



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE  
Undocumented and other immigrants and supporters at a Migrant Rights March July 25, on the first day of the DNC in Philadelphia. More on p. 7.

# Wall Street calls shots at DNC Protests rock convention

By Teresa Gutierrez

*Teresa Gutierrez is campaign manager for the Workers World Party 2016 presidential election candidates and long-time immigrant rights activist.*

The two national conventions of the big business parties are over, and the final stage of the 2016 presidential elections has begun. In less than 100 days, either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump will have been chosen the next president of the United States.

Whoever wins, it will be a landmark. It could be the first woman president — or the first reality show demagogue. The election will assuredly go down in history as one marked by a deep economic crisis, accompanied by the rise of white supremacy and police terror.

It also marks a rise of disenchantment with the parties of the ruling class. Whatever the outcome of the election, it bodes well for revolutionary struggles ahead.

## DNC: ‘Do Not Challenge, Do Note Cynicism’

The Democratic National Convention held in Philadelphia July 25-28 was fraught with spectacle. That can also be described as skillful, cynical manipulation.

Both in the open and behind the scenes, struggles broke out around the massive and progressive support for candidate Bernie Sanders versus the long-time establishment and Wall Street support for Hillary Clinton.

When Bernie Sanders, both in his state caucus and on the floor of the convention, announced his endorsement of Clinton, boos of disagreement followed. More than once, cameras panned the convention floor to show young people with tears streaming down their faces as they realized that Sanders’ political revolution had come full circle back into the folds of the Democratic Party.

The protest by these forces on the floor was wonderful to see, in that it challenged, even if in a limited way, the status quo. Signs of “No TPP” were displayed vibrantly, shouts of “No war! No more drones” were reported throughout the convention. Speakers were interrupted repeatedly with these slogans as well as cries of “Bernie, Bernie, Bernie.”

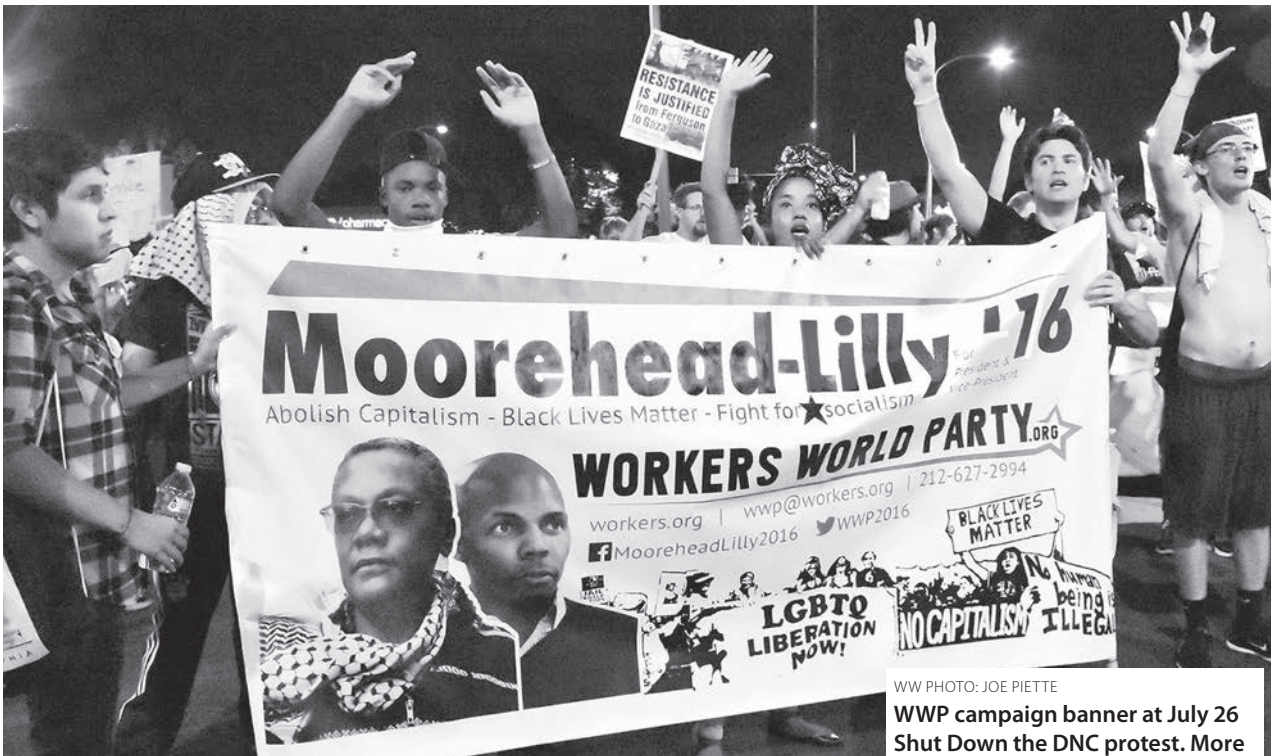
A highlight was when shouts of “No more war” greeted former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta as he addressed the convention. (Ralph Nader blog, July 29) Other sites reported shouts of “Liar, liar.” Sectors of the anti-war movement were clearly at the convention.

But at the end of it all, it was the corporate lobbyists, the establishment, the Pentagon and the Wall Street wing that prevailed.

## Image as party of working class

The Democratic Party has long been seen as the party of the working class. Unlike the Republican Party of

*Continued on page 6*



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE  
WWP campaign banner at July 26 Shut Down the DNC protest. More DNC coverage on p. 6 and 7.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN  
From left, Lilly and Moorehead with campaign manager Teresa Gutierrez at Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Center.



WW PHOTO: LT PHAM

‘No Trump, no KKK!’2

A step toward reproductive justice3

Black Lives Matter resists, occupies5

VENEZUELA

Gov’t supports factory takeover9

Editorial Pentagon’s endless war10

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ 4 weeks trial \$4 ☐ 1 year subscription \$30

☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program:  
workers.org/articles/donate/supporters\_/

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City /State/ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Workers Worldworkers.org  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011212.627.2994

Local elections in South Africa10



# ‘No Trump! No KKK! No racist fascist USA!’

By Workers World Staff  
Roanoke, Va.

In one of the largest protests in recent Roanoke history, a diverse rainbow of community members sent a clear message on July 25: There will be resistance to the anti-worker racism of Donald Trump and his vice presidential running mate Mike Pence in Southwest Virginia.

Standing for hours in sweltering 90-plus degree heat, protesters held signs slamming Trump, Pence and their supporters, and chanting, “No Trump! No KKK! No Racist Fascist USA!” and “Don’t give in to racist fear! Immigrants are welcome here!” The two candidates were in the city for a campaign event at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.

Demonstrators came from unions and worker rights organizations, including the Food and Commercial Workers, the Virginia Professional Staff Association and Fight for \$15. They were joined by members of the Plowshare Peace & Justice Center, Community Cultivators Inc., 15 Now Roanoke, Black Lives Matter and Workers World Party.

The demonstration also included young children, high school and college students, and teachers protesting for the first time. Many Roanoke residents are fed up with Trump’s anti-worker hate and racism.

### Trump doesn’t speak for white workers!

A statement by protest organizers on their Facebook event page read: “Donald Trump and vice presidential running mate Mike Pence are the racist enemies of all poor and working people. Both candidates attack women, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, Muslims, the disabled and the Black Lives Matter movement. And they don’t speak or care for white workers either.

“Trump is long known for attacking workers and their unions. Indiana Gov. Pence, like Scott Walker in Wisconsin, has waged a Jim Crow war on workers in Indiana with specific attacks on unions, eviscerating many hard-won worker protections and rights.



hoods, not the racist anti-worker hate and division that Trump and Pence are whipping up.”

Numerous participants kept protesting during Trump’s speech and confronted his supporters again when the speech was over. Then a contingent led by mostly youth and students marched from the protest site through downtown Roanoke demanding freedom, justice and equality for all poor and working people.

The protesters vowed that every time Trump or Pence plan an appearance in Southwest Virginia they will be confronted. During the July 25 protests and in the days following, photos and videos taken during the protest were “liked” and shared through social media thousands of times, breaking through a virtual corporate media whiteout of the protest.

The July 25 protest is the second major protest against Trump in Southwest Virginia this year. In February, hundreds of students and other community members confronted Trump and his supporters at Radford University in Radford, Va., disrupting his speech multiple times.

Outside of the auditorium, they conducted picket lines with banners reading “Donald Trump: Tool of the Rich — Racist Enemy of All Workers.” Placards read “Trump Is for the Rich and Against Everyone Else” and “Trump Doesn’t Speak for White Workers.” □

## 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. □

### Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**National Office**  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
wwp@workers.org

**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
atlanta@workers.org

**Baltimore**  
c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.221.3775  
baltimore@workers.org

**Bay Area**  
1305 Franklin St. #411  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.600.5800  
bayarea@workers.org

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.286.6574  
boston@workers.org

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
712 Main St #113B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.883.2534  
buffalo@workers.org

**Chicago**  
312.630.2305  
chicagowwp@gmail.com

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
cleveland@workers.org

**Denver**  
denver@workers.org

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
detroit@workers.org

**Durham, N.C.**  
804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
durham@workers.org

**Huntington, W. Va.**  
huntingtonwv@workers.org

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
houston@workers.org

**Lexington, KY**  
lexington@workers.org

**Los Angeles**  
5278 W Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
la@workers.org  
323.306.6240

**Milwaukee**  
milwaukee@workers.org

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
phila@workers.org

**Pittsburgh**  
pittsburgh@workers.org  
**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585.436.6458  
rochester@workers.org

**Rockford, IL**  
rockford@workers.org

**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
sandiego@workers.org

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
tucson@workers.org

**Virginia**  
virginia@workers.org  
**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
dc@workers.org

## WORKERS WORLD

### this week

#### ★ In the U.S.

Protests rock DNC .....	1
‘No Trump! No KKK! No racist fascist USA!’ .....	2
In Indiana: Partial victory for reproductive justice .....	3
Activists hit ‘miscarriage of justice’ in Gray death .....	3
Honeywell ‘took on the wrong union local’ .....	4
CNY: Workers Center win in wage theft. ....	4
Iowa ‘Fight for \$15’ activists keep fighting .....	4
Workers’ mass transit – bosses say ‘Keep paying!’ .....	4
Syracuse: Black Lives Matter resists police threats .....	5
Free Rev. Pinkney! Court rejects appeal .....	5
Black Lives organizers occupies NYC City Hall Park .....	5
Haitians challenge Clinton in Philly .....	6
Migrant rights activists march at DNC .....	6
Philadelphia marchers oppose Clinton and DNC racism ..	7
Freedom for Bilal Kayed! .....	8
Display to honor Gazan children killed by Israel. ....	8
Remember Emmett Till and Tamir Rice! .....	11
Oscar López Rivera: ‘Liberación, ya/Liberation, now!’ ....	11

#### ★ Around the world

Aracelio Iglesias Díaz, 20th century Cuban labor leader ...	8
Venezuelan workers take over U.S. plant. ....	9
Coup and ‘countercoup’ disrupt Turkish state .....	9
South Africa prepares for elections .....	10

#### ★ Editorial

Stop Washington’s aggression!.....	1
------------------------------------	---

#### ★ Noticias en Español

Además de Trump, ¿Quién está realmente detrás de él? ..	12
---	----

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: ww@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org  
Vol. 58, No. 31 • Aug. 11, 2016  
Closing date: Aug. 2, 2016

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,  
Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk;  
Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis,  
Bob McCubbin

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe,  
Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein,  
Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales,  
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash,  
Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer,  
Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci;  
Ramiro Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Donna Lazarus,  
Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2016 Workers World. Verbatim copying  
and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium  
without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly  
except the first week of January by WW Publishers,  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone:  
212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institu-  
tions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and  
edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to  
Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY  
10011. Back issues and individual articles are available  
on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing,  
Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A  
searchable archive is available on the Web at www.  
workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.  
Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011.





