



# 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/zydpbn)

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.



WW PHOTOS: MONICA MOOREHEAD

## Cleveland, Ohio, July 17



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## Protest against Rudy Giuliani New York, July 14.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

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# Justice for Teo Valencia

By Terri Kay

Teo Valencia, a Mexican-American man, was shot in the back with an AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle by an as yet unnamed Newark, Calif., police officer on March 11. To add further injury, the grief-stricken family was racially profiled by the funeral home and not allowed to pay their last respects. The family was then further intimidated by the Newark Police Department.

The family only recently obtained the coroner's report, with the help of the Anti Police-Terror Project. This is how they learned that Valencia was shot in the back. His family has remained strong and united, and they are refusing to back down in their quest for justice. They talk about how Valencia was known and loved by many people; that he was a charming and caring person with a beautiful smile; and that he was a loving son, brother, uncle and friend.

On July 14, the family, together with APTP and other supporters, held a vigil and march 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



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

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 APTP, 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 could bring themselves 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! □

# 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 the U.S. in this difficult moment of struggle.

We have known for ourselves here in Italy, even though maybe not in the same way or extent, what it means to deal with violence from police and state authority, sworn to serve and protect, but that too many times brutalize and kill.

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)

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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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# Grocery workers in struggle coast to coast

By Sue Davis

About 147,000 grocery workers, represented by the Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), have been fighting for contracts from coast to coast. This roundup of their struggles for living wages and decent benefits shows it pays to unite and fight.

Some 30,000 grocery workers in the Puget Sound area of Washington state ratified a three-year contract on April 28. The new contract for Locals 21 and 367 and Teamsters Local 38 included improved wages, especially for those moving up the wage scale; increased funding for a high-quality, low-cost health plan; secured pensions into the future; and introduced transfer and promotion rights. After forming a united front in 2013, the three union locals have built strong partnerships with community organizations to stop nonunion grocers and support a

statewide raise in the minimum wage.

About 35,000 “Stop & Shop” workers in five UFCW locals in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island joined together in late February to bargain against concessionary demands, including benefit cuts and sharply reduced wages and benefits for future hires. On May 20, they voted in a decent contract with no concessions, though they didn’t get everything they wanted.

On May 18, 35,000 members of UFCW Local 400, who work at Kroger in seven states stretching from Maryland to Tennessee and the District of Columbia, voted to strike at 41 stores in the region. Kroger quickly came back with better contract terms, which union members ratified on June 8. The four-year contract includes higher starting pay, raises for department heads and both full-time and part-time clerks, retiree health care

through June 2017 and decent health care benefits. That’s the power of the strike threat!

**47,000 Southern California workers vote to strike**

Some 47,000 grocery workers in seven southern California UFCW locals voted to authorize a strike on June 21 against Ralphs, Albertsons, Vons, Pavilions and Safeway stores. Three months after the contracts expired, the companies presented their economic package. It included an inadequate wage proposal; reduced benefits, such as a big increase in employee health care costs; and a “decimated” pension plan. Entry-level employees would have to work longer before reaching higher pay grades. No strike date has been set. Talks will continue.

Union officials said the grocery chains want to cut costs in anticipation of the

state minimum wage rising to \$15 an hour by 2020. Now the starting salary is \$10.10 an hour. Union president Mickey Kasparian noted that the strike vote “may create a leverage point for us. ... We want to get to a resolution.” (San Diego Union-Tribune, June 20)

Workers at Vons, Albertsons and Ralphs were part of a historically long 141-day strike in 2003-2004. Miro Copic, a marketing lecturer at San Diego State University, told the San Diego Union-Tribune the last strike helped push consumers to nonunion alternatives. At that time, the chains had more than 50 percent of the market share. Now, it’s about 30 percent, with 30 new grocery stores opening in San Diego County by the end of the year. “A protracted strike can create more problems for these chains,” he added. “That’s the last thing they want at this point.” (June 20) Stay tuned. □

# Black farmers still seek justice

By Dolores Cox

Black farmers in the South filed a federal class action lawsuit known as Pigford vs Glickman in 1997. Timothy Pigford was a Black farmer; Dan Glickman was the U.S. secretary of agriculture. The lawsuit alleged racial discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in allocating loans, disaster payments and assistance.

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, 1980s and 1990s, 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 1999. District Judge Paul 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 1997.

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 against USDA racial discrimination but were denied compensation. The Pigford Claims Remedy Act of 2007 budgeted \$100 million for these farmers; it was absorbed into the 2008 Farm Bill. Then another \$1.15 billion was allocated by Congress in December 2010 in the Claims Resolution Act.

In 2011, Judge Friedman approved financial compensation to late-filers in the “Pigford II” case; however, there were strict guidelines. Each claim had to be submitted by a deadline, reviewed and approved.

Funds began to be disbursed in the fall of 2013, with plaintiffs each receiving a \$50,000 cash reward and \$12,500 in an IRS account to pay related taxes. Because the settlement took decades to resolve, many farmers died waiting for



**Timothy Pigford and sons in North Carolina.**

justice. Of the 18,000 claims approved, 4,000 to 5,000 are estate claims.

**‘A bittersweet victory’**

National Black Farmers Association President John Boyd stated: “This is not a great trade-off by any means, but I think the funds will make a difference. It’s a bittersweet victory.” (Black Enterprise, Oct. 3, 2013)

Subsequently, Boyd remarked about the struggle, “Our work is not finished. Black farmers still face unfair practices and struggle to gain our rightful place in America’s agriculture and food production system. Discrimination against a group of people contributes to the decline of Black farmers, as well as a loss of land.” Between 1920 and 1992 the number of Black farmers declined from 925,000 to 18,000.

Many descendants of deceased farmers are still dealing with claims, aided by the NBFA. Some were swindled by people who charged them \$100 fees and pretended to file claims for them.

On March 5, 2014, in response to appeals from farmers whose claims were turned down, Judge Friedman issued an order denying reconsideration of their claims and closing the lawsuit. His ruling settled outstanding lawsuits 30 years af-

ter the NBFA first protested discrimination by the USDA, Congress and the Justice Department. However, this decision offered little to no hope for the elderly farmers who had waited years for compensation, only to be denied.

The American Agriculturalist Association stated, “Black farmers continue to be put out of farming, denied opportunities to make a living and lose land. That impacts the 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.” (press release, timeforawakening.com, July 6)

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 also states 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 for farm ownership. 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.

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 the July 8 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 10 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 U.S. and sold 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.; Washingtoninformer.com; University City Review, Philadelphia; indybay.org, San Francisco.*

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

Anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

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# Many hundreds march to ‘shut down Trump & RNC’

By Ben Carroll  
Cleveland

July 18 — 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 fear and intimidation to keep people from coming to protest.

Cleveland had received a multimillion-dollar grant from the federal government to further militarize the police. Downtown Cleveland was under military occupation, with eight-foot-high metal fences, armed soldiers stationed at dump truck barricades, and cops on bikes and horses in full body armor.

The morning of the first demonstration on July 17, three cops were killed in Baton Rouge. The state and the media — as they did after Dallas — immediately went into overdrive to demonize the Black Lives Matter movement and create an environment for increased state repression.

But the righteous opposition to racist billionaire Donald Trump and the police war on Black and Brown people brought many hundreds into the streets for the first protest that day. The multinational demonstration was a tremendous success that helped set the political tone for protests throughout the RNC.

