Stay in the streets

Combat Trump, confront Clinton

By Workers World staff
Philadelphia

July 26, 6 p.m. — The DNC Black Resistance March this afternoon streamed out of North Philadelphia, a neighborhood of historic resistance by the Black community. Protesters headed downtown to City Hall on their way to meet up with the Shut Down the DNC march.

The two groups were to converge on the Democratic Party National Convention, where a political party at the service of big money gathered in a venue named for an international bank, the Wells Fargo Center.

REAL Justice Philly opened with a fiery rally before the Black Resistance March stepped off. Speakers clarified the relation between racist police violence and imperialist state violence, with slogans like: “This is an anti-police rally!” and “Clinton has blood on her hands!” Veterans for Peace underlined the connection with a banner reading simply: “Black Lives Matter.”

The uncle of Oscar Grant, killed by cops at Fruitvale Station in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2008, said to the crowd: “Police are here to serve and protect the racist state, not the people.

Continuing to challenge racist state terror, Aja Khalif, the cousin of Brandon Tate-Brown, killed by Philly cops in 2014, shouted: “This is a revolutionary march!”

Speakers read out the names of people murdered by cops, which were then carried in the march. Bold banner slogans at the forefront included, “We have nothing to lose but our chains.” Many struggles were represented, including the Free Palestine movement, Puerto Rican independence, and opposition to the normalization in the Temple University friendship.

Signs to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black revolutionary journalist and political prisoner, recalled his unflinching response to being sent to the death row. Signs demanded the end of the so-called “second police state,” which was then carried in the march. Bold banner slogans on the 1985 military-style police bombing of the Black Liberation MOVE community house. The cop assault then incinerated an entire Philadelphia city block and killed 11 MOVE people, including five children.

When the Black Resistance March and Shut Down the DNC joined forces at City Hall, powerful fight-back messages of unity continued at a street rally. The crowd shouted, “No justice for the Black, no justice for the Brown, what are we gonna do? Shut it down! Shut it down!”


Lamont Lilly, the vice presidential candidate of Workers World Party, emphasized: “The problem is not ‘Black-on-Black crime.’ It’s the white supremacist state.”

Workers World Party presidential candidate Monica Moorehead told the marchers: “We have to stay in the streets to defend Black Lives Matter, stop deportations and to fight for a socialist future. You can’t reform the police. We must stay in the streets during the whole campaign and after the election.”

Then the powerful gathering of some thousands did just that — took to the streets again, marching to confront the DNC.

The DNC & big money

July 26 — The Democratic National Convention has barely begun, and it is already quite clear that a large number of people who had hoped that the Sanders campaign would push the Democratic Party to the left and give people a chance to vote in November for real change are not just disillusioned, they are hopping mad.

They should be.

The familiar stench of capitalist politics drifts over the convention. The commandos of big money are being carried out behind the scenes through an opaque alchemy brewed by a tightly controlled political machine.

The Democratic Party, especially since the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt, has posed as the champion of the working class. In reality, the image of the party remains.

And so it is that the convention, which has so many working-class delegates, a good number of them union activists, people of color and immigrants, and working-class delegates, a good number of them union activists, people of color and immigrants, and activists of Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia, ICE-Free NYC, Freedom Road Socialist Organization and Temple University Students for Justice in Palestine. Members of the Peoples Power Assemblies spoke out against police targeting trans people, especially trans women of color.

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WWP CANDIDATES
#Socialists4BlackLives

Who’s behind Trump, besides Trump?

Black and Brown unity

Defend the police

WNBA concedes to pro-BLM players

Communist Party of Turkey on coup
Packed meeting hears about revolutionary socialism

By Taryn Fivek
Cleveland

This abridged report about protests at the Republican National Convention is from a writer traveling “across the United States, speaking with the working class and people living on the margins about what challenges and struggles they face living in the U.S.” Check her website for the full contact sheet and links.

A crowd of several hundred people moves down St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland holding signs and chanting slogans. They are calling for an end to police brutality, race and homophobia, sexism and capitalism.

They cry out in unison: “The whole damn system is guilty as hell!”

A line of cops on bicycles protests from the crowd of people, and there is a snappling close-up of signs and people they think will get the most hits, the most retweets.

While most journalists are a world away at the Quicken Loans Arena, the Black on Black Center on Kipling Avenue in East Cleveland is filled to capacity. There’s no A/C, so people bring in fans. The local Food Not Bombs/Seeds of Peace collective provides vegan sandwiches.

The audience sits packed together for three hours in the stifling heat to listen to Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly speak. They are the Workers World Party candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

Moorehead/Lilly platform

The Moorehead/Lilly platform addresses how the Trump campaign has given the light green to racists and xenophobes, and talks about the deepening crisis and its relation to racism. November 8 will come and go, but people bring in fans. The local Food Not Bombs/Seeds of Peace collective provides vegan sandwiches.

Some revolutionaries, quote-unquote, have been a little critical of that. But you use every weapon, every platform, every tool you have to reach the masses and raise consciousness. The Black Panther Party also used candidates, and we certainly would not question their pedigree.

Lamont agrees. “We’re a party talking about revolutionary change — not reformist, not bandaid on broken bones. Dismantling the system from the root to the fruit and placing the oppressed at the forefront. The bosses don’t want you to hear about that.”

“In Rockford, Illinois, working-class Black folk said: ‘We came because we wanted to hear what you all had to say. The other candidates sure as hell aren’t speaking to our issues and our conditions.’”

We wanted to lend a revolutionary voice to the Black Lives Matter movement, along with defending immigrants and a general program of replacing capitalism with socialism.

“We wanted to show our solidarity. It doesn’t change our view of the capitalist elections. We still feel they’re fraudulent, that they’re not going to change anything fundamentally for the better.”

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To Cleveland meeting.

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Who’s really behind Trump, besides Trump

By Deirdre Griswold

The Republican National Convention produced as many flat-lay as lies there are flies on a dunghill. Quite a few of the lies had a certain capitalist media. But there’s one lie regarding Donald Trump and his followers that gets repeated as good coin by those who know little. It’s that Trump’s constituents are workers. That his rabid, bigoted trash talks ring a bell with white workers, who are unedu- cated and underpaid. Well, that’s a lie of hocheo. The people who cheered Trump at the RNC are racist and anti-immigrant, all right, but they’re not the ones who are feeling the real economic pain of a system that has impoverished so many while widely enriching the very, very, very few on top, including Trump.

When Trump rails about immigrants taking “American” jobs, and the crowd chezing around him all day long to work as nannies, or pick crops, or be day laborers, or toil in a factory that will soon shut down because the company moves its plant overseas?

No, the RNC delegates who were so enamored of Trump were not under-paid or unemployed workers. After the prima- ries, it was pointed out that the people who voted for Trump were a bit richer than the rest of us, with an annual median household income of $72,000, whereas the median household income in 2014 of $53,657. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014)

Other Republican primary voters had even more money. They were those who voted for Kasich clocked in at $91,000, for instance. So it’s true that within the Repub- lican electorate, Trump appealed to the middle class. But this is a value judgment of this multimillionaire is definitely not in the working class. See “The Mythology of Trump’s. Working Class Support,” tinyurl.com/jk3p2of4.

