Occupations amp up Black Lives Matter struggle

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Activists with Millions March NYC began an occupation of New York City Hall Park the morning of Aug. 1. The protesters have renamed it “Abolition Square to emphasize their commitment to a world without the state terror of policing.

Organizers want the racist institution of the New York Police Department abolished and replaced by community-based policing that residents can hold accountable.

As a path to that goal, activists said they would occupy Abolition Square until Mayor Bill de Blasio met three key demands: fire Police Commissioner Bill Bratton and end “broken windows” policing; defund the New York Police Department and invest in Black, Brown working-class communities; and provide reparations to victims’ families and survivors of police terrorism out of the NYPD budget.

By the end of Aug. 2, the MNNYC activists had won their first demand. Despite corporate news articles saying it wouldn’t happen, Bratton announced his resignation.

In a statement to WW, Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party presidential candidate, urged widespread support for Abolition Square. She said of her visit there: “It was so inspirational being in the midst of young activists — Black, Latinx, Asian, LGBTQ, those with disabilities — united around the issues of fighting for reparations for survivors of police brutality and family members who have lost loved ones to police violence, along with the demand to defund the NYPD, which has billions of dollars at its disposal to repress and oppress Black and Brown youth. This occupation, which many view as liberated space, deserves the solidarity of every progressive and revolutionary.”

MMNYC is a “grassroots multiracial collective of organizers committed to building and strengthening the movement for Black lives,” according to the occupation’s press release. 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: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network and more.

Chicago’s Freedom Square, ‘Decolonize LA’

The Abolition Square occupation reflects the intensification of the Black Lives Matter movement struggle, with similar ongoing occupations in Los Angeles and Chicago. On Aug. 7, the Let Us Breathe Collective and other groups entered the 17th day of occupying Freedom Square in Chicago. The encampment is on an abandoned lot across from the Homan Square warehouse building, the Chicago Police Department “black site” now infamous for illegal detention and torture of 7,000 people.

Workers in Rio: ‘No poverty, no coup!’

By Chris Fry

Labeling the Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro the “Exclusion Games” because there is no discount for Brazilians to attend the events, thousands of protesters stood up to a barrage of tear gas and pepper spray just a half mile from the main Olympic stadium on Aug. 5. Illustrating the exclusion, more than 1.3 million tickets remain unsold.

The demonstrators gathered in front of the luxurious Copacabana Palace, where many of the rich attendees and media are staying, and protested the billions spent on this spectacle — especially the hundreds of homes that were destroyed to make room for the stadiums. They also protested the “parliamentary coup” that replaced Workers’ Party President Dilma Rousseff with the corrupt and reactionary Michel Temer.

“We love sports in our city, but our city needs other things like better schools, better hospitals, free access to education,” said Anna Barros, an English teacher in Rio. “We need to invest money in our people.” (nbcnews.com, Aug. 5)

Organized by the umbrella group Comité Popular Rio, protesters were not only incensed by the enormous cost and incurred debt of the games, but also the dire economic and political situation of the Brazilian people, particularly the workers and the poor.

Later, protesters demonstrated near the Maracana Stadium where the opening ceremonies were held. The government recently announced that average wages have fallen by more than 4 percent in the last year, while the number of unemployed has skyrocketed to 37 percent. This is the worst recession that Brazil has faced in at least a quarter of a century. While Brazil faces epidemics of Zika and dengue fever, hospitals are shutting their doors. (theguardian.com, July 28)

Polls show that 60 percent of Brazilians believe that...
China, global warming and technological innovation

By Deirdre Griswold

Any meaningful efforts to limit carbon dioxide emissions, the main cause of global warming, must deal with the issue of public transportation. According to a recent study by Environmental Defense, U.S. automobiles and light trucks are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gases emitted by automobiles globally. Yet little is being done in this country to upgrade, or even maintain, the mass transit systems that people need if they are to cut back on using cars.

Where is the great spirit of innovation and commitment to overhaul the infrastructure that is so needed to deal with the monumental problem of global warming? It is certainly not in the U.S., where politicians beholden to the ruling class commit trillions of the public’s money to the empire’s far-flung military and repressive police — and peanuts to mass transit.

But take a look at the other side of the globe and there is hope. In China, a country just a few generations ago mired in poverty, the government has committed vast resources to the development of a modern, energy-efficient infrastructure.

Here is just one small example of what China is doing to improve transportation and combat global warming.

The Transit Elevated Bus

Some six years ago the concept of the Transit Elevated Bus was first made public. This Aug. 2, a prototype of the TEB was tested in the city of Qinhuangdao in northern China. It will take another year of tweaking before the buses will be introduced in other cities, but already the TEB is considered a success.

The Transit Elevated Bus is an entirely new concept. It not only moves many more people than traditional buses, but it can relieve congestion in other ways, too. The bus actually straddles the lanes of traffic, so cars can flow under it as the bus stops for passengers. It is very large: 72 feet long and 26 feet wide, and the mid-section sits 16 feet above the roadway. Each bus can hold 4,200 people — 40 times as many people as a traditional bus. The bus stops are elevated and the bus runs on a track. It is powered by municipal electricity and solar power, thus adding much less CO2 to the atmosphere than other forms of transportation.

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Buffalo residents fight gentrification

By Susan Schnur

The Workers World Party 2016 team of Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly are now official presidential and vice presidential write-in candidates in Ohio. While the state must now count and report the number of voters who write in the WWPs’ candidate names on their ballots.

Many of the electors required to file with the state came from a meeting held during the week Cleveland was invaded by the Republican National Convention. Moorehead and Lilly spoke to an overflow crowd at the Black on Black Center. The candidates explained that write-ins must be eliminated at the ballot box but rather in the streets. WWPs uses the elections as a vehicle to reach out as many people as possible in order to build a militant mass movement to fight for a better world.

Barbara Louise, a longtime Cleveland feminist and LGBTQ activist, made clear why she wanted to be an elector for the WWPs ticket: “We need a choice that’s a real choice. We need two viable choices; we need candidates that do not support capitalism, as do the Democrats and Republicans.”

Getting on the ballot is a herculean task in the majority of states. By conducting a write-in campaign, WWPs hopes to raise working-class consciousness while giving total support to the Black Lives Matter movement. As stated by Karl Marx in 1848 and updated by V.I. Lenin after the Russian Revolution in 1917: “Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite. We have nothing to lose but our chains!”

