Venezuela votes

Massive support for Constituent Assembly

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The sound of trumpets at dawn on July 30 began a day of voting to elect delegates to Venezuela's new Constituent Assembly. These delegates will take on the great responsibility of representing the people as they make changes to the current Bolivarian Constitution, established in 1999 under the leadership of the late President Hugo Chávez.

The Chavista and Bolivarian people came down from the hills, crossed rivers and went through mountainous roads on foot or by bicycle in order to cast their ballots. They overcame all obstacles imposed by the fascist opposition and resolutely voted for the Constituent Assembly.

The National Electoral Council and the relevant state bodies had established thousands of polling stations around the country, including contingency sites for voters who could not cast their ballots in their locality due to roadblocks — which included closures of voting stations by the counterrevolutionary forces. In fact, some sites in neighborhoods dominated by opposition administrations — mayors or governors hostile to the government — were unable to open. The largest alternate voting center in Caracas was the Polígono, where thousands of voters came to heroically challenge counterrevolutionary violence and cast their votes.

As of the evening of July 30, voting sites were still open, so voting totals were uncertain. Through different television broadcasts and digital social networks, however, it was easy to perceive the enormous enthusiasm of the people and see the huge lines that indicated broad popular participation.

Thanks to cyberspace, Workers World/Mundo Obrero was able to speak directly with people who conveyed that enthusiasm. Jacobo Torres, a representative to the Constituent Assembly from the industrial workers sector told WW/MO: “The people defeated terror and bet on peace. On July 31 you will see a beautiful Bolivarian, anti-imperialist and deeply Chavista dawn!”

Compañera Yosmary Guevara, national spokesperson for the women’s organization UNAMUJER and coordinator of the Bolivarian Women’s Force, expressed the opinion of revolutionary women: “Today is a glorious day, where the people’s love overflowed in the streets. It was the hour of the people, to defend the legacy of Comandante Chávez. We want no more violence, no fascism, none of the terrorism that is an integral part of the

Voting for Venezuela’s new assembly: ‘All power to the people!’

PHOTO: TELESUR

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Health care struggle’s real heroes
Sanctions & military threats
Detroit’s corporate criminals
Che Brigade in formation

Editorials: The despicable — laud cops, attack LGBTQ people

Afghanistan air war
Korea: bluster vs. reality
Building a Workers World: Philadelphia Marxism School trains future leaders

By Scott Williams
Philadelphia

Since the beginning of 2017, Workers World Party has seen significant growth across the organization. What is unique about joining WWP is that these new members are joining a cadre organization that focuses on member- ship development.

The party spends a significant amount of time training and developing new leaders through a candidacy process that involves intensive focus on theory and practice, including organizing and activist work, all while bolstering theoretical training in revolutionary ideology identified with the names of Karl Marx and W.E.B. DuBois; and some WWP history, including its support for the Attica Rebellion and its resistance within the military to the Vietnam War.

Christa Rivers, a candidate for WWP, reflected on the importance of the weekend: “It is important to study Marxism because it has provided analyses and descriptions of the ways in which capitalism has wreaked havoc on the earth by polluting it through endless war; has wreaked havoc on our families, communities, and peoples by creating divisions — borders, classes, races — to keep us from uniting against this death machine; has destroyed cultures, decimated populations and created a system that entirely relies upon the exploitation of the many by the few. Marxism has also given us hope: Capitalism will be defeated by socialism, which will then be followed by communism. Only through these economic systems can we achieve true liberation. Socialism and communism put the collective needs of the people first.”

One of the major focuses of the weekend was countering the efforts by U.S. imperialism to turn back the gains of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela. Candidates studied the gains of the anti-imperialist, pro-socialist Bolivarian Revolution and discussed ways to build solidarity with the movement there as an essential part of being a revolutionary party in the center of imperialism.

In a class on National Oppression, new members discussed such current terms as “identity politics” and raised the important issue of understanding the complexities and connections of various forms of oppression, such as ableism, racism, sexism, ageism, anti-LGBTQ oppression and more. The class discussed how special focus on these oppressions is revolutionary and necessary, while labeling struggles against oppression as merely “identity politics” is reactionary. Not only is it harmful to the oppressed, but it holds back the potential for revolutionary solidarity.

As WWP continues to grow as a multinational, multigender, multicultural, political education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.9904
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Workers World School
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410.627.0185
Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

Some of the new candidates who attended the Marxism School.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should be put into the hands of the workers. Socialism and communism are the only way to achieve justice for all.

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workers.org/wwp
By Kathy Durkin

Who are the real heroes in the struggle to stop the attacks on the health care system?

Although the corporate media hailed three Republican senators and 48 Demo-
crats for defeating the “skinny” repeal of key parts of the Affordable Care Act on July 28, that’s not the real story.

It was the activists who organized, marched, sat in, got arrested, made phone calls, wrote emails and raised a racket who made the difference, not the politicians. The grass-roots movement fought hard against all Republican “re-
peal and/or not replace” anti-ACA bills. Organizations began mobilizing to save Obamacare last December. In the states, people rallied at town hall meetings, be-
sieged congress members’ offices and used social media to save the ACA.

After a National Day of Action on March 23 in Washington, D.C., and 40 cities, the struggle continued. Activists not only targeted anti-ACA Republicans, but also pressured Democrats to protect health coverage.

Coordinated these protests and others were the Center on Independent Living/Advocacy for People with Disabilities; National ADAPT and the National Center on Independent Living, an organization despised by the malevolent right wing, which provides basic health care to over 5 million low-income people, including recipients. Every bill would have harmed people with disabilities; African-American, Latinx and other oppressed people; members of the LGBTQ community; women; children; seniors; and low-income workers.

However, all Congress members made sure to exempt themselves and their staffs from cuts to their comprehensive, government-financed health care cover-

ACA benefits women

The ACA brought health coverage to over 20 million people. At least 10 million got Medicaid through its expansion, while many people got government sub-
sidies to purchase insurance. The ACA bars using pre-existing conditions as an excuse for denial of coverage.

Women benefit, as the law requires employers’ insurance plans to pay for contraception. The law’s elimination of co-payments for mammograms has re-
sulted in more breast cancers being diagnosed at an earlier stage than pre-ACA. (New York Times, June 27) The ACA also mandates funding for Planned Parent-
hood, an organization despised by the right wing, which provides basic health care to over 3 million low-income people, the majority women.

However, the ACA is a capitalist me-
sure. It’s based on people buying cover-
age from insurance companies, whose goal is to maximize profits. Some plans are very expensive, with high premiums and deductibles. Hard hit are those who must buy costly policies, but cannot ob-
tain subsidies. People who do not buy in-
surance are fined — but the very reason for not purchasing insurance is usually prohibitive cost.

The ACA mandated states to expand Medicaid, but there is still a lot to do. In 2012 allowed them to opt out, which 12 states in more than 30 states have done. In 2012 allowed them to opt out, which 12 states in all 50 states have done. In 2012 allowed them to opt out, which 12 states in all 50 states have done.