In 2011, half the people in the U.S. had a median household income of less than $50,000. One quarter of U.S. households took in less than $25,000 a year, and they were generally headed by women and/or people of color. By the time, then, workers in- comes have risen only slightly.

Trump delegates unawkwarded

The delegates who cast ballots for Trump at the convention were of course, not the same people whom those who voted for him in the prima- ries. It takes money to be a Republican delegate. The party’s California delegates were advised that their accommodations alone would cost them $3,000 and $6,000. They stayed at hotels where rooms ranged between $300 and $400 a night. (cagop.org/national-delegation)

And there was plenty of winning and losing going on also as tax trans- portation costs. In that one week of re- actionary frenzy, a delegate could easily have dropped what it would take a low- wage worker or two months to earn. Of course, if the delegates played their cards right, someone with more money might eventually pick up their tab. Or the money might have been paid less because of this country’s legacy of underpaid Asian white workers. But looking at who came out for Sanders and Clinton, it is clear that good white workers have not bought into Trump. And his standing with Black and Brown workers is of course in the sub-basement.

Trump’s program, if it can even be called that, since he appears to be making it up as he goes along, is to capitalize on the mass hunger of the middle class who had dreams of becoming as rich as he is, but saw their ambitions thwarted by the crisis that began in 2008, just around the time that Obama was elected president. How convenient for Trump that he could blame the first Black president for a capitalist downturn that had nothing to do with Obama, even conservative Democrats didn’t even have to say “Black” or “immi- grant” (which Trump insinuates with his “sharia” nonsense) that Obama’s or they had to do was mention Obama’s name to evoke the most disgusting displays of concentrated racist hatred.

The Trump campaign has given a green light to the misogynists, the rac- isms, the flag wave rs, the “law and order” cheerleaders for police brutality. That is its main danger — ratifying and encour- aging a return to the “good old days” that unfortunately aren’t over. Even the Nazis and Klan have scuttled out of the wood- work under Trump’s protection. David Duke, a notorious former Klan grand wizard, got into the spotlight by endors- ing Trump and then announced his candidacy for the Senate. Trump, asked if he would repudiate Duke’s support, pre- tended that he knew nothing.

Trump is trying to capitalize on reac- tion to the progress that has been made against oppression after decades of mass struggle. This comes at the same time when Black Lives Matter, the move- ment for LGBTQ rights, the struggles against deportations and mass incarcer- ation, the women’s movement for repro- ductive freedom and the low-wage work- ers’ movement all have fought and raised consciousness, resulting in some legal gains. But that has raised, but enough to in- flame the right wing.

Trump, Clinton and the Pentagon

The one area where Trump has mouthed sentiments that seem to go against this grain is the military. Unlike all other imperialist candidates who continue to demand back troops fighting abroad, kind of humping it in with ending or “re-negotiating” trade agreements.

What Trump would really do as presi- dent is another thing. The U.S. imperialist state relies heavily on its ability to create havoc around the world to pave the way for super-exploitation by transnational capi- talist enterprises established here. It also provides contracts worth hundreds of bil- lions of dollars to the politically powerful merchants of death. But right now Trump seems to be tapping into war-weariness, among even those who might be consid- ered a bastion of pro-war sentiment.

Of course, part of this is undoubtedly to outflank Hillary Clinton, who is a prov- ing ground for the hateful right wing. The one bright spot in this election cy- cle is the determination of the progres- sive movements to stay in the streets and not be cowed by threats or persuaded by their “friends” that militancy is “count- erproductive to the success” for Hillary Clinton in the RNC and, as we are writ- ing this, in Philadelphia at the DNC are strong and underscore that it is the strug- gle itself that the capitalist two-party elect- ion that will bring to birth a better future.

Right on to that. ☐

STAT on the march

Protests Islamophobia at RNC

By Susan Schnur

Cleveland

In a powerful response to the anti-Mus- lim bigotry continually stoked by Donald Trump, a group of doctors, nurses, health care workers, immigrant rights activists and others marched together on the last day of the Republican National Conven- tion. The action was organized by STAT (Stand Together Against Trump), first the Trump campaign, then the Cleveland in March. “STAT” is a common medical term used in an emergency situa- tion to mean “instantly” or “urgent.”

This march and its membership as “young professionals whose work regu- larly brings together individuals from races, religions and genders that are frequently insulted and scapegoated by Donald Trump.” For many of the young people who make up the group, protest in public and marching July 21 in Cleveland at the RNC was a new expe- rience. But they formed a solid coalition, including Latino/a activists, to push back the racist, Islamophobic and anti-immi- grant agenda of the capitalistic right wing.

After 1,000 people marched with STAT across the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge, a ra- rely was held later that evening at Public Square, the site of many protest activities during the RNC. ☐

Continued from page 2

sailing toward the nomination. And she didn’t seem to have political up- ping against capitalism. There was a move- ment behind Sanders of mainly young white people organizing on the streets. Wall Street movement. But the Sanders campaign didn’t deal with the issues of police brutality or fighting racism.

“He said the data came out in defense of Black Lives Matter and against police repression because it would be ‘divisive.’ Divisive toward who? We feel just the op- positie. It can build solidarity and unity.

“He wanted to deal mainly with the class issue. It is the central issue in this op- position. The action was organized by STAT during the RNC. After 1,000 people marched with STAT across the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge, a rally was held later that evening at Public Square, the site of many protest activities during the RNC.

PHOTO STAND TOGETHER AGAINST TRUMP
Electrical Workers BDS solidarity upheld

By Sue Davis

Last August the United Electrical Workers took a brave stand for international solidarity at their national convention by adopting a resolution endorsing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement to pressure Israel to end the occupation of Palestine and negotiate a peace agreement.

Last October the Israeli law firm Shurat Hadin filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board claiming that the resolution violated U.S. labor law against "secondary boycotts." The union countered the charge as a violation of its First Amendment rights.

On Jan. 12, the NLRB dismissed the charge, but Shurat Hadin appealed. On May 26 the appeal was denied.

In a press release issued July 23, UE National President Peter Knowlton said the union, the first in the U.S. to join the BDS movement, welcomed the labor board's decision. He noted UE had "withstood at attempts by the U.S. government to silence us during the McCarthy era in the 1950s" and was "unbowed by the latest attempt to stifle our call for justice for Palestinians and Israelis.

Knowlton added, "The NLRB's decision is a victory for the growing BDS movement across the U.S., which faces increasing political attempts to silence and intimidate critical of the Israeli government. As Americans who have a constitutional right to criticize our own government, we certainly have a right to criticize and, if we choose, boycott a foreign government that is heavily subsidized by U.S. taxpayers."

Airport workers walk out, win meeting

By Joe Piette

Philadelphia

July 23 — Over 600 workers and their supporters took over three of the four lanes of the departures roadway at the Philadelphia International Airport for two hours on July 19 as they walked from the A Terminal to the F Terminal.

Marching behind a huge banner that read "Respect Black Workers," they demonstrated what might happen if up to 2,000 airport workers go on strike during the Democratic Party Convention July 25-28.