Moorehead/Lilly file for write-in status in Ohio

‘We have to fight for ourselves’ – Lilly at Black Resistance March

By Desmera Gatewood

There is a specter haunting America. The defeat of Bernie Sanders struck a nerve with a large portion of U.S. progressives; it left an insatiable Bern. The social-nerve with a large portion of U.S. progressives; it left an insatiable Bern. The social-

Looking around you. This is what democracy really looks like. When you have look your melanin in your skin, which makes you powerful. Teach our history to your children. Don’t wait till they’re 37 years old. Teach them about Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, so that they grow up strong and as freedom fighters. Each other. Uplift each other, sisters and brothers. This movement cannot be built by hate; it must be built out of love. Love of the people, love of ourselves, love of the community, love for the revolution.

As brother Fred Hampton said, you don’t beat racism with racism, you beat racism with solidarity. You do not beat capitalism with Black capitalism, you beat capitalism with revolutionary socialism. Love each other! Uplift each other! Black is beautiful!

All power to the people!

Sanders, Clinton and revolution

By Desmera Gatewood

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Democrats nominate the only hope the U.S. has for progress leading into 2017.

Even some who sat in awe of Michelle Alexander’s lectures, as she eloquently and firmly made the case that the Reu-

Diversity of candidates, the critical effort by the Democratic Party to intentionally ensure the election of Hillary Clinton, Bernie’s overwhelming pledged delegates never stood a chance. The concentrated effort to defeat Bernie illuminated that the status quo is a fraud of a new consciousness growing in the United States. What now? The Democratic Party, as well as leaders of the modern-day and past Civil Rights Movement, former champions of moderate socialism, minority heroes from across the board, the politicians on the left and pundits are all guilty the “Bernie or Busts” into rallying behind their enemy. Their rationale is that the current

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People with disabilities fight back

By Brian Shea and Gerry Scoppettuolo

West Coast to Boston School Bus Union shares lessons of victory

This article has been excerpted. The complete article is posted on workers.org.

By Hannah Kirschbaum and Steve Kirschbaum

A delegation from Team Solidarity, Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751 toured the West Coast from July 18 to 24 to bring the lessons of their recent historic victory against Veolia/Transdev/City of Boston union busting.

Entitled “Solidarity Works,” the whirlwind, five-city tour included labor/community rallies; a presentation at the international Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 membership meeting; a class held at Berkeley’s Labor Studies Department at the University of California; a radio interview; a solidarity stop at the Bay Area Black Lives Matter and BYP 100 occupation/blockade of the Oakland Police Officers’ Association office; and solidarity with the Seattle Disability Liberation Front at their demonstration at the Metro Access building.

Susan Koppelman, of “Stop Veolia Seattle” and the initiator of the West Coast tour, said: “I was excited to organize this tour to amplify this incredible victory and to promote Local 8751’s brand of militant democratic internationalist unionism that fights all systems that oppress the international working class and practices material solidarity with the most oppressed, building broad, united front politics. This collection of working-class struggle and victories offer important lessons in building worker power.”

The delegation included USW’s NWPHOTOS: GERRY SCOPPETTUOLO

At the IUWU Local 10 dispatch union hall: left to right: Georgia Scott, Stacey Rogers, Steve Kirschbaum, Dolores Lemon Thomas, Shane Hoff, Clarence Thomas

Black Freedom struggle ever since she participated, at the age of 9, in the “Bloody Sunday” march for voting rights over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala.

Nora Braggs, also a veteran of the struggle from Mobile, Ala., detailed the determined unity in action of the rank and file, who organized weekly yard ral-lies, picket lines, occupations, “pack the court” demonstrations and marches, defeating the most serious attacks in the local’s 40-plus-year history.

This included defeating a 9-month frame-up, felony prosecution; relentless daily attacks on the members’ wages, benefits and rights; and a coordinated at-tempt to remove what the bosses called the “rare” union stewards. But the united, militant, activist leaders who had pro-vided leadership for decades. In April 2015, Team Solidarity fielded a slate of 17 team stewards who won “rare” elections at the local’s Executive Board elections, with a historic voter turnout!

The tour delegation’s presentations were designed to share their experiences and make the lessons of the victory the collective property of labor and the progressive movements. With the critical importance of solidarity with the community. She described how the local had built this relationship through years of struggle from the front lines of their campaign against school closings, re-segregation and the closing of the Roxbury post office, and marching against racist police terror and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Scott has been active in the Black Freedom struggle ever since she participated, at the age of 9, in the “Bloody Sunday” march for voting rights over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala.

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First, there were one or two. Then, a few dozen. By 3 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1, hundreds of people with mental health and other disabilities from all over the state of Massachusetts were picketing the Boston Globe building.

They were outraged over the newspaper’s sensationalist and stigmatizing recent frontpage story, a supposedly in-depth study of the challenges faced by people with disabilities, which was actually one of a series of such articles demonizing people with mental health issues.

The news feature stories profiled police assaults against people with mental health diagnoses, suggesting that they are a violent threat.

On the contrary, in Massachusetts hundreds have died at the hands of the police, by being put in harmful restraints and by suicide, in recent years. Despite studies, explanations, and in-depth study of the challenges faced by people with disabilities, which was actually one of a series of such articles demonizing people with mental health issues.

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By Cheryl LaBash

The California Labor Federation represents more than one million union members and opponents of the more than 1,200 AFL-CIO and Change to Win unions. Delegates at its 2016 Biennial Convention, held on July 12-14 in Oakland, CA, endorsed a resolution submitted by the Sacramento Area Labor Council (SALC) poll (see bit.ly/2aDbPbQ). The resolution calls on affiliates to contact elected officials, asking them to officially endorse unrestricted travel to Cuba, ... eliminate the embargo of Cuba without conditions and ... support the elimination of the Guantánamo Bay U.S. military base.” Further it calls on union commit- tees endorsing candidates for Congress to visit Cuba for May Day celebrations in 2016.

The resolution was forwarded to national AFL-CIO President Richard Trum- ka with a proposal that it be forwarded to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, with a proposal that it be forwarded to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. Read the resolution at bit.ly/2aDbPbQ.

The resolution was propounded by a strong union delegation that traveled from Portland, OR, to Cuba for themselves during the May 1 International Worker's Day Celebration there.

