



WWP presidential candidate, Monica Moorehead and Hertencia Petersen, aunt of Akai Gurley murdered by NYPD, at NYC City Hall occupation, Aug. 3.

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 and 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 MMNYC 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,

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WW PHOTO: TONY MURPHY

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 Comitê 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

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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 sums 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 two 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-portion sits 16 feet above the roadway. Each bus can hold 1,200 people — 40 times the capacity of older buses. 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.



Basically, this bus does what subways and elevated trains do — relieves surface congestion — but at a much lower cost. Especially when a city already exists, it is enormously difficult and expensive to dig out the miles of underground passages needed for a subway. Installing the additional infrastructure for the TEB — tracks along the side of the road and raised bus stops — is a much simpler job. The company building the TEB says that while the average cost of subway construction is \$100 million per kilometer, the TEB will cost one-fifth that.

Imperialist arrogance and racism

The capitalist rulers of Europe and the U.S. have prided themselves on their countries’ scientific-technological development and innovation. Even more than that, they have promoted a racist, classist view of the rest of the world to justify their predatory and violent chase after raw materials and cheap labor. The Chinese people have not forgotten the days when, in the Western-controlled areas of their port cities, signs went up reading “No dogs and Chinese allowed.”

Imperialist, capitalist arrogance still exists, but a century of anti-colonial and pro-socialist uprisings and revolutions has exploded the myth of Western superiority.

When a country like China can raise 800 million people out of poverty in one generation and at the same time develop a cutting-edge scientific-technological infrastructure, it’s time to give credit where credit is due — to China’s great revolution, led by communists, that liberated the world’s most populous country from imperialist domination and created a state capable of organizing the country’s resources to take on the greatest challenges of the modern era. □

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Moorehead/Lilly file for write-in status in Ohio

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 not on the ballot, the state must now count and report the number of voters who write in the WWP candidates' 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 stressed that racism cannot be eliminated at the ballot box but rather in the streets. WWP uses the elections as a vehicle to reach 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 WWP ticket: "We need a choice that's not the lesser of two evils. 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, WWP 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!" □

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

Workers World Party vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly gave the following speech at the Black Resistance March on the Democratic National Convention on July 26 in Philadelphia.

It is the FBI, the CIA. It is the courts, the prosecutors, the judges, the parole officers — every institution that makes money off of keeping Black and Brown bodies incarcerated. The private prison system is no different than the convict lease system 100 years ago. The police are no different than the slave patrols when we were on the plantation. That's where the police in this country come from. Their function was to keep the slaves in their place, to keep us from gaining liberation.

The role of the police is to keep the oppressed, to keep the marginalized, to keep the disenfranchised from fighting back, resisting and gaining liberation. Their role is to keep the working class from uniting.

Look around you. This is what democracy really looks like. When you have white, Brown, Black, Latino, queer, trans, straight, Muslim, Christian, young and the old, that is what democracy looks like.

This is what absolutely petrifies this country. They don't want to see the oppressed come together. They don't want to see the working class uniting. So they distract us. They distract us like [Fox News reporter] Geraldo Rivera tried by walking into this march. They distract us with Black on Black crime, but the real conversation is white supremacy. It is racism.

These issues are why myself and Monica Moorehead are running for president and vice president with Workers World Party. We want an end to racism and capitalism, to stop the war on Black America. We must unite on this front.

We know that you cannot reform sexism, capitalism, imperialism or colo-

nialism. Colonialism — that is what the ghettos in this country are. They are colonized territories where Black and Brown people are still basically in bondage.

I have to do this — I have to talk to my people for a split second. Black people, African descendants, please listen loud and clear. We are members of an anti-Black society, of an anti-Black country; every fucking way, shape and form we live in a system of white supremacy. The school system, the political system, the economic [system], even in the arts. This country is completely anti-Black.

We have to fight for ourselves. Love your hair, love your lips and noses. Love your melanin in your skin, which makes you powerful. Teach our history to your children. Do not wait til 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



Lamont Lilly, left.

fighters. Love each other. Keep each other inspired. 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

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 socialist hopefuls, who experienced a dream deferred, suffered insult upon injury on realizing their candidate was robbed of his nomination through inner-party corruption. They realized that between media-aided conspiracy and a collective 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 afraid 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 various political arenas, politicians on the left and pundits are all guiltily the "Bernie or Busts" into rallying behind their enemy. Their rationale is that the current

Democratic nominee is 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 Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations were responsible for "the New Jim Crow," have departed from her, to join #WithHer. Even some who commended the bravery of Ashley Williams, a Black queer organizer from Charlotte, N.C., who confronted #Her for referring to Black people as "super predators," left to rally #WithHer. Bernie or Busts are not the traitors to progress. Their critics, who abandoned their former pro-liberation direction, are more so.

What Bernie or Busts, and even former Bernieites in general have revealed is that there is a slow but real yearning in the U.S. for something new and different. Even the guiltily strategy of herding the extreme left to the middle, in hopes of avoiding the extreme right, does not erase the reality that a large population is extremely dismayed with the choices of two racist corporate capitalists. The people

are waking up. Even the introduction of the term "revolution" into the rhetoric of this election reveals that there is a different consciousness underlying the direction a large population is moving towards.

What the Bernieites heard from the Sanders campaign was someone speaking to the issues of the working class. He addressed the crisis of poverty, the wealth disparity, the discrimination against marginalized people, the costs of wars overseas and the consequences of corporate influence. He traveled with the daughter of Eric Garner before the #Mother-softheMovement, he fully embraced the #Fightfor15, and touted a campaign for workers' rights.

This is not to say that he is not a privileged, older, white man who could only see as far as his own experience could allow. But he raised the U.S. consciousness higher than any candidate who came as close as he did to clenching the Democratic Party's nomination. Neither he nor his supporters were incorrect in their observation of certain issues facing the working class.

Where do those supporters go? Though it may seem there is no other choice for the believers in Bernie's America, this is hardly the time for those who were compelled by the radical aspects of the Sanders campaign to abandon their thinking in order to flee towards moderate "progress." That would only reinforce that Bernie's views are too extreme and progressive for what the U.S. working class needs. The unfolding of this capitalist, Wall-Street-influenced, rigged election is affirmation that there can be no justice for the people without a bona fide working-class led revolution. The current system is literally incapable of escaping the reinforcement of capitalist influence. Not even attempting to play by the rules of democracy is enough to appease the ruling class into submitting to the voices of the working class.

There is a clear yearning and willingness to reroute from America's capitalist pattern of electing bigoted, neoliberal corporate puppets; this is an unsettling reality to the powers of the ruling class.

Continued on page 11

Buffalo residents fight gentrification

Threatened with displacement by the relentless development land grabs occurring all around them, residents of a historic Black neighborhood in the midst of Buffalo's "medical corridor" building boom are fighting back.

The Fruit Belt/McCarley Gardens Housing Task Force has been tirelessly struggling for decades to save their neighborhood from demolition and gentrification by bankers and developers.

A press conference and rally held on Aug. 5 right in the Fruit Belt neighborhood demanded a community land trust (a nonprofit that holds land in trust for the permanent benefit of low-income residents) to give residents — who are mostly tenants — final control over land use in their own neighborhood. The organizing group intends to grow bigger and stronger and not back off until they win.