The strike threat compelled Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, both Democrats and Clinton supporters, to pressure American Airlines to meet with workers and Service Employees International Union (SEIU Local 32BJ) officials.

Gabe Morgan, 32BJ vice president, announced on July 22 that there would be no strike, explaining, "American Airlines has committed to ensuring that subcontracted workers have a fair process to form their union." American Airlines operates 70 percent of flights at Philadelphia International.

As a result, the CEO of Sakuma Farms had finally agreed to negotiate with union organizers.

A large majority of the protestors were Black and Brown workers. They demand a $15-an-hour minimum wage, affordable health care, vacation days, better scheduling and the right to unionize. Many women workers participated, leading chants, holding up the lead banner and giving speeches.

An earlier campaign that included four short strikes, numerous rallies and even taking over City Hall won the rights to join the BDS movement, welcomed the labor board's decision.

As RNC opens — 1,000 march

By Ben Carroll

Cleveland

On the opening day of the Republican National Convention, the Coalition to Dump Trump and March on the RNC led 1,000 people in a spirited march through downtown Cleveland to near the site of the convention.

Following the July 18 demonstration included representatives from the New Students for a Democratic Society, the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee, the Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, the International Action Center, the Anti-War Committee and Workers World Party, among many others. A statement was read on behalf of Rasmee Odeh, a Palestinian freedom fighter living in the U.S. who has been the target of political repression by the U.S. government.

"We say no to the attacks on immigrants, on Muslims! Vote no to Trump greening flight police killings!" said Mick Kelly, an organizer with the Coalition to March on the RNC, in the opening rally. He continued, "We say no to an agenda of war and austerity! We are united in promoting peace, justice and equality. In the period ahead, we have some real challenges — challenges that we are going to rise to!"

The march took the streets of downtown Cleveland with militant chants denouncing the demagoguery and racism of Trump and the right wing.
Black & Brown unity: a powerful force

By Teresa Gutierrez

Karl Marx wrote that the capitalist class would create its own gravediggers. Black and Brown folks will assuredly be some of those gravediggers. The rampant terrorism against Black people by the police in this country has forever exposed their role in capitalist society. The police exist to defend the capitalist’s private property and protect the interests of the bosses and corporations over those of the workers. Moreover, because racism is essential to upholding capitalism, cops serve as a violent occupation force in communities of oppressed people. The masses of people have seen the real role of the police, and their “awakening” will lead to powerful, fundamental changes.

Not too long ago it would have been unimaginable that the slogans “abolish the police” or “disarm the police” would resonate with so many people. But now they do. Sooner or later, the idea of abolishing the capitalist system altogether will also arise.

1960s: years of struggle and solidarity

Unity between Black and Brown people in this country is not new. In the 1960s, the Black Panther Party inspired similar formations among Brown people. In solidarity with the Black Panthers’ 1969 “Wall of Fire” — the American Indian Movement and the Young Indians/Indigenous peoples and Puerto Ricanas formed the Brown Berets, the American Indian Movement and the Young Lords, respectively, to defend their people against racism. Asians also organized in this period. For example, the role of Filipino migrant workers in the California farmworkers’ struggles is indelible. These multinational organizations met, worked and marched together. Great love and solidarity were built. Many Brown people recognized the special role that the Black Liberation Movement played and looked to it for leadership.

Today, the struggle against racism and for self-determination manifests itself differently. A question trending in social and mainstream media is: “Why aren’t Latino victims of police brutality covered as those of Black people?” Bemoaning the lack of coverage of police violence against Latinos — or posing the question in a way that, even if unintentionally, pits the Latinx and Black communities against each other — is not what is needed.

Latinxs and Indigenous people are being shot and killed in the streets by police terrorists. What is necessary is to use these cases to show how cops occupy Brown communities, too, and to build Black and Brown unity against each other — is not what is needed.

Kenya Downs reported July 14 on the PBS Newshour: “While blacks and Hispanics have interactions with police at rates proportional to their population, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, both groups are overrepresented when it comes to traffic searches and arrests. Hispanics, for example, make up 17.6 percent of the U.S. population but represent 23 percent of all searches and nearly 30 percent of arrests.”

Douglass continues: “Among minorities, the rate of police killings for Latinos is second to those of African Americans. As of today, an estimate of 113 Latinx have been killed by police in 2016 alone, making up 16 percent of the 585 police-involved killings this year. In contrast, people who are black or African-American are only 13.3 percent of the U.S. population, but 144 black and African Americans have been killed by police in 2016. At 25 percent, those deaths represent a disproportionate number of officer-involved fatalities compared to the population.”

One of those Latinx-Inxs shot by racist police was Melisa Santana, who was killed in her home in Yuma, Ariz., on July 5. She was shot by two sheriff’s deputies who were responding to a domestic disturbance call. Ventura was the mother of three, including a two-month-old baby. Her family said Ventura had a history of mental challenges. She had opened the door to the police while wielding a knife.

How two grown men could not defend themselves against a woman in distress exposes the cops’ attitude toward workers, especially workers of color, as a threat, no matter what the conditions are.

The heinous acts of terror by police against Latinx go on. Jesseon Scott Ramirez, unarmed and defenseless, was shot and killed in Arvin, CA on June 11. Douglas, Wyo. It is common for police around the country to serve warrants at funerals, which is blatantly insensitive, to say the least.

Also, the Free Thought Project website reports, “While Native Americans only make up 0.8 percent of the population, they make up 19 percent of all police killings.”

2006: upsurge of migrant workers

The powerful movements of the 1960s and 1970s of Black and Latinx people were manifested as anti-colonial struggles. The struggle against racism takes another form today.

For Latinxs, it is manifested primarily through the struggle of immigrants, who began the powerful upsurge of migrant workers in 2006. The main issue as portrayed in the media has been the struggle against deportations and raids that have devastated the communities.

It should be pointed out that not all Latinxs are immigrants. Many have been in the U.S. for decades, even centuries; Puerto Rico was the first direct U.S. colony in the Americas.

Raúl Alcaraz-Ochoa and Jorge Gutierrez wrote a thought-provoking letter entitled “Open Letter to the Immigrant Rights Movement.” It should be read by every Latinx and immigrant rights activist. (See tinyurl.com/hmzx0j8.) They argue that anti-Blackness is a thread among immigrants and explain why this is so.

It comes from a historically different context, from not understanding U.S. culture and the role of capitalist society and its rulers.

The authors point out that a common slogan in the early days of the immigrant rights movement was: “We are not criminals.” However, they say that while this could be interpreted as being against the Black community, in fact, this slogan specifically addressed the 2005 Sensenbrenner legislation that was aimed to criminalize immigrant workers. Nonetheless, these words were easily misinterpreted — unless it was pointed out that the real criminals are on Wall Street.

Another early slogan in the immigrant rights movement was: “We are all immigrants.” More experienced activists pointed out that not everyone in this country is an immigrant. The ancestors of most Black people in the U.S. were brought here in chains, enslaved, against their will. Later on, this slogan was not as visible, which indicates some advancement in the struggle.

The immigrant rights movement has come a long way since 2006. Despite ups and downs, massive deportations and the failure to win legalization for the undocumented, an important lesson has been learned.