Discussing solidarity with Cuba is easier now than in the days before Dec. 17, 2014. That is a date to remember, when the remaining three of the Cuban 5 were freed from U.S. prisons, returned to their Cuban homeland, and the U.S. agreed to work toward normalizing relations it had broken more than 50 years before. A few unions, most notably the Interna- tional Longshore and Warehouse Union, refused to get in line with imperialist foreign policy and maintained relations with Cuban port workers and the Cen- tral Union of Cuban Workers (CTC) after the 1959 revolution, and then supported the Cuban 5. The Steelwork- ers and Service Employees Unions both allowed Cuban literature to be distrib- uted at international conventions. Little resolutions and city council proclama- tions are important in the struggle to end the commercial, financial and eco- nomic blockade of Cuba, especially if used as a means to educate and mobilize action supporting Cuba's right to independence and sovereignty and its right to choose a socialist system that makes solving human needs the priority.

New legal attack on Rasmea Odeh

The following excerpted email from the Committee to Stop FBI Repression was released Aug. 5. Read full statement at workers.org.

Attorneys representing Palestinian-American Rasmea Odeh are pushing back against a new legal attack. In a July 21 filing, Rasmea's defense team went on record as “strongly oppos- ing” an attempt by prosecutors to subject her to a “mental examina- tion” prior to an already scheduled Daubert hearing, which determines if an expert witness can testify at trial. The Sixty-Five will soon be the fourth time in which Rasmea has been illegally tried and their latest attempt to have her judgment and justice for Ras- mea’s unjust conviction in 2014. On Nov. 29, Judge Drain will hear ar- guments as to whether Dr. Mary Fabri’s testimony is scientifically valid and applic- able. Before the 2014 trial, Dr. Fabri, a renowned clinical psychologist who has worked with survivors for over 25 years, was prepared to testify about how Rasmea’s Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, caused by torture and rape at the hands of Israeli military interrogators, affected her answers to questions on complex im- migration forms in the U.S.

The move to separately “examine” Rasmea is outrageous and meant to in- timidate. Such an examination is irrele- vant as to whether Dr. Fabri’s testimony is reliable and applicable. It is obviously designed to aggravate the symptoms of Rasmea’s PTSD.

The government’s request is also an attempt to claim that she does not have PTSD and that she did not get brutalized by the Israeli authorities. This is a dirty political trick. Rasmea remains steadfast and strong.

The legal proceedings are a pretext to intimidate those who fight hard to real- ize a free Palestine. Demonstrations have taken place across the U.S. since her ar- rest in 2013, and we are again going all out for Detroit on Sept. 22.

We will rally at the courthouse in downtown Detroit on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 10 a.m., and then pack the courtroom as we have done since we first went to the government to “examine” Rasmea. Stay in touch through justice.rasmea.org and justice.rasmea@uspcn.org.

Glack, of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, described their successful campaign against Veolia, oppos- ing the corporate giant’s role in sup- porting the oppression of Palestinians. Lawrence Reyes, Vusa Gimeno and oth- ers members of the Latino Caucus of SEIU 721 spoke and coordinated the meeting with organizers from the International Action Center. A delegation from the San Diego branch of Workers World Party at- tended as well.

Bay Area

The tour went directly from the airport on July 20 to join the Bay Area Black Lives Matter/BYP 100 demonstration in downtown Oakland. The tour continued to St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in a community meeting hosted by the Hai- ti Action Committee. Meanwhile, Scott and Kirschbaum spoke at the monthly membership meeting of ILWU Local 10. They were introduced by President Ed Ferris and welcomed by Stacey Rodgers, the Local 10 member who facilitated the speaking invitation.

Kirschbaum stated, “We are honored to speak on bailed union ground, the union hall of the great Harry Bridges, or- ganizer of the ILWU and the San Francis- co General Strike of 1934, the hall of the local that has shut down the ports to say ‘no’ to apartheid in South Africa, Zionist apartheid against the Palestinians, and in support of immigrant rights on May Day, in support of Black Lives Matter and freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. When we started the union for school bus driv- ers in 1974, we wanted to live this legacy.”

The morning of July 22 began with a KPFA radio interview with “Tou Tou” St. Germain discussing the tour and the upcoming August 7th rally. Then the delegation spoke to students spending their summer doing union organizing. Alicia Flores, a student and ILWU Local 23 delegate, who is project director of the hall of the Steelworkers, had found infor- mation about the Solidarity Works West Coast Tour and contacted the organizers to organize a speaking event. The students were inspired by Local 875’s victory; the union’s unique, militant, politically affiliated leadership; and the fact that two Black women and a Haitian leader led the presentation.

That evening, a labor/community meeting was hosted by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555, representing Bay Area Rapid Transit workers. Pres- ident and Business Agent Chris Finn pres- ented the meeting by discussing the similarities between the experiences of Team Solidarity and the ATU’s recent strike victory against BART. Veolia’s chief union-busting BART negotiator, Thomas P. Hock, was also the key engi- neer on the attack on Local 10. Veolia de- legation from the San Francisco School Bus Union, SMART 1741, which included Chairperson Lois Correa, attended and encouraged solidarity and mobilization. Clarence Thomas, of ILWU Local 10 and the Million Worker March Move- ment, spoke of his union’s legislature of fight- ing the缶 corporate giant; and then presented resolution at the IAMU convention to “Free Angela Davis” — a resolution that, he said, was reported in the Oakland Tribune, the news- paper of the ILWU, “linked her prosecu- tion with the prosecution of other labor militants ... from Tom Mooney to Harry Hay。” He stressed the importance of building union solidarity and action with the Black Lives Movement.

Seattle/Tacoma

A labor/community event held at the AFL-CIO Labor Temple on July 23 was sponsored by a coalition including the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Stop Veo- lia Seattle and the Disability Liberation Front. Additional organizers include Ninus Hopkins, paratransit driver and executive board officer of ATU Local 587, Leith Kabai, of ILWU Local 10, Jim McMahan of Workers World Party; and ILWU Local 23, Gabriel Prawl, vice pres-ident of ILWU Local 587 and president of SEIU, chairing the meeting. Mon- ica Lewis-Patrick, of “We the People of Detroit,” gave a Skype presentation about Veolia’s role in the Flint, Mich., lead poi- gnancy crisis; stressed the need for solidarity and interconnectivity of union and community struggles.

The delegation joined members of the Disability Liberation Front and the ATU Local 587 and Stop Veolia Seattle outside Met- roaccess ParaTransit offices on July 24 to protest for equal rights for riders with disabilities.

ILWU Local 23 in Tacoma hosted the final meeting of the tour on July 24. Bri- an Miller, a leader of the delegation and recent of the outgoing president, along with the incoming president, gave a presentation and coming remarks and chaired. Additional speakers included Susan Koppelmann, representatives from Jews for Peace and the BDS movement, and the Tacoma Teachers Union. }

By Cheryl LaBash

A few members of the U.S. union delegation to 2016 Cuba visit are celebrating with “Worker Solidarity - Cuba and California” sign.

