must not have to rely on capitalist pol-

iticians who serve the rich to determine what happens to them, while year after year they try to survive and gain only the most meager concessions.

For there to be a political revolution in the United States, there has to be a social change. The capitalist class, its state, its property, its machine will have to be broken up. The vast resources in wealth and profit that the working class has created will have to be put to use in a planned way, not for profit but for human benefit and well-being. When the workers and the oppressed are in charge, there will be a genuine political revolution.

A party that advocates and fights pre-
cisely for a socialist form of revolution is Workers World Party. It is running an election campaign, but one that is aimed at keeping the movement in the streets, not diverting it to the ballot box. To strug-
gle for revolutionary socialism, solidarity with the workers and oppressed at home and abroad, become part of the Moore-
head-Lilly campaign: #socialist3placelives on Twitter and Monica Moorehead & Lamont Lilly 2016 on Facebook.
Defendamos al movimiento vidas negras importan

Alto a la guerra de la policía contra personas negras y latinas

Un llamado de Monica Moorehead y Lamont Lilly, candidatos a presidente y vicepresidente por el Partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero.

Ha llegado el momento de abrir otro frente en la lucha contra la supremacía blanca. Lo que ocurrió en Dallas el 7 de julio - la muerte a tiros de policías - habría en el pasado y en circunstancias diferentes, suministrado a la clase dominante, a los políticos, a los medios de comunicación y a la policía, más armas de las que podría necesitar para imponer un efecto negativo en el movimiento Vidas Negras Importan y en la lucha contra el terror racista de la policía.

El otoño de 2014 fue un punto alto para el movimiento Vidas Negras Importan. Miles de manifestantes a lo largo del país bloqueaban carreteras, puentes y centros comerciales por todos lados a raíz de los asesinatos por la policía de Eric Garner, Michael Brown y Tamir Rice.

Pero después que dos policías de la ciudad de Nueva York fueron asesinados a tiros en diciembre de 2014, la presión sobre el movimiento fue tanta que algunos activistas cancelaron protestas. Tomó meses para que el movimiento se recupere de la presión política orquestada por el establecimiento capitalista.

Sin embargo, luego de los disparos en Dallas, la clase política capitalista hasta ahora no ha sido capaz de paralizar o hacer retroceder el movimiento. No es que no lo hayan intentado. Los comentaristas que defienden a la policía han tratado de culpar y satanizar el movimiento, culpándolo por la muerte de los policías en Dallas.

Todo político que se topara con la oportunistad de hablar ante un microfón es taba deseoso de expresar su solidaridad con la policía, llamar a todo el mundo para que apoyara a la policía y alineara al movimiento para que detuviera su “retoxic anti-polización”. Va a haber muchísimos más de eso en los próximos días y semanas, especialmente comenzando con el discurso del presidente Obama en Dallas en el memorial de los policías.

Pero el día después de los disparos en Dallas, las calles de Atlanta, Nueva York, San Francisco, St. Paul, Baton Rouge y muchas otras ciudades de todo el país, e incluso alrededor del mundo, se llenaron de miles de manifestantes exigiendo justicia para Alton Sterling y Philando Castile, los dos hombres negros ejecutados por la policía la semana pasada y capturado en vídeo.

Según los informes, desde la muerte de Sterling y Castile, más de una docena de personas de color han sido asesinadas por la policía, incluyendo a cinco latinos. Estos homicidios han recibido poca o ninguna atención nacional, excepto a través de Twitter.

Hasta este momento, la indignación masiva por las últimas víctimas de la guerra de la policía contra negros y latinos es tan profunda y tan poderosa, que las personas están diciendo por su negativa a suspender la lucha, “No, esta vez no vamos a permitir que Dallas sea utilizado como excusa para culpárnos y deternernos”.

Incluso atletas de alto perfil como Carmelo Anthony, Serena Williams y Colin Kaepernick están pronunciándose. También hay rumores de que otros atletas de alto perfil, como el equipo de halterofilia estadounidense, tienen la intención de boicotear los Juegos Olímpicos o de llevar a cabo una protesta simbólica en los próximos Juegos de Río.

Construir amplia solidaridad antirracista

¿Por qué es esto tan importante? Para que la policía sea exitosa en su guerra contra negros y latinos, el movimiento en contra de esta guerra debe ser marginado, aislado, demonizado y en última instancia reprimido.

Cuanto más se hace evidente que la represión policial no sólo es impopular, sino que ya no será tolerada por las masas que se enfrentan a un trato deshummanizante constantemente, más difícil se le hace a la policía y al sistema, matar y encarcelar a las personas de color en una escala cada vez mayor. Incluso el llamado a desarmar a la policía es cada vez más popular entre las masas.

La policía depende del apoyo político de las personas, o al menos la indiferencia del público sobre sus acciones. El establecimiento capitalista, que depende de la represión policial para mantener su dominio sobre la población, entiende esto muy bien y utiliza energía y recursos interminables para mantener el apoyo político a la policía.

La policía está muy consciente de esta necesidad política, sobre todo cuando se hace evidente que están perdiendo una masa crítica de apoyo. La represión policial racista no se puede terminar de una vez y por todas, hasta que este sistema capitalista en descomposición, que se está convirtiendo cada vez más desesperadamente dependiente de la represión policial, termine. Debe ser reemplazado por un sistema que se base en la satisfacción de las necesidades humanas, no en la explotación para obtener ganancias, y ese sistema es el socialismo.

Los acontecimientos recientes indican que la oposición a la represión policial ha alcanzado un punto de inflexión. Ha llegado el momento de abrir un nuevo frente en la lucha contra la represión policial. Se podría llamar el movimiento “No al apoyo de la guerra policial contra las personas negras”. Al menos dos condiciones esenciales para la apertura de ese frente:

Uno, tiene que ser sobre la base de la participación de las masas, con acciones militantes locales, pero también nacionales e incluso internacionales.

Dos, es absolutamente esencial que no sólo sean las/os jóvenes negros y latinos que salgan a las calles, sino los blancos también, y no sólo la gente joven, sino personas de todas las generaciones, nacionalidades, géneros, expresiones de género, capacidades, etc.

El porcentaje de jóvenes blancos/os que han salido a las calles en apoyo a Las Vidas Negras Importan ha ido en aumento. Este es un buen augurio para la lucha, sobre todo si se vuelve consistente y sigue creciendo.