—Photo and story by Ellie Dorritie



People with disabilities fight back

By Brian Shea and Gerry Scoppettuolo
Boston

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 headquarters of the Boston Globe.

They were outraged over the newspaper's sensationalistic 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 story justified police assaults against people with mental health diagnoses, suggesting that they are prone to violence.

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 this terrible toll on the community, the

“liberal” Boston Globe focused on homicides involving people who may only have been suspected of having a mental health diagnosis, asserting that police involvement was necessary to protect the public.

In a well-organized action, the mental health community and other people with the lived experience of disability turned out to picket the Globe for more than three hours. Peer leaders and members of recovery clubs, M-POWER, ADAPT, the Boston Center for Independent Living, Recovery Learning Communities and others from across the state of Massachusetts came out in force. A handful of nonprofit agency staff were present.

This action, unprecedented for its large turnout, was a pure fightback by the rank and file for the very survival of their community. Nine of their number occupied the Globe entrance and were arrested by Boston police, who had a state police contingent “on the ready” nearby. One protester had his banner ripped out of his hands by a Globe security employee

and fought back to retrieve it, only to be the first arrested, put in handcuffs and placed in the police wagon by Boston police.

The crowd's anger grew louder as one by one their brothers and sisters were arrested. No Globe reporter took a photograph or interviewed one person in the aftermath of this scene of terror unleashed on the community.

Denise Jackson and Brian Shea helped organize the action and joined with other leaders of the protest to confront Scott Allen, the author of the original Globe article, earlier in the day. “We told him he didn't do enough research. He should



WW PHOTOS: GERRY SCOPPETTUOLO
Protest organizers
Denise Jackson, left,
Brian Shea, right.



have interviewed community leaders. I just wish I could have been arrested today,” Denise Jackson told Workers World.

The community also protested the recent decision of MassHealth, the state's Medicaid and children's health insurance program, to disallow overtime pay for personal care attendants. Some 35,000 of these attendants belong to District 1199/SEIU, the single largest Service Employees union in the state. The decision is very harmful to people with disabilities, who depend on quality care from the same PCA they have worked with over the years, but who now may not be available. This is a basic survival issue.

Longtime activist Brian Shea said: “People are continuing to organize. This is just a start, a resurgence. This is just further proof that wherever there is oppression, there is struggle.” □

West Coast tour 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 historic 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. USW 8751's 43 years of militant struggle and victories offer important lessons in building worker power.”

The delegation included USW 8751 Treasurer Georgia Scott, Shop Steward Nora Braggs, Recording Secretary and Boston Fanmi Lavalas leader Claude “Tou Tou” St. Germain, Vice President and Local co-founder Stevan Kirschbaum and reporter/photographer Hannah Kirschbaum.

The team's presentations explained that on Dec. 18, under the leadership of Team Solidarity, USW 8751's 1,000 members forced the bus company and city of Boston to sign agreements which reinstated the four illegally fired union leaders: President Andre François, Vice Pres-

ident Kirschbaum, Financial Secretary Steven Gillis and Grievance Chair Garry Murchison.

The union members, who are 98 percent immigrant, Black and Brown, also won a historic contract protecting more than 40 years of collective bargaining progress with substantial, fully retroactive economic gains. The no-concessions contract included agreements to resolve hundreds of backlogged grievances and an ironclad “Union Security Agreement” guaranteeing these gains — no matter which bus company management firm gets the contract from the city of Boston.

During the course of a nearly three-year battle against global, capitalist monolith Veolia, the city union-busters, the Boston cops and a relentlessly vicious anti-union media campaign, the rank and file, with solidarity from the communities, labor and the progressive political movement, organized and carried out countless rallies, 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 attempt to remove what the bosses called the “radical, rogue element” — the revolutionary, activist leaders who had provided leadership for decades. In April 2015, Team Solidarity fielded a slate of 17 “radicals” and swept every position in the local's Executive Board elections, with a historic voter turnout!

The tour delegates' presentations were designed to share their experiences and make the lessons of the victory the collective property of labor and the progressive movement. Georgia Scott explained the critical importance of solidarity with the community. She described how the local had built this relationship through years of struggle for the community, fighting 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



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

Nora Braggs
Claude
“Tou Tou”
St. Germain

Univ. of Calif.
Berkeley, Labor
Studies Program.

Los Angeles, San Diego

From the Bay Area Black Lives Matter/
BYP100 occupation/blockade of Oakland Police Officers' Association building to action supporting good transit for people with disabilities in Seattle, USW 8751 was in the streets, too.

SEIU Local 721, Los Angeles.

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 rallies, picketed the corporate offices, mobilized hundreds of drivers to pack the court for more than 9 months, and consistently raised funds to support the four fired leaders and their families. Claude “Tou Tou” St. Germain pointed out that for this majority Haitian union, this struggle was a logical extension of the Haitian people's struggle for self-determination, from the first successful slave revolution against French colonialism to the current struggle against U.S. imperialism.

Stevan Kirschbaum spoke about the local's reputation as a politically active union that “not only represents the

workers' first line of defense on the job, fighting grievances and winning just contracts, but also engaging in every battle facing the working class, bringing the union and rank and file to all the struggles against racism, sexism, islamophobia, LGBTQ oppression, war and poverty, and standing in solidarity with Palestine, freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Native American and disability rights.”

Team Solidarity's style of unionism was a conscious strategy to reclaim the union movement's legacy of uniting the union and people's struggles to fight all of capitalism's attacks.

Los Angeles

Service Employees Local 721 hosted the first tour meeting at their headquarters on July 19. Rebecca Jackson, of Workers World Party, chaired the meeting, and Local 721 President Bob Schoonover made welcoming remarks. Sherna

California labor solidarity urges action on Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

The California Labor Federation represents 2.1 million union members of more than 1,200 AFL-CIO and Change to Win unions. Delegates at its 2016 Biennial Convention, held on July 12-13 in Oakland, Calif., passed a Cuba solidarity resolution submitted by the Sacramento and North Bay Central Labor Councils.

The resolution recognizes the new opportunity for building relationships between workers in the U.S. and workers in Cuba and how the exchange of ideas and information will be beneficial to all. The resolution calls on affiliates to contact elected officials, asking them to “official-

ly 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 committees endorsing candidates for Congress to visit Cuba for May Day celebrations in 2017. The resolution was forwarded to National AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, with a proposal that it be forwarded to each state AFL-CIO federation. Read the resolution at bit.ly/2aDbPbQ.

The resolution was propelled by a strong union delegation that traveled from California to Havana to see Cuba for themselves during the May 1 International Workers Day Celebration there.

A few members of the U.S. union delegation to 2016 May Day celebration in Cuba with “Worker Solidarity - Cuba and California” sign.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH



Discussing solidarity with Cuba is easier now than it was 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 International Longshore and Warehouse Union, refused to get in line with imperialist foreign policy and maintained relations with Cuban port workers and the Central Union of Cuban Workers (CTC) after

the 1959 revolution, and then supported freedom for the Cuban 5. The Steelworkers and Service Employees unions both allowed Cuban 5 literature to be distributed at international conventions.