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 stabbed counterprotesters 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 activists 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 Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell were shot 137 times by police in 2012. John Crawford III was shot dead 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 chaired 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.

Throughout, speakers 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 Hamideh, 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 racist 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 my people suffer 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!”

Additional speakers from the Coalition to Dump Trump and the RNC, CODE-PINK, Freedom Road Socialist Organization and a group of Muslim doctors, nurses and health care workers planning a July 21 march addressed the crowd.

“[The Black Lives Matter movement] has been criminalized, but we are not criminals, we are freedom fighters!”

# Walmart workers protest Trump



by Anne Pruden  
New York City

One hundred fifty people stood outside Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue on July 7 and shouted: “Donald Trump—KKK! Racist, sexist, anti-gay!” and “¡Sí, se puede!” They were demanding business behemoth Walmart denounce billionaire Trump’s racist, woman-hating and anti-immigrant statements. “Making Change at Walmart,” a campaign of the

Workers and community members demand end to financing for Trump’s bigoted statements.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

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 Latino/a 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 Chicago, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. (makingchangeatwalmart.org) □

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. “Because of what happened in Dallas and Baton Rouge, the system 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, WWP 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 snaked through downtown, navigating around police barricades and Trump supporters with a variety of militant chants denouncing Trump, racism, the police, Islamophobia, attacks on LGBTQ people and women, and solidarity 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 Matter!”; “From Palestine to Mexico, these 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 Tamir!”

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.

More protests are planned throughout the week, and many are gearing up to travel to Philadelphia next week to join protests at the Democratic National Convention. □

# VP nominee Pence: Trump’s far-right puppet

By Sue Davis

During his pursuit of the Republican nomination, Donald Trump denounced the Koch brothers, the far-right capitalist moguls whom he accused of pulling his rivals’ strings. But, no surprise, he totally reversed himself on July 15 by choosing a Koch brothers’ puppet for his vice presidential running mate.

Gov. Mike Pence of Indiana has a long-time relationship with the reactionary multibillionaire Kochs, who head a vast energy empire that is the second-largest privately owned company in the U.S., with revenues of \$115 billion in 2013. These libertarians oppose “big government,” except for laws that protect and promote their enormous stolen wealth (obviously, they deny climate change) and that restrict progressive legislation.

By choosing Pence, Trump exposes his willingness to cozy up to the Kochs. Who knows, he might need their vast resources to try to buy the election. Even though they have opposed Trump up to this point, they may now support him — to leverage control over Pence and, ultimately, over Trump.

Clearly, Trump chose Pence to shore up his conservative, evangelical credentials. Pence, whom the July 17 New York Times called “a loony lightweight” during his 12 years in Congress, is one of the most conservative, ostentatiously religious U.S. politicians. None of the 90 House bills he proposed has passed.

Both the AFL-CIO and the Working Families Party describe him as an enemy of working people. He voted against raising the minimum wage, expanding health coverage for poor kids, increasing funding for subsidized housing and prohibiting job discrimination against LGBTQ people. He supported deporting undocumented children and eliminating automatic citizenship for children born in the U.S. to undocumented parents. His vote to build a fence at the Mexican border is one of the few positions he shares, besides racism, with Trump!

His actions restricting women’s and LGBTQ rights show what a misogynist bigot he is. Pence signed laws in Indiana forcing women to undergo unnecessary ultrasounds, banning abortion coverage in private insurance plans and restricting abortion based on laws the Supreme Court recently struck down. In March, he signed a law preventing women from obtaining an abortion because of the race, gender or disability of the fetus, and making doctors liable for performing such abortions — one of the most far-reaching bans in the country. A judge blocked it from taking effect after the court decision.

In 2011, Pence pushed an amendment through the House to defund Planned Parenthood, kick-starting similar state actions. After Pence became governor in 2012, Indiana cut Planned Parenthood funding in half from 2005 levels, forcing the health care group to close five clinics providing testing for sexually transmitted diseases, though not providing abortions. Soon, a county with one of the closed clinics became the hub of an enormous HIV outbreak.

Not only has Pence been hostile to same-sex marriage since 2003, but in Congress he voted against laws prosecuting hate crimes based on sexual orientation, as well as against the repeal of the Pentagon’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. In March 2015, Pence signed a so-called “religious freedom” bill permitting business owners to refuse service to LGBTQ customers and others due to their religious beliefs. It was only after a national protest from business and civic leaders, athletes and celebrities that Pence relented, essentially killing the bill.

No wonder the National Organization of Women calls him “a ruthless general in the war on women.” Mike Pence’s many crimes against working and oppressed people make him Trump’s perfect running mate.

Sources: July 14 articles in Mother Jones and The Nation and a July 16 NOW press release supplied background for this article.



# 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 of closed 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 fought from within 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 remain in 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 petitioning 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 rebellion against the political establishment. But it has also led to his present contradiction of backing Hillary Clinton, the very establishment candidate he fought against.

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

## Independent road to fight big business

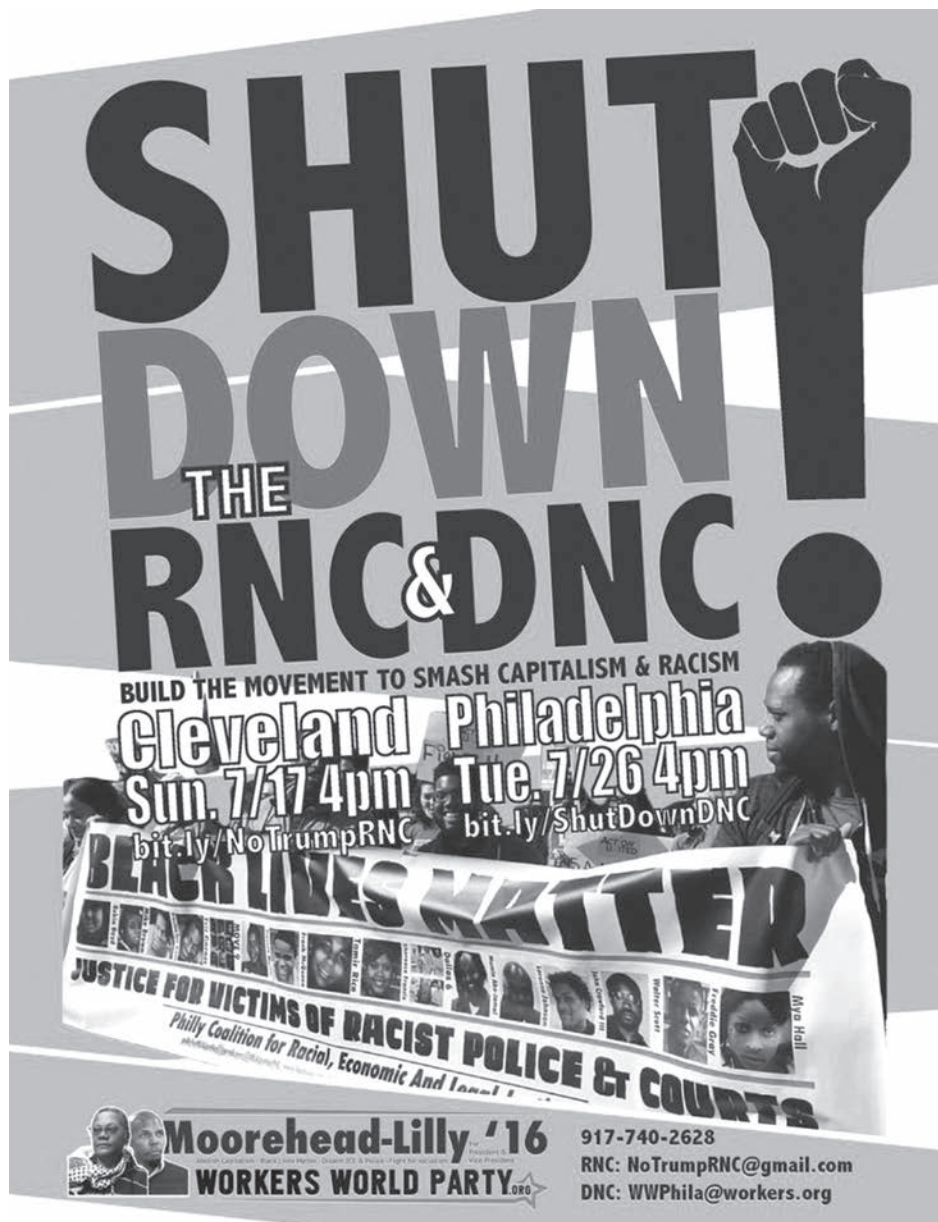
The question for millions of followers of Sanders is, what to do now? Should they hold their noses and run to the Clinton camp on the grounds that Trump must be defeated, or should they chart an independent course?

