

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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, Asa 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 gentrification in the Temple University neighborhood.

Signs to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black revolutionary journalist and political prisoner, recalled his unflinching reports 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!”

Speakers included Pam Africa of MOVE plus representatives 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.

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. □



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE, LEFT AND BRENDA RYAN, ABOVE

WORKER WORLD EDITORIAL

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 commands 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 par-

ty of the people, in contrast to the Republicans. A skeptic might point out that Roosevelt himself was the scion of a rich and powerful political family, and only did what he thought was necessary to placate the masses and save the system in a time of capitalist breakdown and rising class struggle. Yet the popular 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 caucuses of LGBTQ people as well as artists and writers with a progressive outlook on social themes, has already, for the most part, been whipped into line to support Hillary Clinton as the party’s nominee. But

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Packed meeting hears about revolutionary socialism

By Taryn Fivek
Cleveland

This abridged report about protesters 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 version at noplatform.org.

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, racism, homophobia, sexism and capitalism.

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

A line of cops on bicycles separates protesters from the cloud of journalists who rush up and down the line, snapping close-ups 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 slaw and 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 green light to racists and xenophobes, and talks about the deepening crisis and its relationship to racism. November 8 will come and go, they say, but they aren’t going anywhere.

Asked why more media are not present, Monica answers honestly, “We have to remember the mainstream media are part of the state, part of the repressive apparatus. Our campaign is anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-racist. We stand with the people. We’re for self-determination of oppressed people, for the liberation of women and LGBTQ people. In other words, we’re for full equality.”

Lamont agrees. “We’re a party talking about revolutionary change — not reformist, not bandaids on broken



PHOTO: TARYN FIVEK

WWP candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly speak to Cleveland meeting.

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.’

“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 of revolution.”

Black Lives Matter

Monica explains: “We felt it was especially important to run two Black candidates in this particular election.

“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 for the masses.

“Hillary Clinton thought she was going to have smooth

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Who’s really behind Trump, besides Trump

By Deirdre Griswold

The Republican National Convention produced as many flat-out lies as there are flies on a dung heap. Quite a few of the lies have been exposed in various capitalist media. But there’s one lie regarding Donald Trump and his followers that gets repeated as good coin by those who know better.

It’s that Trump’s constituents are workers. That his rabid, bigoted trash talk rings a bell with white workers, who are uneducated and lack refinement, just like Trump.

Well, that’s a lot of hooey. 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 wildly enriching the very, very, very few on top, including Trump.

When Trump rails about immigrants taking “American” jobs, and the crowd cheers, are they really all yearning 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 primaries, exit polls showed Trump voters to be quite a bit richer than the rest of us, with an annual median household income of \$72,000 compared to the estimated real median household income in 2014 of \$53,657. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014)

Other Republican primary voters had even larger incomes — those who voted for Kasich clocked in at \$91,000, for instance. So it’s true that within the Republican electorate, Trump appealed to the not oh-so rich. But still, the base of this multimillionaire is definitely not in the working class. (See “The Mythology of Trump’s ‘Working Class’ Support,” tinyurl.com/jh5ncd4.)

In 2011, half the people in the U.S. had a median household income of less than \$50,000, and they made up the bulk of the multinational working class. 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. Since then, workers’ incomes have risen only slightly.

Trump delegates well-heeled

The delegates who cast ballots for Trump at the convention were of course even better off than those who voted for him in the primaries. It takes money to be a Republican delegate. The party’s California delegates were advised that their accommodations alone would cost them between \$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 wining and dining, you can be sure, as well as transportation costs. In that one week of reactionary frenzy, a delegate could easily have dropped what it would take a low-wage worker three or four months to earn.

Of course, if the delegates played their cards right, someone with even more money might eventually pick up their tab. Or so they would hope.

Workers or middle class?

The neoliberal capitalist media have slandered the working class by linking white workers to Trump. What makes this even more ironic is that for a long time, the myth in this country was that there was no working class any more. If someone earned a living wage without having to work two jobs, that worker was suddenly, presto change-o, in the “middle class.” At the same time, the most oppressed workers were referred to as the “underclass.”

“Middle class” and “underclass” were code words meant to separate white workers from their class sisters and brothers, who historically have been paid less because of this country’s legacy of racist oppression, beginning with the conquest of the Indigenous peoples, then



PHOTO: D.C. INDYMEDIA

white workers. But looking at who came out for Sanders and Clinton, it is clear that most 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 frustrations of those in 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. At the convention, he didn’t even have to say “Black” or “immigrant” (which Trump insinuates with his “birther” nonsense about Obama). All he 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 racists, the flag wavers, the “law and order” cheerleaders for police brutality. That is its main danger — ratifying and encouraging a return to the “good old days” that unfortunately aren’t over. Even the Nazis and Klan have scuttled out of the woodwork under Trump’s protection. David Duke, a notorious former Klan grand wizard, got into the spotlight by endorsing Trump and then announced his own candidacy for the Senate. Trump, asked if he would repudiate Duke’s support, pretended not to know who he was.

Trump is trying to capitalize on reaction to the progress that has been made against oppression after decades of mass struggles in the streets. This comes at a time when Black Lives Matter, the movement for LGBTQ rights, the struggles

against deportations and mass incarceration, the women’s movement for reproductive freedom and the low-wage workers’ movement all have fought hard and raised consciousness, resulting in some legal gains — not a lot, but enough to inflame 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 for decades, he has talked about pulling back troops fighting abroad, kind of lumping it in with ending or “re-negotiating” trade agreements.

What Trump would really do as president 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 capitalist enterprises established here. It also provides contracts worth hundreds of billions 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 considered a bastion of pro-war sentiment.

Of course, part of this is undoubtedly to outflank Hillary Clinton, who is a proven hawk. But that his stance resonates among conservatives should be taken note of, especially as the crisis of miserably inadequate health care and drug addiction among military veterans reaches epidemic levels.

A recent study by the University of New Hampshire showed, “According to U.S. Department of Defense records, rural youth enlist in the military at a higher rate than urban and suburban youth, and in all but eight states, soldiers from rural areas make up a disproportionately high share of the casualties.” These are the geographic areas where the Republican Party is strongest.