American Airlines may include Santa Clara, Cuba, in its website’s list of Carib- bean destinations, but the U.S. laws that punish U.S. residents for flying to Cuba are still in place. Compliance may be re- duced to a web check box at this moment, but while the law is still on the books, it can be tightened again at any time.

An emergency resolution submitted to the National Lawyers Guild 2016 #Law- yer's Convening and the American Bar Association in New York City, reports that the Obama administration’s Office of Foreign As- sets Controls has appointed an adminis- trative law judge to hear cases brought against travelers to Cuba.

On July 26 — coincidentally, Cuba’s National Rebellion Day — “OFAC served a complaint instituting proceedings against Albert Fox, as President of the Al- liance for a Responsible Cuba Policy, which Fox (a freelance journalist) agreed to pay a penalty of $100,000 for participating in two short trips to Cuba in 2010 and 2011, and claiming that the Respondent improverly assisted other U.S. nationals on those two trips.” (tinyurl.com/NLG-CubaResolution).

Foxx “has been recognized as a key con- tributor in building a significant body of opinion in favor of normalizing relations with Cuba, and has also been a critic of continuing to fund the OFAC office in Miami.”

The legal proceedings are a pretext to intimidate those who fight hard to real- ize a free Palestine. Demonstrations have taken place across the U.S. since her ar- rest in 2013, and we are again going all out for Detroit on Sept. 22.

We will rally at the courthouse in downtown Detroit on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 10 a.m., and then pack the courtroom as we have done since we first went to the government to “examine” Rasmea.

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Stay in touch through justice.rasmea.org and justice.rasmea@uspcn.org.

That evening, a labor/community meeting was hosted by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555, representing Bay Area Rapid Transit workers. Pres- ident and Business Agent Chris Finn pres- ented the meeting by discussing the similarities between the experiences of Team Solidarity and the ATU’s recent strike victory against BART. Veolia’s chief union-busting BART negotiator, Thomas P. Hock, was also the key engi- neer on the attack on Local 10. Veolia de- legation from the San Francisco School Bus Union, SMART 1741, which included Chairperson Lois Correa, attended and encouraged solidarity and mobilization. Clarence Thomas, of ILWU Local 10 and the Million Worker March Move- ment, spoke of his union’s legislature of fight- ing the Corporat giant; and then presented resolution at the IAMU convention to “Free Angela Davis” — a resolution that, he said, was reported in the Oakland Tribune, the news- paper of the ILWU, “linked her prosecu- tion with the prosecution of other labor militants ... from Tom Mooney to Harry Hay。” He stressed the importance of building union solidarity and action with the Black Lives Movement.

Seattle/Tacoma

A labor/community event held at the
By Kris Hamel

Detroit

Aug. 8 — Republican presidential can-
didate Donald Trump gave what the big-
business-owned press dubbed “a major economic policy speech” in Detroit today. Trump, who was hosted by the Detroit Economic Club, spoke to 1,500 people at Cobo Hall.

A thousand protesters of Trump’s hate and racism converged outside the down-
town convention center. They included union members from the United Auto Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michi-
gan Education Association; and Ameri-
can Federation of Teachers; among oth-
ers. It was a multinational, multigender gathering of protesters of all ages – a FIST member quickly tore it from his hands.

Revolutionaries denounced Trump and the racist, fascist movement he has aroused and called for socialism. Work-
ers World newspapers were distributed, as were palm cards inviting people to hear WW presidential candidate Moni-
a MacReehead in Detroit on Sept. 10. Despite a heavy police presence, pro-
testers were not confined to the outside.

About two dozen people were ejected by security from the convention hall, includ-
ing a Muslim former state representative, for their actions during Trump’s speech, which included simply yelling “Racist!”

Twenty women shouted out questions about Trump’s treatment of women. (mivle.com, Aug. 8)

There was standing a prounding ova-
tion from the capitalists attending the event. Among Trump’s proposals is a reduction in corporate taxes, elimina-
tion of the death tax, a 15 percent limit on income taxes for all businesses, and gutting environmental regulations and mandates.

By Terri Kay

On July 30, “A Day to Remember Our Loved Ones,” the Nate Greer family held a barbeque in Hayward, Calif., and invited others who had lost loved ones to police violence to join them.

And they did! Families from across the Bay Area came out, including those of Asia Sullivan, Tea Valencia, Herman Jaramillo, Derrick Gaines and Kerry Baxter, Jr. — all victims of police killings. Also attend-
ing were supporters from the Alex Nieto Coalition, the Anti Police-Terror Project, the Idris Shelly Coalition, Frisco 500 and Workers World Party.

Workers World interviewed Nate’s wife, Deana, about the circumstances surrounding his death:

WW: Why was Nate stopped by the police?

Deana: The lieutenant told him that he pulled him over for driving “goofy.”

WW: Was anyone with him when he was stopped, or were there any eyewitnesses who have come forward?

Deana: He was alone. The police report states two witnesses.

WW: Talk about what happened after he was stopped, leading up to his death?

Deana: He exited the vehicle and pro-
cceeded to comply with the field sobriety test as instructed to do. He was then asked to walk over to flatter ground to continue the field sobriety test, and he did that as well.

When he noticed many officers sur-
rounding him, he questioned what was going on, and what were they going to do to him? It was then that the BART [Bay Area Rapid Transit] police officer pulled him down to the ground, and they all be-
gan to wrestle with him and pile on top of him. They wrapped him in a body wrap and Tased him several times. Then he lost consciousness.

WW: Did they ever explain how BART police got involved in this traffic stop?

Deana: No, I still haven’t gotten any info on that. It was one of my questions, too.

WW: How long did it take for the ambu-
ance to arrive?

Deana: The struggle lasted on the ground for approximately ten minutes. When they rolled him over to wrap his upper body, they realized he was not breathing. They continued to wrap his lifeless body and left him on the side unattended for approximately seven min-
utes before the ambulance arrived.

WW: Were any family members noti-
fied at this time?

Deana: Nate’s mother and sister were not notified. The coroner’s report stated that the police depart-
ment said to not notify the family until the scene had been cleared. It also stated that there was a press hold on this case. I was calling hospitals, looking for him and ended up calling the coroner’s office, and that’s when I found out that he was dead!

WW: What did the police say to your family?

Deana: When my son and I spoke to the detective, he said that nothing on the video showed any excessive force or any-
thing the police officers did wrong.

WW: How long did it take before the family received the coroner’s report and the police report?