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 tie the hands of Sanders' supporters who want to continue and deepen a progressive and revolutionary struggle. The Sanders movement must chart a course that at least includes what they were fighting for when they voted for Sanders in the first place.

It must escalate the fight against the rich and their obscene salaries and profits, the fight against the giant banks, for universal health care, for free college tuition, for an end to student debt, to stop the polluters and climate change, for the right to a union, for a woman's right to



choose, an end to deportations and so forth. These were the premises of the Sanders campaign. This program must not be abandoned or left in the hands of Hillary Clinton and the big-business dominated Democratic Party.

And because Sanders' program was limited, the movement has a chance to go far beyond it. A truly comprehensive, independent course must be a working-class course. It must be based on solidarity with oppressed people at home and abroad. It must support the Black Lives Matter movement against police terror, the movements against Pentagon aggression, deportations of immigrants, and the persecution and exploitation of undocumented workers.

## A course of struggle

The other vital question is: Should an independent course take an exclusively electoral form, or should it be broadened and sharpened and taken to the streets, the workplaces, the communities and the campuses?

Given the momentum of the Sanders campaign, many want to pursue an independent electoral course. And there is nothing at all wrong with a truly left, 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 Guardian, July 14)

The Democratic Program 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 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 echelons of the capitalist state, not to mention business lobbyists, influence peddlers of all types. It will be her job to defend 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 struggle while the imperialist Democratic Party leadership attacks the masses and carries out one war and intervention 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 "superpredators," 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. Nor should we forget the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which severely limited habeas corpus appeals by death row prisoners. All this gives the lie 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

While 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 caught on and understandably generated enormous enthusiasm.

Big business is so dominant in U.S. politics that even demands for basic reforms 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 called himself a socialist, he never attacked capitalism as a system. He never called for socialist measures to end the people's suffering.

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

*Continued on page 11*



# Athletes and fighting police violence

By Monica Moorehead

The ESPY Awards honor individual and team athletes in the U.S. and worldwide for outstanding achievements on a yearly basis. It is sponsored by ESPN, arguably the most well-known international sports network. Its Sports Center shows are extremely popular. ESPN, a partner of the ABC commercial network, has a reputation of mixing sports with social issues, including those dealing with racism, sexism and homophobia.

In light of the recent police murders of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philando Castile in St. Paul, Minn., this year's ESPY broadcast took the unusual step of opening with four prominent African-American National Basketball Association All-Stars — Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, Dwayne Wade and LeBron James — who presented moving and heartfelt soliloquies reflecting on the issue of race and police killings.

Paul specifically mentioned the names of Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Sterling and Castile, all murdered by racist state repression, and emphasized how Black and Brown people are disrespected. Wade made a call for racial profiling to stop, although he didn't directly link profiling to police terror.

What these messages reflect is a recent trend among well-known and lesser-known athletes. Before the awards took place, members of the Women's National Basketball Association's Minnesota Lynx and the New York Liberty wore warm up T-shirts with the names of Sterling and Castile. The Lynx are the current WNBA champions. Their T-shirts also included a small Dallas police emblem with the words "Black Lives Matter" above it.

Lynx Head Coach Cheryl Reeve posted this powerful statement on her Twitter account: "To rebut BLM with 'All Lives Matter' implies that all lives are equally at risk, and they're not. #BlackLivesMat-



ter doesn't mean your life isn't important if you aren't Black — it means that Black lives, which are seen without value within white supremacy, are important."

Off-duty police "walked off the job" during the Lynx game in protest and refused to do security.

A valid question is when will NBA teams, not just individuals, step to the plate and follow the lead of the WNBA.

Jalen Rose, a retired basketball player and ESPN sportscaster, made a very important point on the "First Take" show July 15, when he stated that police brutality is rooted in slavery and the 1857 Dred Scott Supreme Court decision, which legally sanctioned that Black people were "three-fifths a human being." He also implied that white supremacy hasn't been overcome in the 50-plus years since the Civil Rights bills were passed. Rose stated that police brutality is nothing new; what is new is the videotaping of this violence that allows it to be widely disseminated so quickly on social media. These graphic videos have traumatized viewers, but also helped to raise consciousness on this brutal police war.

Colin Kaepernick, the San Francisco 49ers quarterback, characterized the murders of Sterling and Castile as lynchings.

There is very little doubt that the protests that have shut down interstate highways, organized by the Black Lives Matter movement since the deaths of Sterling and Castile became widely known, have inspired these athletes to take a more visible stand.

Many young whites have stood shoulder to shoulder with Black and Brown people in the streets. It is very unfortunate that white athletes, except for a few, have been virtually silent on police killings. This works to the advantage of the police and those they serve.

In many instances, these athletes have made a decision to equate the deaths of Black people at the hands of the police with the deaths of the five Dallas police officers at a BLM protest on July 7. The reasons for doing this may vary, from those who want to show support for the police to those who want to minimize any backlash. Many athletes also reflect a general societal idea that there are good cops and bad cops.

Because the police see themselves as above any reproach, many of them view anyone supporting the BLM movement as being anti-police and, therefore, their enemy. It is an attempt on the part of the police to divert any attention away from the fact that they expect unconditional respect and fear.

### All violence is not the same

President Barack Obama hosted a televised town hall meeting, "The President and the People: A National Conversation" in Washington, D.C., that was broadcast the evening of July 14. Obama answered questions from Sterling's son, a BLM activist and pro-cop representatives, among others. Seated in the audience was Lezley McSpadden, the mother of Michael Brown. Erica Garner, the daughter of Eric Garner,

was not allowed to participate in the discussion, which was recorded and edited earlier in the day.

Obama's main plea, very similar to the one he made at the memorial for the five slain Dallas cops, was for communities of

color 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.

Let's be clear. Gun violence in communities of color is not the same as gun violence by the cops. This continues to be an ongoing debate, including among large sectors in society. When oppressed people are forced to exist in subhuman conditions, especially in urban areas where there are no jobs, lack of decent housing, cuts in education and the militarization of schools, mass incarceration, hospital closings and more — when there is no escape

## 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 three others in an ambush. 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.