The one bright spot in this election cycle is the determination of the progressive movements to stay in the streets and not be cowed by threats or persuaded by their “friends” that militancy is “counter-productive.” The demonstrations in Cleveland at the RNC and, as we are writing this, in Philadelphia at the DNC are strong and underscore that it is the struggle, not the capitalist two-party elections, that will bring to birth a better future. Right on to that. □

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sailing toward the nomination. And she didn’t. Because there is a political uprising against capitalism. There was a movement behind Sanders of mainly young white people who came out of the Occupy Wall Street movement. But the Sanders campaign didn’t deal with the issues of police brutality or fighting racism.

“He said he didn’t come out in defense of Black Lives Matter and against police repression because it would be ‘divisive.’ Divisive toward who? We feel just the opposite. It can build solidarity and unity.

“He wanted to deal mainly with the class and economic issues. But racism is a class issue. It is the central issue in this country in terms of keeping people divided. If you bring people together on an anti-racist basis, the next step is to fight on economic issues. The stronger the workers are, the stronger the movement will be for jobs, housing, medical care and so forth.”

Sanders and socialism

Lamont says he appreciates that Bernie Sanders helped to bring the word socialism back into the mainstream, but Sanders does not relate it to “the oppressed masses having the means of production in their own hands.”

He speaks about how the socialist movement is just coming back from the 1980s. “Communism and socialism were straight

demonized in school. We were taught communism was bad. Socialism was a cult.

“Even to this day, my mom is still uneasy. But she read the 10-point program on our brochure and said, ‘Yeah! This is cool!’

“I just hope that the young people in this next generation do their research well. If you love the Black Panthers, Google why the Panthers subscribed to revolutionary socialism, to Marxism-Leninism. Google why the Young Lords did. Google who Hugo Chavez is.

“Go back and study the history of our ancestors, of past freedom fighters.”

Lamont describes himself as a child of the 1980s who loves Twitter. “I talk to a lot of the younger comrades about this. We’ve got to use every weapon at our fingertips. Social media conjoined with grass-roots people organizing on the streets. Knock on doors. Look at people in their eyes.”

Monica agrees that the human touch is lost on the internet. “We’ve got to be out in our communities, not just on our computers and Facebook and Twitter.”

So is voting still important in the United States?

Monica answers: “Depending on the bourgeois system to create the channels of liberation, that is mental slavery. If you’re depending on your oppressor to grant you justice, to grant you economic mobility, healthy communities and healthy families, you’ve already lost.” □

STAT on the march Protests Islamophobia at RNC

By Susan Schnur
Cleveland

In a powerful response to the anti-Muslim bigotry continually spouted 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 Convention. The action was organized by STAT (Stand Together Against Trump), first formed when the Trump campaign came to Cleveland in March. “Stat” is a common medical term used in an emergency situation to mean “instantly” or “urgent.”

STAT describes its membership as “young professionals whose work regularly brings together individuals from races, religions and genders that are frequently insulted and scapegoated by Donald Trump.” For many of the young



PHOTO: STAND TOGETHER AGAINST TRUMP

people who make up the group, protesting in public and marching July 21 in STAT’s first big action was a new experience. But they formed a solid coalition, including Latino/a activists, to push back the racist, Islamophobic and anti-immigrant agenda of the hateful right wing.

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. □

On the picket line

By Sue Davis

St. Paul, Minn., nurses still fighting for a contract

The 4,800 nurses at five St. Paul, Minn., area hospitals conducted a one-week strike in late June to pressure Allina Health to provide basic information they need to bargain effectively. As of July 22, the nurses, represented by the Minnesota Nurses Association, an affiliate of National Nurses United, are still in negotiations with Allina management, which hasn't budged since April. The critical issue is health care coverage.

Allina, which has had a net income of \$1.3 billion over the past six years, wants to eliminate the nurses' health insurance plan and move them onto a closed network plan that requires much higher deductibles, higher overall out-of-pocket costs and limited coverage out of network. This would radically increase nurses' annual health care costs by thousands of dollars and could wreak havoc if they have serious health problems. Meanwhile, wages, staffing levels (which nurses say are dangerously low) and workplace safety are still on the table. The next negotiating session is set for Aug. 1. To support the nurses, sign their petition under Issues & Advocacy on mnnurses.org.

Washington state berry workers to gain union

Hundreds of farmworkers, represented by Familias Unidas por la Justicia, and labor, faith-based and community supporters held their annual march to the Sakuma Berry Processing plant on July 14 in a celebratory mood. After four years of fighting for union recognition, the CEO of Sakuma Farms had finally agreed to develop a memorandum of understanding leading to a collective bargaining agreement with FUJ. However, security guards at the plant must not have gotten the memo because they held the workers' delegation for 20 minutes before allowing them into the plant. "Even in spite of this rudeness, we are still willing to meet with the Sakuma CEO ... and begin a fair and transparent negotiation process without intimidation," said FUJ President Ramon Torres. The FUJ, an affiliate of the state labor council, is an independent farmworker union in Burlington, Wash., fighting for a contract to ensure that the predominantly immigrant workers receive living wages, fair treatment, respect and dignity.

A third of manufacturing workers on public assistance

After years of wage cuts in manufacturing industries and for the first time in decades, manufacturing wages now rank in the bottom half of all jobs in the U.S., according to "Producing Poverty: The Public Cost of Low-Wage Production Jobs in Manufacturing," released May 10 by the University of California at Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education. Just over a third of all U.S. manufacturing production workers and half of those hired through temporary agencies rely on at least one public assistance program to support themselves or their families. In 2013, the typical manufacturing production worker made 7.7 percent below the median wage for all occupations. The Labor Center calculates that low wages in manufacturing cost taxpayers approximately \$10.2 billion a year in public assistance.

What led to that change is the rapid growth of low-paying temporary positions where workers are employed by staffing agencies, which now account for 9 percent of all frontline manufacturing jobs; less than 1 percent were employed by staffing agencies 25 years ago. Temporary workers like assemblers and fabricators earn a median wage of \$10.88 an hour, compared to \$15.03 for those hired directly. The rate of temporary workers on public assistance is just below 52 percent of fast food workers. Ken Jacobs, chair of the Labor Center and co-author of the report, noted, "The reality is the production jobs are increasingly coming to resemble fast-food or Walmart jobs, especially for those workers employed through temporary staffing agencies." Eight of the 10 states with the highest rates in public assistance programs for production workers are in the South. Mississippi is the highest at 59 percent. New York and California are the other two highest. □

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 Presi-

dent Peter Knowlton said the union, the first in the U.S. to join the BDS movement, welcomed the labor board's decision. He noted in the past UE had "withstood 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 Palestinian and Israeli workers."