In Indiana

# Partial victory for reproductive justice

By Sue Davis

Purvi Patel’s 20-year sentence for “feticide” was overturned by the Indiana Court of Appeals on July 22. Ruling there was no evidence that lawmakers “intended the feticide statute to apply to pregnant women,” the court vacated the feticide charge against the 35-year-old South Asian-American woman.

The second charge against Patel of child neglect remains, though the court lowered it from a Class A felony neglect of a dependent to a class D felony and remanded the case back to the trial court for re-sentencing. Patel, who was originally sentenced to 20 years on March 30, 2015, and could now be sentenced from six months to three years, has already served 16 months.

The charge of child neglect hinges on the prosecution’s insistence that the fetus, which it alleged to be 25 to 29 weeks at the time Patel miscarried on July 13, 2013, took a breath and was therefore able to survive outside the womb. But Patel, who took pills ordered online prior to the miscarriage, testified that it was stillborn.

However, the prosecution used the 17th century “lung float test,” debunked since the 1980s as junk science by the medical establishment, to conclude that the fe-



Parvi Patel

tus took a breath. Despite Patel’s lawyers’ best efforts to rebut the so-called “evidence,” the jury still convicted Patel of child neglect. (Rewire, July 22)

Asian-American women’s groups lead Patel defense

Five friend-of-the-court briefs, each with multiple signers, were filed supporting Patel’s appeal on May 23 by a new legal team headed by Stanford professor Lawrence C. Marshall, cofounder of Northwestern’s famous Center on Wrongful Conviction. Two briefs were brought by several dozen Asian-American and Pacific Islander organizations that have rallied to Patel’s defense. Signers of all the briefs celebrated that the feticide conviction was overturned, demanded that Patel be freed immediately and defended the goal of reproductive justice for all women.

“No woman should fear for her safety or freedom based on the outcome of her pregnancy,” noted a statement from the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum. “There is much more work to be done to ensure that women — particularly AAPI [Asian-American and Pacific Island] women, low-income women and all women of color — are not punished for their pregnancy outcomes.” (NAPAWF News, July 26)

Lakshmi Sridaran, a director of South

Asian Americans Leading Together, said, “It’s important to remember that Indiana has enforced its feticide law against two pregnant women, both of whom are Asian American. We hope the strong precedent set in Patel’s appeal will protect women of color in states like Indiana and others where laws that should protect them often end up criminalizing them instead.” (NAPAWF News, July 25)

While Patel has the dubious distinction of being the first U.S. woman to be sent to prison for inducing her own abortion, Chinese-born Bei Bei Shuai was charged in Indiana with feticide in 2011 after a failed suicide attempt resulted in a miscarriage. The charge was later dropped as part of a plea deal.

An amicus brief by National Advocates for Pregnant Women, which has supported Patel since before her 2015 trial, had 26 reproductive justice, medical, law and women’s rights organizations as co-signers, including Physicians for Reproductive Health and the National Latina Roundtable for Reproductive Health.

Representing the National Network of Abortion Funds, Director Yamani Hernandez noted, “People of color are bearing the brunt of unscientific laws and misplaced moral outrage against abortion, which is blurring into the territory of miscarriage, putting any pregnant person at risk of prosecution and incarceration. It needs to stop, and the decision didn’t go far enough to restore full justice

for Purvi Patel.” (Guardian, July 22)

Need to unite against racist reaction

It must be pointed out that the state of Indiana, whose governor is Mike Pence, the far-right, racist, conservative, staunch opponent of women’s reproductive rights and Trump’s vice presidential running mate, could still appeal the court decision.

That the only cases of women charged and jailed for feticide in the U.S. were brought against immigrant women in Indiana is an ominous reminder of Trump’s impulsive initial statement that women should be punished for having abortions and his viciously racist anti-immigrant attacks. If Trump intends to delegate all domestic issues to Pence, as he has stated, that could lead to a national crisis in reproductive health care for all women — but especially women of color, undocumented immigrants, low-wage workers, youth, rural women, lesbians and trans people, women with disabilities, and survivors of incest and domestic violence.

But given the way many progressive forces in the U.S. have rallied to defend Purvi Patel and are fighting to free her, it’s not a stretch to assume that those groups and others defending human rights will rise up and unite with movements like Black Lives Matter and the Fight for \$15 and a union. Unity is essential in the fightback against all forces of reaction and oppression, whether in Indiana, the rest of the U.S. or around the world. □

## As cops walk in Freddie Gray death

# Activists hit ‘miscarriage of justice’

By Workers World Baltimore Bureau

After enormous pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police, Baltimore State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby on July 27 dropped the indictments against the remaining three of six police officers who had been charged with the murder of Freddie Gray while he was in police custody. The young African American had been arrested after “making eye contact with the police.”

The three other police had earlier been acquitted, not by a jury but by Circuit Judge Barry Williams, who claimed that the prosecuting attorneys had failed to present significant prosecutorial evidence of any misconduct.

Mosby faced vociferous criticism from the police for having filed multiple criminal charges against the officers after the medical examiner determined that Gray’s death was a homicide. She had also received death threats before her decision to drop the charges and has now hired bodyguards. This and unrelenting pressure from the FOP are seen as factors in her decision to rescind the charges against the police.

Mosby’s decision to halt the prosecutions was called “a miscarriage of justice” by the Rev. Courtly “CD” Witherspoon, president of the Baltimore chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a leader of the People’s Power Assembly. “It deprived the people of Baltimore of the one opportunity to receive police accountability,” said Witherspoon, who has been a leading community activist protesting police violence and brutality.

Witherspoon also criticized the State of the City Address by Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, in which



she “did not appear as dedicated to ending police brutality as she was in ending ‘Black on Black’ crime.” This phrase has been used to divert from the real problems of the Black community, which faces discrimination, poverty, poor housing and massive unemployment, as well as police crimes.

In a joint statement, Andre Powell, who is running for mayor, and Sharon Black, who is running for City Council president, said, “No matter what the decision, the

Renee Washington and Andre Powell testify at the Baltimore Tribunal and Peoples Assembly on June 6, 2015.

People’s Power Assembly and Workers World Party will continue to fight against police brutality and murder, along with the Baltimore SCLC and Black Lives Matter — in Baltimore and everywhere else in this country where racism rears its

ugly head. Along with the police murders of Freddie Gray, Anthony Anderson and other victims, the struggle for justice continues.” Powell and Black are members of Workers World Party. They are running as independents.

Freddie Gray’s death is part and parcel of the genocidal actions of police throughout the U.S. and is not an anomaly. Time after time, the police are either not indicted or if indicted, they are acquitted of both murder and brutality

— even when those heinous acts are recorded by conscientious witnesses and/or police videos. No small part is played by so-called police “unions” that not only put tremendous pressure on government officials but also have great power and influence in the state apparatus of the capitalist state to act with impunity.

Just in recent years, Baltimore has had to pay out millions of dollars to family members for either deaths or acts of brutality by the police against African Americans. The settlement over Freddie Gray’s death alone cost \$6.4 million. These settlements are an attempt to use taxpayers’ money to make the problems caused by oppression “go away.”

However, as the popular saying goes, “No justice, no peace.” Neither the state apparatus nor the police will stop the Black Lives Matter movement, nor the revolutionary socialist struggle to end the oppressive capitalist system. □





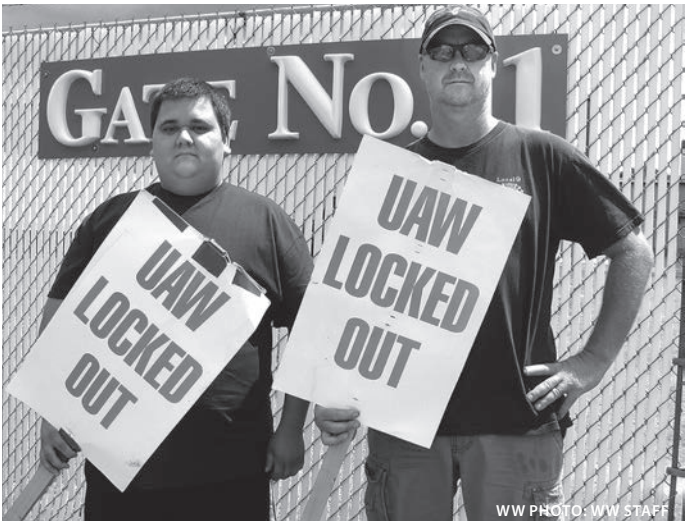
# Honeywell ‘took on the wrong union local’

By Martha Grevatt

Honeywell locked out 317 members of United Auto Workers Local 9 in South Bend, Ind., and 42 members of Local 1508 in Green Island, N.Y., last May 9. This followed the workers’ overwhelming rejection five days earlier of the company’s “last best” offer.

Honeywell is operating the factories with management employees and scabs provided by the professional union-busting firm Strom Engineering. Locked out workers in Indiana, none of whom have crossed the picket line, have been waiting for months for the state to determine their eligibility for unemployment benefits due to the lockout.

Unity on the round-the-clock picket lines remains solid, bolstered by the presence of other union workers and the material assistance from UAW regions and locals around the country. Green Island pickets were joined in May by Verizon strikers, who later secured a contract that prevented Verizon management from imposing major concessions. Teamsters are honoring the strike lines. Community support is also strong.



community support is also strong.

Negotiations had begun in April, only three weeks prior to the lockout. At that time the UAW had said it was willing to continue working under the previous contract, which expired May 3. Honeywell workers had ceded big concessions in the past few contracts, which included a multitier pay structure that divides union workers from each other.

UAW International President Dennis

Williams, in a letter to congressional representatives, wrote: “Honeywell made a unilateral decision to subcontract a portion of bargaining unit work. Then, Honeywell presented a contract offer wherein it retained the right to unilateral discretion to modify and even terminate a variety of benefits including health benefits and the unlimited right to change other terms and conditions of employment.”

Williams, who has supported “partnership” with corporations, added, “Honeywell is essentially proposing that UAW workers accept an employee handbook instead of a collective bargaining agreement.”

Both plants make brake components for the aerospace industry. They were owned by Bendix until Bendix merged with Allied Technologies, which later

also bought out Honeywell and assumed Honeywell’s name. Six other plants that were under the UAW-Bendix master contract have been closed.

## Historical context

In 1936, Local 9, one of the earliest chartered UAW locals, held the union’s first sit-down strike. After a six-day occupation, Bendix conceded to the workers, recognizing the UAW and denying recognition to a company union, the Bendix Employees Association.

This win at Bendix and a subsequent victory at Kelsey-Hayes encouraged the UAW to take on General Motors, leading to the 44-day Flint sit-down that forced GM to recognize the union. This victory was one of the most important events in U.S. labor history.

Local 9 members are proud of their legacy. One picket sign reads, “Hey Honeywell, you picked the wrong workforce, local, city to mess with!”

*Grevatt, a veteran UAW unionist, is the author of the pamphlet, “In Our Hands Is Placed a Power: The Flint Sit-down Strike.”*

## Central New York

# Workers’ Center win in wage theft

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The Workers’ Center of Central New York scored another big win in an ongoing series of confrontations with employers who steal wages from temporary, low-wage and immigrant workers. Earlier WCCNY actions have returned pay to workers in construction, food service and janitorial services. (Workers World, March 27)

Andrea and Lourdes were hired by a subcontractor to clean at the Cheesecake Factory in upscale Destiny Mall in Syracuse. The Latina women said: “We cleaned bathrooms, swept, mopped, picked up chairs, cleaned the windows, dusted tables. We worked at night. We did what no one else wanted to do.”