Union resolutions and city council proclamations are important in the struggle to end the commercial, financial and economic 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 economic 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 opposing” an attempt by prosecutors to subject her to questioning at a “mental examination” prior to an already scheduled Daubert hearing, which determines if an expert witness can testify at trial. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled that trial Judge Gershwin Drain erred in deciding that expert testimony concerning her mental state was irrelevant to her defense. That error led to Rasmea's unjust conviction in 2014.

On Nov. 29, Judge Drain will hear arguments as to whether Dr. Mary Fabri's testimony is scientifically valid and applicable. Before the 2014 trial, Dr. Fabri, a renowned clinical psychologist who has worked with torture 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 immigration forms in the U.S.

The move to separately “examine” Rasmea is outrageous and meant to intimidate. Such an examination is irrelevant 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 move, but Rasmea remains steadfast and strong.

The legal proceedings are a pretext to intimidate those who fight hard to realize a free Palestine. Demonstrations have taken place across the U.S. since her arrest 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 Judge Drain decides whether to allow the government to “examine” Rasmea.

Stay in touch through justice4rasmea.org and justice4rasmea@uspcn.org. □

Obama administration readies ‘Trials for travel’ to Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

American Airlines may include Santa Clara, Cuba, in its website's list of Caribbean destinations, but the U.S. laws that punish U.S. residents traveling to Cuba are still in place. Compliance may be reduced 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-4thePeople Convention, held Aug. 3-7 in New York City, reports that the Obama administration's Office of Foreign Asset Controls has appointed an administrative 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 Alliance for a Responsible Cuba Policy Policy Foundation (the Respondent), seeking a penalty of \$100,000 for participating in two short trips to Cuba in 2010 and 2011, and claiming that the Respondent

improperly assisted other U.S. nationals on those two trips.” (tinyurl.com/NLG-CubaResolution)

Fox “has been recognized as a key contributor in building a significant body of opinion in Florida for normalizing relations with Cuba, and has also been a critic of continuing to fund the OFAC office in Miami.” For nearly three years opinion polls have reported Floridians support normalized U.S. relations with Cuba and at a rate higher than in the rest of the country. (See Feb. 11, 2014, Atlantic Council poll)

Attorney Art Heitzer, chair of the NLG Cuba Committee, submitted the resolution, which warns, “This action threatens to establish a renewed precedent of intimidation against individuals and organizations which have broken from the hard line against Cuba in Florida and elsewhere.”

Currently 52 of 100 senators support S.299, the Freedom to Travel Bill, and 131 Representatives have cosponsored H.R.664, its companion bill in the House of Representatives. □

Gluck, of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, described their successful campaign against Veolia, opposing the corporate giant's role in supporting the oppression of Palestinians. Lawrence Reyes, Yuisa Gimeno and other 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 attended as well.

Bay Area

The tour went directly from the airport on July 20 to join the Bay Area Black Lives Matter/BYP 100 occupation/blockade of the Oakland Police Officers' Association building. Clarence Thomas, of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10; Dave Welsh, of the San Francisco Labor Council; and Terri Kay, of Workers World Party, joined the tour delegation.

The next day, the Team Solidarity delegation divided to cover two events. Braggs and St. Germain participated in a community meeting hosted by the Haiti 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 hallowed union ground, the union hall of the great Harry Bridges, organizer of the ILWU and the San Francisco 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 drivers 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 situation in Haiti. Then the delegation spoke to students spending their summer doing union organizing. Alicia Flores, the UC Berkeley Labor Studies Department program director, had found information about the Solidarity Works West Coast Tour and contacted the organizers to arrange for a presentation. Students were inspired by Local 8751's victory; the union's unique, militant, politically activist 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. President and Business Agent Chris Finn opened 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 engineer of the attack on Local 8751. A delegation from the San Francisco School Bus Union, SMART 1741, which included Chairperson Lois Correa, attended and gave a solidarity message and donation.

Clarence Thomas, of ILWU Local 10 and the Million Worker March Movement, spoke of his union's legacy of fighting racism and raised the Local's 1972 resolution at the ILWU convention to “Free Angela Davis” — a resolution that, as reported in the Dispatcher, the newspaper of the ILWU, “linked her prosecution with the prosecution of other labor militants ... from Tom Mooney to Harry Bridges.” He stressed the critical tasks of building union solidarity and action with the Black Lives Matter 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 Veolia Seattle and the Disability Liberation Front. Additional organizers include Ninus Hopkins, paratransit driver and executive board officer of ATU Local 587; Leith Kahl, of ILWU Local 19; Jim McMahan, of Workers World Party; and ILWU Local 23. Gabriel Prawl, vice president of ILWU Local 52 and president of Seattle APRI, chaired the meeting. Monica Lewis-Patrick, of “We the People of Detroit,” gave a Skype presentation about Veolia's role in the Flint, Mich., lead poisoning crisis, stressing the necessary solidarity and interconnectivity of union and community struggles.

The delegation joined members of the Disability Liberation Front, ATU Local 587 and Stop Veolia Seattle outside Metroaccess Paratransit offices on July 24 to demand full and equal rights for riders with disabilities.

ILWU Local 23 in Tacoma hosted the final meeting of the tour on July 24. Brian Skiffington from Local 23 made welcoming remarks and chaired. Additional speakers included Susan Koppelman, representatives from Jewish Voice for Peace and the BDS movement, and the Tacoma Teachers' Union. □

Protesters in Detroit unwelcome Trump

WW PHOTOS: KRIS HAMEL

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Aug. 8 — Republican presidential candidate 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 downtown convention center. They included union members from the United Auto Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan Education Association; and American Federation of Teachers; among others. It was a multinational, multigender gathering of protesters young and old.

Activists with Workers World Party and FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) youth organization led militant chants throughout the demonstration. When one of less than a handful of Trump supporters unfurled a Confederate flag — a hated symbol of racism and slavery —

a FIST member quickly tore it from his hands.

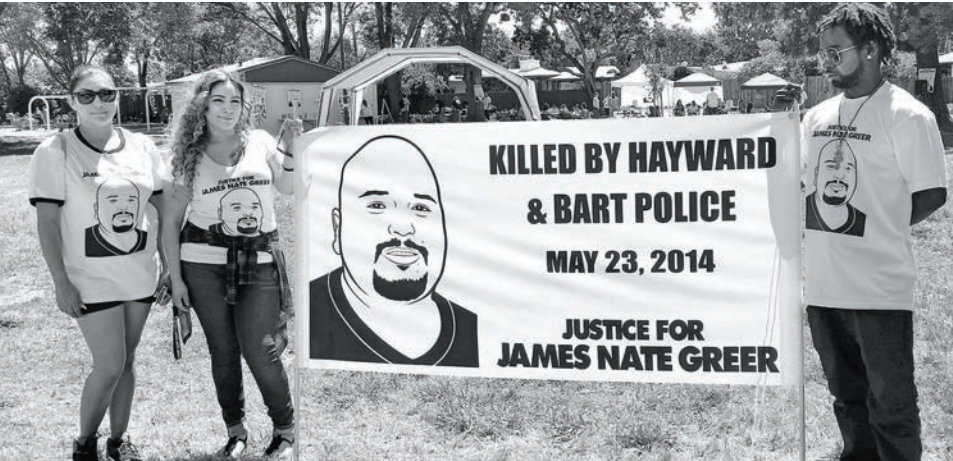
Revolutionaries denounced Trump and the racist, fascist movement he has aroused and called for socialism. Workers World newspapers were distributed, as were palm cards inviting people to hear WWP presidential candidate Monica Moorehead in Detroit on Sept. 10.