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 critics 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." (UEunion.org, July 23) □

Airport workers walk out, win meeting



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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 out 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 agree to meet with workers and Service Employees (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. (Delawareonline.com, July 23)

SEIU Local 32BJ, which organized the midday disruption, bused in members from Virginia, Connecticut, Pittsburgh and New York to support the Philly workers, who include wheelchair attendants, skycaps, aircraft cabin cleaners and baggage handlers.

Many of those jobs used to be unionized, but the airlines have outsourced these positions over the last 30 years to Prospect, PrimeFlight, McGinn Security and other nonunion subcontractors.

A large majority of the protesters were Black and Brown workers. They demand a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, affordable health care, vacation days, better scheduling and the right to a union. 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 workers an increase from \$7.25 to \$12 an hour, effective July 1, 2015. Now, the workers are demanding a minimum of \$15 an hour, a union and respect.

Taxi, limo and Uber Black drivers have also threatened to strike during the DNC. □

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.

Speakers at 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 Rasmea Odeh, a Palestinian freedom fighter living in the U.S. who has been the target of political repression by the U.S. government.



PHOTO: FIGHTBACKNEWS

"We say no to the attacks on immigrants, on Muslims! We say no to Trump greenlighting 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 capitalists' 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 Liberation Movement, Chicanxs/Mexicans, Indigenous peoples and Puerto Ricans 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 like those of Black people?" Bemoaning the lack of coverage of police violence against Latinxs — 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 expose these cases to show how cops occupy Brown communities, too, and to build Black and Brown unity against the common enemy.

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."

Downs continues: "Among minorities, the rate of police killings for Latinos is second to those of African Americans. As of today, an estimated 94 Latinos 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 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 Latinxs shot by racist police was Melissa Ventura, 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 Latinxs go on. Jasen Scott Ramirez, unarmed and defenseless, was shot and killed at his father's funeral on June 30 in 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 1.9 percent of all police killings." (Aug. 2, 2015)

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 the 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/hmx2fj8.) 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 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 Latinx 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 in record numbers in 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 with messages denouncing Donald Trump's bigoted anti-immigrant call to build a wall at the U.S.-Mexican border. Immigrant rights groups announced in advance that they would link hands and banners around the RNC to surround Trump and his cohorts with a wall made by Mexicans.

As Tania Unzueta, policy director for the #Not1More anti-deportation campaign, explained, "The wall is a symbolic show of communities coming together to build a barrier between us and the hatred that Trump represents." (Fusion, July 12)

Heavy security protecting Trump backers prevented the protesters from completely surrounding the RNC on July 20. But the wall that began at Public Square stretched for a block along a busy thoroughfare. Other

wall sections moved about and at one point got past a security checkpoint. The fabric worn by demonstrators and painted with the slogan "Wall Off Trump" was purchased after on-line fund appeals raised \$16,000 in support of immigrant rights.

Hundreds participated, including Cleveland activists as well as others who had traveled long distances. One after another, immigrant speakers told the media they were "undocumented and unafraid." The Peace Poets, spoken word artists, got the crowd to sing with them: "The walls that they build to keep us apart will never be as strong as the walls of our heart."



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

PHOTO: DON BRYANT

"We're here to give Trump the wall he wanted," said Iván Vargas, an undocumented immigrant who traveled from Georgia in the U.S. South. (Think Progress, July 20) □

MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES: Defund 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 Hoodies — launched U.S.-wide protests to defund police departments and re-direct money to community needs.

Coordinated under the banner #Freedomnow, 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 videotape that showed a cop shooting Charles Kinsey, an African-American disability therapist, once again illustrated the need for continued fightback against systematic 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. The cop, a SWAT team member, shot him anyway.

The #Freedomnow protests dramatized the stark difference in government funding given to community-serving jobs like Kinsey’s and the money that goes to murderous, 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 \$71 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, like jobs, health care and housing.” They demanded the City Council “disarm, defund and disempower the police” and “fund Black futures.”

Durham’s broad coalition includes #SayHerName; BYP100; Southerners on



PHOTO: ELAINIEL BALDWIN

Durham Beyond Policing shuts down the streets in North Carolina.

New Ground; United Electrical Workers Local 150, 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 Hoodies 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 Hoodies occupied the “Patrolman’s Benevolent Association,” which represents NYC Police Department cops. Ten people were arrested as they demanded justice for Delrawn Small killed by a cop on July 4. Other demands included city officials funding community needs, not the police.

Dozens of other protests occurred, including in Chattanooga, Tenn.; Chicago; Cleveland; Detroit; Long Beach, Calif.; and St. Louis.

Police associations are not unions

In Oakland, about a dozen activists from the Anti Police-Terror Project coalition chained themselves to the doors of the Oakland Police Officers’ Association, some with U-locks around their necks. One demonstrator said this chokehold represented how the local community felt.

About 60 percent of the city of Oakland’s annual general fund, almost \$220 million, is spent on the police department. Housing and community development receive only \$13 million. Protesters called on the city to “divest from the police department and fund schools, hous-



PHOTO: LIZ ADETIBA

Movement for Black Lives blockades FOP police association in Washington, DC.

to violently suppress workers 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 more military equipment to local departments, block efforts to gather data on deaths in police custody, and protect cops that abuse, rape, murder, steal and worse.

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party candidate for president, told



PHOTO: ANTI POLICE-TERROR PROJECT

Anti Police-Terror Project activists chain themselves to the Oakland Police Association headquarters.

ing and jobs.” (eastbayexpress.com)

Activists were clear that they did not consider their protest to be anti-union. Black BYP100 organizer Clarise McCants said: “We’re definitely pro-labor union. But our message is that the Fraternal Order of Police is just not like any union.” (inthesetimes.com)

Members of Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers, came by to express solidarity with the APTP occupation. The drivers were in town as part of a speaking tour about their recent historic win over mega-corporation Veolia/Transdev.

Marxist view of the FOP

Police may try to call their organizations “unions,” but the FOP and other police associations are not unions. The Marxist explanation of class society is that the role of police under capitalism is

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.