Deana: I don’t recall but it wasn’t too much longer after he died. I had to physical-
ly go and get the coroner’s report. I attempt-
et several times before I was able to obtain it, same with the police report. The police report is redacted and pages are missing, so I still have yet to receive the complete police report. I believe my attorney submision has not yet been received.

WW: Who is the family lawyer, and when did you first contact the lawyer?

Deana: We have met with lawyer Stan Goff early on for legal advice, and he took our case. A few weeks later, he recruited Fulvio Cajina, and he became our second lawyer along with Matt Hailey, who is our third.

WW: When and how did you get the police bodycam footage?

Deana: We were notified by class action suit.

On Aug. 8, 2015, the Nate Greer family held a barbeque in Hayward, Calif., and invited others who had lost loved ones to police violence to join them.

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Albert Woodfox tells supporters: ‘Stand strong!’

By Kathy Durkin
New York City

Former political prisoner Albert Woodfox was given an award by the National Lawyers Guild on Aug. 4, as every- one in the hall rose to their feet, cheering and clapping. Some 500 people attended this event and saw the honoree given the Arthur Kinoy Award during the Guild's 40th Annual Law for the People Convention, held at New York University’s School of Law. For nearly 44 years, Woodfox was imprisoned in a 6-foot-by-9-foot cell for 23 hours a day in Louisiana’s notorious Angola prison for a crime he did not commit. He was the last remaining incarcer- ated member of the Angola 3, a group of prisoners sentenced to outrageous prison terms and held in solitary confinement for decades due to their affiliation with the Black Panther Party and their opposi- tion to the prison’s racist and oppress- ive practices. Their horrific conditions sparked an international movement call- ing for their freedom.

When Woodfox was finally freed on Feb. 19, his 60th birthday, he committed himself to fight for prison reform and an end to the “barbarous” punishment of solitary confinement. Today, 80,000 people are held in administrative segre- gation in U.S. prisons.

‘I am Herman Wallace’

During the ceremony, Woodfox wore a T-shirt which read: “I am Herman Wal-

lace.” Wallace was another of the Angola 3, held in isolation for 43 years, who ob- tained his release from prison only three days before he died of cancer in October 2013. Woodfox recognized from the podi- um Robert King, the first of the three to be released in 2001, after 29 years in solitary. King is Woodfox’s steadfast friend, who fought for his release for 15 years. He also thanked his attorneys, George Kendall, Carine Williams, Rob- ert McDuff and Billy Souther, for fight- ing so hard for his freedom.

Woodfox told the gathering he didn’t want to be remembered for the “44 years of torture and hell” he endured, but as a fighter for social justice. He asserted, “If the cause is no- ble, you can car- ry the weight of the world on your shoulders.” This heroic freedom fighter said he’d even do it again, if necessary.

When Woodfox emphasized the importance of the Black Lives Mat- ter movement to the multimillion- al group of varying ages, many of the crowd were enthusiastic ap- plause and cheers rang out. He ended his remarks with a call to “Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leon- ard Peltier, Sundiata Acoli, Russell Shaoo- tz and all political prisoners!” The crowd then rose to their feet in a final rousing standing ovation for the beloved Albert Woodfox.

That evening, the Guild also present- ed the National Immigration Projects Award to nationally known attorney Javier Maldonado. At other sessions, Sofiayah Elijah received the Law for the People Award and Noelle Hanahan, di- rector of Prison Radio, was the benefi- ciary of the Legal Worker Award. Audrey Borne, Emily Rock and Louis Galante were also recognized as lawyer-activists fighting for human rights and social jus- tice.

Earlier, Guild President Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan had opened the convention. A keynote speaker was Elle Hearns, an African-American transgender activ- ists and organizing coordinator with the #BlackLivesMatter Network.


And then, continuing on their mission to stop the cruel punishment of solitary confinement, Woodfox and King will at- tend several more political events in the U.S. and abroad. They also plan to be at the 50th anniversary gathering of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, Calif., in October.

Woodfox thanked his worldwide sup- porters for relentlessly keeping up the struggle for his freedom in an interview posted at angola3.org/blog/. He emphasized: “What [supporters] should take away from my freedom is that you stand. You don’t back away. You don’t make un- necessary compromises. You stand, and no matter how painful, you stand.”

Anne Pruden, a longtime activist and supporter of the Angola 3, contributed to this article.

Oakland
Activists win for women prisoners

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Four activists, arrested in 2014 for pro- testing police brutality and killings in Oak- land, Calif., filed a civil rights suit against the Santa Rita County Jail. On Aug. 1, they won a victory for all prisoners sent there.

Anne Wells, Tova Fry, Alyssa Eisenberg and Mollie Costello announced, in a state- ments posted at angola3.org/blog/, that they had won “a small victory in achieving policy changes at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ), reducing the sexual harassment of women prisoners and improving the condi- tions under which they are held.” (yhuang.

State the details of the anti-woman and degrading conditions in the SRJ: “The Four were taken into a public hallway and told to strip to their bras. Outraged at this, the Four protested, and one was forced to walk around in that state in front of male guards and prisoners. Two of them were then locked in isolation cells and denied ac- cess to a toilet for hours.

“The Four were then held with other women in filthy jail cells. Toilets were over- flowing. There were no menstrual pads for women who needed them. There were no garbage containers, so used menstrual pads sat on top of leftover food. All the women in those cells are ‘presumed innocent.’

“The Four won seven concessions from the SRJ: 1) women prisoners’ right to pri- vacy, including a screening curtain; 2) a never-before-required program to train cops assigned to the new arrestee area; 3) a mandatory check on detainees, especial- ly those in isolation, every 15 minutes; 4) the prohibition of cops “groping or knock- ing” the body of an arrestee that they are searching; 5) mandatory garbage bags in cells with women prisoners; 6) menstrual pads provided to all women prisoners; and 7) cells cleared of garbage and sanitized regularly.

“The Four also won a $310,000 settle- ment, which will, in part, meet legal fees and be used to “work toward insuring the continued improvement of conditions at Santa Rita Jail, including publicizing these new policy changes.”

“The Four activists emphasized that they acted ‘to be a voice for other women and demand they be treated with respect and human dignity.”

Justice for Alan Blueford protest in Oakland, where the four women were arrested, February 2014.

Rochester, N.Y.
Latinos/as support Black Lives Matter

By Gene Clancy
Rochester, N.Y.

On Aug. 4, a Latino/a group stunned the Rochester Police Department with a militant demonstration in front of the Rochester Public Safety Building.