Activists who counted on the Democratic Party learned that strategy was completely flawed. President Barack Obama has deported more workers than any other president in U.S. history. Despite the well-meaning but weak efforts of some Democrats, the right wing won the day. Activists learned that Democrats would go only so far, however, as they are ultimately beholden to those who write their checks.

Shut the system down!

This lesson has radicalized large sections of the movement, especially the youth. As one Latina youth declared on a placard at a recent anti-Trump protest, “Liberation, not deportation!” This is an advanced formulation: Undocumented workers, especially young people, are here to stay, and will fight for emancipation, not just for papers.

So here is where the gravediggers come in. Black youth and workers have been reminded once again that capitalism offers them nothing. The knowledge that the very institutions and officials who are supposed to “protect and serve” are doing the opposite is a powerful tool.

That the capitalist state through the government has defended every killer cop blatantly shows that only the people can find solutions to police terror.

Moreover, immigrants have learned that even though they create great wealth for the capitalists, when there is an economic crisis, they are no longer wanted.

Herein lies the contradiction: Capitalist oppression has created its own gravediggers. Black and Brown people, especially the youth, are pissed as hell and are saying, “We are going to shut sh*t down!”

Black and Brown people together are a force so powerful they cannot be stopped — no matter who has the guns. That unified force is joined by millions of white workers who also see no future in this system and are coming forward to defend solidarity with Black Lives Matter, as they fight for their interests, too — to bring this system down. A new day is definitely around the corner.

Immigrant rights activists— ‘Wall Off Trump!’

By Martha Grevatt

Cleveland

Among the most creative and militant protests during the Republican National Convention was a “wall” of fabric worn by demonstrators as they marched together. Great love and solidarity were built.

Activists wall off Trump’s anti-immigrant racism at the RNC.

“We’re here to give Trump the wall he wanted,” said Ívan Vargas, an undocumented immigrant who traveled from Georgia in the U.S. South. (Think Progress, July 20)
MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES:

Defend and disempower the police!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

On July 20-21, the Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of the three organizations — Black Lives Matter, the Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) and the Million Hoods — launched U.S.-wide protests to defend police departments and require direct money to community needs.

Coordinated under the banner #Freedonnow, the new wave of protests is targeting police organizations and “law enforcement industry groups” that defend state-sanctioned police terror and racism.

The protests are a militant answer to vicious attacks on the Black Lives Matter movement by police groups, corporate media and ruling-class politicians following the shooting of cops in Dallas on July 7 and Baton Rouge, La., on July 17. A July 18 videocast that showed a cop shooting Charles Kinsey, an African-American disability therapist, once again illustrated the need for continued fightback against systemic racist police terror. Kinsey had gone to the aid of a client, diagnosed with autism, who had wandered from his group home. The police were called to the scene by someone’s false report of “danger.”

Kinsey lay on his back near his client, hands in the air, explaining calmly that neither he nor his patient was a threat. They drove off in a SWAT team member, shot him anyway.

The #Freedonnow protests dramatized the stark difference in government funding given to community-serving jobs like Kinsey’s and the money that goes to murde
erous, militarized police departments. In a Colorlines statement, organizers said: “Billions of dollars are spent on failed policing strategies, while U.S. education, health and housing crumbles; prisons are growing while earning opportunities dwindle. At the federal level, criminally negligent police departments continue to receive billions in grants and funding.”

In Durham, N.C., 400 people, called out by Black Lives Matter and the Durham Beyond Policing coalition, shut down city streets. Protesters said “no” to a new $74 million police headquarters, a $60 million annual police budget and continued targeting of immigrants by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They said “yes” to “meaningful investment in restorative justice programs and community needs that actually keep people safe,” including mental health care and housing.

They demanded the City Council “disarm, defend and disempower the police” and “fund Black futures.”

Durham’s broad coalition includes SayHerName; BYP100; Southerners on New Ground; United Electrical Workers Local 190; Public Service Workers; Black Workers for Justice; Stand Up for Racial Justice; Jewish Voice for Peace; and Workers World Party.

In Washington, D.C., BYP100, Black Lives Matter and Million Hoods blockaded the national legislative office of the Fraternal Order of Police for 13 hours. Activists demanded police officers cease paying dues and break ties to the FOP.

In New York City, the local BYP100 and Million Hoods occupied the “Fraternal Benevolence Association,” which represents NYC Police Department cops. Ten people were arrested as they demanded justice for Delrawn Small killed by a paternal’s Benevolent Association, and the future of our movement, which is intensifying the challenge to the structural role of police in maintaining an oppressive system. As the movement against racist state police terror expands, that challenge is growing. In our campaign we say: Defund and disempower the police! On to disarming and abolishing the police.”

Kathy Durkin, Terri Kay and Dante Strobino contributed to this article.

PEOPLE’S POWER ASSEMBLIES

A people’s movement

Statement issued by the People’s Power Assemblies of New York City on Dallas and the future of our movement, which was reaffirmed after Baton Rouge, La.

As #BlackLivesMatter activists, we are always being asked to condemn violence. Let it be clear: We have consistently condemned violence.

We have condemned the violence of police brutality that has unapologetical ly and without punishment robbed Black women, trans people, children and men of their lives.

We have condemned the violence of a criminal legal system that policies, punishments and court proceedings are part of.

We have condemned the violence of disproportionate militarized policing that has decimated families and communities of color. We have condemned the violence of a racialized system that policies, sentences and crimi nalizes Black bodies at higher rates.

We have condemned the whole of a system for its complicity in housing discrimination, the school-to-prison pipeline, media stereotypes about Black people, political and legal forms of institutionalized racism and the system of unfettered capitalism that has always been depend ent on the exploitation of Black lives.

We have condemned environmental racism and forms of state neglect that have poisoned the health of our chil dren. We have condemned transphobia, ableism, sexism and racism as ad ditional and intersectional systems of oppression that dismantle the lives of the most marginal of Black people.

We have condemned fear and we have condemned hate. We have condemned imperialism and war and genocide — processes that have deprived people of color across the globe as disposable and then undesirable as immigrants and migrants.

We have condemned this country for its historic, continual and multiple forms of violence that it has waged on Black people ... and we will not leave. ... This battle is to viciously suppress work ers and oppressed people who resist the horrors that capitalism imposes on them.

The police are armed groups completely in the service of the capitalist state. Police associations like the FOP advance state violence in many ways. They lobby legislatively for the transfer of military equipment to local departments, block efforts to gather data on deaths in police custody, and help cover up cops that abuse, rape, murder, steal and worse.

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party candidate for president, told WW: “Not one cop has been convicted of any serious charge in the many recent killings by police, not even in cases where illegal actions by cops have been documented on videotape. The capitalist legal system has held that the police are ‘above the law’ because the cops’ role is first and foremost to protect the power and property of the capitalist class. Cops are exempt from punishment because they act at the behest of their capitalist masters, who ultimately determine what is ‘legal.’

“The ongoing Movement for Black Lives is intensifying the challenge to the structural role of police in maintaining an oppressive system. As the movement against racist state police terror expands, that challenge is growing. In our campaign we say: Defund and disempower the police! On to disarming and abolishing the police.”