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 unapologetically and without punishment robbed Black women, trans people, children and men of their lives.

We have condemned the violence of disproportionate militarized policing that has decimated families and communities of color. We have condemned the violence of a criminal legal system that polices, punishes, sentences and criminalizes 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 dependent on the exploitation of Black lives.

We have condemned environmental racism and forms of state neglect that have poisoned the health of our children. We have condemned transphobia, ableism, sexism and homophobia as additional 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 deemed 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

WNBA cancels fines

Athletes show wide support for BLM

By Monica Moorehead

The Republican National Convention, which nominated the white supremacist, fascistic Donald Trump as its presidential candidate, has added fire under an already burning cauldron 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 21 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 Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association “to call attention to the multiple institutions that hamper police accountability in the city.” (byp100.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 stations 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 out or push back the movement. It’s not that they haven’t tried. The pro-cop talking heads have been all over the media trying to blame and demonize the movement for cops killed in Dallas.”



Minnesota Lynx WNBA players honor Philando Castile, killed by police in St. Paul, Minn.

The statement reinforced the fact that neither Trump nor the liberal facade of Hillary Clinton or even the ongoing police war have held back or silenced the Black Livers 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 “lynching.”

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 #Dallas5 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-profiled white players such as Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart from the Seattle Storm expressed solidarity on their Twitter feeds with #Black Lives Matter and quoted Dr. Martin Luther King’s statement: “There comes a time when silence becomes betrayal.” 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 interstates or police stations 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.

nt for Black lives’

ours to win ... and you will be made better for it.

We have condemned.
We have condemned.
We have condemned.
And our voices have gone unheard.

In the face of our condemnation, we have been told all lives matter, as if our pain, our grief and our anger somehow represent a denunciation of your lives. They do not.

In the face of our condemnation, we are told to speak in soft tones, be polite and be nondisruptive. This is about our lives! Our children’s lives. Our lovers’ lives. Our family members’ and friends’ lives. Our Black lives.

When we die, politicians do not say “that an attack on Black lives is an attack on all of us.” They do not say that these attacks “undermine our values” as a society. They do not say to the country, let us “show some humanity.”

This is how the NYC mayor, Bill de Blasio, responded to the attacks in Dallas. His response to us and our condemnations was to increase the size of the police. We continue on — unheard.

Let it be clear: We are a community in a chokehold. We will not condemn any of the forms of action taken by members of our community to release that chokehold. We will condemn the chokehold.

Let it be clear: It is you who must condemn. Condemn racism. Condemn this history of racial oppression: its continuation, its persistence.

When you say “All lives matter,” mean it! Speak the words: “Black lives matter.” Engage in action to make it so. Or are we



New York City, July 21.

PHOTO: PEOPLES POWER ASSEMBLIES-NEW YORK

not a part of your “all lives” that actually matter?

Let it be clear: We do not believe in this system that tells us to wait and have patience. That speaks of incrementalism and reform while we die. That speaks platitudes about violence and peace while we are killed.

We believe in a people’s movement for Black lives. All lives will matter when

Black lives matter.

Let it be clear: We will not be silent. Our movement will not be demolished. Our rage will not subside.

#BlackLivesMatter

People’s Power Assemblies (PPA) organizes to demand jobs, education and health care while fighting against racist police terror, sexism and LGBTQ oppression.

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 the bill into law. 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 person from Charlotte, has mixed feelings about the decision. They (Evans’ preferred gender neutral pronoun) expressed concerns about the economic impact: “Many Time Warner Cable [Arena] employees who were planning for overtime no longer have that opportunity.” Evans added: “But this also has implications for McCrory, who likely will not be re-elected.”

Evans’ concerns reflect those of many working-class and oppressed people caught in the crossfire of political games that corporations and politicians play every day. Still, the NBA’s decision re-



PHOTO: DOLORES CHANDLER

LGBTQ people of color get arrested protesting bigoted HB 2 at North Carolina’s Capitol.

mains monumental, especially given the current political climate surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Women’s National Basketball Association recently fined three teams, the Indiana Fever, New York Liberty, Phoenix Mercury, and their players for wearing black T-shirts expressing solidarity with recent victims of police terror: Philando Castile of St. Paul, Minn., and Alton Sterling of Baton Rouge, La. The WNBA eventually rescinded the fines because of a massive outcry, proving these basketball players had the support of thousands across the U.S. who also believe Black Lives Matter.

We live in a unique time, full of contradictions. What exactly does it mean for workers, and for trans people in particular, that the NBA, a multibillion-dollar league, decided to move its All-Star 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, while 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 surely 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 collegiate level late last year when University of Missouri football players announced their intention to boycott an upcoming game. Their refusal to play, their withholding their labor, came 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 ways

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 embedded within and surrounding these institutions — whether North Carolina’s General Assembly or the NBA — who can move the compass needle 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 must defend each other, fight together 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 resist any divide-and-conquer strategies.

Our strength is found in our solidarity and the recognition that our common enemy is the capitalist ruling class, whose constant contradictions bring both frustration and opportunities to attack this capitalist system at its root.

End the attacks on queer and trans people!

Defend the Black Lives Matter movement!

Syracuse

Black Lives Matter protests police terror

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Some 500 people challenged racism and police terror in Syracuse, N.Y., on July 18, in a militant, high-energy and unified march. According to their press release, the newly formed Black Lives Matter-Syracuse group called the event “in response to ongoing murders of Black people of all genders, sexualities, abilities and ages” across the U.S. and to protest “police brutality against Black residents” in Syracuse.

Marchers gathered at a downtown emblem of Syracuse’s abolitionist history: the statue of William “Jerry” Henry, who had liberated himself from slavery. In 1851, federal marshals arrested him in Syracuse under the Fugitive Slave Act, intending to return him to enslavement. But hundreds of abolitionists rushed to his aid, broke down the jail doors and freed him.

BLM-Syracuse leaders welcomed marchers, making clear they were continuing the necessary work of Black liberation. They noted that the “Jerry Rescue” was a moment when “common people came together to fight against an unjust system, one that was brutalizing Black bodies.”

In recent years, Black Syracuse residents who have been beaten, sexually attacked or died while in police custody include Terry Maddox, Maleatra Montanez, Johnny “Hud” Williams, Chuneice Patterson, Lucinda Batts, Alonzo Grant, Elijah Johnson, Brad Hulett, Edward Jones, and Raul Pinet Jr.