Cuba — still sharply blocked by complex U.S. laws — prioritizes universal, free health care and education for all Cubans.

Cuba had a universal health care system, whose optimum solution would be a single-payer system. The health care advocacy movement would advance the single-payer system. The health care advocacy movement would advance the single-payer system.

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The ACA mandated states to expand Medicaid, but the Supreme Court in 2020 allowed them to opt out, which 19 reactionary state governments did. This has left millions of low-income workers, disproportionately African American and Latinx, without health insurance or subsidies. Thousands of former prisoners have no coverage. Undocumented workers are barred from having Medicaid — even from purchasing private policies. In some states, no insurer will sell policies as part of the ACA.

This is the wealthiest country in the world with the most expensive medical care system. Nearly all other advanced industrialized countries have some form of health care system, such as Britain’s National Health Service, which provides care to everyone, with residents taxed to pay for it.

But in the U.S., the super-rich are determined to obtain huge tax cuts for themselves, and are aiming to gut hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicaid and other government programs in order to do so.

‘Medicare for all’

An improvement for the U.S. would be “Medicare for all.” Because of rising consciousness around the country due to the recent struggle, 60 percent of the U.S. population now supports gov-
ernment-sponsored health care. Many people are catching on to the idea of a single-payer system. The health care advocacy movement would advance the struggle by pushing for this.

Medicare for all is worth fighting for and is possible under capitalism. It would be easier and less costly to administer than the current system and would cover everyone.

Health care is a human right. It should be provided to everyone like sanitation and fire-fighting services, libraries, public schools, roads and parks.

The optimum solution would be a sys-
tem of socialized medicine, resembling what Cuba provides for its people. Qual-
ity care there is accessible to every per-
son and is subsidized by the government. There are no profits going to insurance or pharmaceutical companies, and health care is not a commodity to be bought and sold. It is a service provided to the people.

There are many worthy proposals on how to improve the ACA and lower med-
ical costs, but the malevolent right wing continues to maneuver to weaken the law. After the recent survival of the ACA, the Trump administration is threaten-
ing to withhold payments to insurers that aid low-income customers and to let Obamacare “implode.” Tom Price, head of the Department of Health and Human Services, has “made changes that would reduce benefits and the number of peo-
ple signing up for coverage.” (New York Times editorial, July 29)

For now, activists know they must be vigilant and keep the pressure on the government. DC Metro ADAPT activist Laura Halverson vowed, “We’re not stop-
ning. We know that the fight is not over, so we’re going to keep on keeping on.”

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & The Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination 
Larry Haiven — Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery

Monica Moorehead — The Struggle for Socialism is Key

Available at all major online bookstores.
U.S. threats and sanctions grow with isolation

By Sara Flounders

A new round of harsher, economically disruptive U.S. sanctions against Russia, Iran and Mexico’s Korea Command, in charge of military operations in 32 countries in the Caribbean, Central America and South America, for now has no White House chief of staff since Alexander Haig took over in the financial stretch of the hated Nixon administration.

The corporate media were again anxious in their praise. The New York Times lauded Kelly as a “beacon of discipline.”

Sanctions are a form of war

Economic sanctions are a violent war weapon against countries and businesses that the U.S. government claims are economically weak. Such sanctions seek to create shortages, wild inflation, hunger, unemployment, economic dislocation and shutdowns in vital industries by suddenly restricting credits, loans and trade.

Sanctions lay bare the real relations underlying capitalism: Capitalist competition is intended to shut down competing industries and drive out rivals. The argument is that the state “will” create prosperity or democracy. Capitalism historically has expanded through war, theft, rape and pillage. Creating shortages and sabotaging production are also business as usual. The U.S. has used starvation and disease against Indigenous nations since its founding. But the U.S. global dominance since World War II, the imperialists here have sought to involve other imperialists.

For decades there were concerted efforts to strangle the USSR with trade restrictions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, U.S. imperialism collided with the European Union and monarchies of the Gulf States to economically strangle Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria. Sanctions imposed through the United Nations, forcing all nations to comply or face economic isolation.

Economic rivalry heats up

The European Union is a collaborator with the U.S. in expanding European-style, formerly colonized countries. But it is also an economic rival in a world of shrinking markets and commodity surpluses. The determination of Washington to sabotage economic positions is slipping. As a major oil exporter, much of it based on environmentally destructive fracking, it must find major markets.

Capitalist crisis is the essential issue behind the charges of Russian “hacking.” Iran’s nuclear energy program and the DPRK’s efforts to defend itself against U.S. nuclear threats. A third of the European Union’s natural gas currently comes from Russia. Central and Eastern European nations rely on energy supplies from Russia.

The new set of economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. will wreak havoc on European energy companies and the banks that contracted to finance the complex construction plans to pipe gas in and oil from Russia.

Past sanctions were carefully calibrated between the United States and its European allies to keep everyone on board and preserve a united response against a targeted country. Those days are now past.

The new bill would allow the U.S. to sanction any company involved in the maintenance or development of Iran’s energy export pipelines. That could cripple the construction of Nord Stream 2, a colossal natural gas pipeline planned to push Russian gas farther from the Baltic Sea. The project is owned by Russian energy giant Gazprom and firms from Europe, Canada, the U.S. and China that affect other major natural gas projects outside of the Baltic states.

The new sanctions target any company that contributes to the development, maintenance or modernization of Russia’s energy export pipelines. They add punishments against Russian and EU energy companies, ports, shipping, and metals and mining sectors.

Sanctions could also undermine partnerships between EU and Russian firms to develop offshore energy projects in Egypt. And they could prevent Italian and Russian companies from working together on the Southern Corridor, which would go through Turkey to southern EU states.

Iran sanctions violate P5+1 accord

Many European companies currently have machinery and transport sales and maintenance projects with Iran. The export of crude oil from Iran to European countries now exceeds its pre-sanctions levels.

According to Iranian Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zanganeh: “The pace of growth in Iran’s crude oil production and exports has amazed international observers who did not think Iran could raise its production by 1 million barrels per day within three to four months after the removal of sanctions.” (iran-daily.com, April 3)

Abbas Arariqi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said the “hostile” move with new sanctions “amounts to the choking of the P5+1 nuclear deal of 2015 between Iran and the six world powers – the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany. The high economic and diplomatic sanctions votes in the Senate and House are a sign to U.S. allies that the U.S. oil and gas companies are determined to go after oil suppliers in order to market U.S. supplies. Economic and military confrontation to back this up is escalating.

On the same day, July 25, as the sanctions vote in the House, a U.S. Navy ship fired warning shots at an Iranian vessel in the Persian Gulf. U.S. officials said it was the first such incident since President Donald Trump took office in January.

EU response

The congressional votes brought howls of denunciation from U.S. allies like Germany, Austria, France and south Korea, warning of the desperate measures they will take to defend their economic interests.