T-shirts and signs proclaimed the group’s purpose: ‘'Latinos Unidos Con Black Lives Matter’” — solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The cops were frantic. Although the protest was completely peaceful, traffic was diverted from the demonstration site, concrete barriers were erected, and most RPD employees were sent home ear- ly. The Public Safety Building was closed from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. because of the protest.

Last month, police arrested over 70 protesters at a BLM rally in Rochester. Police actions, which included brutalizing some demonstrators and the arrest of two Black journalists, have brought them considerable local criticism.

Ana Casyer, an activist and advocate for local Latino/a families, said the rally was meant to show unity among Afri- can-American and Latino/a people on the issue of policing in minority commun- ities. “All together in movement in dif- ference, live together and make a differ- ence,” she said. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Aug. 5)

Casyer said it’s important for the two groups to stand together, as they have much in common. BLM advocates also attended the rally.

Juan Colладo, 16, and one of the rally organizers, said: “The people need to hear about all of us. We’re United with Black Lives Matter. . . . We’re still humans and we’re still people. All of us need to be to- gether.” (Democrat & Chronicle)

The protest took place on the eve of the local Puerto Rican festival. For nearly a decade, the RPD has routinely harassed and arrested promparades that often march on the last day of the festival.

Rochester has a large Latino/a popula- tion, a third the size of the city, about 35,000 out of 210,000. These Latinos/as are subject to similar kinds of discrimina- tion and oppression that other Black and Brown people experience in housing, ed- ucation, jobs and poverty, as well as po- lice harassment.

Rochester has the second highest child poverty rate in the U.S. for similarly sized cities. Over one-third of city residents live in poverty. Over 50 percent of Rochester’s children live in poverty. (Democrat & Chroni- cle, Nov. 19, 2014)

In 2014, the RPD had a racial arrest disparity rate greater than that of Fergus- son, Mo. (Democrat & Chronicle)

The signs of solidarity between Lati- no/as and the BLM movement are a sig- nificant and welcome development, and should be supported by progressive peo- ple everywhere.
Facing explosion of Zika in Puerto Rico
Protest stops toxic spraying before it starts

By Lyn Neeley

There is widespread opposition in Puerto Rico to the imposition of aerial spraying of Naled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Naled is in the most toxic class of pesticides that may cause fetal brain damage and kill bees, birds and fish. The U.S.-based CDC wanted to use Naled in an effort to kill mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus. (Photo: The raging Zika crisis in Puerto Rico.)

On Aug. 4, Naled was sprayed in North Miami, Fla., where the first cases of locally acquired Zika infections were reported in the United States. (Photo: North Miami, Fla.)

Later, the CDC has admitted that this control measure may not work well in Miami because the mosquitoes may be developing resistance to pesticides.

In Puerto Rico, the number of Zika infections is expected to explode through out the summer. Over 8,700 cases of Zika have already been reported there. The CDC predicts that between 20 to 25 percent of the island's estimated 3.5 million people will be infected with Zika before the end of the year. (Photo: Spraying Naled to fight Zika.)

Protesters are angry that Washington has not appropriated $8.9 billion that President Obama requested in February to help fight the spread of Zika. Many oppose the use of Naled, which failed to stop an outbreak of dengue fever, also carried by mosquitoes, in Puerto Rico in 1987. (Photo: Puerto Rico in 1987.)

In response to widespread protests against aerial spraying, the Puerto Rico government filed a lawsuit July 21 in Puerto Rico's federal court charging that the plan to spray would pose "a significant risk" to wildlife and fish in the area and to the "general health" of San Juan residents. By July 25, the CDC relented after Puerto Rican Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla, who has veto power, opposed the use of aerial spraying.

Violations of Puerto Rico's sovereignty

Shipping Naled to the island is the latest U.S. violation of Puerto Rico's sovereignty. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. used the island as a staging ground for U.S.-made troops in nearby Vietnamese jungles. The U.S. in the 1950s tested the first birth control pill on Puerto Rican women and also did not consider the 30 percent of childbearing women working in U.S. industries on the island to be

World trade federation to hold congress

By Carl Lewis

Under the slogan “Forward! For the attainment of the contemporary needs of the working class and the emancipation of workers against poverty and wars generated by the imperialist system,” the World Federation of Trade Unions will hold a congress in Durban, South Africa, hosted by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, from Oct. 5 to Oct. 8. The significance of the conference is highlighted by the fact that this is the first time the WFTU has held a congress in South Africa.

The last congress was held in Athens, Greece, the headquarters of the WFTU, which has member unions representing 92 million workers in 126 countries worldwide.

The WFTU was established and organized in Paris in 1945 following World War II and victory in the struggle against Nazism and fascism. According to the History Page of the WFTU website: “The foundation of the WFTU was seen as indicative of the new era that had opened with the defeat of fascism at the end of World War II, and with the Soviet Union, which was key to armed resistance against fascism. That international struggle, which took place from 1945 to 1949, became intensified with the birth of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which manifested itself in the Cold War struggle against fascism, with the aid of the United States and the Soviet Union. However, the inauguration of the Cold War, the advent of McCarthyism, the freezing of the Tash-Harley Act — in which U.S. union leaders were compelled to declare that they “were not now, and have never been” members of the Communist Party — and the subsequent purge of communists and socialists from the CIA, resulted in the disaffiliation of all North American unions from the WFTU, with the exception of the Electrical Workers union (UE), which remained outside both the AFL and the CIA. Those two organizations merged in 1953 with the CIA, with the result that the WFTU was disbanded.”

It was at this time that the so-called International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was formed as a counter to the class-struggle unionism of the WFTU. As its central goal, the ICFTU espoused the false doctrine of social democracy, which is a belief in the necessity of collaboration with the working class in conjunction with monopoly capitalism and their governments.

It is noteworthy that even after a “split” in 1953, the Congress of Industrial Organizations stuck with the World Federation. The American Federation of Labor was a separate organization that harbored colonial subjection.”

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Workers in Rio: ‘No poverty, no coup!’

By Lyn Neeley

The elite’s joy at seeing a banker-friendly, right-wing government is matched by that of imperialist institutions like the International Monetary Fund. Alejandro Werner, the fund’s Western Hemisphere’s director, told the Fund’s annual meeting that the IMF’s recommendations are simple: “a multi-year fiscal program including an important cut in expenditure combined with higher taxes, combined with cuts in pensions and other entitlements that Brazil cannot afford.”

In other words, the IMF wants more austerity for Brazil’s workers.

Multinational corporations like McDonald’s and Coca-Cola, as well as media companies, stand to rake in millions from the Olympics. Meanwhile an army of some 85,000 police, soldiers and security personnel shut out the voices of the poor.