But when paycheck time came, the subcontractor which hired them disappeared, ignoring phone calls and owing the women almost \$400 — the equivalent of a month’s rent. (WAER Syracuse Public Radio)

The women joined the WCCNY and led an organizing campaign that culminated in a loud, bullhorn rally outside the mall on July 28. Then a forceful delegation got past security to present demands at the Cheesecake Factory and to the temp agency it employs, Majestic.

WCCNY organizer Rebecca Fuentes wrote on Facebook: “One day after the action the workers have been paid! We will continue to do outreach to uncover these injustices and organize to end wage theft and unfair labor practices in our communities.”

Low-wage and immigrant workers are most frequently targeted by unscrupulous employers in wage-theft schemes. Because subcontracting is now so prevalent in all industries, temporary workers find it almost impossible to figure out which employer is legally liable for unpaid wages.

WCCNY organizer Nikeeta Slade emphasized the importance of the Center’s

organizing directly with workers to demand their rights and demanding wages directly from businesses that benefit from their work. “A lot of people are not familiar with the term ‘wage theft,’ which is what happened to these two workers,” Slade said. “They need to know that it is illegal to not be paid.” (WAER, July 27) □

PHOTO: REBECCA FUENTES

Andrea and Lourdes celebrate victory in winning back their stolen wages.



## Workers’ mass transit Bosses say ‘Keep paying!’

By G. Dunkel

In 2015, 1.8 billion trips were made on New York City subways, about 6 million a day. This is a 50 percent increase from the 1990s, when the daily ridership was around 4 million.

Subways are essential to the economy of the city and make possible its huge density of offices, culture, arenas, stores, universities and all sorts of services. They are also essential to workers, who use them to get to their jobs and to visit friends and family.

According to U.S. Census figures, 41 percent of all New Yorkers take a subway to work, while only 12 percent take the bus and 10 percent walk. Fifty-four percent of all New York families do not own a car. Currently, a number of lines run over capacity, and passengers wait for four or five trains before they can find a spot.

Like much U.S. infrastructure, subways have not been maintained properly. The investments to keep the system resilient, capable of overcoming catastrophes and accidents, have not been made.

Superstorm Sandy battered the New York subway system in 2012, hitting the tunnels that connect the island of Manhattan to the rest of the city hard. The Canarsie tunnel, used by the L-line to connect Brooklyn and Manhattan, was filled with highly corrosive salt water for 11 days and is now falling apart.

The Canarsie tunnel was built in 1924 with only two tubes, one with a track for Brooklyn-bound trains, the other with a track for Manhattan-bound trains. Any ac-

cident blocking one tube slows down traffic significantly as only one tube is available for both directions. The tunnel is now used by nearly 250,000 passengers a day.

For 90 years, the MTA and its predecessor agencies have known the system needs an additional tube, but found it more convenient to just shut the tunnel down when there was work to do. When the MTA was replacing the signal system on the L-line with a more modern system, it stopped weekend service through the tunnel for months at a time.

For workers who relied on the L-line to get to jobs in Manhattan, the absence of L service was a major blow. Commutes that took 20 to 30 minutes stretched to two to three hours. Instead of simply making a few stops on the L, some workers had to transfer to two or three lines, since much of the area served by the L is not served by any other subway line.

On July 25, the MTA announced it will shut the L-line down for 18 months starting in 2019. What the MTA hasn’t announced is how the 250,000 people who use the Canarsie tunnel are going to get to work in a reasonable amount of time during the repairs. The shutdown will affect not only workers coming from Brooklyn to Manhattan. Thirty to fifty thousand people a day use the L-line in Manhattan.

One reason the MTA announced the shutdown so far in advance is that the city of New York is feuding with the state of New York for which government source will pay, and each is trying to shift blame.

But workers don’t need the blame. They need to get to work. □

## Iowa

# ‘Fight for \$15’ activists keep fighting

By Mike Kühlenbeck  
Des Moines, Iowa

July 28 — The “Fight for \$15” struggle in Polk County, Iowa, continues as a county task force resists workers’ growing demand for a living wage.

Workers calling for a \$15-per-hour minimum wage met on July 14 with the Polk County minimum-wage task force. The task force settled on an increase from the current \$7.25 to \$8.75, starting Jan. 1, 2017, and increasing annually until it reaches \$10.75 per hour in 2019. The Polk County Board of Supervisors will vote on this proposal at the next task force meeting on Aug. 1, much to the chagrin of activists.

The statewide minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, a figure that can best be described as an “unlivable wage,” was last increased in 2008. The pay bump proposed will not be enough to make the wages of

Iowa’s minimum-wage workers livable.

Iowa’s “Citizens for Community Improvement” organizer Bridget Fagan-Reidburn is quoted in an Iowa CCI release noting that the task force “focused on what they believe is politically possible, not at all about what people need to survive.

“It’s our job to keep pushing for a living wage of \$15 per hour,” Fagan-Reidburn said, adding that “if you hadn’t been pushing up to this point, we know [the task force’s] proposal would’ve been much lower.”

According to “Iowa Policy Project” researcher Peter Fisher, “Nearly 114,000 Iowa families do not earn enough to provide for a basic standard of living without public supports, despite one or more full-time wage earners in the family.” (iowapolicyproject.org)

Fagan-Reidburn said the fight for a \$15 minimum wage in Polk County is “far from over.” □



Syracuse

# Black Lives Matter resists police threats



WW PHOTOS: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
Syracuse, N.Y.

On the evening of July 28, longtime community activist Maurice “Mo” Crawley was working as a Syracuse neighborhood anti-violence monitor with the group O.G.’s [Original Gangsta’s] Against Gun Violence. He was live-streaming two Syracuse cops across the street as they arrested a Black man, commenting while streaming that this was to make sure the cops were not doing anything they should not be doing. Suddenly, one of the cops rushed Crawley, threatened him, threw him to the ground and arrested him. It is not illegal to video-tape police in New York state.

Twelve hours later, Black Lives Matter Syracuse New York rallied in front of the Onondaga County so-called “Justice Center” to protest the brutal and illegal arrest.

SeQuioa Kemp, a BLM organizer, denounced “the myth that Black people don’t care about each other.” White supremacist arguments about violence in Black communities are often used to justify racist police violence. “But,” Kemp noted, “when someone like Mo goes out every day to protect Black lives, look how he is treated by the police!”

Herve Comeau, a BLM media liaison, said, “The city, the mayor and the police chief have suggested that hiring Black police officers would solve the problem. It would not! The problem is state-sanctioned violence against Black and Brown bodies.” BLM organizer Anthony Harper added, “This is no longer a Black and white issue. It’s an issue of the police and what they are allowed to do in our



Anthony Harper, BLM organizer.

neighborhoods.”

The crowd was a wide representation of Syracuse communities, including Black, Latino/a, white, Asian, Indigenous and LGBTQ people. Some were workers who’d just gotten off the night shift. In conversations during the rally, many spoke informally about how they had lost loved ones from

police violence. Some said of the police presence in the streets: “It’s like being in prison out in the neighborhoods.”

Given the July 28 rally and a 500-person march on July 18, BLM organizers are answering police retaliation against a Syracuse community denouncing police terror. After a cop shot and killed Terry Maddox, an African-American man, on Father’s Day, the Police “Benevolent

## Free Rev. Pinkney!

# Court rejects appeal of Michigan rights leader

By David Sole

On July 26, the Michigan Court of Appeals rejected the appeal of political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney. Convicted in Berrien County, Mich., this community activist has already served over 19 months for supposedly altering dates on a recall petition against then-Benton Harbor mayor James Hightower.

His sentence of 2.5 to 10 years in prison has him currently locked up in the remote Marquette Branch Prison, almost 500 miles from his family and friends.

The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments from Rev. Pinkney’s attorney on May 11. Amicus briefs were also filed by the National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union, which was given leave to argue before the court. Four issues were raised on appeal.

The first issue revolved around whether the alteration of dates on the petitions was even a felony under the specific law he was charged with violating. The law specifies acts by government officials who violate election laws. The court, however, ruled that the provision in Pinkney’s case also applies to any individual, not just officials.

In an outrageous argument, the court

held that “sufficient evidence was presented to support the jury’s guilty verdicts” based entirely on the facts that Rev. Pinkney was “the leader in the recall efforts,” “had previously sponsored several recall campaigns,” “circulated 33 of the 62 recall petitions,” spoke at city commission and other meetings about the recall and “demonstrated animosity towards [Mayor] Hightower in various ways.” The court decided that this alone is enough “to find the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Rev. Pinkney is an African-American man from a city that is 90 percent African American, but he was tried in front of an all-white jury by a white prosecutor and a white judge.

The court completely brushed aside the effect on the jury of the prosecutor harping again and again on the defendant’s activist history. The court argued that “the jury was properly instructed several times that it could only consider the other-acts evidence for motive purposes” and that “jurors are presumed to follow their instructions.”

The Court of Appeals then argued that even if Rev. Pinkney was not the one who altered dates on the petitions, he could

be convicted for aiding and abetting another person who might have done so because Pinkney was “leader of the recall campaign.”

### Court condemns Rev. Pinkney for activism

Finally, the court upheld the introduction of Rev. Pinkney’s long career as a community activist as “motive” to commit election violations. These included “his radio show,” “his recall efforts in the local community,” “his speaking engagements across the country” and “his search for justice and equality in general.” According to the three judges, this “showed that defendant had a motive to alter the dates on the recall petitions, thus providing evidence of the identification of the perpetrator.”

This last conclusion can condemn every political activist in the country to be guilty of any political crime just for being an activist. This threat to free speech is one reason for the intervention of the NLG and the ACLU in this case.

On July 27, Rev. Pinkney wrote to his supporters: “We are living in a time when the court system and the prosecutor don’t need evidence to send a man to prison.



WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE

Rev. Pinkney with supporter Marcina Cole.

I know they don’t have any evidence, because I didn’t do it. And the prosecutor knows I didn’t do it.

“You have got to be very, very careful today,” he continued, “because if you take a stand against the system they’ll do everything in their power to crush you. Now they can send you to prison and keep you there without evidence. Better keep your eyes and your mind on freedom, and keep freedom on your mind.

“What do you do now? Now that you can be sent to prison with no evidence? What’s the next step for you? Now that there is a 100 percent chance of you being convicted if you are charged, what can you do? What should you do? This is the question I hope we are all asking ourselves.”

It is expected that the case will be appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court in the next few months. Donations toward Rev. Pinkney’s defense can be made at bbbanco.org. Write to Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, Marquette Branch Prison, 1960 U.S. Highway 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855. □

New York City

# Movement for Black Lives organizers occupy City Hall Park

By Workers World New York Bureau

Millions March NYC began an occupation of New York’s City Hall Park the morning of Aug. 1. Organizers say they will remain until Mayor Bill de Blasio meets three demands: Fire Police Commissioner Bill Bratton and end “Broken Windows” policing; defund the New York Police Department and invest in Black, Brown and working-class communities; and provide reparations to victims’ families and survivors of police terrorism out of the NYPD budget.

MMNYC is a “grassroots multiracial collective of organizers committed to building and strengthening the move-

ment for Black lives,” according to the press release for the occupation. The activists represent communities at “the intersections of multiple social movements — Black Lives Matter, LGBTQIA+, Indigenous people, prison abolition and others.” Groups participating include Equality for Flatbush, Peoples Power Assemblies NYC (PPA), NYC Labor for Black Lives, NYC Shut It Down, Samidoun: Palestine Prisoner Solidarity Network and more.