### BALTIMORE

Sixty-five people were arrested in a Baltimore anti-police violence protest for Black Lives Matter after they blocked I-83, the Baltimore Expressway, on July 16. Ten of those arrested were under adult age. As of July 18, 23 people were still in jail. Members of the Baltimore People's Power Assembly were part of the protest. Demands included reallocating money from the police to community programs.

### BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The People's Power Assembly militantly protested in Brooklyn, N.Y., on the one-year anniversary of the death of Sandra Bland. The 28-year-old Black woman was stopped for a minor traffic violation in

Waller County, Texas, and three days later was found hanging in a jail cell there. The protesters powerfully cried out for "Justice for Sandra" by chanting: "The whole damn system is guilty as hell! Indict, convict, send those killer cops to jail!"

The demonstration emphasized how many women of color, including queer, trans and gender nonconforming women, die at the hands of police. Besides Sandra Bland, some of those killed include ShanTEL Davis, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, Kindra Chapman, Kyam Livingston, Yvonne McNeil, Shereese Francis, Reikia Boyd.

### BUFFALO

A Black Lives Matter protest on July 13 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, Ramarley Graham, Oscar Grant III, Renisha McBride, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Greg Gunn, Michael Brown, Mario Woods, Laquan McDonald, Walter L. Scott, Akai Gurley.

### LOS ANGELES

Black Lives Matter is occupying Los Angeles City Hall. Since July 12, from 50 to 100 people have camped out day



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

and night on the steps of the building. They refuse to leave until the group gets a public meeting with the mayor or until the chief of police is fired. BLM protesters occupied the steps immediately after the city's Police Commission ruled that the 2015 Los Angeles Police Department killing of 30-year-old Redel Jones did not violate departmental "deadly force rules."

The occupation is receiving firm solidarity from the Brown Berets and many white supporters. The South Central Neighborhood Council, a city entity, unanimously passed a resolution in support of the BLM occupation. A key participant in the BLM occupation is a member of the African-American caucus of SEIU Local 721, Southern California public service workers.

In addition to the occupation, 5,000 people marched in support of Black Lives Matter in the city of Inglewood in Los Angeles County on July 10.

### WISCONSIN

Protests in support of Black Lives Matter are resisting police terror in Wisconsin, a state with some of the worst conditions internationally for Black, Brown and Native peoples.

On July 11, the youth- and student-led organization Freedom Inc. held a "Rally for Community Control over Police" at the Dane County Police Department. The youth were there to denounce the decades-long oppression and occupation of Black and Brown communities in Madison. In support were the Young Gifted and Black coalition and other labor and community groups.

The multinational protesters demanded the firing of killer cop Matt Kenney, who murdered two residents "in the line of duty." Most recently, on March 6, Kenney killed 19-year-old Tony Robinson, resulting in mass protests throughout the city. Kenney is still on active patrol duty and training other cops.



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 capitalist state on behalf of the interests 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 best to turn their words into actions. Some are afraid that if they speak out too loud and too militantly, they risk losing millions of dollars in endorsements. Others may fear losing some of their fan base. And, of course, many fear some kind of retaliation from the police, just as the Lynx experienced.

What is most important for revolutionaries to prioritize is continuing to broaden the political support for Black and Brown activists who refuse to let demonization, marginalization and isolation push back the Black Lives Matter movement, especially in light of the Dallas killings, the Baton Rouge shooting of police on July 17 and other diversions the police and politicians may use to gain back any dwindling sympathy for them.

The strengthening of this political support will reinforce confidence among athletes 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 Carlos, 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.

*Moorehead is the 2016 presidential candidate for Workers World Party. She is the daughter of the late basketball coach Isaac Moorehead, whose women's and men's teams won Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships during the 1970s and 1980s at Norfolk State University, a historically Black college in Norfolk, Va.* □

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

Also on July 11, the Coalition for Justice in Milwaukee sponsored a powerful “We Will Never Stop” rally at Red Arrow Park, followed by a march through the streets. Speakers included the family of Dontre Hamilton, killed by cop Christopher Manney in 2014, and the family of Jay Anderson, killed by a Wauwatosa police officer in June.

The rally denounced police terror in Milwaukee and nationwide. Signs demanded justice for Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and others killed by cops. Other signs called for disarming the police, solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and building worker and people power.

After the speak-out, hundreds of protesters poured into the streets in righteous rage against the Milwaukee police and Wall Street forces responsible for apartheid-like conditions of people of African descent in Wisconsin. Future Black Lives Matter-related events in Wisconsin include a “March For Awareness” on July 31 at Library Mall in Madison.

*Contributing to this report were Sharon Black, Gavrielle Gemma, Ellie Dorritie, John Parker and Brenda Ryan.*

# ‘Giuliani, you’re the racist!’

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

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

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

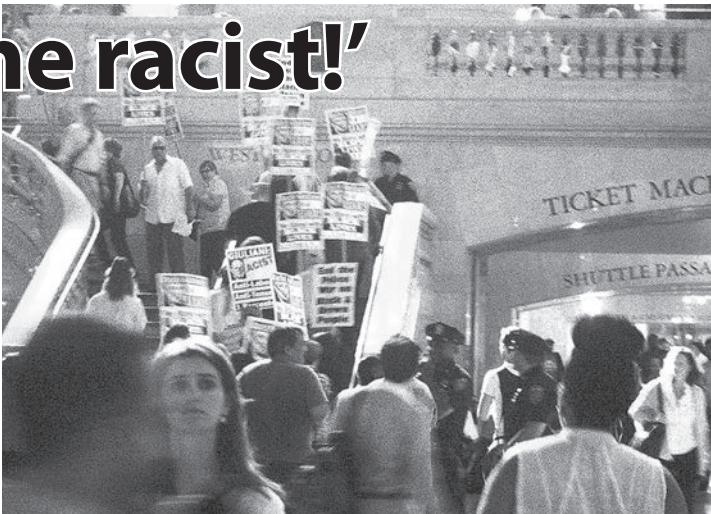
Giuliani’s campaign against Dinkins, who lives in Harlem, got brutal in 1992, when he egged on a rally of 10,000 cops at City Hall as they were protesting Dinkins’

plan to institute a civilian review board to rein in police brutality. The media noted that all the cops were armed and some were drunk.

After he became mayor, he appointed Bill Bratton as police commissioner.

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

MSNBC knew all this when they invited Giuliani to spew his racist claptrap 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 from there to protest Giuliani’s racism at his office in the MetLife Building. It was covered by TV channels 11 and 47 as well as the New York Daily News.

—Story and photo by G. Dunkel

# One union: Labor against racism

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

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 beloved school cafeteria worker for 13 years, has reignited a commitment to labor solidarity in the struggle against police brutality and racist injustice. Castile was a member of Teamsters Local 320, Minnesota AFL-CIO.

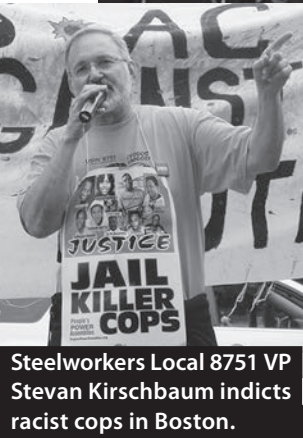
In Philadelphia, a “Justice for Philando” protest emphasized that “Black lives matter” and “Black work matters.” UNITE HERE Local 634, the high school food service workers, called the event, saying, “He was one of us.” More than 100 union members and activists gathered on July 14 in front of Benjamin Franklin High School, where a Black student was brutalized in May by school police. Some flew red flags with the union solidarity message: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

UNITE HERE’s press release demanded: “Our country needs to organize to change the economic conditions and social biases that perpetuate this culture of violence and hate against people of color.” Their members were joined by the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers’ Working Educators Caucus, Teamsters, Service Employees Locals 1201 and 32BJ, along with students from the Philadelphia Student Union and Youth United for Change to build labor solidarity against racist police brutality.