Despite a heavy police presence, protesters were not confined to the outside. About two dozen people were ejected by security from the convention hall, including 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. (mlive.com, Aug. 8)

The candidate received a standing ovation from the capitalists attending the event. Among Trump’s proposals are a reduction in corporate taxes, elimination of the death tax, a 15 percent limit on income taxes for all businesses, and gutting environmental regulations and mandates. □



Honoring Nate Greer Killed by BART and Hayward police



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

Family members call for justice for their loved one.

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 Asa Sullivan, Teo Valencia, Herman Jaramillo, Derrick Gaines and Kerry Baxter, Jr. — all victims of police killings. Also attending were supporters from the Alex Nieto Coalition, the Anti Police-Terror Project, the Idriss Stelley 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 proceeded 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 surrounding 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 began 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 ambulance 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 over on the side unattended for approximately seven minutes before the ambulance arrived.

WW: Were any family members notified at this time? When did the family hear about his death?

Deana: We were not notified. The coroner’s report stated that the police department 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 anything the police officers did wrong.

Occupations and Black Lives Matter

Continued from page 1

a majority of them Black. (The Guardian, Oct. 19, 2015)

The short-term goal of Freedom Square organizers is reversal of recent reactionary Chicago City Council “Blue Lives Matter” ordinances that cap the statute of limitations on CPD “police misconduct” at five years and extend city hate crime policies to “protect police officers.” Organizers’ long-term goal is abolition of the police. (DNAinfo.org)

By Aug. 6, Black Lives Matter-LA was in the 25th day of occupation of Los Angeles City Hall under the banner “Decolonize LA City Hall.” The 24-hour-a-day occupation demands the firing of the LA police chief.

Melina Abdullah, chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and a spokesperson for BLM-LA, described the LAPD as “the most murderous police department in the country,” most recently for killing Redel Jones, the 30-year-old mother of two. Police harassment of the occupation includes requiring the free-speech-protected encampment to pack up so cops can “clean” the area with power-hoses — for six hours at a time during the historic California drought. (risingupwithsonali.org)

The connection between BLM issues and decolonization links the Los Angeles occupation and that of the Campamento Contra La Junta in San Juan, Puerto Rico. That months-long encampment, mostly by stu-

dents, protests the U.S.-enacted PROMESA bill, which will impose a profit-driven, colonial-style control board, or junta, on the island nation of Puerto Rico. This neocolonization and economic takeover will hit unions especially hard, including teachers’ unions and the militant electrical workers’ union, UTIER. Solidarity messages have been sent to the Campamento from New York’s Abolition Square.

BLM spreads internationally

The BLM movement is expanding internationally in other countries. Demonstrations have been held in Britain, numbering dozens in Cardiff, Wales, to thousands in London. There, on Aug. 5 people in a BLM protest lay down on a road and blocked access to Heathrow, one of the world’s busiest airports.

The actions marked the fifth anniversary of the killing of Mark Duggan, a Black man, by a police marksman, sparking uprisings across London. Other coordinated actions were held on Aug. 5 in Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham and elsewhere.

Imani Robinson, a spokeswoman for Black Lives Matter U.K., said of the protests: “This is an intentional disruption because our lives, our ability to live free and dignified lives, is being disrupted every day.” (Washington Post, Aug. 5)

The BLM movement has also spread to other countries, including Brazil, Canada and several European nations. □

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 physically go and get the coroner’s report. I attempted 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 subpoenaed that and has since received it.

WW: Who is the family lawyer, and when did you first contact the lawyer? Did you need the lawyer to make the requests in order to get the above reports?

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

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

Deana: Stan Goff obtained it from BART.

WW: When did you file the lawsuit, and what can you say about the status of the suit?

Deana: It was filed right after he was killed. Trial is set for early next year.

WW: Why are you organizing events like the recent barbeque? Have you met other families undergoing similar tragedies as yours?

Deana: I am preparing to have a town hall meeting on August 20 to organize with families in Hayward about community awareness. Unfortunately, I have met with many families who have encountered the same type of loss. The meeting will be at 944 Central Blvd., Hayward, Calif., at 1 p.m.

Please sign the petition to demand justice for Nate: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/regarding-unarmed-brown.fb52?source=s.fb&r_by=15483896

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 everyone 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 2016 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 incarcerated member of the Angola 3, prisoners sentenced to outrageous prison terms and held in solitary confinement for decades due to their affiliation with the Black Panther Party and their opposition to the prison’s racist and oppressive practices. Their horrific conditions sparked an international movement calling for their freedom.

When Woodfox was finally freed on Feb. 19, his 69th 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 segregation in U.S. prisons.

‘I am Herman Wallace’

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



Albert Woodfox.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

lace.” Wallace was another of the Angola 3, held in isolation for 41 years, who obtained his release from prison only three days before he died of cancer in October 2013. Woodfox recognized from the podium 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, Robert McDuff and Billy Souther, for fighting 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 noble, you can carry 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 Matter movement to the multinational group of varying ages, many of them young, enthusiastic applause and cheers

rang out. He ended his remarks with a call to “Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Sundiata Acoli, Russell Shoatz 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 presented the National Immigration Projects Award to nationally known attorney Javier Maldonado. At other sessions, Soffiyah Elijah received the Law for the People award and Noelle Hanrahan, director of Prison Radio, was the beneficiary of the Legal Worker Award. Audrey Bomse, Emily Bock and Michael Deutsch were also recognized as lawyer-activists

fighting for human rights and social justice.

Earlier, Guild President Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan had opened the convention. A keynote speaker was Elle Hearn, an African-American transgender activist and organizing coordinator with the #Black Lives Matter network.

Woodfox and King participated in the Guild’s workshop on “Solitary Confinement: How to Build a Movement to End the Torture of Solitary Confinement,” on Aug. 7. The next day, they attended a book signing for “From the Bottom of the Heap: The Autobiography of Black Panther Robert Hillary King,” (PM Press, 2012) at the 1199SEIU hall in New York.

And then, continuing on their mission to stop the cruel punishment of solitary confinement, Woodfox and King will attend 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 supporters for resolutely 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 unnecessary 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

WW PHOTO



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

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Four activists, arrested in 2014 for protesting police brutality and killings in Oakland, 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 Weills, Tova Fry, Alyssa Eisenberg and Mollie Costello announced, in a statement issued with Yolanda Huang, their lawyer, that they had won “a small victory in achieving policy changes at Santa Rita Jail (SRJ), reducing the sexual harassment of women arrestees and improving the conditions under which they are held.” (yhuang, law)

The four were arrested Feb. 13, 2014, inside the State Building in Oakland. Weills is a National Lawyers Guild legal observer, and the other women are members of the Justice for Alan Blueford Coalition. The protest was against California Attorney General Kamala Harris’ failure to prosecute a single killer cop, including Oakland cop Miguel Masso, who killed young Alan Blueford in 2012.