MMNYC has organized over a dozen mass mobilizations and marches, including the December 2014 Days of Rage that brought 75,000 people into the streets to demand an end to police brutality. □



WW PHOTO: TONY MURPHY

Movement for Black Lives activists begin occupation and demand reparations.

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

**Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes

**Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy

**Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani Dowell

**The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead

**Domestic Workers Demand a Bill of Rights** Imani Henry

**Black & Brown Unity** Saladin Muhammad

**Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal

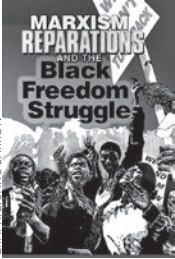
**Racism & Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales

**Haiti Needs Reparations** Pat Chin

**Alabama’s Black Belt** Consuela Lee

**Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion** John Parker

Available at major online booksellers.





# Wall Street calls shots at DNC Protests rock convention

Continued from page 1

modern times, its social base has indeed huge numbers of union members, women, youth and people of color.

It is a progressive base, as it reflects the reality of the lives of workers. It is not unusual to see some of these Democrats at revolutionary events or demonstrations against war and racism or for higher wages.

This base was visible not just on the convention floor but on the podium as well. Because of the strength of the progressive movement, especially in this period of the Black Lives Matter and the immigrant rights movements, representatives of these struggles were allowed to address the convention.

It demonstrates Frederick Douglass' creed: "Without struggle, there is no progress." And the Black community has definitely been in struggle.

One of the most moving moments of the convention was Tuesday night, when nine African-American women whose children had been killed by police terror or racist vigilantes took the stage.

The floor chanted "Black Lives Matter" at the presence of mothers Wanda Johnson (Oscar Grant), Gwen Carr (Eric Garner), Lezley McSpadden (Michael Brown), Sybrina Fulton (Trayvon Martin), Geneva Reed-Veal (Sandra Bland), Lucy McBath (Jordan Davis), Cleopatra Pendleton (Hadiya Pendleton), Maria Hamilton (Dontre Hamilton) and Annette Nance-Holt (Blair Holt).

Trayvon Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton, stated, "This isn't about being politically correct. ... This is about saving our children. That's why we're here, tonight, with Hillary Clinton."

It should be pointed out that Tamir Rice's mother, Samaria Rice, told Fusion earlier that no candidate is "speaking my language about police reform."

Alternet.net noted that Mothers of the Movement was Number Three of the 10 Top Moments of the DNC. Their top three, in fact, all had to do with women.

Their Number One Top Moment was Clinton as she accepted the nomination to be the first woman president: "If there are any little girls out there ... let me just say: I may become the first woman president, but one of you is next."

Number Two Top Moment was Michelle Obama's exceptionally moving speech, which included: "That is the story of this country, the story that has brought me to this stage tonight, the story of generations



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

of people who felt the lash of bondage, the shame of servitude, the sting of segregation, but who kept on striving and hoping and doing what needed to be done so that today I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves."

Other moments that reflected the struggle of the oppressed included actress Eva Longoria, who took a line right out of the movement for Chicano rights: "I didn't cross the border, the border crossed me."

One might add that many an activist grimaced at this, for it occurred in the political party that represents the very same class forces that continue to rob and steal from Mexico to this very day.

### Social base doesn't call shots

Herein lies an example of the incredible cynicism manipulated in Philadelphia.

While the social base of the Democratic Party reflects working people, the party does not reflect their class interests.

While the struggle has forced the Democratic Party to co-opt some issues, the party nonetheless reflects the class that continues to exploit, bomb, deport and kill workers and oppressed here and around the globe.

Who really called the shots at the convention? What really came out of it, despite all the platitudes mouthed regarding issues of the oppressed?

The donors who were actually paying for much of the convention are anonymous. But it is not a mystery. While the convention floor rocked with chants, yells and much hyperbole, the real seat of power was elsewhere. The workers and oppressed might have thought they were making a difference challenging the Democratic



Party inside the convention, but it was Wall Street that was still calling the shots.

Executives from JPMorgan Chase, Johnson & Johnson and Verizon were just some of the many winners and diners in the very expensive hotel rooms throughout the city.

The website Sunlight Foundation, a nonprofit organization that aims to make "government and politics more accountable and transparent," reported, "The power some lobbyists hold over both parties ... and the White House is well documented. But what's not well documented is how lobbyists play a role in the Democratic Party's nominating process."

The issue of super-delegates became key with regard to the Sanders movement. According to Sunlight, these delegates can support "whomever they choose and are not bound by any primary or caucus result," adding, "some of the superdelegates also happen to be lobbyists for interests like big banks, payday lenders, health care insurers."

Notable lobbyist super-delegates included: "Donald L. Fowler, a former Democratic National Committee chair who was a registered lobbyist for the S.C. Credit Union; Joyce Brayboy, lobbyist for Goldman Sachs; Steve Grossman, a former president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC); Andres Ramirez, super-delegate from Nevada."

"According to disclosure documents from the Nevada legislature, as recently as 2015 Ramirez represented a company called Community Loans of America Inc., which is the parent company of several payday and title loan lenders" — a total culture that feeds off workers in crisis.

Sunlight concludes, "In short, [the super-delegates are] the embodiment of the institutional Democratic Party — everyone from former presidents, congressional leaders and big-money fundraisers to mayors, labor leaders and longtime local party functionaries. Nearly six-in-ten are men, close to two-thirds are white, and their average age (as best we could tell) is around 60."

### Behind-the-scenes power brokering

In a July 25 Los Angeles Times edito-

rial titled "Who Pays for the Democratic Convention?" Nikil Saval writes that "if you try asking [former Philadelphia mayor] Ed Rendell where he got the money, he won't tell. He treats [it] like a national security secret — despite a court order to the contrary. On June 14, the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records ruled that the host committee was required to disclose its list of donor records immediately, but it refused to comply."

All this behind-the-scenes power brokering has become a real lesson for the burgeoning youth movement and others around Sanders.

The Democratic Party has been exposed as the party of the ruling class. No matter the bells and whistles, no matter the faces of people we respect and even love, such as the Mothers of the Movement, a big con game has been exposed.

The millions who expected their voices to be heard through the Sanders movement were sold out by the lobbyists and the drone makers.

Nonetheless, a movement has arisen. The reality and contradictions between the platitudes of the politicians and what is really going on in society will continue to erupt and play out. It is understood why a mother who has lost her child to police violence hopes that a woman Democrat can be more helpful than a hateful racist demagogue. It is understood why a teen whose parents could be deported at any moment continues to put hope in the party that has carried out more raids than any other. The devil you know appears safer than the devil who wants to build a wall.

But many are now thinking about the need for a third option, which is one of the astounding outcomes of the DNC.

This paper has often written that it does not matter who is in the White House, it matters who is in the streets. That remains true. But support for a third candidate would be further proof of the growing disenchantment in this country. It would mean a further break of sectors of the working class from the bosses' party, the Democratic Party, and that is a step forward for the struggle.

That third candidate is WW's revolutionary socialist, Monica Moorehead. □

## Haitians challenge Clinton

By G. Dunkel

Komokoda (the Committee to Mobilize Against Dictatorship in Haiti) protested in Philadelphia on July 26 against the ruinous role played in Haiti by former President Bill Clinton, Democratic Party presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and their family foundation.

Komokoda, a group in the Haitian community that has actively protested the Clintons for years, marched in the Shut Down the DNC protests. The group released a statement, saying: "We will



WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL

not be counted among those frightened by bigot Trump into silence or into supporting the career criminal Clintons."

The group leafleted the protest with this statement, which continued: "For those pushing the line that Hillary is the 'lesser evil,' we tell them that loudmouth Trump has yet to enact policies which have killed our people

in Haiti, Honduras, Palestine, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan; which have jailed millions of our black and brown brothers and sisters; which have defunded schools and community building programs to build prisons and turn police departments into military forces." □



Philly





# Marchers oppose Clinton and DNC racism

By Philadelphia Workers World Staff

“Don’t vote for Hillary, she’s killing Black people!” a thousand protesters chanted over and over as the Black DNC Resistance March against Police Terrorism and State Repression ensnared midday traffic while they rallied and marched through North Philadelphia’s Black community.

The July 26 march was timed to coincide with — and disrupt — the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Coalition for REAL (Racial, Economic and Legal) Justice, a Black-led group of progressives, anti-racists and anti-capitalists organized against police occupation and murders of Black and Brown people, called the march.

The march kicked off with a rally in the Cecil B. Moore neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Anti-gentrification activists from the “Stadium Stompers” joined the rally. The latter group is fighting Temple University’s latest attempts to build a football stadium that would further displace Black and working-class communities.

The Philly Coalition for REAL Justice connected the nationwide onslaught of gentrification in historically Black communities to the epidemic of police violence. Speakers read the names of police terrorism victims one-by-one, passing out dozens of signs bearing those names. “Who will carry this name?” asked Erica Mines of REAL Justice after reading each name. “We will!” responded the crowd each time.

Several Puerto Rican flags could be spotted within the gathering. The Comité Boricua Filadelfia-Camden (Philadelphia-Camden Boricua Committee) contingent marched in support of Black Resistance behind a banner calling for independence for the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico.

The Philadelphia South Asian Collective and the immigrant rights organization Juntos also joined the march.

Cephus Johnson (aka Uncle Bobby), whose nephew Oscar Grant was shot and killed in 2009 by cops in Oakland, Calif., gave an impassioned speech exposing police as protectors and servants of the racist state, not the people.

Asa Khalif, whose cousin Brandon Tate-Brown was killed by Philadelphia police in December 2014, called for a revolutionary movement to overthrow the system of white supremacy.

The Black and Brown Workers Collective, representing nonprofit sector workers, and the Palestinian resistance movement were also represented in the ranks of protesters, as well as low-wage workers from Fight for \$15.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

A United Nations special rapporteur on the rights of freedom and assembly met with REAL Justice members to discuss state repression in the lead-up to the protests and then joined the march. The U.N. representative later witnessed police helicopters flying just above the sound car, attempting to drown out speakers, including Teresa Shoatz, daughter of famed political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz.

Marchers poured into Philadelphia’s streets to walk more than two miles in 94-degree heat to City Hall in Center City. Food Not Bombs activists and volunteers supported the event by preparing and passing out hundreds of bagged lunches and bottled water to marchers.

Four banner-decorated vehicles that took over all four north and south bound lanes of Broad Street preceded the march. Demonstrators carrying white banners with stark black lettering lined up curb-to-curb and led the march, which stopped often for short street rallies.

### ‘Shut Down the DNC’

Several hundred more protesters gathered at City Hall for a Shut Down the DNC rally. Larry Holmes, with the New York City People’s Power Assembly, appealed to Sanders supporters among the crowd, saying for their movement to be relevant beyond the Democratic National Convention it must embrace the Black Lives Matter movement.

Palestinian author and activist Susan Abulhawa and Brandon Do with Temple Students for Justice in Palestine denounced Hillary Clinton and the DNC for their continued support for Israeli occupation of and repression in Palestine.

Speakers also criticized Clinton’s support of drone strikes, her backing the overthrow of governments in Haiti, Honduras, Libya and Syria, and her labeling of Black youth as “superpredators.”

Scott Williams, a march organizer, gave a brief history of the Democratic Party’s legacy in support of slavery, racism and wars.