Organizers began their activity by



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Black Lives Matter-Syracuse leads 500 to protest at Police Department.

pouring a libation to the ancestors — Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and others — and asked marchers to call their own ancestors to be present. They read the Black Lives Matter statement of principles and drew especially loud applause for its affirmation of “Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, Black undocumented folks, folks with records, women and all Black lives along the gender spectrum.”

A majority of marchers were African Americans, including many young people, families and the “OG’s [Original Gangsters] Against Violence” from the embattled South Side and West Side. Syracuse has the highest rate of extreme poverty among Blacks and Latinos/as out of the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas. (tinyurl.com/z4gre59)

Also present were many white allies, including churchgoers from Central Square, a conservative suburb. Young

people from Buffalo travelled hours to join, and members of Ithaca Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), a white allies’ group, were there.

‘Shut the whole damn system!’

BLM-Syracuse activists led marchers through the streets, chanting demands for the shutdown of police brutality, mass incarceration, economic inequality and “the whole damn system.” Speakers vehemently repeated those demands and others in front of City Hall and the “Justice Center,” which houses the Syracuse Police Department.

The BLM organizers also demanded an independent investigation into the most recent “death by police” in Syracuse of Terry Maddox. A cop killed the African-American man in June at a Father’s Day cookout on the West Side.

Numerous witnesses say Maddox had been unarmed. An outraged neighbor-

hood crowd rose up and fought with police for half an hour after the shooting. A dozen people were subsequently arrested and charged with the offense of “inciting to riot,” for simply shouting during the melee.

Authorities continued a pushback against community outrage when cops in SWAT gear, accompanied by an armored vehicle as “backup,” ransacked a neighborhood home. The Department of Homeland Security tried to intimidate the planned march by “warning” the department’s downtown employees and closing the Federal Building early, initiating a wave of downtown business shutdowns.

But the people came anyway. At the end of the protest, defiant marchers massed in front of police headquarters. There, BLM organizers read a list of people killed by cops. Marchers chanted in unison, “I am,” in response to each name. Then, protesters shouted together the phrases of the Assata Shakur pledge: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

When BLM organizers announced their program was at an end, exhilarated protesters did not want to leave. Many stayed for another hour. Some marched to other areas downtown and returned to hold signs.

People in passing cars and buses honked and shouted agreement. Everywhere in front of the Syracuse Police Department, conversations were underway for future actions against racism and police brutality.

Stop police terror! □

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 only on a downgraded level. Degrees in philosophy and religious studies were also cut. The trustees emphasized the decision could result in employees being retrenched.

Providing a rationale for the nixing 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 1,656 supporters. 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, geography 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 decrease of \$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 cutbacks 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 stop-gap agreement, the state had gone for an entire year without an agreement on spending that impacts education, municipal and social services. WGN-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 hampering 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 challenge dominant Eurocentric and male-oriented approaches to scholarship.

These cuts in academic programs are not only occurring in higher education but also in public schools. In Chicago during the last four years, the teachers' union has engaged in strikes and mass demonstrations against the elimination of programs, closing of school buildings and reduction in salaries and benefits for educators.

In the city of Detroit, the periodic imposition of emergency management in the public school system since 1999 has not only brought the district into near insolvency. The elimination of music, art, sports and other programs has severely reduced the quality of the education given to mainly African-American and Latino/a youth.



At Wayne State University in Detroit, that center of higher education for working-class and nationally oppressed peoples has experienced huge budget cuts, prompting the raising of tuition and housing costs. Enrollment is down substantially while the largest corporations in Michigan continue to be given huge tax breaks, which threaten to send the state into monumental budget deficits and consequently more austerity measures.

The attacks on education parallel worsening problems of declining municipal services and infrastructure related to water, public transportation, environmental quality and assistance to low-income families and their children.

Academic programs aimed at the recruitment and quality education of oppressed groups are being rapidly eviscerated under the guise of deficits and budget tightening. Academic programs 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 chains from around their waists. 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 19, 2015)

These types of academic programs serve African Americans, Latinos/as, women and other groups subjected to national and gender discrimination. The only way for the maintenance and reintroduction of the programs is through a process similar to that which originated them 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. □

TEXAS

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 Been, 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



WW PHOTO: LUCHA RODRIGUEZ

Gloria Rubac of the Texas Abolition Movement and 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.

the Board of Pardons and offered samples of how to do that. Her son, Nick Been, 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 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



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

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.

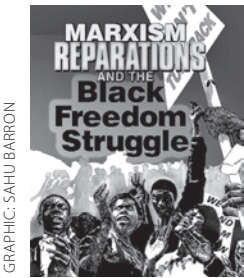
rally. She explained that at this point in time the death penalty is on its way out: “Juries are not sentencing but a few people to death, executions are slowing to a crawl, execution drugs are no longer available, and more innocent people are being freed from death row.”

Rubac added, “Only in Texas is the state going full steam ahead. Jeff Wood must not be executed on Aug. 24 or ever.

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, 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. □



GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

Available at major online booksellers.

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Clinton & DNC

Continued from page 1

not without the biggest struggle in many, many years, with those in the Sanders camp feeling the nomination was stolen from him.

Clinton is the first woman to be nominated for president by either of the two big U.S. capitalist parties. That's how backward this country is politically and socially. Since 1918, many women have actually served as heads of state in other countries around the world — guide-2womenleaders.com lists 175 of them! Finally, it could happen here. But Clinton is a woman who is trusted by the big money men not to depart from the rules they have imposed on Washington.

Rule number one: She must accept the dictates of the warmongers and send U.S. troops around the world whenever the U.S. transnational corporations and banks demand it to advance their far-flung profit interests. She as well as all the preceding Democratic Party presidents, including Barack Obama, have understood this and have never used their powers to refuse the generals, even making war without getting a declaration of war from Congress — 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 ripped apart by mercenaries serving competing oil cliques.

Rule number two: She must maintain the status quo of rule by the super-rich while trying to placate the masses with minor reforms. This has been standard operating procedure for Democratic administrations, like those of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

Bill Clinton especially promised improvements for the masses of Black people and cultivated an image to go with his promises. But in reality he consciously destroyed welfare, the last resort for poor women of color with children, and sup-

ported legislation that led to the highest level of mass incarceration in the world — with a disproportionately high percentage of Black people behind bars. Meanwhile, the gap between rich and poor is greater than it has ever been.