A leaked European Union memo reported a special commission against Executive Jean-Claude Juncker said the EU “should stand ready to act within days” of the bill’s passage, and that the “new sanctions could impact a potential- ly large number of European companies doing legitimate business under EU measures with Russian entities.” A senior EU official said that the European commission members were united in their views. (Financial Times, July 27)

The EU could impose outright bans on doing business with certain U.S. companies. “If our concerns are not taken into account sufficiently, we stand ready to act appropriately within a matter of days,” the memo said.

But there are limits to what the EU can do, given the illegal nature of the sanctions. Without Trump’s appointees wreaking havoc on social, environmental and industrial budgets.

Both bills would require a congressio nal vote. Trump has repeatedly attempted to ease or end the imposed restrictions. This is considered an extremely unlikely possibility.

Immediately, editorials in the Washington Post and the New York Times praised the sanctions, confirming the aggressive stance of major forces in the U.S. with isolation and the increased military threat coming from U.S. imperialism. The denunciations expose both the growing anger, even from traditional U.S. allies.

The corporate media were again anxious in their praise. The New York Times laudedKelly as a "beacon of discipline."
Billionaire wants to drive out Detroiters

By Chip Jengel, Detroit

Billionaire Dan Gilbert and his compa-
ny, Quicken Loans, are hailed across the
U.S. as the “saviors” of Detroit. However,
recent court cases exposed their role in
racist, predatory lending that destroyed
Detroit’s neighborhoods with 65,000
mortgage foreclosures from 2005 to
2009, and the tens of thousands of prop-
terty tax foreclosures that ensued.

These predatory practices, of which
Quicken is one of many perpetrators, led
to 56 percent of Detroit mortgage-fore-
closure homes between 2005 and 2014
being blighted, demolished or fore-
closed for nonpayment of taxes. (Detroit
News special report, June 2015, goo.gl/\AkoJ(!)

In July, a federal court ruled in favor
of West Virginia plaintiffs suing Quick-
ken Loans in a class-action lawsuit for
interest rates at least 3 percent
above the prime rate.

But that only tells part of the story.
From 2003 to 2008, Quicken Loans
approved subprime mortgage loans, sold
them immediately to banks Fannie Mae
or Freddie Mac, and faced no conse-
quencies when an estimated 70.6 percent
were foreclosed within 24 to 36 months
of originating. (Mortgage Fraud Investi-
gations Miami, Feb. 2013) This practice,
done by mortgage companies every-
where, was one of the biggest causes of
the 2008 housing crash.

The subprime loans based on inflated
appraisals that Quicken originated also
led to the highest number of proper-
ty tax foreclosures in the city of Detroit
since the Great Depression. Between 55
percent and 85 percent of these foreclo-
sures were done at a rate higher than the
50 percent market-value limit set out in
Michigan’s Constitution. (illegalforclo-
sures.org)

Since Gilbert and others caused so
many homes to be blighted, the Obama
administration in 2003 convened the
Detroit Blight Removal Task Force, fund-
ed primarily with hundreds of millions
of dollars in federal Hardest Hit Funds
originally intended to keep families in
their homes. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan
appointed none other than Dan Gilbert as
chairperson of the task force. The Duggan
and Gilbert collusion goes deeper than
letting Gilbert be the one to develop the
homes that he helped blight. If the Gilbert
empire isn’t destroying homes through the
blight task force, they are buying up unconstitutionally fore-
closed homes for pocket change through
auctions. People whose homes were fore-
closed are barred from participating in
these auctions.

On July 21, Bedrock, one of the main
companies of the Gilbert empire, re-
vealed a racist Freudian slip when they
put up a mural on a downtown building
devoted to the phrase “We Do” and
depicting only white people. □

50 YEARS AGO

Why rebellion broke out in Detroit

Excerpts from an article published in Ghana News this July about the
Detroit rebellion that erupted on July 23, 1967, at the United Community
League for Civic Action on 12th Street and Clairmount.

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Rebellions had erupted in numerous
cities around the U.S. in the previous four
years leading up to the summer of 1967.
Detroit had avoided large-scale unrest in
early August 1966 on the eastside. How-
ever, three racial incidents in June and
July of 1967 served to enflame tensions
within the African-American communi-
ty, including two attacks by racist white
mobs and an African-American woman
shot to death by a white police officer.

Once again the African-American
community was outraged. These devel-
opments were occurring with the back-
drop of urban rebellions breaking out in
numerous cities every day in June and
July of 1967, including on July 12, when
Newark, N.J., erupted in response to
the arrest of an African-American taxicab
driver. For five days the city was wracked
with arson and property damage. Scores
of Blacks were beaten, injured and killed
from targeted gunfire by Newark police,
New Jersey State Troopers and National
Guard soldiers who fired into pub-
lie housing complexes and commercial
streets. Consequently, only a spark was
needed to ignite a rebellion in Detroit.

From 1947 to 1963, the city of
Detroit lost 134,000 manufactur-
ing-related jobs. In most cas-
es African Americans were the
last hired and first fired. They
were confined to the menial and
unsavory categories of employment.

Henry Ford I had built his mansion on
Edison and Second in 1908 and lived there
until 1945. Other wealthy families such as
the Kresges, Fishers and Dodges had
homes along Boston Boulevard, Chicago
Boulevard and Longfellow Street during
the earlier decades of the 20th century.

Contrastingly, just a few blocks away
on 12th, 14th and Linwood, sections of
housing and commercial establishments
were neglected.

Many of the apartment units in the
Virginia Park district were split up into
spaces that were 50 percent or smaller.

In 1967 there were approximately
1,640,000 people living in Detroit, where
35 percent were African Americans,
whose rate of joblessness was 11.7 percent
as contrasted with the white community
at 5.7 percent.

Police raid sparks uprising

At 9:25, 24th Street, where the rebellion erupt-
ted, was a two-story com-
mercial building located
at the corner of 24th
and Atkinson. In the early
hours of Sunday, July 23, the location was
the scene of a party hosted
to celebrate the return of
two military veterans fresh
from serving a tour of duty
in Vietnam. Alcohol was
being served, which was
prohibited after 2 a.m.

Soon enough around 3:45 a.m. police arrived
to carry out a raid. When the

Listening to Marvin Gaye, a
Vietnam veteran return-
ing to Detroit sing, ‘What’s
Happening Brother.’ The song
talks about conditions that
precipitated the rebellion.

law enforcement agents knocked down the
door and climbed the stairs to the
second floor, they were amazed that 83
people were occupying the second floor.
The police announced their presence and
pleaded with everyone to evacuate.

While the arresting process dragged
on for an hour, hundreds of people gath-
ered outside the building across the street
on 12th. As the crowd grew larger, people
shot to the street. As the last
transport vehicle left the 12th and Clair-
mount area, missiles were tossed at a po-
lice vehicle, breaking the rear window.

Within minutes of the police departure
the situation at the intersection grew
increasingly agitated as groups of youth
began to break into stores along 12th Street.
By dawn thousands of people were con-
verging on the street where they broke
windows and began to take merchandise
from the stores.