Kathy Durkin, Terri Kay and Dante Strobino contributed to this article.
**WNBA cancels fines**

**Athletes show wide support for BLM**

By Monica Moorehead

The Republican National Convention, which nominated the white supremacist, fascist Donald Trump as its presidential candidate, has added fire under an already raging conflagration of police war against Black and Brown people. On July 18, the opening night of the RNC, Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke labeled the Black Lives Matter movement an “anarchy” and had the racist crowd cheering as he gleefully announced the third acquittal of another cop accused of murdering Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man, in Baltimore last year.

Then Trump, during his 75-minute rant on July 23 as he accepted the nomination — which took on the feel of a Ku Klux Klan rally — went on a vicious anti-immigrant tirade, along with deploring the killings of police. But of course the self-proclaimed “law and order” Trump did not mention the police killings of people of color.

Ironically, just hours earlier in New York City, the Black Youth Project 100 and Million Hoodies NYC had heroically occupied the Lower Manhattan offices of the racist Patrdigm’s Benvolent Association “to call attention to the multiple institutions that hamper police accountability in the city.” (byppno.org/media)

These groups and others are in the forefront of carrying out direct, in-your-face protests against police brutality. They promise more coordinated actions at police precincts and offices around the country — indicating they don’t give a damn about who is running in the elections.

**Refusing to be silent**

The Workers World Party 2016 election campaign issued a July 12 statement entitled “Defend Black Lives Matter, end the police war on Black and Brown people.” It reads in part: “In the aftermath of the Dallas shootings of police, the capitalist political establishment has so far not been able to freeze or push back the movement. It’s not that they haven’t tried. The pro-cop talking heads have been all over the media trying to blame and demonize the movement for cops killed in Dallas.”

The statement reinforced the fact that police war on Black and Brown people and the liberal facade of Hillary Clinton or even the ongoing police war have held back or silenced the Black Liviers Matter struggle or diminished its impact on other sectors of U.S. society that have influence on the masses.

Take sports. Professional athletes have been vocal, especially on social media, about police brutality. These include National Basketball Association players Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, Dwyane Wade and LeBron James. Quarterback Colin Kaepernick characterized the murder of Alton Sterling as a “synchrony.”

But the action that has rightfully garnered the most recent attention in the sports world and social media came from team members in the Women’s National Basketball Association. Following the Dallas shootings, members of the New York Liberty, Indiana Fever and Phoenix Mercury teams wore warm-up black T-shirts that listed the names of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, along with Black Lives Matter, on the back along with #Dallas in smaller type. On the front, the shirts read “Change Starts With Us.”

Citing a violation of league rules and uniform guidelines, the WNBA hierarchy fined the Liberty, Fever and Mercury teams $5,000 each and fined individual players $500 apiece. Once the fines were announced, players from the Liberty and the Fever carried out a “media blackout” protest — they would only take questions from the media about Black Lives Matter and their actions, not about basketball. They also created the hashtag #Wewillnotbesilenced.

When these players refused to back down, a groundswell of support exploded for them, especially on social media inside and outside the WNBA, mainly around BLM. While the WNBA is over 70 percent African American, high-profile white players such as Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart from the Seattle Storm expressed solidarity on their Twitter feeds with #BlackLivesMatter and quoted Dr. Martin Luther King’s statement: “There comes a time when silence becomes treorial.”

The Minnesota Lynx and Washington Mystics players also voiced their support for their fined sisters.

Carmelo Anthony said the fines were unjust, and the National Action Network volunteered to pay them. With so much outrage building for these players’ right to free speech, the president of the WNBA, Lisa Borders, announced July 23 that all fines would be rescinded.

Many asked the important question: Would these athletes have been fined at all if the issue of BLM had not been raised so prominently, as opposed to violence in general?

“It’s a huge win overall,” said Fever All-Star Tamika Catchings, president of the players’ union. “I think more than anything I told [Borders] at times you’re going to agree to disagree. With this, I’m really proud of the players standing strong and for utilizing their voices. Change starts with us. We have a social responsibility as well.” (espn.com, July 23)

Whether it’s with direct action by shutting down interstate police stations or the courts on the part of young Black activists or on the courts, athletes are using these arenas for their voices to be heard. And no one is waiting to see who wins the White House.

They’ll keep building a movement against unjust killings and racial profiling in general by the police.

Moorehead is the 2016 presidential candidate of Workers World Party.
NBA moves All-Star Game
Sports, solidarity and the struggle against hate

By L.T. Pham

Three months after the passage of HB2, an anti-trans, anti-worker and racist bill in North Carolina, the National Basketball Association announced it was moving its 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte, N.C. According to the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, the city is expected to lose $100 million in revenue generated by that game.

North Carolina’s reactionary governor, Pat McCrory, called the NBA’s decision, “P.C.B.S.” (politically correct bull sh-t). McCrory has been under fire following his decision to sign into law the bill. The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against the state and threatened to withhold $80 million in public education funding if the law is not repealed.

The NBA’s decision to move the All-Star Game came after companies like American Airlines and PayPal announced opposition to the law. Addison Evans, a Black trans woman, who has been beaten, sexually assaulted or died while in police custody, expressed concern about the economic impact: “Many of the people who are coming here for the NBA are market research. Many of them will never come back.” Evans added: “But these corporations also have a responsible duty to the law. Addison Evans, a Black trans woman, who has been beaten, sexually assaulted or died while in police custody, expressed concern about the economic impact: “Many of the people who are coming here for the NBA are market research. Many of them will never come back.”

The NBA’s decision to move the All-Star Game was not without its leading by example. NBA owners, in response to ongoing murders of Black men, decided to move its All-Media Game to boycott HB2, yet punished its players for standing against police brutality. What does it mean that, according to activist Richard Lapchick, almost 75 percent of NBA players are Black, 23 percent are white and about 2 percent are Latino? Obviously, the majority of the owners of the NBA are white.

It means that, while the NBA’s decision to relocate the All-Star Game is noteworthy, and sets a standard and expectation for other professional sports leagues, the power to make change lies in our building solidarity across issues and identities as workers and oppressed people.

We saw this clearly on the college level late last year when University of Mis- souri football players announced their intention to boycott an upcoming game. Their refusal to play, their withholding of labor, their protest in support of students organizing for Black Lives Matter on their campus. The powerful solidarity intensified the struggle at Mizzou and helped organizers win the resignation of Tim Wolfe, the university-system president under fire for sending racist emails.

Mizzou football players knew their power in the movement and acted despite possible adverse consequences for them. The WNBA women who stood up for Black Lives Matter made a bold decision that could impact their careers in worse than just a fine. But it is precisely this kind of bravery that is needed to build a united front against racism, homophobia and transphobia. It is this kind of bravery that reminds us that organized people’s power is what changes conditions.

Profiteers, politicians, corporations and banks do not make decisions because they want to treat the working class and oppressed better. They make calculated decisions to increase revenue, to seek new opportunities for profit. But it is the people who organize and surround these institutions — whether North Carolina’s General Assembly or the NBA — who can make the decisions of today to point in the direction of justice.