The four women were driven, in a van with no seatbelts, to the SRJ, and told a closer jail couldn’t take women detainees. In an interview with teleSUR, Fry described being placed in a cell with 16

to 17 other women under filthy conditions: “There were feces on the floor, with blood and used menstrual pads in the room.” (Aug. 3)

Their statement details 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 access to a toilet for hours.

“The Four were then held with other women in filthy jail cells. Toilets were overflowing. 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 privacy, 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, especially those in isolation, every 15 minutes; 4) the prohibition of cops “grasping or kneading” 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 \$130,000 settlement, 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.” □

Rochester, N.Y.

Latinos/as support Black Lives Matter

CREDIT: GEENA CRUZ-ALBARON



‘Latinos Unidos Con Black Lives Matter’ in Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 4

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, bus traffic was diverted from the demonstration site, concrete barriers were erected, and most RPD employees were sent home early. 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 Casserly, an activist and advocate for local Latino/a families, said the rally was meant to show unity among African-American and Latino/a people on the issue of policing in minority communities. “All together, we can make a difference, live together and make a difference,” she said. (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Aug. 5)

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

Juan Collado, 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 together.” (Democrat & Chronicle)

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

Rochester has a large Latino/a population for the size of the city, about 35,000 out of 210,000. These Latinos/as are subject to similar kinds of discrimination and oppression that other Black and Brown people experience in housing, education, jobs and poverty, as well as police 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 are poor. (Democrat & Chronicle, Nov 19, 2014)

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

The signs of solidarity between Latinos/as and the BLM movement are a significant and welcome development, and should be supported by progressive people everywhere. □

World trade union 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 capitalist barbarity,” 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 October of 1945 after 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 hands of the anti-fascist alliance of states. ... It was obvious to the working people and the trade unions that mere declarations of governments were not

enough. In the anti-Hitler coalition and the United Nations itself, there were governments and states which had built up Hitler and which, even after the victory over fascism, were trying to suppress the liberation movements in those countries which they held in colonial subjection.” (wftucentral.org)

A split in the world labor international came to fruition with both the Marshall Plan, which was not only an attempt to shore up capitalism in Europe but also to present an anti-communist agenda aimed at the strong Communist parties, and with the Soviet Union, which was key to armed resistance against fascism. That internal struggle, which took place from 1945 to 1949, became intensified with the birth of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which manifested increased military hostility and provocations against the Soviet Union and the newly formed socialist camp.

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 centerpiece, the ICFTU emphasized social democracy, which is a belief in the necessity of class collaboration by working in conjunction with monopoly capi-

talism and their governments.

It is noteworthy that even after a “split” was engineered to form the ICFTU, the Congress of Industrial Organizations stuck with the World Federation. The American Federation of Labor was a separate and conservative mouthpiece of capitalism and refused to even entertain the notion of sending delegates to the WFTU. The AFL was in an open alliance with the U.S. State Department, through their Free Trade Union Committee, to provoke disunity and strife between communist and noncommunist unions in Europe.

However, the inauguration of the Cold War, the advent of McCarthyism, the passing of the Taft-Hartley Act — in which U.S. union leaders were compelled to declare that they “were not now, or have ever been” members of the Communist Party — and the subsequent purge of communists and socialists from the CIO, 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 CIO. Those two organizations merged in 1955, with the CIO capitulating to the AFL’s collaborationist agenda. (Encyclopedia of the New American Nation, “Organized Labor—World War II and the World

Federation of Trade Unions”)

Unfortunately, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and most of the workers states in Eastern Europe between 1989 and 1990, many trade unions experienced a hostile takeover and merged into the ICFTU. However, the dismemberment of the socialist camp, with the exceptions of China, Cuba, Vietnam and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, only exacerbated the crisis of capitalism and inter-imperialist rivalry.

The WFTU was rejuvenated once again in 2005 at a conference in Havana, Cuba. The federation was moved from Prague, in the Czech Republic, to Athens, Greece, under the energetic leadership of both a Greek trade union leader and a leading member of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE). Since that time, the WFTU has grown in strength and numbers and has focused on anti-imperialist struggles against the occupations of Syria, Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, as well as orienting their membership unions in the class struggle against capitalism. (Fight Back News, Dec. 4, 2015).

More information on the upcoming conference, as well as WFTU activities from 2011 to 2016 can be found on the WFTU website: wftucentral.org □

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 attempt to kill mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus and curb 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 continental U.S. However, 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 throughout 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. (npr.com, Aug. 6)

More than 900 pregnant women have tested positive for Zika. Every day 50 more test positive, seven times more than in January. But experts at the CDC say that is probably a massive undercount because many women are not aware they’re infected and are not getting tested. By the end of the year, the CDC estimates that 10,000 pregnant women in Puerto Rico may be infected with Zika and hundreds of infants may be born with microcephaly, a Zika-related birth defect that causes severe problems with fetal brain development and unusually small head size. (New York Times, July 30)

Naled is “definitely not safe during early brain development,” warned Jennifer Sass, even “when sprayed at legal exposure levels.” Sass is a scientist with



the Natural Resources Defense Council. She added that “spraying Naled too freely would also build up resistance, which would be detrimental in the long run in the fight against the virus.” (Huffington Post, July 23)

When 25,000 pounds of Naled were secretly shipped to Puerto Rico in July, it sparked a storm of demonstrations. Signs read, “U.S. We are not your damn experiment! #Naled” and “Por mi futuro, USA/CDC stop!” The United Front Against Aerial Spraying helped organize the protests, along with numerous organizations, businesses, workers, scientists, farmers, health workers, environmentalists and politicians.

Protesters are angry that Washington has still not appropriated the \$1.9 billion that President Obama requested in February to help combat 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.

In response to widespread protests against spraying Naled, the San Juan 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 García Padilla, who has veto power, opposed the use of aerial spraying.

Violation 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. tested napalm and Agent Orange in Puerto Rican jungles. The U.S. in the 1950s tested the first birth control pill on Puerto Rican women and also strong-armed over 30 percent of childbearing women working in U.S. industries on the island to be-

come sterilized in order to keep their jobs.

For 55 years the U.S. used the Puerto Rican island of Vieques as a naval training and testing center, dropping 23,000 bombs and leaving more than 22 million pounds of toxic military and industrial waste. The cancer rate in Vieques is 27 percent higher than that on the mainland. In 1994, the Department of Energy admitted it had used Puerto Rican prisoners for human radiation experiments during the 1950s and 1970s. (“Fish, Wildlife and Bombs: The Struggle to Clean Up Vieques” by Katherine T. McCaffrey, nacla.org)

Puerto Rico’s obstetricians and gynecologists have started a new program to help fight Zika. Their association is offering free contraception to any woman who wants to delay pregnancy. This includes more expensive and long-lasting im-

plants and intrauterine devices, as well as pills and condoms.

The United Front Against Aerial Spraying initiated the Cleaning Olympics of Mosquito Breeding Sites on Aug. 7. Going door-to-door, street-by-street, group members are trying to eliminate all standing water where mosquito larvae live, places where even aerial spraying could not reach. They say that instead of carrying out Washington’s orders, the workers will do what their own politicians and government agencies have not done.