By midday the rebellion began to
spread into the Kresge and Claim-
tment corridor just three blocks west of 12th Street. By early
afternoon organized groups of youth
began to firebomb stores along 12th Street and similar
events unfolded on Linwood.

U.S. Congressman John Conyers Jr.
and Assistant Detroit Public Schools Su-
perintendent Arthur Johnson drove into the
center of the rebellion on 12th Street
by midday on Sunday, July 23, climbing
on top of a vehicle and pleading with the
crowd to leave the area. They wouldn’t
back down and the thousands of people
continued to defy the police.

Governor calls out National Guard,
asks for U.S. Army

By early afternoon Mayor Cava-
ugh appealed to Republican Gov-
ernor George Romney to deploy the
Michigan National Guard and
State Police units to the
affected areas of the city. Na-
tonal Guard troops attempt-
ted to sweep Linwood and
12th Street as the evening
approached. By this time
fires were raging through sev-
eral blocks on both commercial
districts on the north side of the city,
spreading through large swaths of
the city from the westside to the
eastside.

Gov. George Romney, a former chief
executive of American Motors Corpo-
ratior, came to Detroit and toured the
hardest hit sections of the city, conclud-
ing in his short visit the situation was getting beyond
the capacity of local and state authorities,
including the National Guard, to control.
He sent a telegram to President Lyndon
Johnson asking for the assistance of fed-
teral troops to put down the rebellion.

Johnson was reluctant initially to send
in troops from the 82nd and 101st Air-
borne Divisions of the U.S. Army. By late
afternoon on Monday, July 24, soldiers
were flown into Selfridge Air Base await-
ing orders to enter the city.

In the meantime thousands of Na-
tional Guardsmen, State Police and local
law enforcement patrolled the city.
Fire- fighters attempted to put out hundreds
of fires were attacked by residents with
missiles and sniper fire.

The death toll from the rebellion oc-
curred during the evening hours of July
23. As the days passed, brutal reprisals
by police officers and guardsmen result-
ed in the deaths of scores of residents,
who in many cases were not guilty of any
crime. Mass arrests for looting and arson
took place. Many were kept on buses for
days and in makeshift facilities on Belle
Isle. Gross abuse and brutality by police
and guardsmen became common in the
detention facilities and on the streets.

Merchants still operating in the impact-
Continued on page 6

Art museum firings set off blaze of solidarity, resistance

By Gary Armsby
Boston

Over 50 art enthusiasts, community members and labor activists came out to a July 29 rally and informational picket in front of Carlos Oviedo, a worker recently fired from the Museum of Fine Arts here.

Oviedo is a member of the Museum Independent Security Union (MISU) and has been a guard at the MFA for more than 17 years. His firing comes amid the union’s communications with OSHA regarding asbestos concerns at the museum, making him the most recent victim of management’s search-and-destroy tactic. He is the fifth union museum worker to be fired over a two-year period for what the union insists are “non-issues.”

While the museum says Oviedo was late for a shift, the union has cried "foul." Oviedo maintains he not only arrived on time for work, despite facing significant transportation delays, but also followed museum protocol by calling well in advance of his shift to let supervisors know that his Orange Line train was being taken out of service and he might be late. But because he wasn’t “in uniform” when he arrived for the guards’ roll call, he was marked as tardy for his shift and was fired.

Since 2016, the Orange Line — one of Boston’s subway lines serving many working-class communities across the city — has operated with more than half of its trains out of service due to disrepair. Despite receiving over $80 million in subway engine funding last year, Boston’s ailing subway system daily threatens the livelihoods of tens of thousands of workers like Carlos Oviedo, with track malfunctions, voltage spikes and train breakdowns. Why should workers, who already pay skyrocketing subway and bus fares, be answerable for tardiness they have no control over?

These kinds of minuscule infractions — often overlooked by most employers who depend on workers to make businesses profitable — are being used solely to target working class and minority employees. The rally on July 29, organized by MISU, was the third action pushing for Oviedo’s reinstatement. It is part of a larger effort to support MFA guards who are being threatened with multiple disciplines for their union activity as well as their communications with OSHA. Having recently won reinstatement for dismissed museum worker John Powhida, the campaign is gaining steam and is spreading to organized labor, social justice organizers and cultural workers, who can all relate easily to the issues at hand.

Genevieve Lechat, a Harvard union member and MISU supporter who attended the rally, explained that “union work is urgent as ever.” These workers stand all day,” she continued. “Their work has ergonomic, health and safety issues. When a rich institution like the MFA doesn’t do its part, workers need publicly funded services to get by while the ‘non-profit’ employer — whose director usually makes $1 million a year — accumulates more and more wealth, tax-free, giving nothing back to the community. The union is exposing that.

“Organizers and supporters alike are hopeful they can win reinstatement for Carlos Oviedo and continue to educate the museum-going public about the MFA’s harsh retaliatory practices.”

When asked how more people can support the campaign to reinstate Oviedo, organizers pointed directly to their fliers and emails, which ask people to “Demand justice for the guards!”

Readers wishing to tell the Boston MFA to reinstate Carlos Oviedo can call 617-369-3200 or write to metitelbaum@mfa.org.

Hundreds protest as MTA board tries to ignore them

By John Steffin
New York

With New York City subways in crisis, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board met again on July 26. Hundreds of people, including many with disabilities, came out to protest.

It doesn’t bother the MTA board that the transit fare now costs 55 times what it did in 1946. Or that only one-out-of-four subway stations are accessible to people for whom navigating stairs is a problem.

The MTA board’s fundamental job is to ensure that $32 billion in tax-free interest is paid to the banks every year on its $34 billion debt. (Gothamist, Feb. 12, 2015)

The day before the board meeting, MTA Chairperson Joe Lhota announced his plan to meet the subway emergency. Lhota, who was raised in Motor City, recognized that more workers had to be hired. But Lhota’s other “solutions” included ripping out seats on subway cars to create more standing room. Workers, particularly the elderly, shouldn’t have to pay $2.75 to travel in sardine cars.

The MTA needs to order hundreds of new subway cars and buses. The $32 cars, for example, in service on the A, C, J and Z trains, are 52 years old.

Many of the subway lines are at least a century old. The MTA blames delays not on deferred maintenance but on commuters who drop litter on the rails, which can cause track fires. One MTA board member, Charles G. Moerdler, even called passen gers who eat on the train “pigs.”

The MTA has actually guaranteed more

Why rebellion broke out in Detroit

Continued from page 5

ed neighborhoods inflated prices of staple goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shortages in these communities created conditions of food and material deficits, so human goods such as bread and milk. Shot...
Hundreds protest as MTA board tries to ignore them

litter by ripping out trash cans at several stations, including the very busy Main Street stop in Flushing, Queens. Lhota wants to crack down on littering “pigs” by encouraging the real pigs to hand out more littering tickets.

“Broken windows” police harassment won’t prevent derailments like the one in Harlem this June. And killer cops can’t use their weapons to fix and maintain the signal system.

At its meeting in May, the MTA board cut off public comments before all speakers had an opportunity to express their concerns, and its members left the room to finish their meeting elsewhere. It’s clear that most MTA board members are not listening to people’s concerns.