One thing the elections have shown, even at this early stage, is that 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 undercuts the very market they need to realize their profits. And the bosses always try to solve their problems on the backs of the workers.

The argument is already being made strenuously by the Democrats to support Clinton because the alternative, Trump, would be unthinkable. 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 independence from both capitalist parties, stay in the streets and collaborate to unite and fight this racist, oppressive, exploitive and dangerously unstable system. □

Peace and Dignity Journeys honor Indigenous peoples



WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

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 for 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 Tributary Route runners journeyed through Tijuana, Mexico, and San Ysidros’ 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 then 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 a.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. □



Capitalism at a Dead End
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis 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 booksellers.

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 Resistance against Nazism and other liberation struggles of the last century, and takes its motto from the Spanish Civil War: “¡No Pasarán!” (They will not pass!)

InterUnit, the internationalist group of Prizrak (Ghost Brigade) that fights for the freedom of Donbass, 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. Pushing people to be scared 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 seriously. 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 this: the U.S. is heading toward the “point of no return.” 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 remember that without justice, there will be not any chance for peace.

InterUnit
Lugansk People's Republic
July 18, 2016

Statement of CC of CP Turkey On the July 15 failed coup

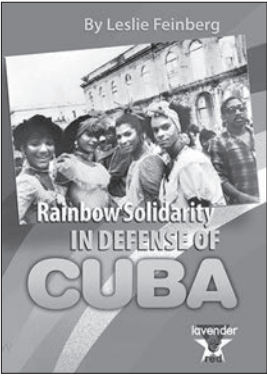


July 23 — Since the abortive coup of July 15 collapsed in Turkey, the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Development and Justice Party (AKP), having defeated the coup attempt, has opened an extensive purge of its perceived enemies and opponents.

This purge has included about 100,000 civilian state and educational employees, who have been removed from their jobs, including 21,000 teachers and 1,500 college deans.

From the state's repressive apparatus, the purge includes the arrests of 8,000 police and nearly as many ordinary soldiers, along with 1,600 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 entire statement is on workers.org.



Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg
author of *Stone Butch Blues*
Available at online book sellers

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba is an edited compilation of 25 articles from the Workers World newspaper series by Feinberg entitled **Lavender & Red**, online at www.workers.org.

July 18 CP of Turkey statement

1. The July 15th coup attempt was not a confrontation between ideologically conflicting 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 15 attempt] was not a bloody scenario planned by Erdoğan as some claimed. It was a real coup attempt.
2. The process that led to the coup has two dimensions. First, is what could be described as the fight for "power" in the general sense between Erdoğan 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 Erdoğan's purge. The uprising of the people in 2013 with the participation of millions, the damage to the interests of the system due to the tension created by Erdoğan in large sectors of the society, and finally the total fiasco of the Syrian policy deeply affected the relations between Erdoğan and some imperialist countries.
5. That the coup plotters have connections abroad does not make Erdoğan a patriot or anti-imperialist. As a politician, Erdoğan has served the interests of the USA and international monopolies. The fact that Erdoğan is now approaching this 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.
7. It is also nonsense to present the suppression of the coup as a victory for the

- people and/or to celebrate it as the "festival of democracy" in the wake of the AKP.
8. The thesis claiming that Erdoğan gained more power after this coup attempt is true to a certain extent. However, he ended up with a seriously damaged state apparatus.
 9. Under these circumstances, Erdoğan may try a purge not only of Gülenists but also of the "Kemalist" elements [the CHP] that he has an alliance with in the two most critical state institutions, the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) and the judiciary, and rely solely on his own resources.
 10. It is also possible that Erdoğan 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.
 11. In any case, there is disintegration and a multidimensional crisis regarding the hegemony of capital. It's not this disintegration, but the unorganized state of the working class, which is actually dangerous.
 12. Another danger is the potential for the belief to become widespread that Erdoğan 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 Erdoğan 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.
 13. 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 that is more potent and more "ready" to face this considerable threat. This task cannot be accomplished by whipping up panic after long years of dormancy.
 14. Under these conditions, the main source of power for AKP and Erdoğan continues to be his opponents in the political system. The political establishment based all its plans on normalizing, transforming



- and getting AKP to fall in line. The attitude of some politicians who claim to be representatives of the "left" in the Parliament is truly remarkable and worrisome.
15. Experiences during and after the 15th of July exposed how ruthless the factions within the state can be. We all watched how the coup plotters knew no limits in cruelty. Then, we witnessed the barbarism of the government. All these cannot be handled by the approach of "let them kill one another."
 16. 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.
 17. As we have always emphasized, Turkey can only be liberated 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 powers" and the "cunning" calls to unite everyone against Erdoğan. We will never march together with the representatives of the capitalist class, the USA — and NATO-supported coups or agents of color revolutions.
 18. 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, hit 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 religious sects, Gülen movements, capitalist and imperialist centers.
 19. 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 coups or the reactionary campaigns. In order to achieve this objective 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 of various charges, all stemming from a Nov. 14 demonstration against anti-labor legislation. The charges carried a maximum sentence of eight years. Han was arrested last December after south Korean police stormed a Buddhist monastery where he had been given sanctuary.

Han came out of hiding to lead the Nov. 14 demonstration after spending months holed up in the KCTU headquarters to avoid being arrested on earlier charges. Tens of thousands of Korean workers came out that day to protest legislation that would force more of them into precarious work, making them temporary contract workers with no job security or minimum wage protections. Other KCTU leaders also face jail time in

connection with that action.

Han is a heroic autoworker, who led the Korean Metal Workers Union when the union conducted a 77-day occupation by 1,700 workers of a Ssangyong Motors plant in 2009. It ended when police landed on the roof by helicopter and stormed the plant. In the pitched battle that followed, two workers fell off the roof. At least 28 workers have died from injuries sustained during the struggle.

The KMWU won an agreement with Ssangyong to limit layoffs. When the company reneged on the agreement, Han climbed up an electrical pylon and conducted an aerial protest for 177 days. In 2014, this courageous leader of the working class was elected KCTU president. South Korean authorities, who act at the behest of U.S. capitalism, have sought to lock up Han to suppress the militant working-class struggle in the country.