The NBA’s decision to relocate the All-Star Game should be a mandate to other professional sports leagues to boycott North Carolina. Even more, that decision should remind all workers and oppressed people that we can and must act together to fight against and be in solidarity with one another. The struggle against HB2 in North Carolina continues as young people, LGBTQ youth and people of color unite to demand an end to these institutions — whether North Carolina’s General Assembly or the NBA — who can make the decisions of today to point in the direction of justice.

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Attack on women's, African-American studies

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

At the conclusion of the spring semester, the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees announced that degree programs in African-American and Women’s Studies would be eliminated. Programs dealing with these important areas of academic research will continue on a downsized level. Degrees in philosophy and religious studies were also cut. The trustees emphasized the decision could result in employees being retrained. Prominent characteristic features of the degree programs, the WIU registrar’s office said no degree in African-American studies, only two degrees in philosophy and women's studies, and one degree in religious studies were earned by students in the current graduating class.

The decision to remove the programs prompted opposition from both faculty and students. An online petition opposing the abolition of the philosophy program collected more than 1,500 signatures. Brian Powell, an associate professor of philosophy, said this sent a message that a lot of people “recognize the value of philosophy to the university.” (Chicago Tribune, June 11)

The Peoria Journal Star pointed out: “The Board also voted to modify bilingual/bicultural education, public health, ethnomusicology and musical theater degree programs. Trustees also approved the university’s fiscal year 2017 preliminary spending plan of $221.3 million. The spending plan is a $24.6 million from fiscal year 2016 All Funds Budget.” (June 10)

Although the university trustees claimed their decision was not based on financial considerations but on lack of enrollment, the two areas of governance cannot be separated. The overall slashing of assistance programs from both the state and federal governments is a major contributing factor to setbacks in higher education institutions across the U.S.

In Illinois, the Republican governor and the Democratic leaders of the Legislature have waged pitched battles over the fiscal budget. Until a June 30 stopgap agreement, the state had gone for an entire year without an agreement on spending that impacts education, municipal and social services. WON-TV emphasized the severity of the crisis, saying renewed absence of an agreement could mean catastrophic results for public and private sectors of the economy, such as hammering investment in the state.

Nationwide decline in public funding

The situation in Illinois involving education and other public expenditures follows a pattern over the last several years of increased attacks on programs that serve African-American and Latinx youth.

“Minorities” are once again becoming the subject of ridicule and liquidation. Educational arena as a result of protests and curricula designed to correct racist and sexist approaches to instruction and research—programs introduced to the educational arena as a result of protests and debate—are again becoming the subject of ridicule and liquidation.

The need for renewed fightback

States like Arizona and Texas have placed restrictions on what can be taught about nationally oppressed groups in the public education system. Arizona House Bill 2281, passed in 2010, threatened districts with loss of funding if they did not eliminate courses in Mexican-American studies. The actions sparked a movement that insisted those programs be reintroduced into the school system. Teachers and students held classes outside the schools, igniting demonstrations that gained some results in Arizona, Texas and California.

The Atlantic magazine reported: “As the Tucson Unified School District’s governing board prepared to discuss removing Mexican-American studies from a list of classes that would count toward core requirements (seen by many as another move to demean it), nine students rushed the boardroom. They pulled chairs from around their seats. Behind a curved wood desk with microphones, they sat in the board’s rolling chairs and locked themselves in place. They pounded the table and chanted, ‘When education is under attack, what do we do? Fight back!’” (July 9, 2015)

These types of academic programs serve African Americans, Latinos/as, and other groups subjected to national and gender discrimination. The only way for the maintenance and re- introduction of the programs is through a process similar to that which originated the Supreme Court decisions between the 1960s and 1990s. Students, backed by their communities, took over buildings and shut down campuses, creating a crisis that school administrations and the broader political establishment could not ignore.

With the growth of people-of-color communities throughout the U.S. and the rapid transformation of so-called “minorities” into majorities, militant action will be required to make public education relevant to these constituencies. The struggle must be combined with the fight against austerity, which is a direct result of the crisis in modern-day capitalism and imperialism globally.

Stop the state murder of Jeff Wood

By Lucha Rodriguez
Austin, Texas

Fact: Jeff Wood is scheduled to be executed by the state of Texas on Aug. 24.

Fact: Jeff Wood has never killed anyone and didn’t know a murder was going to take place.

Fact: Jeff Wood was in his car when his friend went into a convenience store and murdered the clerk.

Fact: Texas already executed the killer, Daniel Reneau, in 2002. Reneau admitted he was the killer.

Jeff Wood’s supporters gathered July 23 at the Texas Governor’s Mansion in Austin to demand Wood’s Aug. 24 execution be stopped. Speaker after speaker demanded that Gov. Greg Abbott grant a stay of execution immediately. A large presence of state police surrounded the mansion and the rally, but the governor did not make an appearance.

Wood was charged with capital murder under Texas’ “law of parties.” That part of the state penal code holds that a person can be charged with a crime he or she didn’t commit if he or she helped or “should have anticipated it as a result of another crime, like a robbery. Based on law, Wood was sentenced to death.

Wood’s sister, Terri Beene, spoke passionately about her brother’s innocence, how he had no idea a murder was going to happen, and how he has suffered psychologically on death row for 18 years. She pleaded with the crowd to write letters to the Board of Pardons and offered samples of how to do that. Her son, Nick Beene, who along with his three brothers and other youth founded Kids Against the Death Penalty 10 years ago, spoke eloquently about his Uncle Jeff and why he should never be murdered by the state of Texas.

Wood’s elderly parents were there with other family and church members, together with activists from New York, San Diego, elsewhere in Texas and Poland. Those at the rally persisted through 103 degree heat to write messages to Wood on a roll of paper at the Abolition Movement table. It will be sent to him with the hopes the prison authorities will allow their support in.

Gloria Rubac, a leader in the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, brought three carloads of people to the rally. She explained that at this point in time the death penalty is on its way out: “Juries are not sentencing but a few people to death, executions are slowing to a crawl, execution drugs are no longer available, and more innocent people are being freed from death row.”

Rubac added, “Only in Texas is the state going full steam ahead. Jeff Wood must be executed on Aug. 24.”

We stopped Jeff’s execution in 2008, and we’re going to stop it again! The whole system is broken, and we must shut it down!”

The powerful rally was chaired by Lily Hughes, director of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, with the parents of death row prisoner Jeff Wood in front of the Governor’s Mansion.

Francisco Mendoza and Martina Grifaldo from Houston traveled to the Governor’s Mansion with the Texas Abolition Movement to call for a stay of execution for Jeff Wood.

We stopped Jeff’s execution in 2008, and we’re going to stop it again! The whole system is broken, and we must shut it down!”

The powerful rally was chaired by Lily Hughes, director of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty. Other speakers included Scott Cobb, founder of the Texas Moratorium Network.

To help stop this execution, go to SaveJeffWood.com.

Available at major online bookellers.

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead.
Peace and Dignity Journeys honor Indigenous peoples

By Gloria Verdieu
San Diego

Many people gathered in beautiful Chicano Park in San Diego, Calif., awaiting the arrival of the Peace and Dignity Journey runners on July 23. These journeys are spiritual runs which start in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, and Chickaloon, Alaska. Runners then travel through six months through hundreds of Indigenous communities, joining in their traditions. The journeys began in 1992 and take place every four years.