But the people demanded that they be heard, and on July 26 some 61 speakers signed up for public comments.

A member of Transit Workers Union Local 100, Vanessa Jones, brought to the board’s attention the physical and verbal abuse that MTA workers face from frustrated commuters.

A representative from the Access-a-Ride Reform Group (AARRG!), Yesenia Torres, called for a declaration of a state of emergency for the Access-a-Ride system until needed changes are made.

A member of the Workers Defense Committee, added to this, saying it was outrageous that Chairperson Lhota’s plan did not include anything about the Access-a-Ride system.

The Workers Defense Committee, which formed on May Day this year to protect striking workers, is currently raising funds and helping with the legal defense of Darryl Goodwin, an MTA worker and member of TWU Local 100.

Goodwin was charged with obstruction of justice, assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest for allegedly failing to help a New York Police Department lieutenant get through a turnstile in pursuit of a shoplifter. Police charged Goodwin even though all cops have MetroCards and gate keys and Goodwin was assisting a passenger at the time. According to MTA rules, assisting a passenger takes priority before helping anyone requesting gate access.

Other speakers criticized the board’s plan to expand the number of cops in the subway. They emphasized that the real crime was the high fare, and placed the blame on the banks and the enormous portion of the MTA budget that goes toward debt servicing.

“We hear in the media arguments about $450 million that’s supposed to come from the city … but that’s a drop in the bucket compared to the tens of billions of dollars that the MTA owes to the banks and Wall Street in debt service,” said Tony Murphy, another member of the WDC. “The banks are lootting public transportation.”

It’s clear that the real representatives of the people were in the boardroom that day, but they weren’t the ones convened around the table. If all groups attending the meeting started working together, New Yorkers could have a real People’s MTA.
By Cheryl LaBash

Alberto Korda’s image of the heroic guerrilla fighter Che Guevara is known and reproduced in every corner of the globe on T-shirts, flags and posters. Now, 50 years after Che’s death at the hands of the U.S. CIA in Bolivia in October 1967, his image is still a symbol of internationalist struggle for socialist revolution. The anniversary of the day — Oct. 9 — will gather in Cuba this year more people from around the world — including at least 50 from the United States — will gather in Cuba this Oct. 9-15 for the Footsteps of Che Brigade to explore more about Che and the Cuban Revolution.

Although he was a medical professional born in Argentina, Che’s name will forever be entwined with the success of the Cuban Revolution, side-by-side with his historic leader Fidel Castro and many other women and men. The contributions of the revolutionaries who lost their lives in the battle to overturn the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship are not forgotten. In Pinar del Rio province on July 26, the anniversary of the 1953 attack on Batista’s Moncada Barracks, a series of presentations solemnly read the names of each of the fallen as the crowd responded, “Presente!”

Dozens of people turned out in Chicago on July 26 for a program commemorating the 64th anniversary of the armed attack on Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista’s Moncada Barracks in 1953. That heroic act failed, but it triggered the beginning of the Cuban Revolution. At his trial, the leader of the attack, Fidel Castro, made a ringing and detailed declaration on why the dictatorship must be overthrown. His speech, titled “History Will Absolve Me,” was widely published and became the manifesto for the revolution.

The 26 of July program was organized by the Chicago Cuba Coalition and co-sponsored by the Venezuelan Consulate in Chicago, Workers United (an SEIU affiliate), Black Lives Matter Chicago, the Chicago ALBA Solidarity Committee, the Mexico Solidarity Network, the National Boricua Human Rights Network, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and Workers World Party. Speaking in the photo is José López Rivera, director of Chicago’s Puerto Rican Cultural Center and brother of recently released political prisoner Oscar López Rivera.

Korda’s Che image, worn here by Baltimore socialist organizer Basma Gregg. Gregg is going to Cuba in October.

By Basma Gregg

Washington, D.C.

A crowd of over 200 people, organized by American Muslims for Palestine, gathered around the Israeli Embassy in Washington on July 28 to protest the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Members of the Jewish community, Christians and Muslims all joined together in solidarity in response to recent attacks imposed on the Palestinian people by Israeli troops.

For more than two weeks, Israel had imposed restrictions on Palestinians seeking entry to the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Palestinian worshippers were unlawfully prohibited access to their place of worship by the Israeli government.

Just the day before the demonstration in Washington, “Israeli forces stormed into the masjid [mosque], firing rubber bullets, beat and injured close to 100 worshipers,” said Kristin Szremski, director of media and communications for the AMP.

Individuals of both the Jewish and Muslim communities were enraged upon learning of these and other unjust occurrences against the Palestinian people. These include a bill before Congress that would make boycotts against Israel and Israeli goods punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

In response to these issues, the AMP organized the July 28 demonstration with the aim of educating the public and media about Palestine and forwarding the Palestinian narrative, so that the media and the people start getting the full story,” said Szremski about AMP’s overall mission.

During the demonstration, short speeches were given by members of the AMP and other organizations. Afterwards, over 200 Muslim men, women and children joined together despite harsh weather conditions for their congregational Friday prayer. After the prayer ended, the crowd began to passionately chant in protest against the Israeli occupation, demanding justice for Palestine. Even as the demonstration was taking place, the Israeli government announced it was finally ending its restrictions on the al-Aqsa Mosque. The following day, thousands of Palestinians crowded into the mosque in East Jerusalem for noon prayers.

Al-Jazeera reported July 30 that over the two weeks: “Israeli forces often met protesters with rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades. In some areas, live rounds were also used, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.”

“At least six Palestinians were killed during the two weeks of protests against the occupying East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and at least four were killed in alleged attacks on Israeli forces. “According to the Red Crescent, more than 1,300 Palestinians have been injured during demonstrations since July 14.”

Meeting with the Cuban people

Combatants who fought alongside Che in various campaigns of the revolutionary war and internationalist volunteers who fought with him in Congo will meet with the brigade. Another highlight will be meeting with members of the Cuban Workers Central Union, the Federation of Cuban Women, university and high school student organizations, the Union of Young Communists and community activists from the Committees to Defend the Revolution.

October 9 is a national holiday commemorating the first anniversary of Che’s exile from Spain by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes. On that date in 1868, Céspedes freed enslaved Africans, who then joined him in the ensuing Ten Years’ War of liberation from Spain. Brigradistas will find out why Céspedes is considered the father of Cuba and will learn some of the history of Cuba, Latin America and the Caribbean — a history of rebellion that culminated in the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

Some in the United States may know that all Cubans receive medical services and education through college level free of charge. But few know that the Cuban people also enjoy a right to sports and culture. The brigadistas’ stay at the camp will include a talent night and an international night, as well as cultural exchanges with brigadistas from other countries.

The brigade is hosted by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples. U.S. organizers include the Chicago Cuba Coalition and this writer. Workers World Party is actively participating in this brigade with 20 members, mostly young people of color who are experts in the hardships of living under capitalist rule.