Workers World Party Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead called for the abolishment of the police. WWP Vice Presidential Candidate Lamont Lilly, an anti-police brutality activist from North Carolina, joined other Black activists in leading chants throughout the entire 5.5-mile march.

When the Black DNC Resistance March arrived at City Hall, the crowd from the Shut Down the DNC rally surged into the streets to join them. Standing on the back of a pickup truck amidst a sea of people, signs and red-black-green flags, members of the REAL Justice Coalition delivered speech after explosive speech exposing Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party and U.S. imperialism as enemies of all working and oppressed people.

### Black and Brown solidarity

In a strong show of Black and Brown solidarity, a migrant contingent joined in carrying a Dismantle ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) banner. Fernando Lopez, with the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice, led the crowd in chanting “Dismantle ICE, Defund the Police.”

Marchers again took to the streets for yet another dynamic and spirited march to the Wells Fargo Center in South Philadelphia where the DNC was being held.

As the march neared the convention site, the chanting, militant crowd forced a line of motorcycle cops trying to block the street to turn around one-by-one. The protesters pushed forward toward the DNC, with their leading vehicles forcing police cars with flashing red lights and blaring sirens to back off and retreat.

Meanwhile, hundreds of supporters of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, including those who had walked out of the convention, marched toward the advancing Black Resistance demonstrators while chanting “Black Lives Matter!”

At the end of the eight-hour march, Cornelius Moody of REAL Justice urged

Sanders supporters to return to their communities to actively support the Black-led movement.

### 13,000 protesters in 60 actions; issues DNC omitted

From July 23-29, an estimated 13,000 protesters took part in some 60 rallies, marches, indoor meetings and civil disobedience actions in Philadelphia against the DNC and Hillary Clinton. Several were for Sanders, fueled by Wikileaks exposure of emails showing that Democratic Party leaders manipulated the primary elections in Hillary Clinton’s favor.

These marches also targeted Clinton for wavering on rejection of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact and for her legacy of promoting U.S. imperialist policies on a global basis. Indoor gatherings also addressed the problems of Islamophobia and the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Before the convention opened on July 24, Indigenous activists led about 8,000 people gathered at City Hall for a March for Clean Energy. Many signs opposed fracking and the construction of oil and gas pipelines like Keystone XL.

On the DNC’s opening day, July 25, the Poor Peoples’ Economic and Human Rights Campaign led a March for Our Lives. This action focused on the issues of long-term and widespread poverty in Philadelphia, the student debt crisis, epidemic and untreated drug addiction, and the lack of affordable health care. Earlier in the day immigrants marched for their rights and against ICE raids (see separate article on this issue).

Philadelphia officials initially tried to limit public opposition to the DNC and Clinton by denying permits for marches, especially in Center City during morning and afternoon rush hours. The city was forced to back down after demonstrators held a press conference in late June and a legal action by the Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union. □

## Immigrant activists march at DNC



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Over 500 undocumented and other immigrants and their supporters held a Migrant Rights March on July 25, the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Activists came from as far away as Georgia, Louisiana, Illinois and Tennessee to demonstrate their commitment to immigrant rights at the site of the DNC and to stand in sharp contrast to the attacks on immigrants that had been launched earlier by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during his acceptance speech.

Juntos, the #Not1More Campaign, the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, the Congress of Day Laborers and other groups gathered in South Philly. They rallied and then began to march from Capitolo Field, in a neighborhood where many Mexican, Honduran and other Central American migrants live

and work. As the temperature reached 95 degrees, organizers handed out bottles of water and fresh peaches from a nearby shopping area, long known as the Italian Market, but where many vendors from Latin America and Asia now sell produce and run stores and restaurants.

Their demands were clearly stated on many colorful banners and signs: “Moratorium on deportations NOW,” “Dismantle ICE” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], “End all detentions” and “Ni un@ más” [Not one more]. Another sign, “Shut down Berks,” referred to a facility 60 miles west of the city where hundreds of refugee mothers and their children are being held in the Berks Family Detention Center. One Latina held a sign reading: “The only ICE we want is water ice,” referring to a frozen delicacy popular in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

### Philadelphia

Marchers chanted “Undocumented! Unafraid!” “No papers! No fear!” and other slogans in Spanish and English as they walked down Ninth Street, up Lombard and then down 13th Street through the “Gayborhood,” where participants wearing “Soy Queer Latin@” shirts led the chant “Out of the closet! Into the streets!” The march ended at City Hall, where a short rally was held.

The next day, in a strong show of Black and Brown solidarity, a migrant contingent carried a “Dismantle ICE” banner in protests led by two coalitions: Black DNC Resistance against Police Terror and State Repression and Shut Down the DNC. Fernando Lopez spoke at a City Hall rally from the back of a pickup truck, leading the crowd in chanting, “Dismantle ICE! Defund the police!”

—Joe Piette



# ARACELIO IGLESIAS DÍAZ

## 20th-century labor leader remembered

By Ildefonso Gustavo Díaz Sandoval and Rosa María Oliva Enríquez

*A guest article from correspondents in Cuba.*

Aracelio Iglesias Díaz was one of those people who cannot be erased from history. He was born to a humble family on June 22, 1901, in Consolation del Sur, in Pinar del Rio province, Cuba. When only 13, he was orphaned, losing both his father and mother. Then he moved to Havana and began to live in Regla.

His laboring life began at 15 when he started to work on the docks at the port of the Bay of Havana. He related to the workers, and felt through his own flesh and muscles how dock workers were exploited.

Aracelio was shaped as a revolutionary through his own harsh experience as part of the working class. Already pos-

sessing a broad political viewpoint, he joined the ranks of the Communist Party of Cuba in 1931.

Gerardo Machado ruled Cuba from 1925-33. In 1933 when a strike against the Machadist tyranny was declared, Aracelio played an important role as one of the organizers of the strike in the port sector.

After the fall of the dictator, Aracelio devoted himself to recruiting comrades to the party from the dock workers. A tireless fighter for workers' rights, he became a proletarian leader. Then he was held in the prison on the Isle of Pines (now called Isle of Youth). After three years behind bars, he was released.

Life in prison did nothing to diminish his revolutionary convictions. On the contrary, upon his release Aracelio resumed his activities as a revolutionary and a union leader.

Aracelio is especially noted for standing up to the Ward Line shipping company. In 1938 he was elected financial secretary of the Union of Longshoremen and Laborers of the Port of Havana. One year later, he became its general secretary.

In January of the following year, during the Constituent Congress of the Workers' Federation of Cuba (CTC), he joined the Executive Committee of this organization.

In 1946 he became secretary of the Working Maritime Federation Local of the Port of Havana. During his leadership, this body succeeded in implementing the rotational list in the port, a system that gave all the longshore workers the opportunity to work. The Bay of Havana was the only port during World War II where a subsidy was charged for docking in the port, in this way also assisting the workers of the interior of the country.

When ferries and sea trains were introduced to the port, an innovation that meant reducing the workforce, Aracelio won a regulation that established a proportion between the load, the number of necessary workers and their wages, to avoid massive dismissals. During this time, payment was won for vacation days and 48 hours pay for working 44 hours.

As a Black man, a communist and a labor leader, Aracelio was always concerned about what the exploiters, Yankee imperialism and the successive capitalist-linked governments of Cuba, were up to. It was not by chance that, during Ramon Grau San Martin's presidential term, the repression of the labor movement and its united leaders was constant. Repression was aimed especially against



Jesús Menéndez, leader of the movement of sugar workers, and Aracelio Iglesias of the port workers.

Because of Aracelio's tireless struggle as head of the union, leader of the workers, and a communist by conviction, and because of the victories he ripped from the employers, he was characterized in the Yankee press as the "Red Czar of the Port of Havana." Because of that, under direct orders from the U.S. government, the Cuban government of Prío Socarrás ordered his murder. Aracelio was brought down by assassins' bullets on Oct. 17, 1948, at the headquarters of the Union of Port Workers.

But his murder did not stop the struggle. It was one more motive for continuing it. Today the Cuban workers do not forget you, Aracelio Iglesias. They remember you as an upright, serious and very sociable man, who was concerned for others. They know that you did not grow arrogant due to your qualities as an exceptional leader, but that, with a natural ease, you helped your comrades who were within your reach. □

## Freedom for BILAL KAYED!

*This excerpted letter from Mahmoud Kayed, brother of Palestinian political prisoner Bilal Kayed, is available in full on Workers World online, July 29. Joe Catron of Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network read the statement at a July 26 anti-DNC rally in Philadelphia.*



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Let me first greet you all, on behalf of my family and myself, and convey the greetings of my brother, Bilal Kayed, who is currently on hunger strike for the 42nd consecutive day, imprisoned by Israel. I greet you on behalf of all of the Palestinian prisoners...

My brother Bilal belongs to the Palestinian, Arab and international movement confronting imperialism and Zionism. He is one of 7,000 Palestinian prisoners standing firm in defense of the rights, freedom and dignity of the Palestinian people, which is inseparable from his personal rights, freedom and dignity...

Today, I extend to you from occupied Palestine, a message of solidarity and support as well, for you in your struggle inside the belly of the imperialist beast, and for your struggle for the freedom of all political prisoners in the United States. Freedom for the imprisoned strugglers for just causes and for liberation, whether they are in the U.S. or Israeli prisons, and anywhere they are where prisoners are being held because of their commitment to defend justice and human dignity, giving years of their life to defend their oppressed peoples and their right to self-determination.

As Palestinians, we know very well what injustice means, what occupation means and what arrest means. From occupied Palestine, we salute the struggler Mumia Abu-Jamal and all of his fellow militant Black leaders and political prisoners in U.S. prisons. We are on their side in their struggle and their just cause for freedom and dignity.

The Palestinian Arab people have been struggling for 100 years for the right to live and to reclaim their land and liberate their land and people from colonialism, occupation and racism. And our people have and continue to recognize that our natural position is in the struggle alongside the oppressed peoples, and not alongside states that trample people's rights, plunder the wealth of the people and impose their will on the impoverished and oppressed peoples.

The United States government supports and perpetrates injustice and occupation in Palestine, and provides military and financial support from taxpayers' money, rather than spending that money on programs and services for poor people, education and social programs. Instead, the United States perpetuates injustice and violence and funds prisons and police oppression.

We emphasize that your role and your struggle in the United States is a central, pivotal and leading role in stopping the Israeli and U.S. policies by:

- Participating in boycott campaigns against the occupation and against the private security corporations like G4S that provide it with support and services.
- Organizing delegations of solidarity with the Palestinian people and the prisoners. We welcome you to our occupied homeland Palestine and urge you to see the realities of occupation, apartheid and the suffering of our people.
- Building bridges between your people and ours — bridges based on human solidarity and internationalism, based on love, respect and equality.

**Long live international solidarity!**  
**Long live our resistance!**  
**Freedom for all political prisoners!**  
**Freedom for Bilal Kayed!**

## Display to honor Gazan children killed by Israel

By Mike Kühlenbeck  
Des Moines, Iowa

The American Friends Service Committee will honor the victims of Israel's 2014 military assault on Gaza with the "Gaza Pinwheel Memorial Display," to be exhibited here during the week of Aug. 9-16.

The memorial will feature 521 black pinwheels, each bearing the name of one of the 521 Palestinian children who were killed by the Israeli military's "Operation Protective Edge" during the summer of 2014.

The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict reported on June 22, 2015: "The 2014 hostilities saw a huge increase in firepower used in Gaza, with more than 6,000 airstrikes by Israel and approximately 50,000 tank and artillery shells."

In 51 days of merciless bombing, over 2,100 people were killed, over 11,000 injured, and thousands of houses, schools and hospitals lay in ruins. The AFSC worked with local Palestinian artists in Gaza to help create the memorial following the assault.