The workers plan to implement the same measures as those used in socialist Cuba, which developed a community-based program to eradicate Zika-carrying mosquitos. Since March 15, when the last of 14 locally transmitted cases was reported, Cuba has been Zika-free. □

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

Continued from page 1

the Olympics “will do more harm than good” for their country. (theguardian.com, Aug. 6)

Protesters block torch’s path

The Rio protest was the culmination of months-long demonstrations that took place throughout northern Brazil, particularly along the route of the Olympic torch. When the torch entered Angra dos Reis, striking teachers, who had not been paid for two months by the near-bankrupt Rio state government, disrupted the relay. This forced the runners to put out the flame and board buses to continue their route.

Anti-government protesters in Duque de Caixas, on Rio’s north side, threw rocks and blocked the torch’s path. Police attacked the protesters with pepper spray and rubber bullets.

Of course, Brazil’s elite have already gained millions from Olympic contracts and expect more. Some of these were parliament members who voted to impeach Rousseff.

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 Financial Times that his recommendations are simple: “a multi-year fiscal program including an important correction ‘in expenditure together with higher taxes,’ combined with cuts to pensions and other entitlements that Brazil cannot afford.” (ft.com, April 27)

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.

The Olympics were last held in Latin America in 1968 in Mexico City. At that time, after a series of demonstrations against the Mexican army’s occupation of two college campuses, a rally of some 10,000 students was held on Oct. 2 at the Tlatelolco Plaza in Mexico City, 10 days

Hawai'i, August 1969

Pentagon at the crossroads as GIs resist war

By John Catalinotto

One thousand people hushed as Airman 1st Class Louis “Buffy” Parry announced his act of conscience. 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 anti-war rally at Waikiki Beach Park in Honolulu.

Even had it remained an individual act, Parry’s stand was powerful. But following the rally at Waikiki Beach Park, seven other service members left the military for the sanctuary. It was becoming a mass action.

For the preceding two years, I had been working in the GI anti-war movement. The Honolulu protest’s rapid growth presented an opportunity to stop the Pentagon in its tank-tracks.

A mile east of Waikiki Beach Park was Diamond Head Monument, a volcanic crater and symbol of Honolulu with views of all of Oahu island. Volcanic eruptions had given birth to all the islands.

The park was filled with palms and 12-foot-wide Banyan trees whose many trunks, intertwined like great serpents around a central column, support one tree’s branches and leaves. The anti-war civilians and GIs sought similar mutual support.

We marched parallel to the Pacific beaches along Waikiki and Ala Moana parks, and then another two miles through Honolulu’s city center, quiet on Sunday, to the Church of the Crossroads. That evening, we counted eight service members in the sanctuary. We all slept at the church.

The next day, we learned that Black Marines at the nearby Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station had torn apart the mess hall to protest prejudicial job assignments and racist harassment. This rebellion added another dimension to volcanic movements shaking the military.

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before the Olympic Games.

Military units opened fire on the students. Tanks rolled into the square. Hundreds of bodies and prisoners were hauled away on trucks to military bases. Although the government never announced the death toll, it may have reached 3,000, with many more wounded and imprisoned.

The U.S.-supported regime of President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz announced that the students had opened fire on the soldiers, who returned fire to defend themselves. But recently released documents finally reveal the truth.

The Mexican Presidential Guard, a military unit directly under the control of Ordaz, stationed snipers on buildings above the plaza. These snipers shot at the soldiers surrounding the square, which caused them to open fire on the students. The Mexican government ordered this to ensure that the students would not disrupt the Olympic Games. (theolympian.com, May 28)

Imperialist profiteers have turned what should be purely athletic contests into a money-making spectacle designed to enrich the billionaire class, protected from those workers and poor who object by brute force. But the people of Brazil show no signs that they will be intimidated. □

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 his 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 to keep an audience spellbound, nor his skill with media. My realm was the union office, writing letters to GIs on a manual typewriter, doing headquarters and logistics work as circulation manager for *The Bond*. Now suddenly I was on point at the front lines, and the only ASU organizer on site.

The Hawai’i Resistance, the church elders and the ASU had a tiger by the tail. The tiger was growling. My job as ASU organizer was to make the tiger grow.

To the Marine officers at Kaneohe MCAS, what the Black troops did was a mutinous riot. To the ASU it was a righteous uprising. The rebellion presented a challenge to the anti-war movement.

Solidarity with Black Marines

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

After a night sleeping on the church floor with some 50 young anti-war people who might have been at home at the iconic Woodstock, N.Y., concert that took place a week later, I proposed we hold a demonstration picket at the gates of Kaneohe in solidarity with the Black Marines.

The night after this symbolic action, a group of Marines from Kaneohe brought food they had liberated from the mess hall to the church 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, but the seeds of a widespread rebellion were there. To even conceive of it now, 47 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 inflicted 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, identified 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, 1969. Up to that time, 33,641 U.S. troops had been killed there.

In June of 1969, Nixon announced



WW PHOTOS: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Airman Buffy Parry, the first sanctuary member, here in Waikiki Beach Park and at the Church of the Crossroads.



plans to gradually remove U.S. troops. The U.S. forces were to be replaced by expanding the puppet army of South Vietnam in a 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 easily reversed.

Anti-war resistance also grew within the military. For the GIs, the war was an immediate life-and-death issue. The troops’ hostility mounted year by year. Some Pentagon officers worried the war machine would fall apart.

Marine Col. Robert D. Heinl Jr., a military historian, described this development: “As early as mid-1969, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused — on CBS-TV — to advance down a dangerous trail.” (“The Collapse of the Armed Forces,” *Armed Forces Journal*, June 7, 1971)

Hawai’i: Pentagon in the Pacific

Ever since a 1893 planters’ uprising led to the U.S.’s illegal annexation of the Hawaiian nation in 1898, the Hawai’i Islands and especially Oahu have been a center for the U.S. military in the Pacific.

It is 30 miles from Haleiwa, on the northern coast of Oahu, to the Church of the Crossroads in central Honolulu. On the island of lush tropical forest and superb beaches, five major military bases of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines were located.

On our 30-mile drive to Haleiwa to pick up leaflets, my host pointed out the warships in Pearl Harbor, which housed 60,000 sailors, and nearby Hickam Air Force Base. He pointed out the gap in the mountains where the Japanese planes first appeared beyond a cloudbank before bombing Pearl Harbor in December 1941 in the battle of two imperialist powers for the Pacific.

We continued along the Kamehameha Highway past Wheeler Airfield and Schofield Army Barracks, which housed 15,000 Army troops. And then to the east of Honolulu, on the windward coast of Oahu, was the Kaneohe Marine base.

In 1969, tens of thousands of U.S. troops among the more than half a million doing a year’s service in Vietnam were rotated out for “rest and recreation” in Hawai’i. If you wanted to reach out to U.S. troops, including those in Vietnam, the place to do it was Oahu, Hawai’i.

The American Servicemen’s Union had a friendly working relationship with the

anti-war movement in Honolulu, known as the Hawai’i Resistance, and would ship them hundreds of copies of *The Bond* each month to redistribute to the troops.

The Church of the Crossroads congregation itself resolved to “provide moral support and such other assistance as may be appropriate to persons whose conscience is in conflict with requirements of the state,” including “sanctuary for those who engage in nonviolent forms of resistance as a matter of conscience.”