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One thousand people hushed as Airman 1st Class Louis “Buffy” Parry announced the act of resistance. He would end his “complicity with the U.S. military and its crimes against humanity” in the war against Vietnam, then at its height, and take sanctuary at Honolulu’s Church of the Crossroads.

It was Sunday, Aug. 10, 1969. Parry and I were keynote speakers at the Nagasaki Day rally at Waikiki Beach Park in Honolulu.

Even had it remained an individual act, the events of that August day for the first sanctuary member, here in Waikiki Beach Park and at the Church of the Crossroads.

Hawai‘i: Pentagon in the Pacific

Pentagon at the crossroads as GIs resist war

By John Catalinotto

An accident of timing put me on Oahu. The anti-war movement in Hawai‘i, urged by a student at the University of Hawai‘i, had invited Andy Stapp, the chairperson of the American Servicemen’s Union, to speak. Stapp’s spouse, Deirdre Griswold, was about to give birth, so he sent me from New York in her place.

The ASU was an anti-war and anti-racist organization of low-ranking GIs. As of mid-1969 it had some 8,000 active-duty members. Tens of thousands of GIs read its monthly newspaper, The Bond.

I had nothing like Stapp’s charisma or skill with his media. My realm was the union office, writing letters to GIs on a manual typewriter, doing headquarters and logistics work for general circulation manager for The Bond. Now suddenly I was on point at the front lines, and the only ASU organizer on island.

The Hawaii Resistance, the church elders and the ASU had a tiger by the tail. The tiger was growing. My job as ASU organizer was to make the tiger grow.

To the Marine officers at Kanohe MCAS, what the Black troops did was a mutinous riot. To the ASU it was a righteous uprising that inspired. The night after this symbolic action, a delegation of four organizers to Honolulu, including two AWOL soldiers who joined the sanctuary, was reluctantly returned home to less dramatic support tasks with The Bond.

We continued along the Kalaniana‘ole Highway, to the Church of the Crossroads.

Solidarity with Black Marines

Could we unite the military resistance at the Crossroads church with this out-break of the Black Liberation struggle that was sweeping the U.S. in 1969, in this case right nearby at the Marine base?

A week later, I proposed we hold a demonstration picket at the gates of Kaneohe. Fearing a police action ended the sanctuary.

A delegate publicly sat down on the battlefield. The night after this symbolic action, a group of Marines from Kanohe brought food to the church. Many GIs had been brought to help feed those taking sanctuary.

These Marines were not yet willing to risk open resistance and disobedience, but they still donated under the table something we could put on the table at the Crossroads:

“Maybe my vision was too optimistic,” said one of the officers. “But the seeds of a widespread rebellion were there. To even conceive of it now, 20 years later, you have to recreate the mood of August 1969. You also have to know what a military center Oahu was.”

Leading to this struggle

As early as January 1968, the Tet Offensive of the Vietnamese National Liberation Front sent the heavy casualties on U.S. troops, demoralized U.S. government leaders and began to turn the U.S. population against the war. Democratic President Lyndon Johnson, identifying with the war, was forced to withdraw from the 1968 election.

Richard Nixon, the new Republican president, promised to end the war. Yet he still increased the number of U.S. troops in Vietnam until it peaked at 543,400 on April 30, 1975. Up to that time, 33,641 U.S. troops had been killed there.

In June of 1969, Nixon announced plans to gradually remove U.S. troops. The U.S. forces were to be replaced by expanding the puppet army of South Vietnam, the plan known as Vietnamization. Meanwhile, the majority of the U.S. population had turned against the war and the anti-war movement had grown both broader and more combative. To the anti-war movement and the GIs, Nixon’s steps were too little, too slow and too easy.

Anti-war resistance also grew with the military. For the GIs, the war was an immediate and dead-end issue. The troops’ hostility mounted year by year. Some Pentagon officers worried the war against Vietnam, then at its height, would be money-making spectacle designed to en-

...
As if horrified by the monster they created with unrestricted publicity, some of the corporate media have turned against the current Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump.

They had already done irreparable harm by repeating ad nauseam Donald Trump's racist, misogynist and xenophobic rant. They allowed KKK and Nazis to mobilize under the wings of his candidacy.

The New York Times now leads the reversal, attacking him daily in articles, editorials and op-eds. The Times' focus does nothing to reverse his racism.

No, for example, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is the next CEO of the U.S. imperialist state, Trump, will fail, or do something outrageous that harms U.S. ruling-class interests. Joining Times editorialists are CIA henchmen, Pentagon generals and Wall Street economists, even psychologists who analyze Trump's narcissistic personality disorder.

Their collective message is "Vote for Clinton at all costs."

What's revealing are their reasons. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day. Trump may fail short of that standard. But the broadcast media and publications that resonate with the public or the media, he sometimes strikes home. And brings down the establishment attacks on his head.

He said, for example, that NATO no longer had its Cold War mission and had outlived its usefulness, that Russia did not really invade Ukraine and that Vladimir Putin is a strong leader.

Given his history, there is no reason to believe Trump will actually stand strong for these statements longer than it takes to post his next tweet. He just hopes to hit paydirt with a hot issue. That's what a demagogue does. And the people want peace.

What the corporate media reveals, though, and we cite the Times as an example, is that the ruling class prefers a tested warmonger in the White House. One like Clinton.

The Times and Clinton promote NATO, which U.S. strategy has shifted from an "offensive," base-dependent and air defense war machine. Since the 1990s NATO has made war on Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. It has shed its Russia from the West, all with Clinton's approval.

The Times and Clinton also attack Russia for defending its naval base in the Crimea — whose people prefer Russia — from a pro-West coup regime in Kiev supported by fascists. Clinton is OK with coup regimes, as she showed in Honduras. She and her team of neo-cons and former Cold Warriors will assuredly boost NATO and attack Putin.

With people general, both Clinton and Trump are unpopular at historic levels. They both earned the people's distrust. Clinton is a pro-war, ruling-class candidate. Trump a racist demagogue. There is no electoral road out of this hell.

Workers World Party is running a presidential campaign to put socialism on the front burner and to build solidarity with the Black Lives Matter and immigrant movements. We want to keep the struggle in the streets. Against Trump. And against Clinton. We want you to join that struggle, and not just for this election year.

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The debate within the Obama administration is over tactics, not goals. Both factions seek the overthrow of the government of Syria and its replacement with a counter revolution. The corporate media will try various ways to achieve its world domination — sometimes the bare fist, sometimes the political grab bag.