The 2016 theme is running for the “Seeds of Our Future” — the seeds planted in the ground and the seeds that are the future of communities.

The Border Tribal Route runners journeyed through Tijuana, Mexico, and San Ysidro’s militarized borders between Mexico and the U.S. Then the runners made several stops in San Diego County, including in Chula Vista, National City, Logan Heights and Barrio Logan. Their route joined the main route and runners at the Centro Cultural de la Raza and World Beat Center in Balboa Park. United, all runners journeyed to Chicano Park for the Closing Circle and community celebration.

Runners were scheduled to arrive at 6 p.m. a little after 5 p.m., word circulated that they were just leaving Balboa Park and would be late. San Diego Peace and Dignity organizers were busy preparing delicious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables donated by the community. On the stage the Danza Azteca Dancers and Drummers were preparing spiritually for the Closing Circle ceremony, while other attendees anxiously waited. First came the motorcycle escort that signaled the runners were in sight, and then the runners appeared carrying a banner that read “Honoring the Seeds.”

The Circle ceremony at Chicano Park was at times emotional. There were prayers for the safety of runners who were traveling on other routes, for those who had made it to this point during the week’s extreme heat and for runners who could not make it due to the heat or other unforeseen reasons. There were also prayers for the ancestors, those who came before us, and the future, those who will follow us.

The purpose of the Journeys is to unite Indigenous peoples with all peoples. At the Circle’s closing, all the runners laid down their staffs that represent prayers collected from all the communities, groups and individuals runners met during the journey. These staffs will be carried by runners for the duration of their journey. All runners will come together at the Kuna Nation in Panama City, Panama, where the many Indigenous nations from North and South America will unite.

The runners meet in the center of the two continents to fulfill the prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor. It states that all Indigenous Peoples in the Western Hemisphere shall be reunited spiritually in order to “heal our nations so we can begin to work toward a better future for our children and generations to come.”

On July 27, runners on the Calipatria Tributary Route are scheduled to journey to Calipatria State Prison and arrive by 1:30 p.m. They are “Running for Justice for Orlando Watley and all Political Prisoners.” Watley, a Chickasaw Native and Bantu African from Corcoran, Calif., was charged with crimes he did not commit and has been held captive for 23 years. For more information, see Facebook Peace and Dignity Journeys 2016 @ PDJ2016.

Lugansk
International anti-racist solidarity

In 2015, the Ghost Brigade (Prizrak) of Novorossiya created an internationalist, anti-fascist, military unit called InterUnit, which operates in the territories of the Lugansk People’s Republic. InterUnit is a military-political group composed of volunteers from around the world. This unit carries on the heritage of the Résistance against Nazism and other liberation struggles of the last century, and takes its motto from the Spanish Civil War: “No Pasaran!” (They will not pass!).

InterUnit, the internationalist group of Prizrak, has been fighting to defend the freedom of Donbas, sends its solidarity to people in the United States under attack by racist discrimination.

Once again, we see that racial hate kills people. That is the ordinary consequence of the policies of terror used by the U.S. government. People who need to be heard is very dangerous for everyone. First of all, for the people who don’t feel (and are not) safe; but also for the Power, because sometimes people rise up.

It is very sad that President Obama didn’t want to face this problem serious – ly. We see what the consequences are. But this is not the only delusion in domestic affairs: none of his promises have been kept. Also, if we look to foreign policy, we don’t find any big differences with previous presidents.

As we see, the next president can surely be worse than him, both for domestic and foreign affairs. We are very worried about things to come. But the U.S. is not the only country to do so. That is a global danger. We stand shoulder to shoulder with people who resist in every part of the world. The U.S. government must recognize that it is the only country that still has the power to refuse the generals, even at this early stage, that is a large section of the population is fed up with the status quo and looking to change things. The Sanders movement appealed to workers and low-income youths based on their class interests.

The Trump campaign is stirring up fear and anger to reinforce racism and xenophobia. Trump and his ilk want to turn them against anyone but the super-rich, who really run the show and are the cause of rising economic insecurity.

The capitalist system is in a growing crisis, as technology displaces workers and thereby threatens the very market they need to realize their profits. And the bosses always try to solve their problems on the backs of workers — a clear violation of the Constitution.

The flap over Clinton’s emails and Benghazi just underscores the fact that, as secretary of state, she was in the middle of that completely illegal assault on the sovereign state of Libya, which has since been taken over by armed mercenaries serving competing oil cliques.

The argument is already being made strenuously by the Democrats to support Clinton because the alternative, Trump, would be unthinklable. But it is a false argument. Yes, Trump is an openly racist agitator in comparison with Clinton, but voting for the Democrats will neither stop the racist police violence nor advance the struggle for urgently needed social change. That has to happen in the streets, in the workplaces, everywhere that the masses of people can be engaged to fight in their own defense against the exploiters and the masters of war.

The best outcome at the present time is that the Sanders movement, the Black Lives Matter movement, the low-wage worker movement, the LGBTQ movement, the reproductive justice movement, the movements against deportations and mass incarceration — all retain their independent strength outside the corporate parties, stay in the streets and collaborate to unite and fight this racist, oppressive, exploitive and dangerously unstable system.

Capitalism at a Dead End
Job destruction, overproduction and laissez-faire in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com Available at all major online bookstores.
July 18 CP of Turkey statement

1. The July 15th coup attempt was not a confirmation of the Russian view that Turkey is a strategically confllicting centers, but involved at least two and even more state cliques with identical class identities and ideologies. (While it is not possible that these cliques would be totally unaware of each other's plans and actions, the July 15th attempt) was not a bloody scenario planned by all of them. It was a real coup attempt.

2. The process that led to the coup has two dimensions. First, what could be described as the fight for “power” in the general sense between Erdogan supporters and the Gülen movement, which has acquired a new dimension by the recent widespread purges of Gülenists. The fight also has an international dimension, and imperialist centers are supporting these fractions.

3. That most of the officers who participated in the coup attempt are mostly Gülenists and that the Gülen movement has close connections within the U.S. are facts. The main reason that most of the high ranking officers of the Turkish Armed Forces who are frustrated with AKP did not attempt a coup is due to the support the U.S. administration has lent AKP.

4. This support has been reduced recently because of various reasons. Some elements with influence in the USA and some European countries have even started preparing for Erdogan’s purge. The uprising of the people in 2013 with the participation of millions, the damage to the interests of the systems due to the tension created by Erdogan in large sectors of the society, and finally the total fiasco of the Syrian policy deeply affected the relations between Erdogan and some imperialist countries.

5. That the coup plotters have connections abroad does not make Erdogan a patriot or anti-imperialist. As a politician, Erdogan has served the interests of the USA and international monopolies. The fact that Erdogan is not a state capitalist or that international axis does not change his class character and his ideological preferences.

6. The opinion that the country would see better days if the coup had been successful is baseless. It is obvious what a pro-American, anti-people coup would mean. It is a movement that would not only have suppressed the coup as a victory for the people and/or to celebrate it as the “festival of democracy” in the wake of the AKP.