‘Break chains of military injustice’

It’s with that background that the Hawai’i Resistance announced and promoted the GI-Civilian Walk for Peace set for Sunday, Aug. 10, 1969, to commemorate the atomic massacres of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The American Servicemen’s Union co-sponsored the action.

“Leaflets urging men to ‘Break the Chains of Military Injustice’ were distributed on bases and in Waikiki and emphasized the ASU’s demands, focused on winning a bill of rights for GIs, especially the right to refuse orders to participate in the illegal war in Vietnam.” (source of quotes, unless otherwise noted, is Hawai’i Resistance report, 1969)

Based on my reports of the initial few days, the ASU office in New York, with the support of Workers World Party, sent a delegation of four organizers to Honolulu, including two AWOL soldiers who joined the GIs in sanctuary. I reluctantly returned home to less dramatic support tasks with *The Bond*.

On Sunday morning, Aug. 17, the eighteen GIs then in sanctuary received a standing ovation from the 350 people at the church. The church elders, however, acted worried that Parry’s act of conscience had expanded to become an open confrontation with the U.S. Armed Forces.

The ambivalent church elders enforced a moratorium against seeking new sanctuary members. Nevertheless, the number of GIs in sanctuary grew to 35 in the next three weeks.

Meanwhile, the military surrounded the sanctuary with police and intelligence units that prevented GIs from entering and arrested those who left the church. Unless the movement could be constantly expanded, it would be weakened by the constant confinement and tension among the GIs and their civilian supporters.

Finally, on Sept. 12, about 40 military police stormed the grounds at Crossroads, kicking in all locked doors including those to the church. Many GIs had already slipped out. The MPs found and arrested only eight of the men, but the police action ended the sanctuary.

Throughout the five weeks, the focus of the ASU delegation was this: “How can we continue to expand this movement until it affects the entire Armed Forces, from Western Europe to Vietnam?” To move in that direction one needed to have the attitude and the ideology that looked upon the collapse of the U.S. imperialist Armed Forces as both positive and possible.

The Crossroads was another chapter in this struggle, even if it fell short of its apparent potential.

While continuing to bomb Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia for the next six years, the Nixon administration kept withdrawing U.S. troops. On April 30, 1975, the Vietnamese liberated their country.

Based on a chapter in Catalinotto’s forthcoming book, “*Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions.*”

Why the establishment dumped Trump

As if horrified by the monster they created with unrestrained publicity, some of the corporate media have turned against the current Republican presidential candidate. Their fury borders on panic.

They had already done irreparable harm by repeating ad nauseam Donald Trump's racist, misogynist and xenophobic rants. 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, it is aimed at making sure Hillary Clinton is the next CEO of U.S. imperialism. Trump, they fear, will say or do something outrageous that harms U.S. ruling-class interests.

Joining Times editorialists are CIA honchos, 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. Or else."

What's revealing are their reasons. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day. Trump may fall short of that standard. But in his quest for issues 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 turned from an anti-Soviet pact into an aggressive war machine. Since the 1990s NATO has made war on Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and surrounded 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 in general, both Clinton and Trump are unpopular at historic levels. They both earned the people's disdain. Clinton is a pro-war, ruling-class machine politician, 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 burners 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. □

Why is U.S. bombing

By Sara Flounders

The U.S. military resumed bombing of the North African country of Libya on Aug. 1.

President Barack Obama approved the airstrikes, which were recommended by U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Although U.S. warplanes have struck before, this attack marked the beginning of a "sustained campaign."

Western countries' special forces teams have been on the ground in eastern and western Libya for months. In July, France said three of its soldiers had been killed south of the eastern city of Benghazi. (Reuters, Aug. 1)

Airstrikes were launched in support of the current U.S.- and U.N.-approved Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA). Their forces are supposedly trying to drive the Islamic State group (IS) from Sirte, a city halfway between Tripoli and Benghazi. Libya's largest oil field and oil port are in the Sirte area. The struggle for control of this vital resource has been a source of continuing conflict among competing factions and militias.

There are two rival Libyan governments: the Tobruk-based House of Representatives government allied with the Libyan National Army and the Tripoli-based National Salvation Government. Many competing militias with shifting loyalties are locked in struggle for resources and territory.

Oil production in the past five years has crashed to less than 20 percent of the 1.65 million barrels pumped in 2010.

Excuse for expanding U.S. war

The reason given for the present bombing is that the strikes are targeting the advance of IS forces. Along with bombing Libya, U.S. forces and aircraft are bombing sites in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. U.S. Predator drones continue to strike targets in these four countries and in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Mali, the Philippines and Pakistan.

Since the 2011 U.S. destruction of Libya, U.S. bases have been established throughout Africa — in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Uganda, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso. More bases are planned.

In this expanding U.S. war, deaths and injuries are uncounted and dismissed as collateral damage. Totally ignored is the trauma of the millions of people whose lives have been disrupted, their jobs lost and their schooling cut short. As displaced refugees, every shred of their security has been destroyed.

Claiming to target IS, the U.S. military command, along with an alliance of 13 other uninvited countries, have bombed Syria for more than two years. But when Russian aircraft, in response to the Syrian government's urgent appeal, targeted the very forces the U.S. military claimed it wanted to defeat, suddenly Washington denounced the strikes, claiming that U.S.-backed "democratic opposition" forces were being hit.

Presidents George W Bush and Obama claimed that no congressional approval is needed for these endless, undeclared acts of war. Supposedly, the Authorization for Use of Military Force legislation that was rammed through Congress in 2001 gives presidents the authority to bypass the Constitution.

In the past 15 years, U.S. imperialism has bombed 14 countries, always claiming to be fighting al-Qaida, IS or other "shadowy" terrorists.

U.S. bombs destroyed Libya

The U.S./NATO war on Libya in 2011 was directly responsible for the chaos and devastation in Libya today. For more than seven months, from March to October, U.S. aircraft targeted Libyan cities and its modern infrastructure.

Before that war, Libya was the most modern country in Africa. U.N. figures show it had the highest standard of living — measured by life expectancy, education level, health care, diet and housing. Well-designed cities along the Mediterranean

Continued on next page

IN SYRIA

Policy dispute emerges as U.S. faces setback

By David Sole

Aug. 7 — With the aid of its Russian allies, Syrian government forces are making important military gains against the Islamic State group (IS) and U.S.-backed fighters in the area including Aleppo. The impending liberation of Syria's largest city has prompted a faction in the Barack Obama administration to vigorously press for major U.S. air attacks against Syria.

The faction made this clear in a blunt op-ed piece in the Aug. 3 New York Times titled "The Case for (Finally) Bombing Assad." Bashar al-Assad is Syria's president. One co-author of the piece is Dennis B. Ross who worked in the State Department under presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Obama.

Alleged U.S. government plans to try to coordinate with Russia to jointly target the IS and the Nusra Front inside Syria are "opposed by many within the C.I.A., the State Department and the Pentagon," according to Ross and his colleague at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Andrew. J. Tabler.

The two op-ed authors are speaking for those who want to "punish the Syrian government ... using drones and cruise missiles to hit the Syrian military's airfields, bases and artillery position." Their statement is only the most recent revelation of an internal debate in U.S. ruling circles going back years.