Your financial support will help introduce new generations to the reality of the Cuban Revolution, which every day proves that a better, much better world really is possible. For more information and ways to help fund the WWP delegation, contact 2017ChelliGrgae@gmail.com.

Rally protests Israeli occupation of Palestine
U.S. corporations aim to plunder Afghanistan
By Chris Fry

Disatisfied with the Pentagon’s inabil-
ity to defeat the insurgent Taliban fight-
ers, the Trump administration is report-
edly studying ways to change military pol-
icy in Afghanistan.

That does not mean that the president plans any let up on attacks against the Af-
ghan people. Instead, he intends to fur-
ther enrich the military-industrial com-
plex by hiring mercenary private armies to wage war in Afghanistan, managed by the militarial and corporate-friendly CIA.

The new U.S. regime invited Erik Prince and Stephen Feinberg into the White House. Prince is a founder of the infamous Blackwater International Co., and billionaire financier Feinberg is head of the military contracting firm DynCorp International.

According to a July 23 New York Times article, Trump is salivating over a trillion dollars’ worth of minerals in Afghanistan and wants to use these private armies to guard the mines while U.S. corporations steal vast wealth from one of the most impoverished countries on earth.

From the start of his term in office, the president has openly boasted of his gang-
tleman’s agreement strategy. He made a January speech to the CIA, he criticized past U.S. administrations for not seizing Iraqi oil wells. He declared: “The old expression ‘To the victor belong the spoils. ’ You re-
member?” (nytimes.com, July 25)

That’s how the profiteers see the war. How do they look to the Afghan people?

When fighting erupted near his home near Tarinkot in the south of Afghan-
istan on July 13, Fazl Muhammad sent his family to the forests in Sajawal for safety while he stayed home to tend to the cattle. That night he heard warplanes and found out there was a U.S. air raid on Sajawal.

To his horror, he learned the next day that eight members of his family had been killed: his wife, a daughter-in-law, four sons and two young grandsons. Five others in his family were wounded. (ny-
times.com, July 17)

For nearly 16 years, U.S. troops have waged a war of occupation in Afghan-
istan. Currently, there are 15,000 NATO troops in the country, which include 6,000 U.S. so-called “trainer” soldiers. Another 1,500 U.S. troops conduct mili-
tary operations under U.S. command in Afghanistan. (aljazeera.com, May 23)

“The Pentagon has stepped up its air-
plane and drone war in 2017. “As of June 30, U.S. and coalition aircraft had dropped or expended 1,634 munitions in Afghanistan so far this year, according to U.S. Air Force numbers. By comparison, in 2015 and 2016, that figure was 298 and 545, respectively. “(washintonpost.com, July 17)

Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed by the U.S. war in Afghan-
istan since the October 2001 invasion. The U.N. Assistance Mission reported that 95 civilians were killed and 137 wounded during the first six months of this year, a 67 percent increase in 2017 over the same period in 2016.

At the same time, in those 15-plus years some 2,400 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, with nearly 48,000 wounded. (icasualties.org)

An “errant” U.S. airstrike in Helmand province on July 21 killed a dozen Afghan National Police officers and wounded two others. (msn.com, July 22)

All of this has failed to stop the Tali-
ban, which, according to the Post article, now controls territory “at its highest in the country since U.S. forces invaded the country in 2001.”

The latest escalation of this horrible war shows that a strong, united anti-war movement inside the U.S. is needed to stop this imperialist military adventure and end the reign of terror that Washing-
ton has visited on the people of Afghan-
istan.

U.S. and the DPRK
A crack in the bluster
By Deidre Griswold

Well, well, well. It’s taken them far too long, but at last the editors of the New York Times have spoken up on Korea.

This newspaper of the imperialist, rul-
ing-class establishment, which has been so closely embedded with U.S. foreign policy for over a century, is telling the Trump administration to “drop the blus-
er” — that is, the threats of nuclear war, how many casualties there would be, etc. — and this really sticks in their craw.

“We have speculated about the U.S. going to war, how many casualties there would be, and so on. It seemed like the last thing the Times would consider is that maybe the U.S. should pull back from threatening to “de-
capitate” the DPRK — the stated objec-
tive of the Pentagon’s last round of mas-
ive war exercises in Korea. Maybe they should consider negotiations, maybe even — and this really sticks in their craw — sign a peace treaty with the DPRK to end the state of war that has existed between the U.S. and People’s Korea since 1950.

After the DPRK’s latest successful test of an ICBM, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina tangled tough on NBC’s “Today” show on Aug. 1: “There is a military option to destroy North Korea’s [missile] program and North Korea it-
self,” blasted the senator.

But then he added, “You can stop North Korea militarily or diplomatically. I prefer the diplomatic approach.”

Make no mistake — imperialist diplo-
macy has the same objective as imperial-
ist war. If negotiations are to take place, it will be openly or secretly, the DPRK will have to weigh every word very careful-
ly before agreeing to anything with the treacherous and arrogant bunch of ma-
rauders who run the U.S. government.

But the Koreans know all that.

What’s important is that an influential section of the rulling class here has come to the conclusion that they need to “drop the bluster” — that is, the threats of nu-
clear annihilation that have come from Washington since 1950 — and get real.

That’s a victory for the DPRK.

‘Say no to THAAD, stop the war games!’
By Terri Kay
San Francisco

Korean anti-war groups in New York, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle held actions on July 27 oppos-
ing the deployment of the U.S. THAAD missile system in their homeland. Here in San Francisco, the event at the south Korean Consulate involved the Hella Org-
1193 Group Bay Area Koreans (HOBAK) and their proprietors.

The date was the 64th anniversary of the Korean Armistice, which was sup-
pposed to have ended hostilities between the armies of the imperialist U.S. and the anticolonialist Korean Democratic People’s Republic since U.S. forces invaded the country since U.S. forces invaded the

of 1950 to 1953. The key demand was for the new south Korean president, Moon Jae-
in, to push for a Korean peace treaty and stop deployment of the THAAD system.

Additionally, they called on President Moon to “Stop the war games, end the travel bans, blacklisting and the National-

34 Security Law. Let Juyeon J.C. Rhee in,
and finally put an end to the violence and displacement caused by this unended war.” Rhee, a Korean American, was de-

On July 13, Faiz Muhammad sent his family to the forests in Sajawal for safety while he stayed home to tend to the cattle.

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clear annihilation that have come from Washington since 1950 — and get real.

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‘Say no to THAAD, stop the war games!’
Donald Trump gave a bone-chilling speech at Suffolk County Community College on Long Island, N.Y., on July 28, exposing the fact that he is nothing more than a cop occupying the White House. In front of an audience of police officers, Trump spoke on why his administration is pushing for more repression against migrants, especially along the U.S.-Mexican border. He is scheduled to give similar talks elsewhere around the country.

He referred to MS-13, a group of Honduran and Salvadoran youth based in Los Angeles also known as La Mara Salvatrucha, as a “gang of ‘animals’ and ‘thugs.’” In doing so, Trump continues to push the racist, xenophobic narrative of “protecting American lives” as he moves to add 10,000 more armed border patrol agents and 5,000 more Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to arrest and deport migrants.