7. The thesis claiming that the government gained more power after this coup attempt is true to a certain extent. However, he ended up with a severely damaged state apparatus.

8. Under these circumstances, Erdogan may try a purge not only of Gülenists but also of the “Kemalist” elements [the CHP] and of the army’s allegiance with the two most critical state institutions, the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and the judiciary, and rely solely on his own resources.

9. It is possible that Erdogan will make an effort to mend relations with the USA and, after a short period of terror and intimidation, reduce the internal tension; there are already some signals indicating that he is preparing to take those steps. Additionally, the expectations of CHP and HDP (Kurdish and social democratic coalition) are also in this direction.

10. In any case, there is a disintegration and a multidimensional crisis regarding the hegemony of capital. It is not this disintegration, but the unorganized state of the working class, which is actually dangerous. The major danger is the potential for the belief to become widespread that Erdogan is invincible following the coup. The AKP government has always been dangerous, and it is clear that those in the government are even more dangerous now. However, the panic environment is helping legitimize AKP’s aggression. In fact, neither the AKP nor Erdogan is as strong as claimed. The correct position is to be aware of the pending danger but not to create panic, but on the contrary, to attempt to utilize the disintegration for the benefit of the working class.

11. The AKP and fundamentalist threat should not be underestimated at all. It is clear that the period that opened with the assertion “Secularism is not under threat” carried the country to the edge of the abyss. However, there is the task of organizing a popular movement which is more potent and more “ready” to face this considerable threat. This task cannot be accomplished by whipping up panic or paralyzing long years of dormancy.

12. Under these conditions, the main source of power for AKP and Erdogan continues to be his enemies in the political system. The political establishment is facing the nightmare that the AKP has laid plans for normalizing, transforming and getting AKP to fall as line. The attitude of some politicians who claim that the “representatives of the left” in the parliament is truly remarkable and worrisome.

13. Experiences during and after the 15th of July indicate how pathological facts within the state can be. We all watched how the coup plotters knew no limits in cruelty. Then, we witnessed the ban on Turkish state and government. All these cannot be handled by the approach of “let them kill one another.” It is incorrect to explain all these cruelties as a sign of “power.” On the contrary, there is disintegration, fear and confusion on the side of the government. The widespread fear can only be overcome by strong, solid and consistent moves, not by unorganized, foolish actions. And this disintegration can be turned into an opportunity for the people.

14. As we have always emphasized, Turkey can only be liberate by the unified struggle of the working class against class hegemony, not as a result of the clashes between different ruling-class factions. It is obvious that Communists will not give credit to quackery of the “victory of democratic forces” and that the “cunning” calls to unite everyone against Erdogan. We will never march together with the representatives of the capitalist class, the U.S. and NATO, the AKP, KCK, and its agents or agents of color revolutions.

15. The scale of the vacuum among the ranks of the people created as a result of the animosity toward organizing must be clear for everyone to see once again in a country where the Gülen movement, gangs in the government, interest groups, men and even the mafia have the ability to act in an “organized” way. It is a must to strengthen the organization of the class, independent of the “győlizm” pretenses, Gülen movements, capitalist and imperialist centers.

16. The only objective of the Communist Party is to become an independent revolutionary organization that can change the balance of forces in the country by mobilizing during the coup or the reactionary campaigns. When we work together all together, our only call to our working people is to mobilize, trusting only their own power, and take initiative instead of watching this nightmare unfold.

Communist Party Central Committee

Free south Korean labor leader!

By Martha Grevatt

Han Sang-gyun, president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was sentenced to five years in prison on July 4. The corrupt courts had previously found him guilty after he spent 14 demonstration after spending months being arrested on earlier charges. Tens of thousands of workers have been removed from their jobs, including 22,000 workers and 1,500 college deans.

From the state’s repressive apparatus, the purge includes the arrests of 9,000 police and nearly as many ordinary soldiers, along with 6,000 military midlevel officers and more than one-third of the generals and admirals of the second largest of all the NATO armies next to the United States military.

The Erdoğan regime has also declared a three-month “state of emergency” that allows it to take other repressive actions. Workers World publishes here excerpts from the analysis of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey, which met on July 17. The statement is on workers.org:

July 23 — Since the abortive coup of July 15th collapsed in Turkey, the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Development and Justice Party (AKP), having defeated the coup attempt, has opened an extensive purge of its perceived enemies and opponents.

This purge has included about 200,000 civilian state and educational employees, who have been removed from their jobs, including 22,000 workers and 1,500 college deans.

On workers.org.

On workers.org.

On workers.org.
Bernie Sanders ha dado un respaldo terminal a Hillary Clinton concediendo que se ha colado en las mismas que se apoderaron de la campaña del Partido Demócrata. Por lo tanto, la batalla que él prometió luchar por los derechistas hasta el día de la con- 

duvención, ha finalizado. 

Sanders consiguió oficialmente 12 mil- 

lones de votos. Probablemente recibió al menos 1 o 2 millones más en California, 

que aún no han sido contados. Milones más de partidarios de Sanders no pudier-

ieron votar por él a causa de primarias ceras y, por tanto, se perdieron de los registros en estados importantes. 

Desde el primer momento, la campaña Sanders estaba envuelta en una contra- 

dicción grave. Sanders estaba abajo-

go por una rebelión contra Wall Street, 

dentro del Partido Demócrata, como lo ha sido durante el último año. Ahora, él ha optado por permanecer en el Partido Demócrata, cuya dirección se opone pro- 

fundadamente a los objetivos de Sanders. 

Lo que es seguro es que Sanders nun-

cu haría capaz de tener el impacto 


acional que tuvo si no hubiera corrido en las primarias presidenciales del Partido 


Demócrata. Esto es en el reflejo de la 


aturaleza antidemocrática del sistema 


electoral de EUA. Las elecciones de ‘‘quien gana se lo lleva todo’’, la ausencia de una 


representación proporcional, los enormes obstáculos peticionarios para inscribir a un partido, y el control de la publicidad elec- 

toral por los monopolios de los medios de 


comunicación están garantizados para mantener a class obrera y la izquierda en 


los margen de las cumbres de poder. 


A pesar de ello, la campaña Sanders ha demostrado el gran potencial para una 


revolución en EUA. 


Pero esa es su contradicción. El movi-

miento que lo apoyó no debe quedarse atra- 


ado en esta contradicción. 


Camino independiente para luchar contra grandes empresas 

La pregunta es para los miles de se- 

guidores de Sanders es, ¿qué hacer aho- 

ra? Deben taparse la nariz y correr a la campaña de Clinton sobre la base de 

tener una voz de oposición a los grandes 


empresas, como habrían hecho la mayoría de los políticos capitalistas que sirven a las clases dominantes en la política de EUA, que incluso buscan la imposición de EUA sobre los/ las oprimidos para el beneficio y el bienestar hu- 


bres en la riqueza que la clase obrera ha 


ado en contra de cómo los ricos para 


determinar lo que les pasa, 


no deberían estar a cargo de una revolución política en EUA. 


La revolución política se refería a su programa reformis- 


ador, pero una que está dirigida a mantener al dominio de las grandes empresas. 


El derecho a organizarse en sindicatos 


se refería a su programa reformis- 


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