Growing solidarity in the increasingly multinational U.S. working class, includ-



Nurses say: ‘Racism is an epidemic.’ PHOTO: NATIONAL NURSES UNITED



Steelworkers Local 8751 VP Stevan Kirschbaum indicts racist cops in Boston.

PHOTO: TEAM SOLIDARITY

ing by nonunionized workers, is visible in widespread support for Black Lives Matter in the “Fight for 15” minimum wage movement. 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 struggle after the killing of Castile and Sterling. President Baldemar Velasquez denounced “systematic racism” in the U.S., saying: “Now is the time when solidarity matters most in this movement for justice. ... 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.” (floc.com)

WW PHOTO: SCOTT WILLIAMS



Union members and labor activists protest Philando Castile’s death, Philadelphia, July 14.

## Workers ‘Unite2Fight’ racism

The AFL-CIO launched a social media campaign with the hashtag #1uenough, “One union Enough,” to reinforce the need for solidarity against racism. Forwarded 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 protests and vigils to resolutions. On July 9 and July 13, Boston activists, members of the militant, “old-school” Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751, joined thousands to say “no” to racist police murder. Vice President Stevan Kirschbaum spoke wearing a sign, “Justice: 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 motivated police shootings to the courts to incarceration, and racial disparities in health care,” racism is a matter of concern 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/hzsoea4, July 10)

International solidarity has come from the International Transport Workers’ Federation, representing 5 million workers

Continued on page 10



# Turkey: Failed coup opens door to purge

By John Catalinotto

July 18 — NATO’s second-largest army exposed its instability when elements hostile to the regime of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attempted a military coup on July 15. Before the coup collapsed, jet fighters bombed Parliament, tanks rolled through the streets of Istanbul and Ankara, and helicopters attempted but failed to arrest or assassinate the president.

The coup leaders’ politics are still murky. Their program was all generalities about democracy. At this time, the best way to analyze this coup is to look at the reactions of Turkey’s government, its opposition parties and Turkey’s NATO partners.

The Erdoğan regime is exploiting the failed coup by purging over 12,000 opponents in the military, police and courts. As of July 18, he has arrested 103, or one-third, of the generals and admirals as well as 2,875 ordinary soldiers who followed their orders. Some 8,777 officers from the Turkish Ministry of Interior have been purged, mostly police officers. (CNN, July 18) Some 2,475 magistrates and another 400 prosecutors face charges.

The scope of the arrests appears to far exceed actual coup participants. It looks like Erdoğan’s group had its purge list ready before the coup took place. The coup’s faulty execution indicates it may have been rushed in an attempt to preempt Erdoğan’s purges.

Before the coup’s collapse, Erdoğan used a Facetime application on his iPhone to call CNN Turk and appeal to the population, calling members of his Justice and Development Party (AKP) to confront the soldiers carrying out the coup. More than 150 civilians died during the coup, including those who faced down tanks.

Erdoğan has been attempting to in-

crease presidential power by changing the constitution away from parliamentary rule. All indications are that he will use the coup attempt as a pretext to keep increasing his own powers and repress not only the coup plotters but all his political opposition.

## Political parties’ reaction

All four parliamentary parties — the AKP, an Islamist party; the center-right secular Kemalist CHP; the ultra-nationalist MHP; and the coalition of leftist and Kurdish groups called the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) — on the morning of July 16 pledged to stand together with the civilian government against the coup.

Most Turkish media, including those the Erdoğan regime had censored or threatened with closing, opposed the coup. People opposed to Erdoğan participated in demonstrations defending the government against the coup, according to reports in the corporate media.

HDP spokesperson Selahattin Demirtaş made it clear that despite what he called the “civilian coup” led by Erdoğan since the June 7, 2015, election, the HDP would give no legitimacy to the military coup. “It would be superficial to think a coup will further democracy,” he said. (kurdishquestion.com)

Although the HDP — the most democratic and pro-worker of the parliamentary parties — clearly opposed the coup, HDP offices in three cities were attacked on July 17, reportedly by pro-Erdoğan demonstrators.

In a statement the Workers Party of Kurdistan, which is defending itself and Kurdish regions from military assaults by the Turkish state forces, condemned both the military coup as well as Erdoğan for waging “more of an actual coup” through “control over the judiciary, the implementation of fascist laws and policies through

a parliamentary majority, ... and the imprisonment of thousands of politicians from the HDP and DBP [another Kurdish party].” (kurdishquestion.com)

A statement by the Communist Party of Turkey on July 15 said that the people should support neither the military coup nor Erdoğan’s AKP. While tensions among different groups within the state and the armed forces are real, the CP wrote, “it is a lie that any of the sides in this conflict represent the interests of the people.” (workersparty.ie)

## Imperialist reaction to failed coup

On July 15 the major European Union countries and the U.S. criticized the coup as undemocratic and gave lukewarm verbal support to the Erdoğan regime, while regretting the instability in this NATO ally.

Later, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that elections are the proper way to settle disputes in a democracy. He added that “it does not appear to have been a very brilliantly planned or executed event. But let’s reserve judgment until all the facts are in.” (Washington Post, July 17)

By July 18, following the coup’s defeat, the U.S. and EU warned Erdoğan not to crack down too hard on the alleged coup plotters or to use the coup as a pretext to wipe out his opposition.

“NATO also has a requirement with respect to democracy, and NATO will indeed measure very carefully what is happening,” said Kerry. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Turkey could not join the EU “if it introduces the death penalty,” something Erdoğan has threatened. (New York Times, July 18)

A year ago, when Erdoğan cracked down after the HDP’s election success and the AKP’s setback, neither the U.S. nor the EU criticized or threatened him.

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.

Erdoğan accused cleric Fethullah Gulen, a former ally-turned-enemy of being behind the coup plot and called for Washington to extradite him. Gulen, who has set up 130 Islamic religious schools in the United States and in the mostly Muslim Central Asian republics, denied involvement and condemned the coup — after it had been crushed.

Gulen has lived in the U.S. since 1998. Former CIA operatives recommended him for residency.

The Turkish police, intelligence services and massive armed forces, with nearly 700,000 personnel and close ties to both the U.S. and German armed forces, are still the power in Turkey. The U.S. has longer and closer relations with the generals than with political and religious figures like Erdoğan or Gulen. Washington provides more military aid to Turkey than to any other countries except Israel and Egypt.

Erdoğan is no friend of the Turkish workers and certainly is an enemy of the Kurds. He has waged a savage war against the Syrian government since 2011. His air force even shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian-Turkish border earlier this year.

Recently Erdoğan apologized to Russia for the shutdown. The criticisms from the U.S. and the EU indicate they fear he may follow a more independent foreign policy.

Regarding Gulen, Kerry said Turkey would have to send a formal request for extradition and provide evidence of coup participation, which Washington would then consider. The question of extradition may remain a focus of conflict and pressure between Washington and the Erdoğan regime. □

# 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 through the crowd, killing 84 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. During those battles, some 10,000 people who escaped the city went without food and water, while another 50,000 were trapped inside while Falluja was systematically destroyed yet again. Then another 250 Iraqis were killed by car bombs.