Trump ran a racist presidential campaign of labeling migrants as “murderers,” “drug dealers” and “rapists.” Then, during his first 100 days in office, ICE arrested 41,318 immigrants, up 37.6 percent over the same period in 2016. (Washington Post, July 28)

Back in the late 1980s, Trump referred to the Central Park Five, Black and Brown youth falsely accused of raping a white woman, as “animals.” They were finally exonerated, but he refused to apologize.

Trump made other remarks in the same speech so brutal that some police publicly tried to distance themselves from them. Talking about the way they make arrests, Trump said, “Please don’t be too nice. When you guys put somebody in the car and you’re protecting their head, you know, the way you put their hand over? ... Like, don’t hit their head, and they just killed somebody. I say, you can take the hand away, okay?” As physical motion of an officer preventing a suspect’s head from bumping against the squad car.

Some individual cops may have been upset with Trump’s words. But he was only acknowledging in his own ways what has been happening every minute of every day inside the U.S.: The police can and do get away with all forms of racial profiling, including stop-and-frisk, beatings, Tasering and outright murder, with impunity, because the rules that repress the poor, the workers and the oppressed do not apply to the police.

Trump’s words should bring to mind for revolutionaries what Karl Marx wrote during the 19th century about the state — the armed bodies of men and women, including the police, prisons, courts, army and so on. It is “an organ of class rule, an organ for the oppression of one class by another ... and this power, arisen out of society but placing itself above it, and alienating itself more and more from it, is the state.”

Trump also reinforces the inevitable truth that the workers and oppressed, as a class, are the ones who will be the gravyiggers of the capitalist system — which elevates the police as armed occupiers of oppressed communities, especially those full of Black and Brown people, whether U.S. or foreign born.

Transgender spokesperson Renée Imperato gave this interview to Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto on July 29, following the president’s July 26 tweet barring transgender people from the U.S. Armed Forces. Imperato spent a year in Vietnam in 1969 and became an active-duty war resister and GI organizer. Imperato is currently a veteran with disabilities active in the Transgenerational Theater Project, SAGE (Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders) and the struggle for veterans’ medical care.

Reaction to president’s tweet

I haven’t been back to the Veterans Administration since the war. But, in general, over the past year, in the lobbies of most VA hospitals, where they have TVs on and people are sometimes listening to the news, I can say without any hesitation that the most dramatic, derisive dialogue heard anywhere is hurled at Trump.

How much this man is despised and hated! A vocabulary I won’t even repeat against Trump. As someone who is anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, that I can do.

I have also heard not only what he has said but how he said it. His derisive dialog heard anywhere is hurled at Trump.

As someone who listened to the news, I can say without exception, “A vocabulary I won’t even repeat against Trump.”

“Talking about the way they make arrests, Trump said, ‘Please don’t be too nice. When you guys put somebody in the car and you’re protecting their head, you know, the way you put their hand over? ... Like, don’t hit their head, and they just killed somebody. I say, you can take the hand away, okay?’ As physical motion of an officer preventing a suspect’s head from bumping against the squad car. Some individual cops may have been upset with Trump’s words. But he was only acknowledging in his own ways what has been happening every minute of every day inside the U.S.: The police can and do get away with all forms of racial profiling, including stop-and-frisk, beatings, Tasering and outright murder, with impunity, because the rules that repress the poor, the workers and the oppressed do not apply to the police.

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Response to the July 26 tweet

Suppose a trans person is part of a military to subvert it. In the day Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a gravedigger of the capitalist system, issued a legal opinion saying that he was barring transgender individuals from the U.S. Armed Forces. Later in the same speech, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his Department of “Justice” issued a legal opinion saying that employers could discriminate against LGBTQ workers.

These attacks could result in over 15,000 people being expelled from the U.S. military and in LGBTQ people no longer being protected in housing, education, occupation or jobs. Until now this protection has been interpreted as covered by the Fair Housing Act and the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VII and Title IX.

Director James Esses, of the American Civil Liberty Union’s LGBTQ and HIV Project, said July 26 “will go down in history as Anti-LGBT Day.” (commondreams.org) But we’ve already had an avalanche of virulently anti-LGBTQ action by this administration during the last six months. Hours after Trump’s inauguration, all mention of LGBTQ issues was erased from the White House website. Hundreds of millions in funding have been slashed from government initiatives to help people with HIV and AIDS. LGBTQ people have been excluded from government data collection, including the U.S. Census Bureau, blocking documentation of the need for funding and support. Title IX protections for trans students in schools have been rolled back.

The Trump administration is stacked with anti-LGBTQ despiscables, including, Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and, of course, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a racism warrior of the Ku Klux Klan.

In a stand similar to that of Pence when he was governor of Indiana, Sessions has as a U.S. senator supported a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, voted against workplace protections for LGBTQ people, voted to keep the U.S. military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” anti-gay policy and twice voted against expanding hate crimes to include attacks based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The most obvious engine for the rabid and embraces international anti-LGBTQism is their shared commitment to “Christian nationalism,” a far-right ideology with a U.S. history of violent racism against African American, Asian American, Latinx people, persecution of women who reject patriarchal rule and a sentence of damnation. (Kamala Harris’ tweet on July 4) In this belief system, the U.S. was founded as a “Christian” nation, and only those believers deserve full citizenship.

Beyond that, what would I want any trans person in the military to do? Organize against the officers. Organize against the war. Organize against racism.

I would want anyone who goes into the military to subvert it. Suppose a trans person is part of a U.S. military force that invades Syria or any other country. The people of Syria don’t have the right to expect them to do anything by any means necessary. We can’t support transgender people in an army that plunder, rapes, destroys and kills hundreds of thousands of people, just because they are trans. I say to them: “Don’t put your- self in that position.”

What was learned in Vietnam

When I was a GI resistor and we were organizing the American Servicemen’s Union [around 1970], what we would come in contact with were people who became leaders in the anti-war struggle inside the military. But maybe when they joined the military in 1967 or 1968, they had accepted the official ruling class explanation of the war, book, line and sinker. What I myself saw in Vietnam was the U.S. military occupying people’s land on the land they were raised on and lived on. The invading imperialist army did it for many reasons, including to control oil drilling in the South China Sea. And for domination of the world, which is what the U.S. ruling class really wants.

The U.S. Armed Forces is an imperialist army basically fighting to ensure the profit margins of U.S. corporations and Wall Street.

What happens when someone joins the military is that a radical...
Venezuela votes: Massive support for Constituent Assembly

**Continued from page 1**

A young citizen who walked to a polling place, Javier Ochoa from Yaracuy, summarized what millions also think: "Venezuela is in crisis due to daily terrorist attacks by the fascist right wing — the most extreme elements of the right-wing opposition and the military — which has been trying to overthrow the government since April 1, sowing death, destruction and economic crisis throughout the country."