AFSC organizer Katie Huerter told WW: "It is important to me that we continue to humanize Gazans and not reduce



their suffering to numbers and statistics. Pinwheels represent the childhood that was stolen, and the hope that the spirit of these children will continue in the Palestinian resistance movement."

The exhibit will be on display for public viewing on the front lawn outside the AFSC Iowa office, located at 4211 Grand Ave. in Des Moines, from 12 noon on Aug. 9 to 1 p.m. on Aug. 15.

"We also hope to use this powerful display to call attention to Israel's attack on Gaza and the Gaza siege," Huerter added, "to demand accountability for rights violations that occurred in Gaza, to call for an arms embargo on Israel, and to open conversations about boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaigns." □



# After owners kick them out

## Venezuelan workers take over U.S. plant

By Deirdre Griswold

Nearly a thousand workers at a large, former Kimberly-Clark plant in Venezuela are back on the job, making sorely needed personal care products like toilet tissue, sanitary napkins and diapers. But they're not working for the U.S.-based company any more. They're working for themselves and the Venezuelan people.

When the price of oil dropped precipitously last year, due to oversupply on the world market caused largely by the surge of petroleum coming online from U.S. fracking and other new technologies, it hit especially hard those governments that get most of their national income from petroleum exports. Like Venezuela.

The U.S. has been opposed to the Venezuelan government ever since Hugo Chávez was elected president in 1998 and declared the Bolivarian Revolution. With the help of Cuba and with much political support throughout Latin America, Bolivarian Venezuela has brought health care, education and better housing to millions of poor people. But most of the economy has remained in the hands of the bourgeoisie, a wealthy ruling class accustomed to exerting a great deal of power in collaboration with the U.S. ever since the 1920s, when the Rockefeller dynasty began exploiting Venezuelan oil.

Chávez died in 2013 and his successor, President Nicolás Maduro, a former bus



PHOTO: PRENSA GOBIERNO BOLIVARIANO DE ARAGUA

Above, workers at the occupied Kimberly-Clark plant resume production. Below, Labor Minister Oswaldo Vera signs a workers' petition to reopen the factory under worker control.



PHOTO: @CARLUISV-@ROGERTRADICION

driver, has been hard-pressed to counter the economic sabotage being waged by the imperialists and their Venezuelan collaborators, who have taken advantage of the severe drop in oil prices to step up

their efforts to bring down the Bolivarian government. Part of this rightist campaign has been to deliberately cause shortages of needed consumer goods in order to wear down the spirit of the revolutionary masses.

This certainly appears to have been the case at Kimberly-Clark, where the company shut down operations and sent the workers home, claiming a lack of raw materials. But the workers knew otherwise, and they convinced the government to support them in reopening the plant.

So it was that on July 12, the Labor Ministry approved the workers' request to occupy the plant and resume production — under workers' control. President Maduro told the country on state television: "Forty-eight hours ago, without notice, a U.S. company called Kimberly-Clark, violating national laws and the constitution, fired almost 1,000 workers from its production plant, closed the door and left the country. ... Kimberly is now in the hands of the workers

— producing, working, and we are going to invest the necessary resources in order to consolidate [the plant's operations]."

"What we cannot accept," he continued, "is that a few owners can come and,

from one day to another, close the doors and kick out the workers."

According to venezuelananalysis.com, "Under Venezuela's 2012 Labor Law, mass firings are strictly prohibited and firms that shut their doors illegally are liable to be reopened under workers' control. ... According to Venezuela's Labor Ministry, the plant has a monthly output of 33 million diapers, 20 million sanitary pads, 27 million thin liners and 17 million rolls of toilet paper — all of which was brought to a standstill due to the closure. Following the workers' takeover, the factory is now operating at full capacity."

This one plant supplies 20 percent of Venezuela's need for these products.

Some 96 percent of Venezuela's foreign currency comes from oil sales abroad. Since the price of Venezuelan crude oil has moved back up to \$40 a barrel from a low of \$24 in February, the government has more resources at its command to thwart this kind of economic sabotage by U.S. corporations and their Venezuelan collaborators.

The Maduro government has backed up its words with a commitment to invest \$22 million in the plant's operations — enough to keep the plant supplied with raw materials until the end of the year.

This move by the Maduro government is undoubtedly popular with the workers of Venezuela. It could lead to more efforts to liberate essential facilities from the grip of their class enemies, who would prefer to see the people suffer rather than lose their privileged existence. □

# Coup and 'countercoup' disrupt Turkish state

By John Catalinotto

Aug. 1 — Two weeks after the collapse of an attempted coup, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the ruling Development and Justice Party (AKP) have yet to stabilize the Turkish government and state.

The AKP regime has concentrated its repression on those it considers members of the Hizmet organization, led by Fethullah Gülen, who Erdoğan blames for organizing the coup. Gülen has been living in exile in the United States since 1999. Before 2013 he and his group were allied with Erdoğan and the AKP.

Neither the Erdoğan nor the Gülen forces represent the working class nor any real anti-imperialist position. They both stand for the continued oppression of the Kurdish community, who make up 18 percent of the 80 million people living in Turkey.

On July 24, the CHP — a former ruling party representing the followers of Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey in the 1920s, and now second in parliamentary seats — held a demonstration in Istanbul's Taksim Square of hundreds of thousands supporting the AKP against the coup makers. AKP speakers also participated. The labor union confederations DISK and KESK supported this action.

Erdoğan met with and got support from the leaders of the CHP and also the MHP, the ultra-right party that is fourth strongest in Parliament. He has not sought a meeting with the social-democratic, pro-Kurdish HDP coalition, even though this party spoke against the coup.

On July 23, the HDP held a demonstra-

tion in Sultangazi Park in Istanbul against the July 15 coup, but also against the "countercoup," the repressive moves by the AKP government.

On July 31, Erdoğan said he would have the legal authorities drop charges of "insulting the president" against 2,000 people, many of them journalists. Erdoğan's government, in office for a decade, has increasingly repressed media coverage in the past few years.

### Erdoğan consolidates authority, weakens state

While it is impossible to rule out future attacks on the opposition parties, especially against the social-democratic HDP, or repression of the media, as of now the AKP has struck hardest against members of the military, police, government officials and educators.

Since the coup failed, the Turkish regime has detained, removed or suspended "more than 60,000 people in the military, judiciary, civil service and schools" over suspected links with Gülen's organization, according to a July 31 Reuter article. About 150 generals and admirals — 40 percent of the top officers — have been forced to accept dishonorable discharges, along with nearly 1,400 midlevel officers and nearly 9,000 ordinary soldiers.

While the AKP and Erdoğan have been able to consolidate political authority and bolster executive power with a 90-day state of emergency declared in the wake of the coup, it is at the cost of disrupting the command structure of



Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) held July 23 rally in Istanbul, saying 'No to coups, democracy now.'

the army and the police.

Turkey, a regional power across West and Central Asia, also has the second-largest army in NATO. The fate of Turkey's army concerns the Western imperialists. The Pentagon, which has trained Turkish officers since the 1950s, depends on Turkey as a military ally against Russia and Iran that provides important bases, like the airbase at Incirlik, which enable the U.S. to intervene in the region.

By all indications, the July 15 coup attempt, though a serious bid to seize power — hundreds died, thousands were wounded — was launched prematurely in anticipation of Erdoğan and the AKP carrying out a purge. This begs the question: Who within the military might have supported the coup had it been launched decisively and appeared to be winning?

### Voices close to Erdoğan blame U.S.

The Turkish daily newspaper Yeni Şafak, which is reputedly close to the AKP, reported last week that retired U.S. Gen-

eral John F. Campbell, who commanded U.S. troops in Afghanistan, had over the past year funneled \$2 million to Turkish generals to support a coup by the Gülen forces. Campbell and the U.S. government deny this.

Former CIA officials urged the U.S. government to approve Gülen's first application for residence, indicating a possible working relationship. It is standard for U.S. agencies to establish contacts throughout society in any important

country, and in Turkey the U.S. trained much of the military.

Turkish government spokespeople have demanded that the U.S. extradite Gülen back to Turkey. Their implicit message is that by deporting Gülen the U.S. can show good faith with the Turkish government. Otherwise, they say, we have a problem.

Erdoğan's criticism of the U.S., along with the criticism he faces from other NATO members in Europe, gives him the appearance of independence from imperialism. This may help him win support from the population, which is much more anti-imperialist than his regime.

Erdoğan and the AKP have recently taken steps to win more room to maneuver Turkish foreign policy in defense of perceived Turkish national interests. This includes apologizing for shooting down a Russian plane on the Turkish-Syrian border. The Turkish ruling class is bound to world imperialism by economic, diplomatic and military ties, however, and Erdoğan's rule won't change this. □



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Stop Washington’s aggression!

Libya, Syria and Iraq are again in the news. Not because of anything hopeful. Washington and its imperialist allies have opened up dangerous new offensives in these three countries.

By “imperialist,” we mean the countries that own and control most of the world’s finances, technology and weaponry, and that exploit labor and plunder raw materials from the rest of the world for the benefit of the 0.01 percent super-rich. Most of these imperialist countries are in NATO. There is also Japan, which is remilitarizing under the aegis of the U.S.

These new offensives go beyond drone warfare or sending a few military instructors or advisers. They include bombing runs and the potential for sending combat troops. They will inflict even more suffering on the people of West Asia and North Africa.

U.S. planes bombed Libya on Aug. 2. It was the first extensive attack since U.S.-NATO forces destroyed the legitimate government of Libya in 2011 and organized the murder of President Moammar Gadhafi. This brought chaos to Libya and destabilized much of North Africa, exacerbating the refugee and migration crises.

Washington and its NATO allies have also been targeting the Syrian government, especially since 2011, when NATO armed al-Qaida-type groups to fight the Damascus government. This is what opened up Syria to the Islamic State group, or IS. The resulting war has killed about 300,000 Syrians and turned millions into refugees. Lately, the U.S. has changed its tactics and bombed Raqqa, the IS “capital.”

The Pentagon is again sending thousands of troops to Iraq, this time to help the Baghdad regime retake the city of Mosul from IS. No one should forget that it was the illegal U.S.-British invasion in 2003 that destroyed the Iraqi government in the first place and opened the door to IS. Most recently, U.S. bombs have again destroyed the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi in order to retake them from IS. The bombing of Mosul is on an even bigger scale.

In Iraq, Syria and Libya, the Barack Obama administration now explains its intervention by the need to destroy IS.

**But what is Washington’s relation to IS?**

The U.S. approach to organizations like IS and al-Qaida is two-sided. Beginning in 1979, the CIA and Saudi Arabia secretly funded and nurtured al-Qaida and groups with similar feudal ideology to fight against a progressive government in Afghanistan, one that had abolished the purchase of brides and opened schools and other institutions to women.

When the Soviet Army came to the government’s defense, Washington used this as an excuse for stepping up an all-out war in Afghanistan. When Afghan women teachers were killed by the reactionaries the U.S. was arming, the imperialist media still called them “freedom fighters.” Yet ever since the U.S. invaded in 2001, the imperialists have pretended to be on the side of Afghan women.

After 9/11, Washington switched allegiance. Al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden, who had been on their payroll, became the enemy of choice. They said al-Qaida was allied with the Taliban in Afghanistan and with Saddam Hussein in Iraq. These lies became pretexts for U.S. troops to invade those countries.

In Libya and in Syria, NATO forces first armed similar reactionary groups against the legitimate governments. When IS became a problem beyond their control, the imperialists switched to using IS as a pretext for direct intervention.