Another example is the civil war in South Sudan, a country that only exists because imperialist powers — the U.S. first in line — broke up Sudan into two parts. Their goal was to exploit the South’s 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, sometimes 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 phone number in Nice set up to provide psychological counseling and guidance to those impacted by this attack had received 14,000 calls and 1,200 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 2014 had political roots because of the magazine’s anti-Muslim cartoons. Al-Qaida 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 an individual, apparently with little planning, and had no political demands attached, yet all the imperialist politicians are handling it as political “terrorism.” They pose as able to stop 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. He called it “an attack whose terrorist character could not be denied” and added that all France was “under the threat of Islamic terrorism.”

That evening, on 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, was asked on TV station TF1 if 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.

Hollande had announced before Nice that he was going to let the state of emergency expire. After Nice, he announced an extension for another three months, a call-up of 10,000 soldiers for police duties and recruitment of more gendarmes. This new ruling allows cops to search without a warrant and impose house arrests at will.

## Ultra-rightists go on attack

The right and ultra-right parties had already seized on the loss of public sup-

port for Hollande and Valls, who have been in a months-long struggle with labor unions over a new anti-worker law, to open up broad attacks on the government.

The Republicans (LR) of former president Nicolas Sarkozy are playing on the understandable fear caused by these incidents to attack the government and call for more repression. Sarkozy called for electronic bracelets for everyone the government puts on a watch list, deportations of foreigners on such lists, closing mosques the cops don’t like, etc. (AFP, July 17)

The National Front (FN), the semi-fascist party of Marine Le Pen, tried to go even further to the right. She called for more spending on the military, progressively increasing military service, banning Muslim organizations and closing hundreds of mosques and prayer houses. She wants to expel imams whose teachings she doesn’t like.

Donald Trump also thought he could get some advantage from the attack in Nice. He said he would ask Congress for a declaration of war on the Islamic State group. In a July 14 interview on Fox News, Trump used the attacks to reiterate his call to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. and to “get tough, very tough.”

The rightist politicians all talked tough, without demonstrating how, in a world consumed and terrorized by imperialist war, violence can be eliminated. □



# South Koreans protest U.S. missile system

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 Seongju by 2017.

Daily anti-THAAD protests have continued around the country. Local leaders in Seongju started 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 Seongju 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 hostage for six hours.

Seongju, 135 miles southeast of Seoul, is a rural county of about 45,000 farmers who grow 60 percent of south Korea’s melons. The people fear the strong electronic signals from THAAD radar will threaten their health, ruin their agricultural economy and make them primary targets if regional war breaks out.

Washington and its lackey-ally President Park Geun-hye are telling south Koreans that THAAD intercept missiles will protect them from north Korean missiles. But, as protesters point out, placing the missiles in Seongju 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 system 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 escalating aggression toward them.

It is Washington that still refuses to negotiate a peace settlement with north Korea, though the Korean War ended in 1953. It is the U.S. that for more than 60 years has threatened the DPRK with nuclear weapons and is intensifying its military occupation in the region with the aim of “regime change” in the DPRK.

China and Russia say deployment of THAAD will change the strategic balance in the region, undermine their security interests and worsen tensions. The Chinese say the main target of this new Pentagon system is China, not north Korea. 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 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.” (workers.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 stationed in 50 military bases throughout south Korea. More than 40 joint mili-



South Korean farmers protest U.S. missile system, July 13.

tary drills take place each year. The largest was an eight-week exercise begun in March carried out by 300,000 south Korean soldiers and 13 U.S. Navy vessels, 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 deployment was made in south Korea on July 8. The south Korean government will provide land in Seongju and build the base for Washington’s THAAD system.

President Park Geun-hye, like her father 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, president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was sentenced to five years in jail on July 4 for leading protests against Geun-hye’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 10 workers is unionized. Geun-hye’s repressive labor policies now make it easier for companies to fire workers, roll back benefits, reduce wages of older workers and hire more young workers at low wages.

The KCTU, founded in 1995 during a massive strike against anti-labor legislation, now has 678,000 members. With Han in the forefront, KCTU has led the resistance to south Korea’s growing austerity 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 workers’ 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 Carl Lewis

By a 4 to 1 vote, the Supreme Court of El Salvador repealed an Amnesty Law that they stated was “unconstitutional.” This July 13 decision argued that repealing 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 5 million people.

The roots of this issue stem from Jan. 16, 1992, when, after 20 months of intense negotiations, the government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) signed the Chapultepec Peace Accords in Mexico City, to be monitored and enforced by the United Nations.

The parties agreed to cease the armed conflict and establish a U.N.-appointed “Truth Commission” to investigate crimes committed during the war.

The commission found that human rights violations, which resulted in the deaths and torture of combatants as well as civilians, were caused by Salvadoran armed forces and paramilitary “death squads.” Washington gave financial, military and political support to these criminals.

The right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) governed El Salvador from 1989 until 2009. The FMLN, which led the liberation struggle, became an

electoral political party after the peace accords. The FMLN won national elections in 2009, and has since governed El Salvador, which remains a capitalist country.

The Supreme Court ruling has generated suspicion among both civilians and the left, since many believe that the repeal of the law could be misused to carry out a witch-hunt on former FMLN combatants. El Salvador’s President Sanchez Ceren, who was a guerrilla commander of the FMLN during the war, said the court decision “does not address the real and current problems of the country, and far from helping to resolve day-to-day problems of Salvadorans, the court ruling can aggravate them.” (Reuters, July 16)

### U.S. funds, trains death squads

Whatever hand committed the actual torture and murder, responsibility for the crimes lies on the doorstep of U.S. imperialism, which has been the dominant military and economic power in Central America since the late 1800s.

The local ruling class, a criollo (people of Spanish descent) minority that was maybe 2 percent of the population, owned 90 percent of the agrarian economy and supplied U.S. imperialism mainly with coffee. The vast majority of Indigenous peasants lived in a state of starvation and impoverishment.

In 1932, Augustín Farabundo Martí, who was in the Communist Party of El

Salvador, led an uprising that was brutally suppressed by the ruling elite and its military. He and other leaders were executed, and 40,000 Amerindians were killed.

The resistance reemerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s with strikes by workers and students and protests by peasants. Fearing the guerrilla-led revolution would liberate El Salvador as it did Nicaragua in 1979, U.S. imperialism — with support starting under the Democratic Jimmy Carter administration and continuing through Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush — provided weapons and training to the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the paramilitary death squads.

According to author William Blum in “Human Rights, Washington Style”: “The CIA and the U.S. military played an essential role in the conception and organization of the security agencies from which the death squads emanated. CIA surveillance programs routinely supplied these agencies with the information on and the whereabouts of various individuals [who became] death squad victims.”

U.S. military assistance to El Salvador topped \$5 billion between 1978 and 1992. Any illusion about a “peaceful transition” to a reform-minded Salvadoran government was soon discarded after a series of atrocities and war crimes by the Salvadoran regime, a few of which are listed here:

- Major Roberto D’Abuisson, founder of both the ARENA party and a U.S.-

trained intelligence officer, masterminded the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero on March 24, 1980, the day after he called upon Salvadoran soldiers not to follow orders and kill civilians. D’Abuisson was never arrested because of “legislative immunity.”