Han's conviction and sentencing drew swift condemnation worldwide. Prior to the sentencing, over 60 unions affiliated with In-

dustriALL, formerly the International Metalworkers Federation, sent letters of protest to south Korean President Park Geun-hye. The IndustriALL Assistant General Secretary and Turkish labor leader Kemal Özkan led a solidarity delegation to south Korea. Unions in several countries, including Australia, Argentina and the Philippines, held protests after the sentencing.

If the authorities thought the harsh sentence of KCTU leader Han would intimidate the working class, they were wrong. Since the sentencing, there have been mass strikes in health care and shipbuilding.

The KMWU — Han's home union — staged a general strike of all chaebol [family-owned business conglomerate] subsidiaries, including Hyundai, Kia and Samsung, on July 22. Over 150,000 metalworkers took part. Chaebol workers from around the country demonstrated outside Hyundai headquarters and the Korean Development Bank in Seoul. Another strike is planned for July 26. □



Después de la campaña de Sanders

Por Fred Goldstein

Bernie Sanders le ha dado un respaldo temprano a Hillary Clinton como candidata antes de la convención del Partido Demócrata. Por lo tanto, la batalla que él prometió, de luchar hasta el día de la convención, ha finalizado.

Sanders consiguió oficialmente 12 millones de votos. Probablemente recibió al menos 1 ó 2 millones más en California, que aún no han sido contados. Millones más de partidarios de Sanders no pudieron votar por él a causa de primarias cerradas y reglas restrictivas de registro en estados importantes.

Desde el primer momento, la campaña Sanders estaba envuelta en una contradicción grave. Sanders estaba abogando por una rebelión contra Wall Street, contra la desigualdad de los ingresos y por derechos económicos básicos. Sin embargo, luchó dentro del Partido Demócrata, que es el partido de las grandes empresas de Wall Street y el Pentágono, como lo ha sido durante el último siglo. Ahora, él ha optado por permanecer en el Partido Demócrata, cuya dirección se opone profundamente a los objetivos de Sanders.

Lo que es seguro es que Sanders nunca habría sido capaz de tener el impacto nacional que tuvo si no hubiera corrido en las primarias presidenciales del Partido Demócrata. Esto es un reflejo de la naturaleza 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 un partido, y el control de la publicidad electoral por los monopolios de los medios de comunicación están garantizados para mantener a la clase obrera y la izquierda en los márgenes de la política electoral.

A pesar de ello, la campaña Sanders ha demostrado el gran potencial para una verdadera rebelión popular contra el establecimiento político. Pero también ha dado lugar a la contradicción actual al respaldar a Hillary Clinton, la misma candidata contra la que él ha luchado.

Pero esa es su contradicción. El movimiento que lo apoyó no debe quedar atrapado en esta contradicción.

Camino independiente para luchar contra grandes empresas

La pregunta para las/os millones de seguidores de Sanders es, ¿qué hacer ahora? Deben taparse la nariz y correr a la campaña de Clinton sobre la base de detener a Trump, o deben trazar un camino independiente?

La respuesta en este momento es que la cosa más importante para el futuro del movimiento en EUA, es trazar un curso independiente. La respuesta sobre qué hacer acerca de Trump en este momento es la de luchar contra él con manifestaciones e interrupciones en todas partes donde surjan él y sus fuerzas racistas, anti-musulmán, anti-inmigrante, anti-mujer.

La cuestión electoral no debe convertirse en una razón para renunciar a la libertad de librar una lucha independiente contra el establecimiento de las grandes empresas, como es representada por los dos partidos capitalistas - la dirección del Partido Demócrata, así como la del Republicano.

Las elecciones no deben atar las manos

de las/os partidarios de Sanders que quieren continuar y profundizar una lucha progresista y revolucionaria. El movimiento Sanders debe trazar un curso que incluye, al menos, la razón por la cual estaban luchando cuando votaron por Sanders en el primer lugar.

Se debe intensificar la lucha contra los salarios y ganancias obscenas, la lucha contra los grandes bancos, por el cuidado de salud universal, matrícula universitaria gratuita, para poner fin a la deuda estudiantil, para detener a los contaminadores y el cambio climático, por el derecho a un sindicato, por el derecho de la mujer a elegir, por el fin de las deportaciones y así sucesivamente. Estas fueron las premisas de la campaña Sanders. Este programa no debe ser abandonado o dejado en las manos de Hillary Clinton y del Partido Demócrata que están bajo el dominio de las grandes empresas.

Y como el programa de Sanders era limitado, el movimiento tiene la oportunidad de ir mucho más allá. Un curso realmente integral e independiente, debe ser un curso de la clase obrera. Debe basarse en la solidaridad con los pueblos oprimidos en el país y en el exterior. Debe apoyar el movimiento La Vida de los Negros Importa, contra el terror policial, los movimientos contra la agresión del Pentágono, las deportaciones de inmigrantes, y la persecución y la explotación de las/os trabajadores indocumentados.

Un camino de lucha

La otra pregunta vital es: ¿Debería un camino independiente tomar una forma exclusivamente electoral, o debe ser ampliado, agudizado y llevado a las calles, los lugares de trabajo, las comunidades y los campus?

Dado el impulso de la campaña de Sanders, muchos quieren seguir un curso electoral independiente. Y no hay nada malo en una campaña electoral verdaderamente de izquierda e independiente. Pero debe ir acompañada de una campaña de lucha.

A lo que el establecimiento realmente responde es a la resistencia de las masas, a protestas, manifestaciones, ocupaciones, huelgas, y todo lo que interfiera con la rutina. La historia demuestra que las victorias legislativas que mejoraron la vida de las personas de una manera significativa fueron el resultado de la lucha de masas.

El derecho a organizarse en sindicatos fue ganado por cientos de ocupaciones de plantas y huelgas de brazos caídos en la década de 1930. Los derechos civiles fueron ganados por las/os afroamericanos y sus aliados en los años 1950 y 1960 en todo el Sur, enfrentando con gran sacrificio a las fuerzas policiales y racistas. Los programas contra la pobreza y la acción afirmativa fueron ganados después de cientos de rebeliones urbanas en el Norte. El derecho al aborto fue ganado por marchas masivas y un sinnúmero de manifestaciones de mujeres por todo el país. Los derechos de los homosexuales y lesbianas comenzaron con la Rebelión de Stonewall en 1969 y un sinnúmero de manifestaciones masivas después de eso.