In mid-July, coordinated U.S.-French bombing raids were reported to have killed more than 100 civilians near the city of Manbij in Syria. The French government even pointed to the truck massacre in Nice as its excuse for this slaughter of innocents. The Nice attack, the act of an individual, was emblazoned in headlines; the Manbij bombings, the deliberate act of two governments, are forgotten.

Not all the news is bad for Syrians: A Syrian/Russian offensive appears poised to liberate Aleppo, the largest city and commercial capital, from IS and similar forces. The Syrian/Russian forces have surrounded the area held by reactionaries, opened a corridor for civilians and offered fighters amnesia if they surrender.

With the U.S. election dominating news here, the campaigns and the candidates are not discussing the war danger. The Democratic Party is pursuing the war while the Republicans cheer it on.

Whichever capitalist party holds the White House, it’s up to the anti-war movement in the U.S. to combat these acts of imperialist aggression. □

Current challenges in South African election

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

June 14 - A nationwide election for local offices in 278 municipalities across South Africa is taking place Aug. 3. South African officials recently announced the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Elections, which is preparing for the fourth such election since 1994 when the first non-racial vote was held on a national level, bringing the African National Congress (ANC) to power.

The IMC is led by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Des van Rooyen, who is in charge of facilitating these tasks. The committee monitors the efficient conducting of the elections and guarantees that all registered voters are able to fully participate in a safe and impartial atmosphere.

An Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is responsible for providing information on the ballot’s terms and ensuring that necessary materials are printed and distributed to centers across the country. Candidates running on behalf of political parties and as individuals are contesting seats in councilor bodies and mayoral offices.

In a statement issued by the South African government on June 10, spokesperson Taksani Baloyi said: “We are now left with less than two months to ensure that we have free and fair 2016 local government elections. This, whilst we are awaiting an important Constitutional Court decision on the clarification of the challenges relating to citizens and households without formal addresses.”

More than 200 political parties and nearly 1,000 independent candidates are appearing on ballots in the municipal elections, says the IEC. The commission has already announced that the number of participants in the August poll represents an increase of 69 percent compared to that in the 2011 elections.

The Rand Daily Mail said June 8: “South Africa has seen a relatively steady growth in the number of political parties contesting municipal elections since 2000. In that year, ... 79 political parties ... contested the various municipalities. Six years later that number grew 23% to 97 — and it grew a further 25% between 2006 and 2011.”

The report continues, “The 2016 Municipal Elections will see a record number of political parties contesting the eight metropolitan municipalities, 205 local municipalities and 44 district councils. A total of 204 political parties submitted candidate lists by last week’s deadline — almost 69% more than the 122 which contested in 2011. The Western Cape will have the highest number of parties contesting (77), followed by Limpopo (56), Gauteng (45) and the Eastern Cape (43). The smallest number of parties will contest in the Northern Cape (18).”

**ANC escalates campaign**

The ruling ANC is facing challenges from the largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, and the smaller Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

The ANC Women’s League called upon the party to run at least 50 percent women candidates on Aug. 3. A list of mayoral candidates will be released by June 17. (Eyewitness News, June 13)

The ANC held a rally at the FNB Stadium in Soweto on June 4 to launch its manifesto for the upcoming elections and to mobilize tens of thousands of supporters.

During the manifesto’s launch, Paul Mashatile, Gauteng provincial ANC chairperson, stressed that supporters should conduct peaceful campaigns, adhering to IEC rules on avoiding violence. He told the crowd that the concerns of youth would be high on the party agenda. He also said he was confident that the ANC would win in all Gauteng metropolitan areas.

Additionally, Mashatile pledged that the delivery of municipal services will be improved in upcoming weeks and months. There has been an upsurge in violence at demonstrations about municipal services. These actions have created a potentially volatile atmosphere which could impact the character and outcome of the elections.

Bloomberg reported June 6: “The lead-up to South Africa’s local elections in August has turned increasingly violent as poor communities use the campaign as leverage to demand better living standards and politicians vie for control of the 278 municipalities.”

The article continued, “Communities staged 70 protests against a lack of decent housing, education and other services in the first four months of the year, up from 44 in the same period last year, according to Municipal IQ, which monitors the municipalities. Perceptions that the authorities only respond to grievances when demonstrations turn violent is fueling the unrest, according to Kevin Allan, the research company’s managing director.”

In KwaZulu-Natal Province, violent clashes occurred between supporters of the ANC and the rival EFF, headed by expelled ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema. Stones were thrown at Malema when he attempted to speak in May at a rally at Richards Bay, north of Durban. Police fired rubber bullets and teargas to disperse ANC and EFF supporters. EFF leaders claimed the ANC was attempting to prevent their organization from campaigning in KwaZulu-Natal, a charge the ruling party rejected.

**Economic crisis continues**

This election is taking place amid an economic decline in the country, which is exemplified in a recent Standard & Poor credit evaluation, which designates the country as just one level above junk bond status.

On June 3, the ANC posted on its website that the party sought to place a positive spin on the S&P evaluation, stressing: “The decision is a reward for the collective efforts of all South Africans doing everything to put South Africa first in placing our case before the rating agencies. The President and the Minister of Finance have been working with a number of CEOs

*Continued on page 11*

Build Workers World!

If reading Workers World newspaper has convinced you that the racist capitalist system in the U.S. — from killer cops to unjust courts — has got to go, then invest your hard-earned dollars in Workers World.

The WW Supporter Program was founded in 1977 so our subscribers and friends could help build the only revolutionary socialist weekly in the U.S. that’s printed as well as on the web. Despite the fact that the paper is based entirely on volunteer labor, the cost of printing and mailing WW 51 weeks a year is a huge expense. Not to mention

the monthly overhead for our easily accessible Manhattan office. That’s why we’re asking you to join the WW Supporter Program today to help us deliver the Marxist-based, worker-oriented, revolutionary class-truth that you’ve come to depend upon.

For the past 39 years, WW subscribers have helped maintain the paper by joining the WW Supporter Program. We urge you to sign up today! Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate/. And



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

thanks for helping to grow the revolutionary media in the U.S. □



# Remember Emmett Till and Tamir Rice!

By Dolores Cox

Had it not been for the brutal, racist murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American, he would have celebrated his 75th birthday on July 25.

While visiting relatives in Money, Miss., Till was killed for allegedly flirting with a white woman, a Southern taboo. Born and raised in Chicago, he was unaccustomed to the state-sanctioned violence and legalized Jim Crow racial segregation in the South.

On Aug. 24, 1955, Till and his cousins were outside a store in Money. When Till entered, the only person inside was Carolyn Bryant, the owner's spouse. She claimed that Till "made lewd advances and then wolf-whistled at her." Others on the scene refuted this allegation. (history.com)

When her spouse, Roy Bryant, heard about the alleged incident, he and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, went to the home of Till's great uncle, Mose Wright, in the middle of the night on Aug. 28. They kidnapped the teenager and made him carry a 75-pound cotton gin fan to the Tallahatchie River. They brutally beat him, gouged out an eye, and then shot him in the head. They threw his body in the river, with barbed wire tied to the fan and around his neck.

Till's disfigured corpse was found three days later. He was identified by his father's ring on his finger that his mother had given him.

World outrage at Till's murder

Mississippi authorities wanted to bury Till's body immediately, but his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, fought to have his body returned to Chicago. After seeing her son's mutilated remains, she decided to have an open-casket funeral so that the world could see what racist murderers had done to her only child. Jet magazine and the Chicago Daily Defender published photographs of Till's body, outraging people everywhere.

Milam and Bryant were tried in a segregated courthouse. Wright identified them. On Sept. 23, 1955, the all-white jury deliberated for less than an hour and reached a "not guilty" verdict. The state



Emmett Till 1941-1955

did not indict them for kidnapping.

Demonstrations protested the verdict in major U.S. cities and Paris. Mississippi was seen as the epitome of racism and stronghold of white supremacy.

This murder trial revealed the brutality of Jim Crow racism and was an impetus for the Civil Rights Movement. It was also a reason for passage of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1957, allowing the Justice Department to intervene in local law enforcement issues when civil rights are compromised.

When Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955, she said she "thought of Emmett Till and just couldn't go back."

Milam and Bryant admitted to Look magazine in 1956 that they killed Till. They had no remorse.

Mamie Till-Mobley wrote in "The Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime That Changed America": "When it comes to lynching, it is not just the actual killers who're guilty. It's the dominant culture, the entire society that permits such a thing, that encourages it. Bryant and Milam weren't the only guilty parties in the lynching of my son. Witnesses have pointed to at least six or seven people. But ... there were so many thousands more. People who were responsible, powerful, influential. People who could've come clean and chose instead to live the rest of their lives with blood on their hands." Random House published the book soon after Till-Mobley's death at 81 in 2003.



Tamir Rice 2002-2014

It took until 2007 for Tallahatchie County to issue a formal apology to the Till family.

Fifty-nine years after Till's murder, 12-year-old Tamir Rice was shot by a white police officer while playing alone with a pellet gun in a Cleveland park on Nov. 22, 2014. He would have been 14 on June 25.

A grand jury declined to indict the cop who murdered Rice — like the majority of cases today when police are not prosecuted for fatally shooting African Americans.

'Sons of the Great Migration'

Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration," writes that Till and Rice are "both tragic symbols of the search for Black freedom" and "sons of the Great Migration, those who defected from the Cotton Belt in the South. They could not know what was in store for them or their descendants, nor the hostilities they would face wherever they went. The horrors they were fleeing would follow them in freedom and into the current day." (New York Times, Feb. 12)

Till's mother's family migrated from Mississippi to Chicago in the early 1920s. Rice's great-grandmother, Millie Lee Wylie, left Sumter County, Ala., and settled in Cleveland.

Rice's great uncle, Michael Petty, told Wilkerson that the killing of her great-grandson, in the place she traveled so far to reach, would have crushed his mother: "My mother would've carried the hurt and felt the pain of the generations."

"Our current era seems oddly aligned with that moment," asserts Wilkerson. "The brutal decades preceding the Great Migration were when a Black person was lynched on average every four days. Today ... an African-American is killed by a white police officer roughly every 3 1/2 days."

Wilkerson adds, "What befell Emmett and Tamir reflects how racial interactions have mutated over time, from the overt hatred to the unspoken, unconscious biases that are no less lethal. ... For all of its changes, the country remains in a similar place, a caste system based on what people look like."

Wilkerson asks, "What is to be the role of the people whom the country has marginalized by law and custom and with state-sanctioned violence? ... [T]hese now 45 million people [are] still the most segregated of all groups [in the U.S.] ... How can deeply embedded racial hierarchies be overcome?"

The racial backlash continues against advances made by African Americans, and so does discrimination in all spheres — education, employment, housing and health care. Racial disparities are rife throughout the U.S. criminal justice system.

In 1955, a Black child wasn't safe from violent hatred and death, nor is a Black child safe in 2016. Their tragic fates are determined by their skin color. □

## Current elections in South Africa

Continued from page 10

and the labor movement in trying to turn the economy around and building confidence in the economy. This comes shortly after Moody's confirmed confidence in our economy."

Unemployment is rising throughout the country and the value of the national currency, the rand, has been falling.

Increasing wariness of Washington

Uncertainty about relations with Washington was fueled over the last few days after the U.S. Embassy issued a warning, saying South Africa could be a target for an Islamic State attack. The ANC government refuted the security advisory, saying there were no credible threats.

Relations between the U.S. and South Africa have been strained since late last year when the Obama administration temporarily suspended Pretoria from a preferential trade agreement based on the African Growth & Opportunity Act. Earlier this year, ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe accused the U.S. of plotting regime change inside the country.