- The National Guard, along with the paramilitary Democratic Nationalist Organization (ORDEN), carried out a massacre of Salvadoran peasants at the Sumpul River on May 14, 1980, which killed 600, mostly women and children. (Report of the U.N. Truth Commission, April 1, 1993)

- The El Mozote massacre: In three days in January 1981, 1,000 people, almost the whole population of the town, were killed. A monument to the victims now stands in the town plaza. U.S. Special Forces trained and equipped the dreaded Atlacatl Battalion, which was responsible for the massacre.

- The Salvadoran Army First Brigade, which had U.S. advisers, carried out assassinations of 74 “dissidents” between April and July of 1989. (Blum)

The list goes on and on, but the point is that U.S. imperialism, no matter how it pretends to be a defender of human rights, supports and arms some of the biggest war criminals in the world, besides directly committing war crimes as it has in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. □



# Indict Clinton – for war crimes

After FBI Director James Comey publicly scolded Hillary Clinton about the “careless” handling of her emails while she was head 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 communications with her staff, 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 latest 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 use by the poor countries of Africa. 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. ([foreignpolicyjournal.com](http://foreignpolicyjournal.com), Jan. 6)

In October 2011, Gadhafi was brutally murdered by rebel forces, evoking a cruel boast from Clinton: “We came, we saw, he died! (chuckle)” Libya, once the most prosperous African country with the highest standard of living, today remains ravaged by civil war. Hundreds of thousands of refugees, some from Libya, many from other war-torn countries throughout the Middle East and Africa, have journeyed from Libya across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Thousands have drowned.

In June 2009, the right-wing military in Honduras, with backing from the country’s elite as well as openly fascist gangs, staged a coup d’état that ousted elected President Manuel Zelaya. Supporting the coup was a clear violation of agreements by the Organization of American States, which the U.S. is a member of. Many OAS countries demanded action to restore the Zelaya government. Clinton’s emails show that behind the scenes the State Department did everything it could to prevent that, and soon openly supported the coup leaders.

Today, fascist death squads rampage through Honduras, murdering brave

human rights activists like Indigenous leader Berta Cáceres. To Clinton, large U.S. military bases in Honduras take precedence over the lives of the people there.

“Arming the Syrian rebels and using Western air power to ground Syrian helicopters and airplanes is a low-cost high payoff approach.” This is a portion of a Clinton email revealed by the whistleblower website Wikileaks, written in December 2012. Although Clinton failed to persuade President Barack Obama to send U.S. warplanes into Syria to attack President Bashar al- Assad’s government, she spearheaded U.S. imperialism’s effort to overturn that government by supplying vast quantities of arms to the rebels. The resulting civil war has cost thousands of lives and forced millions from their homes.

In 2009, the Haitian Parliament passed a law mandating that workers must be paid at least \$5 a day. At the behest of giant U.S. clothing corporations like Fruit of the Loom, Hanes and Levi’s, Clinton’s State Department fought this law tooth and nail. The Nation reported that “a deputy chief of mission, David E. Lindwall, said the \$5 per day minimum ‘did not take economic reality into account’ but was a populist measure aimed at appealing to ‘the unemployed and underpaid masses.’” (June 1, 2011)

Clinton stepped up funding for the Bush-Cheney “democracy training” program in Ukraine, from \$65 million in 2004 to \$5 billion in 2013. She brought on board neo-con Cheney advisor Victoria Nuland to operate the program. But this was not for Ukrainian democracy. Just after Clinton left the State Department, the U.S. sponsored a coup in Ukraine that overturned the elected government, drawing in openly fascist groups like Right Sector and Svoboda.

When eastern provinces of Ukraine defied the coup leaders and their “ethnic cleansing” program, they set up their own republics in Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass region. Clinton’s protégé Nuland has spearheaded U.S. support of the Ukrainian regime’s brutal war against these republics, which has cost many lives.

None of these Clinton ventures are crimes in the eyes of U.S. imperialism. Instead, heroes like Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden and Julian Assange are persecuted for daring to expose the U.S. government’s many crimes. Transgender activist Manning remains locked in a federal military prison for 35 years under conditions so harsh that she recently tried to commit suicide. That effort reminds us that progressives must push so much harder for her freedom.

Wall Street wants the working-class and oppressed people to choose between the racist demagogue Donald Trump and the war criminal Clinton. The only real choice for us is whether to continue down capitalism’s dead-end path, or to struggle to overturn this oppressive system once and for all. □

# Rich benefit from Cuomo ‘jobs program’

By Chris Fry

Workers have had to fight for jobs for a long time.

In response to the economic panic and depression of 1893, a small businessman from Massillon, Ohio, named Jacob S. Coxey organized a march from Ohio to Washington, D.C., of some 500 people to demand a government jobs program. Although widely popular, this effort fell on deaf ears, and the marchers were arrested on the Capitol lawn.

During the 20th century’s Great Depression, after tremendous struggles in the U.S. by unions and unemployed workers, the Works Progress Administration was established. Millions were hired at living wages to build hospitals, schools, museums, roads and other public facilities, as well as to work in the theater and the arts.

But for the last few decades, the capitalist class and their political minions from both bourgeois parties in federal, state and local governments have shifted strategies. Their “new” method to create jobs is to shower corporations with tax breaks and subsidies to coax them to hire workers. One such program was started in 2013 with great fanfare by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Called “Start-Up NY,” this scheme provides corporations a tax-free ride for 10 years, with no corporate, sales, property, state or local taxes if they set up shop near specified State University of New York and City University of New York campuses in some 365 tax-free zones.

Cuomo said that this program would “supercharge” the economy. This was a “game-changing initiative” that would bring job creation to an unprecedented new level. A \$211 million contract was signed with the advertising firm BBDO to tout the program.

## Austerity, not relief for New York state workers, oppressed

The results? Start-Up NY generated just 76 jobs in 2014. The public was told that this was just a “slow startup” of the program — that soon thousands of jobs would be created.

On July 2 this year, the state announced that just 332 jobs were created thanks to the program in 2015. So over two full years, just 408 new jobs were created and the wages amounted to \$32.3 million — just a fraction of the money sent to Madison Avenue businesses to advertise the program. Most of the companies participating in this program simply shifted their operations from one region of the state to another to take advantage of the tax savings.

The Start-Up NY boondoggle is just one more example of the generous “corporate welfare” payments by New York state. Some \$7 billion is given each year as business subsidies, including “tax exemptions, tax credits, grants, tax-exempt bonds and discounted land to corporations, ostensibly in the name of job creation, economic growth and improved quality of life for all New Yorkers.” These gifts have increased each year since Cuomo took office. But much of this money is wasted, and some resulted in actual job losses, as “with little accountability, businesses often take the money and run.” ([alignny.org](http://alignny.org), Dec. 8, 2013)

Cuomo has implemented a package of corporate tax cuts that eliminates the separate bank tax and a “corporate tax reform” that reduces the corporate tax rate,

eliminates the capital base alternative tax and the tax on manufacturers, and provides property tax relief to manufacturers.