The military option is always ready to be rolled out. On July 20 the Guardian newspaper reported that U.S. fighter bombers attacked the town of Manbij in Syria killing "at least 73 civilians" and possibly as many as 127. Many bodies were shredded and unidentifiable, but collagen the cue. The word is children.

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U.S. military intervention in Syria is fated to fail. The U.S. has no clear strategy, no plan. The U.S. has been turned into a "rogue" state, isolated from its allies, even its "democratic" ones, as the U.S. has no plan.

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By Kathy Durkin

August 6 and 9, 1945, went down in history as days of capitalist impe- rialism — and days of catastrophe for the people of Japan. At 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6, the U.S. bomber Enola Gay dropped a four-ton uranium bomb on Hiroshima, and then followed that horrific act by unleashing a plutoni- um bomb on Nagasaki three days later.

Both cities became infernos. People were incinerated instantly. Thousands died agonizing deaths soon afterwards. By the end of the year, 250,000 people had died. In subsequent years, many peo- ple died from radiation-related illnesses. Among those who died were 22,000 Kokura citizens. Were countless lives and laborers by Japanese imperialism during World War II, along with Chinese workers. Sixty percent of Hiroshima was de- stroyed. Residential buildings in a large area of the city were turned into rubble by the impact as only four of the 30 targets were military. This was in line with U.S. war policy of bombing Japanese civilian populations. Nagasaki was flattened. As World War II was ending, Wash- ington dropped the bombs as a warning to the Soviet Union and the West. The decision to bomb the two Japanese war- time cities became a difficult process after such a brutal war. But the first step is the population of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the consequent devastation.

Atomic bomb survivors and Japan’s peace movement insist Washington take responsibility for its attacks, and would use nuclear weapons against civilian populations.

The United States is the only country to have used nuclear weapons in warfare. No leading figure in any administration has ever apologized or shown remorse for having inflicted such monumental destruction and loss of human life on the Japanese people.

This includes President Barack Obama, who visited the Hiroshima Memorial Park in late May. Although he was the first sitting U.S. president to visit the city, Obama offered no apology for the government’s decision to bomb the two Japanese war-time cities and the consequent devastation.

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The legacy of Hiroshima is pacifism. “Nagasaki, the city which has been born again, is a vanguard, be the leaders of the radical movement, the radical social and political institution was de-

The post-war Japanese Constitution, Article 9, renounced war and military engagement abroad. Since then, however, Japan has built up its mil-
Alto a la agresión de Washington!

Líbano, Siria e Irak están de nuevo en las noticias. No por nad a optimis ta, Washington y sus aliados imperialistas han abierto nuevas ofensivas peligrosas en estos tres países.

Al decir “imperialista”, nos referimos a los países que poseen y controlan la mayor parte de las finanzas, la tecnología y el armamento del mundo, y que explotan el trabajo y saquean las materias primas del resto del mundo para el beneficio del 0,01 por ciento súper-rico. La mayoría de estos países imperialistas están en la OTAN. También está el Japón que se está militarizando bajo los auspicios de los EEUU.

Estas nuevas ofensivas van más allá de la guerra con ‘drones’, o del envío de un par de instructores militares o asesores. Estas incluyen bombardeos y la posibilidad del envío de tropas de combate. Estas nuevas ofensivas in fugirán aún más sufrimiento a la población de Asia Occidental y de África del Norte.

Aviones estadounidenses bombardearon Libia el 2 de agosto. Fue el primer ataque externo desde que las fuerzas EEUU-OTAN destruyeron el gobierno legítimo de Libia en el año 2011 y organizaron el asesinato del presidente Muamar Gadafi. Esto trajo el caos a Libia y desestabilizó gran parte del norte de África, lo que agudizó la crisis de refugiados/la y la crisis migratoria.

Washington y sus aliados de la OTAN también se han dirigido al gobierno sirio, especialmente desde el 2011, cuando la OTAN armó a grupos de tipo Al Qaeda para luchar contra el gobierno de Bashar al-Asad. Esto fue lo que atrajo a Siria el grupo Estado Islámico, o EI. La guerra resultante ha matado cerca de 300,000 sirios o convertido a millones en refugiados/la. Últimamente, EEUU ha cambiado sus tácticas y bombardeó Raqqa, la “capital” del EI.

El Pentágono está enviando a miles de soldados a Irak, esta vez para ayudar al régimen de Bagdad retomar la ciudad de Mosul de las garras del EI. Nadie debe olvidar que fue la invasión ilegal de EEUU y Bretaña en el 2003 la que destruyó al gobierno iraquí en primer lugar y abrió la puerta al EI. Más recientemente, las bombas estadounidenses han destruido de nuevo las ciudades de Fallujah y Ramadi con el fin de quitarles al EI. El bombardeo de Mosul es a una escala aún mayor.

En Irak, Siria y Libia, la administración de Barack Obama explica ahora su intervención por la necesidad de destruir al EI. Pero ¿cuál es la relación de Washington con EI?

En Libia y en Siria, las fuerzas de la OTAN armaron grupos reaccionarios similares en contra de los gobiernos legítimos. Cuando el EI se convirtió en un problema fuera de su control, los imperialistas cambiaron su táctica, utilizando EI para defenderse de EI.

Después del 15 de julio, Washington cambió su lealtad. Al-Queda y Osama bin Laden, quienes habían estado en su núcleo, se convirtieron de prontos en su enemigo predilecto. Decían que al-Queda estaba aliado al talibanes en Afganistán y a Saddam Hussein en Irak. Estas mentiras se convirtieron en pretextos para que las tropas de Estados Unidos invadieran esos países.

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A mediados de julio, se informó que bombardeos coordinados estadounidenses - franceses mataron a más de 100 civiles cerca de la ciudad de Manbij en Siria. El gobierno francés dejó prever incluso que la masacre de camiones en Niza fue la excusa para esta masacre de inocentes. El ataque de Niza, el ataque del EI en el palacio de la sede de la liga de Alepo de ciudad más grande y capital comercial siria - el EI y fuerzas similares. Las fuerzas sirias-rusas han boicoteado la zona en poder de los reaccionarios, han abierto un pasadizo para que pasen las/os civiles y han ofrecido amnistía a los combatientes que se entreguen.

Con las elecciones estadounidenses dominando las noticias, las campañas y los candidatos no están discutiendo el peligro de guerra. El Partido Demócrata busca la guerra, mientras que los republicanos la animan.

Sea quien sea el candidato que llegue a la Casa Blanca, le toca al movimiento antiguerra en los EEUU combatir estos actos de agresión imperialista.