These sentiments are shared by neigh-

boring states. On June 10, in the state-run Zimbabwe Herald newspaper, correspondent Christopher Farai Charamba wrote: "One must be critical of these alerts. The South African government has labelled the information 'dubious and unsubstantiated.' Should this be the case then what motive would the U.S. have to issue this second alert?"

Charamba continued: "In 2013 there were reports that the Botswana government, member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), had given the American military permission to start construction of facilities inside the Thebephatshwa air base in Gaborone. This was seen as the first step in plans to relocate the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) from Stuttgart, Germany, to the Southern African country.

"Under the guise of the war on terror the USA has invaded countries, disposed governments, established military bases in a number of countries," emphasized Charamba. "With these new alerts in what is arguably one of the most peaceful regions in the world, SADC countries should be skeptical of U.S. intentions." □



## 'Liberación, ya Liberation, now!'

By Anne Pruden  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Calling him their Nelson Mandela, Puerto Rican women held their monthly protest for Oscar López Rivera in New York City on July 31. Political prisoner López Rivera, jailed by the U.S. for his struggle for an independent Puerto Rico, has served 35 years of a 55-year sentence. The action, part of a national campaign, was sponsored by the group "35 Mujeres para Oscar/35 Women for Oscar."

The women led a strong protest, including many families, across the Williamsburg Bridge to rally at Brooklyn's El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice, which has been an organizing center for the Puerto Rican working class for decades. People chanted, "Your democracy is hypocrisy!" They demanded a pardon from President Obama, chanting "¡Liberación ya! Liberation now!" Marchers pledged to continue fighting for López Rivera's freedom, shouting the words "¡Hasta su regreso! Until he returns!" □

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

'35 Women for Oscar'  
march for Puerto Rican  
political prisoner,  
July 31, Brooklyn.



## Además de Trump, ¿Quién está realmente detrás de él?

Por Deirdre Griswold

La Convención Nacional Republicana (RNC por sus siglas en inglés) produjo tal cantidad de puras mentiras como moscas en un montón de estiércol. Algunas de las mentiras han sido expuestas en varios medios capitalistas. Pero hay una mentira en relación con Donald Trump y sus seguidores que se repite como buena moneda por aquellos que deberían saber mejor.

Y esa es que las/os constituyentes de Trump son trabajadores. Que su discurso rabioso y racista resuena con las/os **trabajadores blancos que no tienen educación y carecen de refinamiento**, al igual que Trump.

Bueno, eso es un montón de bobadas. Sí está claro que las personas que vitoreaban a Trump en la Convención Nacional Republicana son racistas y anti-inmigrante, pero no son quienes están sintiendo el dolor económico real de un sistema que ha empobrecido a tantas personas y a la vez enriquecido enormemente a los muy, muy, muy pocos en la cima, incluyendo a Trump.

Cuando Trump arremete contra las/os inmigrantes diciendo que quitan empleos “americanos”, y el público aplaude, ¿están estos realmente anhelando trabajar como niñeras o recoger las cosechas, o ser jornaleros, o trabajar en una fábrica que pronto va a cerrar porque la empresa traslada su planta en el exterior?

No, las/os delegados a la RNC enamorados de Trump no sufren de bajos salarios o desempleo. Después de las primarias, las encuestas de salida mostraron que las/os votantes por Trump son un poco más ricos que el resto de nosotras/os, con un ingreso promedio anual de \$72.000 en comparación con el ingreso promedio real estimado en el 2014 de \$53.657. (Oficina del Censo de EUA, 2014)

Otros votantes en las primarias republicanas tenían ingresos aún más grandes - **los que votaron por Kasich** llegaban a más de \$91.000, por ejemplo. Así que

es cierto que dentro del electorado republicano, Trump apelaba a los no-tan-ricos. Pero aún así, la base de este multimillonario no está definitivamente en la clase obrera. (Ver “The Mythology of Trump’s ‘Working Class’ Support”, (La Mitología del Apoyo “obrero” de Trump) [tinyurl.com/jh5ncd4](http://tinyurl.com/jh5ncd4).)

En el año 2011, la mitad de las personas en los EUA tenían un ingreso familiar promedio de menos de \$50.000, y constituían el grueso de la clase trabajadora multinacional. Una cuarta parte de los hogares en Estados Unidos recibieron menos de \$25.000 al año, y por lo general estaban encabezados por mujeres y/o personas de color. Desde entonces, los ingresos de las/os trabajadores han aumentado sólo ligeramente.

### Delegados ricachones de Trump

Los delegados que votaron por Trump en la convención están por supuesto, en mucha mejor posición económica que los que votaron por él en las primarias. Se necesita dinero para ser un delegado Republicano. A los delegados del partido de California se les dijo que solo su alojamiento les costaría entre \$3.000 y \$6.000. Se alojaron en hoteles donde las habitaciones oscilaban entre \$300 y \$400 por noche. ([Cagop.org/national-delegation](http://Cagop.org/national-delegation))

Y les aseguro que habían bastantes agasajos con comidas y bebidas, así como los costos de transporte. En aquella semana de locura reaccionaria, un delegado fácilmente podría haber gastado lo que un trabajador de bajo salario ganaría en tres o cuatro meses.

Por supuesto, si los delegados jugaron bien sus cartas, alguien con más dinero podría finalmente sufragar sus gastos. O eso es lo que esperarían.

### ¿Trabajadoras/es o clase media?

Los medios de comunicación neoliberales capitalistas han calumniado a la clase obrera al vincular a los trabajadores blancos con Trump. Lo que hace esto aún más irónico es que durante mucho tiempo, el mito en este país era que ya no

había ninguna clase trabajadora aquí. Si alguien ganaba un salario digno sin tener que trabajar en dos empleos, ese trabajador de repente, era “clase media”. Al mismo tiempo, a las/os trabajadores más oprimidos se les calificaba de “subclase”.

La “clase media” y la “subclase” fueron las palabras clave destinadas a separar a las/os trabajadores blancos de sus hermanas y hermanos de clase, quienes históricamente han sido pagados menos debido a la herencia de opresión racista de este país, que comenzó con la ocupación de los pueblos indígenas, luego reforzada por la institución de la vil esclavitud, después mediante la importación de trabajadores asiáticos mal pagados para construir los ferrocarriles, y más recientemente, con la labor de las/os trabajadores inmigrantes quienes son forzados a trabajar por bajos salarios.

Esto no quiere decir que no hay racismo entre las/os trabajadores blancos. Pero al mirar a quienes se pronunciaron por Sanders y Clinton, está claro que la mayoría de las/os trabajadores blancos no se han ido al campo de Trump. Y la posición de Trump respecto a las/os trabajadores negros y latinos es, por supuesto, muy baja.

El programa de Trump, si es que se puede llamar así, ya que parece ser que lo van componiendo a medida que avanza, es sacar provecho de las frustraciones de los de la clase media que tenían el sueño de llegar a ser tan ricos como él, pero vieron su ambiciones frustradas por la crisis que comenzó en 2008, justo en la época en que Obama fue elegido presidente.

Qué conveniente para Trump el culpar al primer presidente negro por una recesión capitalista que no tenía nada que ver con Obama. En la convención, ni siquiera tenía que decir “negro” o “inmigrante” (lo que Trump insinuaba por el lugar de nacimiento de Obama). Todo lo que tenía que hacer era mencionar el nombre de Obama para evocar las exhibiciones más repugnantes de odio racista concentrado.

La campaña de Trump ha dado luz verde a los misóginos, a los racistas, a los patrióticos que ondean la bandera estadounidense y a los elogiosos de la “ley y el orden” de la brutalidad policial. Ese es su principal peligro - la ratificación y el fomento de un retorno a los “buenos viejos tiempos” que, lamentablemente, no han terminado.

Hasta los nazis y el Klan han salido de sus cuevas bajo la protección de Trump. David Duke, un notorio ex gran mago del Klan, se metió en el centro de atención al apoyar a Trump y luego anunció su propia candidatura para el Senado. Trump, al preguntársele si iba a repudiar el apoyo de Duke, fingió no saber quién era.



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YAI!

Trump está tratando de sacar provecho de la reacción al progreso que se ha hecho contra la opresión después de décadas de luchas de masas en las calles. Esto llega en un momento en que el movimiento Las Vidas Negras Importan, el movimiento por los derechos LGBT, las luchas contra las deportaciones y el encarcelamiento en masa, el movimiento de mujeres por la libertad reproductiva y el movimiento de las/os trabajadores de bajos ingresos han luchado fuertemente y han despertado conciencia, lo que ha resultado en algunos éxitos legales - no muchos, pero lo suficiente para inflamar a la derecha.

### Trump, Clinton y el Pentágono

La única área donde Trump ha vocalizado sentimientos que parecen ir contra este sentido, es la militar. A diferencia de todos los demás candidatos imperialistas de por décadas, ha hablado de retirar tropas que luchan en el exterior, uniéndolo con la finalización o la “re-negociación” de acuerdos comerciales.

Lo que Trump haría realmente como presidente es otra cosa. El estado imperialista estadounidense depende en gran medida de su capacidad para crear el caos en todo el mundo para allanar el camino para la súper explotación por parte de las empresas capitalistas transnacionales establecidas aquí. También proporciona contratos por valor de cientos de miles de millones de dólares a los mercaderes de la muerte que tienen un gran poder político. Pero en este momento Trump parece estar aprovechando el cansancio de las constantes guerras, entre los que incluso podrían considerarse bastión del sentimiento pro-guerra.

Por supuesto, parte de esto es, sin duda, para sobrepasar a Hillary Clinton, que es una halcón guerrillerista experimentada. Pero que su postura resuene entre los conservadores se debe tomar nota, sobre todo porque la crisis en el miserablemente inadecuado cuidado de salud y la adicción a drogas entre los veteranos militares alcanza niveles epidémicos.

Un estudio reciente realizado por la Universidad de New Hampshire mostró, “De acuerdo con los registros del Departamento de Defensa de Estados Unidos, la juventud rural se está alistando en el ejército a un ritmo mayor que la juventud urbana y suburbana, y en todos menos ocho estados, las/os soldados de las zonas rurales constituyen una cifra desproporcionadamente alta de las víctimas”. Estas son las áreas geográficas en las que el Partido Republicano es más fuerte.

El único punto brillante en este ciclo electoral es la determinación de los movimientos progresistas de quedarse en las calles y no dejarse intimidar por las amenazas o persuadido por sus “amigos” con la excusa de que la militancia es “contraproducente”. Las manifestaciones en Cleveland durante el RNC y en Filadelfia durante el DNC (Convención Nacional del Partido Demócrata) fueron fuertes y ponen de relieve que es la lucha, no las elecciones de dos partidos capitalistas, que traerán a la luz un futuro mejor. □

## El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida



La tesis de este libro es que la crisis económica, que se inició en agosto de 2007, marcó un punto de inflexión en la historia del capitalismo. El autor sostiene que el sistema no se recuperará, no volverá al ciclo capitalista normal de auge y caída.

Durante décadas, la clase capitalista ha utilizado la revolución tecnológica digital para aumentar la productividad del trabajo a un ritmo récord. Menos trabajadores producen más bienes y servicios en menos tiempo con salarios más bajos. El resultado es una serie de “recuperaciones sin empleos” que hace que las cosas vayan aún peor.

Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

El continuo estancamiento y el desempleo generalizado provocarán inevitablemente un resurgimiento de la lucha de clases que no se ve en EE.UU. desde la década de 1930; esta vez se dirigirá contra el propio sistema.

[www.LowWageCapitalism.com](http://www.LowWageCapitalism.com)