Tales ejemplos podrían multiplicarse indefinidamente.

La trampa: Partido Demócrata

Ahora Sanders y muchos de sus principales partidarios del Partido Demócrata están diciendo que la victoria de su cam-

paña está representada por “el programa más progresista” en la historia del partido.

Una excepción notable es Cornel West, profesor afroamericano que hizo campaña por Sanders y fue nombrado como uno de sus representantes en el comité de plataforma del Partido Demócrata. West ha anunciado que va a apoyar Jill Stein, la candidata del Partido Verde para presidente en las elecciones generales. West escribió: “Estamos atados en una elección entre Trump, que sería una catástrofe neofascista, y Clinton, un desastre neoliberal”. (The Guardian, 14 de julio)

El Comité de Programa Demócrata aceptó algunos puntos del programa de Sanders, pero rechazó las partes principales del mismo. Sin embargo, ese no es el problema fundamental. El verdadero problema es que lo primero que irá a la papelera si la máquina Clinton gana la Casa Blanca, es el programa. Este ha sido el caso de todos los programas anteriores del Partido Demócrata.

El Partido Demócrata es un partido capitalista. Como tal, ninguna dirección burguesa está obligada de cualquier forma de llevar a cabo el programa del partido. Esto es a diferencia de un partido de la clase obrera, en la que el liderazgo y las bases por igual están obligados a apoyar y luchar por el programa del partido. En partidos de la clase obrera, el programa es decisivo. En partidos burgueses, el programa es sólo un escaparate.

Sanders está tratando de persuadir a sus seguidores de que el progreso en el programa del Partido Demócrata es un paso hacia una revolución política en EUA. Si Hillary Clinton entra a la Casa Blanca, sin embargo, ella estará rodeada de los generales del Pentágono, la CIA, el FBI, los banqueros, la totalidad de las altas esferas del estado capitalista, por no hablar de los grupos de presión empresariales, traficantes de influencias de todo tipo. Será su trabajo defender el capitalismo e imperialismo estadounidense.

Generaciones de activistas progresistas e incluso revolucionarios han intentado una y otra vez de hacerse un hueco en el Partido Demócrata con el fin de “transformar” y empujarlo hacia la izquierda. Esto siempre ha sido una trampa. Siempre han tenido que sacrificar sus principios y su lucha mientras que el liderazgo imperialista del Partido Demócrata ataca a las masas y lleva a cabo guerras e intervenciones una tras otra - desde las I y II Guerras Mundiales, hasta Corea, Vietnam, Afganistán, Irak, Libia, y otras.

Y no olvidemos que Hillary Clinton, como Secretaria de Estado del presidente Obama, fue la fuerza que abogó por el cambio de régimen en Libia; era firme defensora de la caída del gobierno de Assad en Siria; y defendió el golpe de Estado en Honduras. También denunció a los jóvenes negros como “súper depredadores”, cuando apoyó la ley contra el crimen de Bill Clinton de 1996, lo que aumentó en gran medida el encarcelamiento en masa.

No olvidemos cómo la máquina Clinton destruyó el programa de bienestar, conocido como Ayuda a Familias con Hijos Dependientes, dejando a millones de madres solteras y a sus hijos en la pobreza. Tampoco hay que olvidar la Ley Efectiva de Pena de Muerte y Antiterrorismo, que severamente limita las apelaciones de hábeas corpus por los prisioneros condenados a

muerte. Todo esto da un mentís a sus intentos de pintarse a sí misma como “progresista” en la campaña presidencial actual.

Recordemos cómo la máquina Clinton lanzó la Guerra de Yugoslavia y el bombardeo de civiles en Serbia, continuó las sanciones contra Irak iniciadas bajo George W. Bush, que mató a medio millón de niñas/os, y derogó la Ley Glass-Steagall, que había sido promulgada durante la Gran Depresión para poner algunas regulaciones en Wall Street. Esto es sólo una selección de algunas de las políticas reaccionarias de los Clinton, así como de administraciones demócratas anteriores.

Revolución política necesita revolución social

Si bien la campaña Sanders representó una rebelión electoral arrolladora contra el establecimiento del Partido Demócrata, su programa era relativamente insustancial. Pero la política de EUA es tan reaccionaria, incluyendo la política del Partido Demócrata, y la crisis de las personas es tan profunda en tantos frentes, que el programa Sanders prendió un enorme entusiasmo, lo que es comprensible.

Las grandes empresas son tan dominantes en la política de EUA, que incluso las exigencias de reformas básicas como la ruptura de los grandes bancos, Medicare para todos, matrícula universitaria gratuita, eliminación de la deuda estudiantil, fortalecimiento del derecho a sindicación, oposición a los llamados “acuerdos de libre comercio” y así sucesivamente, eran como un soplo de aire fresco que capturó la imaginación de millones de personas.

Sanders habló de llevar a cabo una “revolución política” en EUA. La revolución política se refería a su programa reformista. Mientras se llamaba socialista, nunca atacó el capitalismo como sistema. Nunca pidió medidas socialistas para acabar con el sufrimiento de las personas.

Una revolución política real significa que las/os trabajadores, comunidades oprimidas, las mujeres, las personas LGBTQ, inmigrantes – todas/os, deben estar a cargo de su destino. No deben tener que depender de los políticos capitalistas que sirven a los ricos para determinar lo que les pasa, mientras cada año tratan de sobrevivir y ganan solamente las más escasas concesiones.

Para que haya una revolución política en EUA, tiene que haber una revolución social. La clase capitalista, su estado, su propiedad, su maquinaria, tendrán que ser desmanteladas. Los enormes recursos en la riqueza que la clase obrera ha creado tendrán que ser usadas de una forma planificada, sin fines de lucro, sino para el beneficio y el bienestar humano. Cuando las/os trabajadores y las/os oprimidos estén a cargo, esa será una verdadera revolución política.

Un partido que defiende y pelea precisamente por una forma socialista de revolución es el Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero. Tiene una campaña electoral, pero una que está dirigida a mantener el movimiento en las calles, no en las urnas. Para luchar por el socialismo revolucionario, la solidaridad con las/os trabajadores y oprimidos en el país y en el exterior, haga parte de la campaña Moorehead-Lilly: #socialists4blacklives en Twitter y Monica Moorehead y Lamont Lilly 2016 en Facebook. □