Article 348 of the current Constitution establishes the right of the Executive Power to convene a Constituent Assembly. This is precisely what is being discussed for this on May 1, during the celebration of International Workers’ Day. The most significant aspect of this action is that the president summoned the sovereign power of the people, who will henceforth determine the future of the revolution and their country. This is the crucial importance of the Constituent Assembly. This is what is at stake.

In addition, the purpose of the Constituent Assembly that can defend the full sovereignty of the people, who will henceforth determine the future of the revolution and their country. This is the crucial importance of the Constituent Assembly. This is what is at stake.

**Consolidate: Power of the people**

In general, the Constituent Assembly is a powerful and historic democratic political mechanism to resolve intense political crises, to change the Constitution for society’s improvement. The Venezuelan crisis is due to daily terrorist attacks by the fascist right wing — the most extreme elements of the right-wing opposition and the military — which has been trying to overthrow the government since April, sowing death, destruction and economic crisis throughout the country.

This rampant criminality is the cause of the shortages, which are intended to create an atmosphere of despair among the masses, in the hope that wear and tear will cause the people to rebel against the Bolivarian Revolution.

Through a universal, direct, secret and free ballot, the July 30 vote will elect 245 deputies to the Constituent Assembly, instead of 75 as for the previous elections. These sectors include workers, peasants, fishers, people, students with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, retirees, small-business people, communists and communal councils. This representation of sectors is something very important, as is the inclusion of the interests of each of these groups.

**Imperialist agenda**

The counterrevolutionary right, however, does not act alone. Serving its true master, U.S. imperialism, the right has been using increasingly extreme measures to reverse the Bolivarian process since Chávez’s ascension to power. We need to remember that we are facing a right that has been able to stop the oil industry in 2003. Well-known disbursements of huge sums of U.S. government money via the U.S. State Department and its agencies that promote destabilization on the continent, such as the National Endowment for Democracy and the U.S. Agency for International Development, have facilitated counterrevolutionist maneuvers.

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For years they ranted against people who worked the land, who were disabled, who were Indigenous, who were retired, who were small-business people, who were communists and communal councils. This representation of sectors is something very important, as is the inclusion of the interests of each of these groups.

**Exposing hypocrisy**

The president’s tweet is exposing some of the contradictions among the veterans. The white racist veterans who support the empire had their hypocrisy exposed. For years they ranted against people who resisted or avoided the draft 50 years ago or who were stopped to exit the country. Now they let a white, rich, racist president get away [with] having five draft defectors from the Vietnam War. As so-called “commander in chief” — some of us in the VA call him “rapist in chief.”

Even some conservative veterans hate him for that.

People should follow this issue of trans people in the military raised by Trump. Regarding the rest, we should work to “turn the guns around.” I recommend that people read your book to learn about this struggle. Catalinotto is author of “Turn The Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions,” which includes some of Rendi Imperato’s story. The book was published in 2017 by World View Forum.

**International support from the people**

However, the vote for the Constituent Assembly has aroused a higher commitment of solidarity on the part of revolutionary peoples. This includes the governments of the Caribbean countries — small in geographical terms — which have demonstrated with dignity their great courage, defending Bolivarian sovereignty against imperialist interventi

**TURN THE GUNS AROUND**

Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance against the Vietnam War, the anti-war movement or veterans’ movement or the anti-war left.

TURN THE GUNS AROUND – Larry Holmes

PHOTO: TELESUR

**Young Venezuelan holds up her voting card.**
Venezuela a las urnas
Apoyo masivo para la Asamblea Constituyente

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El domingo 30 de julio, el sonido de la banda de los “bien honestos” arrancó el primer acto de una cadena sin fin de actividades de la elección presidencial en el país. En esa jornada de voto popular fue resuelta una de las etapas más significativas en la historia de nuestro pueblo, el pueblo bolivariano.

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Para ello, participaron miles de mesas de votación en todo el país, y la meta fue alcanzada con éxito, de tal manera que en las áreas de alcance de la Constituyente, la tasa de participación fue de alrededor del 80%, con un alto índice de apoyo a la Asamblea Constituyente.

La jornada de voto se desarrolló en medio de una intensa presión del帝欧帝国, que intentó desestabilizar el proceso electoral, mediante la utilización de crímenes que la oligarquía derechista y sus monigotes en la región, tanto en EUA como en México y Colombia, intentaron utilizar para desestabilizar el proceso electoral.

En este contexto, el pueblo bolivariano mostró su solidaridad con el pueblo venezolano, expresando su apoyo a la Asamblea Constituyente.

Sin embargo, la celebración de la AC ha suscitado un elevado compromiso solidarista por parte de los pueblos renovadores. Incluso de gobiernos de países caribeños que aunque pequeños en términos geográficos, han demostrado su gigante valor en defensa del soberano venezolano.

La defensa de la autodeterminación del pueblo venezolano por movimientos populares, sobretodo en América Latina ha sido realmente exitosa. Se han celebrado piquetes, foros, manifestaciones, programas televisivos y radiales. Las redes sociales se han llenado de mensajes y expresiones de solidaridad.

Todos estos movimientos han recaído el reconocimiento de las Revolución Bolivariana como ejemplo del despertar de la soberanía, de la autodeterminación y de la resistencia popular.

Constitución, poder del pueblo

En general, una Asamblea Constituyente (AC) es un mecanismo político pacífico y democrático elemental para resolver intensas crisis políticas y sociales, como la que vivimos en nuestro país.

La constitución bolivariana, e incluso, asesinando personas, destrucción y crisis económica. Por ello, el artículo 346 de la actual Constitución, establece que debe ser un asistente directo con voces que transmiten el amor del pueblo.

Hoy es un día glorioso, donde se celebra la elección del pueblo bolivariano por movimientos sociales, campesinos, estudiantes, trabajadores, empresas, comunidades, etc.

El pueblo chavista y bolivariano pasó desde los crímenes, cruzó ríos, pasó por caminos montañosos, fue a pie o en bicicletas, con un objetivo claro: resistir al estrago de la opresión fascista, defender la revolución y la revolución bolivariana.

En el centro más grande de contingencia en Caracas fue el Polígono, donde acudieron miles de votantes que heroicamente desafían al fascismo y acudieron a emitir su voto.

El resultado de esta elección fue un claro triunfo del pueblo bolivariano, quien quiere ser un asistente directo con voces que transmiten el amor del pueblo.

El pueblo bolivariano ha decidido apoyar la Asamblea Constituyente, el mejor camino para el cambio en su país.

La AC es un mecanismo de participación popular que permite a los/as ciudadanos/as tomar decisiones importantes para su país.

Las mujeres revolucionarias y antifascistas de la Fuerza Bolivariana de Mujeres apostaron a la paz; el 31 de julio verá un hermoso espectáculo de solidaridad y amor.

El presidente Nicolás Maduro, en su última emisión televisiva, ha expresado que “Hoy es un día glorioso, donde se celebra la elección del pueblo bolivariano por movimientos sociales, campesinos, estudiantes, trabajadores, empresas, comunidades, etc.

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