For the workers and oppressed in New York, the operating word is not relief but austerity. Reports by the Fiscal Policy Institute in 2015 and 2016 state:

- State spending on local assistance for social welfare, public health, housing programs and people with disabilities has fallen by 10 percent or more in inflation-adjusted terms since Cuomo took office.
- State-funded school aid is 9 percent, or \$2 billion, lower in inflation-adjusted terms than in 2011. State aid as a percent of total school spending is at historic lows.
- State support for SUNY has declined by almost 36 percent since 2007-08, adjusting for inflation.
- State and local government employment in New York state has fallen by 74,000 since 2008, with tens of thousands of elementary and secondary school teachers and other school workers losing their jobs as well as cutbacks in services such as libraries, parks, youth and senior programs.
- Thirteen percent was cut from the Office of Children and Family Services.
- Cuts totaling \$485 million have been proposed for CUNY schools for 2016-17. ([fiscalspolicy.org](http://fiscalspolicy.org), February 2015)

Cuomo is considered a liberal Democrat. The Cuomo program of giveaways to big business and cutbacks for the workers and poor has been a fabulous success — for the rich! In 2014, the last year measured for the U.S. as a whole, the top 1% received 21 percent of all income. In New York state, they grabbed 30 percent of all income. In New York City alone, the heart of U.S. finance capital, they took a staggering 39 percent of the city’s entire income.

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 highest concentrations 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:

*Continued from page 7*

in 150 countries. The ITF says “the global union movement we represent, stands shoulder-to-shoulder” with workers in the U.S. in mourning and in calling for accountability. ([tinyurl.com/gsnt3oo](http://tinyurl.com/gsnt3oo), July 8)

## 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



# BDS to RE/MAX: No stolen homes!



Fayetteville, N.Y., July 15.

WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
Fayetteville, N.Y.

An international campaign of “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” against Israeli apartheid is challenging real estate giant RE/MAX to stop selling houses in occupied Palestine.

On July 15, a coalition of Palestine supporters carried the campaign to a RE/MAX franchise in Fayetteville, N.Y., an affluent suburb of Syracuse. The action was co-sponsored by Ithaca Code Pink, the Palestine Solidarity Collective of Syracuse and the Syracuse Peace Council/Justice for Palestine Committee.

The “Remodel RE/MAX” campaign, launched by Code Pink in 2014, emphasizes that the corporation profits from

sales in illegal settlements: “By advertising, selling and renting homes in settlements, both the Israeli franchise of RE/MAX and RE/MAX LLC, the owner of the global franchise network, facilitate and benefit from the transfer of Israeli civilians into occupied [Palestinian] territory and the associated human rights abuses.” (remodelremax.org)

A local RE/MAX representative, disclaiming all responsibility, rejected the organizers’ attempt to present him with a petition bearing more than 2,500 signatures. The RE/MAX franchise called the local police, but demonstrators persisted in the narrow public right-of-way separating them from traffic.

Hundreds of rush-hour commuters got an eyeful of the protesters. □

## 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 her hospitalization. The lawyers, Chase Strangio, Vincent Ward and Nancy Hollander, said they had not been able to communicate with Manning for several days. On July 11, Manning finally talked to her lawyers. They released this state-



Chelsea Manning contingent at San Francisco Pride, 2014.

ment at her request:

“After not connecting with Chelsea for over a week, we were relieved to speak with her this morning. Though she would have preferred to keep her private medical information private, and instead focus on her recovery, the government’s gross breach of confidentiality in disclosing her personal health information to the media has created the very real concern that they may continue their unauthorized release of information about her publicly without warning. Due to these circumstances, Chelsea Manning requested that we communicate with the media and 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 us, hearing Chelsea’s voice after learning that she had attempted to take her life last week was incredibly emotional. She is someone who has fought so hard for so many issues we care about and we are honored to fight for her freedom and medical care.” (chelseamanning.org)

Because of Manning’s principled actions, courage and integrity, the mili-

tary has never let up on its campaign of harassment. She was held in solitary confinement under 24-hour guard for nine months in the Marine Corps brig at Quantico, Va. She wrote about her experience in an op-ed in the May 2 Guardian, concluding that this horrific practice should be ended.

Last August, the military punished Manning for violating prison rules, such as having “unauthorized reading material” — LGBTQ publications, which she received through the prison mail system — and asking to speak to her lawyers. It was Manning’s determination and mass support that prevented her from being sentenced to “indefinite solitary confinement.” Her advocates delivered petitions containing 100,000 signatures to the Army’s congressional liaison office in Washington.

Moreover, Manning has had to struggle with the military to receive proper medical care since revealing that she is transgender, even filing a lawsuit with the ACLU’s assistance.

### ‘Unprecedented’ sentence for a whistleblower

In May, Manning’s attorneys submitted an appeal to the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in Fort Belvoir, Va., calling for her conviction to be overturned and her prison term commuted or

reduced. The document said the 35-year sentence was “grossly unfair and unprecedented.” The appeal, which was posted on May 19 at the Fight for the Future website, asserts that “no whistleblower in American history has been sentenced this harshly.” Several civil liberties and human rights organizations submitted supporting briefs.

Manning has said that what has sustained her is the support from her friends, family and millions of people around the world. Now, it is crucial to send letters of solidarity to this hero. It matters.

Manning tweeted through a friend on July 11: “I am okay. I’m glad to be alive. Thank you all for your love. I will get through this.” This message, along with notes of affection, solidarity and calls for her release, are posted at #standwithchelsea. One friend wrote, “Chelsea Manning’s name is honored by people who love truth, justice and peace.”

Four days later, Manning tweeted @xychelsea, “I am getting your love through letters and cards. There are so many pieces of mail! I am getting better each day. Thank you.”

Address mail to Manning exactly as follows:

Chelsea E. Manning 89289  
1300 North Warehouse Road  
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304.

## Labor against racism

*Continued from page 10*  
of his union. But all over the U.S., cops and prison guard groups are admitted as “unions” into organized labor.

Castile’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 Appalachian Workers Alliance delivered a powerful 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. 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.”

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

Sara Catalinotto, Gerry Scoppettuolo and Scott Williams contributed to this report.

## What next for the Sanders Campaign

*Continued from page 5*

all must be in charge of their fate. They must not have to rely on capitalist politicians who serve the rich to determine what happens to them, while year after year they try to survive and can gain only the most meager concessions.

For there to be a political revolution in the United States, there has to be a social revolution. The capitalist class, its state, its property, its machine will have to be broken up. The vast resources in wealth 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, that will be a genuine political revolution.

A party that advocates and fights precisely 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 struggle for revolutionary socialism, solidarity with the workers and oppressed at home and abroad, become part of the Moorehead-Lilly campaign: #socialists4blacklives on Twitter and Monica Moorehead & Lamont Lilly 2016 on Facebook. □





**Moorehead-Lilly '16**  
por la presidenta y el vicepresidente  
PARTIDO MUNDO OBRERO/WORKERS WORLD PARTY

## 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 recuperase 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 topa con la oportunidad de hablar ante un micrófono estaba deseoso de expresar su solidaridad con la policía, llamar a todo el mundo para que apoyara a la policía y amonestar al movimiento para que detuviera su "retórica anti-policía". Va a haber muchísimo 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 muertos.

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



5.000 personas al movimiento vidas negras importan en la ciudad de Inglewood en el condado de Los Ángeles el 10 de julio.



Las marchas en el aniversario de la muerte de Anastasio Hernández Rojas que en 2010 fue torturado hasta morir por una docena de agentes en el paso fronterizo de San Ysidro, en San Diego.

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 culparnos y detenernos".

Incluso atletas de alto perfil como Carmelo Anthony, Serena Williams y Colin



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 descom-

posición, 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 son 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 blancas/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. □



Comité Organizador de Trabajadores Agrícolas (FLOC) AFL-CIO