Washington has taken desperate steps to reverse what the Aug. 6 Times headlined as "Military success in Syria gives Putin upper hand in U.S. proxy war."

Russian air support began only in September 2015. This followed four years of U.S.-C.I.A. training and arming of groups aiming to overthrow the government of Syria. These groups, often described as "rebels," are really pro-imperialist reactionaries.

Even the New York Times admits that Russia stepped in only "after a monthslong offensive by C.I.A.-backed rebel groups ... sometimes [fighting] alongside soldiers of the Nusra Front ... affiliated with Al-Qaeda" and noted that "for several years the C.I.A. has joined with the spy services of several Arab nations to arm and train the rebels at bases in Jordan and Qatar, with

the Saudis bankrolling much of the operation." (Aug. 6)

Major gains in Syrian offensive to control Aleppo

But the Syrian Army has reversed many earlier gains by the reactionaries with the help of Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon and Russian air support. A major offensive to control Aleppo has seen major gains, including control of areas along the Turkish border, used previously to supply the reactionaries.

In the same article the Times notes that "the most pressing danger is that supply routes from Turkey which are essential to the C.I.A.-backed rebels could be severed."

In the battle for Aleppo, the Syrian Army has encircled eastern sections of the city held by reactionary forces. Intensive fighting is reported in desperate attempts by the besieged U.S.-backed forces to reopen their supply lines. According to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation of Aug. 6, more than 500 fighters have been killed around Aleppo in one week.

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 colonial puppet regime. U.S. imperialism will try various ways to achieve its world domination — sometimes the bare fist, sometimes the velvet glove.

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 Manjib in Syria killing "at least 73 civilians" and possibly as many as 117. Many bodies were shredded and unidentifiable, but most of the casualties were women and children.

U.S. ally Turkey has also allowed U.S. planes to resume bombing flights against Syria from the Incirlik air base in Turkey, which had been shut down immediately following the failed coup of July 15.

Israel, another U.S. ally, also continues intervening against the Syrian government. The Times of Israel reported on Aug. 4 that the Israeli Air Force attacked a column of Hezbollah trucks in Syria heading for Damascus. □

Libya – again?

Continued from page 10

nean Sea —Tripoli, Sirte, Benghazi, Mis-rata and Tobruk — were designed with blocks of modern apartments, wide bou-levarde and plazas as well as beautiful hotels, cultural centers and schools.

This development was possible because Libya broke free of Wall Street domina-tion. Following the 1969 revolution that overturned the corrupt U.S.-British-sup-ported monarchy of King Idris, Libya nationalized its rich oil and gas deposits. Libya asserted sovereignty over its re-sources and invested in complex pump-ing, container and port facilities.

Moammar Gadhafi, a 27-year-old army officer, led the revolution that transformed Libya, which was renamed the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Oil nationalization earned Wall Street’s enmity

Libya is a largely desert country; only 1 percent of the land is arable. More than 80 percent of the population live on a thin 1,200-mile coastal strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea. In the world’s largest water development project, Libya tapped the underground aquifer and built an underground river to provide irrigation to new farmland and industries and to bring potable water to its growing cities.

The government subsidized develop-ment projects in some of the poorest Af-rican counties. Hundreds of thousands of workers throughout the continent found employment in Libya’s infrastructure de-velopment and oil fields.

When U.S., French, British and Italian imperialists began their bombing cam-paign, Libya had announced a bold ven-ture to underwrite an African currency with more than 143 tons of gold reserves held in the Central Bank of Libya. This in-dependent development was threatening to Western imperialist banks and oil and gas corporations.

For 42 years, Libya survived and prospered, despite decades of U.S. sanctions. Every construction project was a chal-lenge. Continual sabotage, assassination attempts, media demonization and desta-bilization efforts went on. But, as a still developing African country, Libya could not withstand more than 26,500 bomb-ing sorties — over 120 sorties per day for seven months.

IS: battering ram against sovereignty

IS has gained a foothold in Libya due to the chaos that U.S. imperialism created there and throughout the region. Every social and political institution was de-stroyed. Aerial bombing was carried out while weapons and large amounts of cash and bribes were liberally spread around.

Death squad militias assassinated hundreds of government officials and political leaders. Tens of thousands of government loyalists and supporters of

the Jamahiriya or Green movement were rounded up and imprisoned in detention camps. The worst abuse and purges were aimed at Black Libyans and Sub-Saharan African workers.

In the vacuum caused by such extreme social dislocation and destruction, the most extreme and fanatical forces, for-eign fighters and mercenaries — trained and equipped by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel and U.S. Special Operations For-ces — seized control. Now rival factions dominate competing cities, regions and oil production facilities.

The existence of IS in Iraq, Libya, Syria and elsewhere is caused by U.S. war and imperialist policies of instigating sectar-ian hatred, racism and ethnic divisions.

This tactic has been used frequently since Washington armed and funded ex-tremist groups against the socialist-or-iented revolution in Afghanistan in 1979.

Before U.S. wars, these fanatical forces had no roots or any social basis in these countries. It is now U.S. policy to rely on these reactionaries as a battering ram to break down all forms of national sover-eignty and all secular and progressive states.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took credit for making the call to go to war in Libya. When informed of Gadhafi’s brutal lynch-mob execution in Sirte, she clapped her hands, laughed and told a reporter in front of a camera, “We came, we saw, he died.” (CBS News, Oct. 20, 2011)

A WikiLeaks cable in 2012 quoted an email with Secretary Clinton writing, “Arming Syrian rebels and using West-ern airpower ... is a low-cost, high-payoff approach.”

IS forces have recently been pushed back in Syria and, according to U.S. me-dia reports, also in Libya. Increasingly, reports say that Libya’s Jamahiriya move-ment is reasserting itself in the small, ru-ined, oil cities of the desert south and in the coastal cities.

In April France 24 News reported that Saif Al Gadhafi, Moammar Gadhafi’s son, was released, not executed. There is speculation that this reprieve was based on fear of the re-emerging movement.

Pro-Gadhafi demonstrators were fired on by IS fighters in Sirte, though the city is in the hands of IS militias. In the cap-ital of Tripoli and other cities, masses of people who supported Gadhafi’s govern-ment are reorganizing.

These reports in Middle East Eye, RT News, AlterNet and other sources raise the question of who U.S. imperialism is really targeting in Libya, as it opens up a sustained campaign.

Unity and reorganization in Libya will be a difficult process after such a brutal assault. But the first step is the population learning — unfortunately, through bitter experience — that U.S. bombs, drones, secret ops and mercenaries are incapable of providing peace, stability or security. □

No more Hiroshimas and Nagasakis!

By Kathy Durkin

August 6 and 9, 1945, went down in history as days of infamy for U.S. 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 that year, 250,000 people had died. In subsequent years, many peo-ple died from radiation-related illnesses.

Among those who died were 22,000 Koreans, who were conscripted as forced laborers by Japanese imperialism during World War II, along with Chinese workers.

Sixty percent of Hiroshima was de-stroyed. Residential areas bore the brunt of 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 socialist Soviet Union and to as-sert U.S. hegemony in Asia and around the globe. This imperialist government showed the world that it had developed and would use nuclear weapons against civilian populations.

The United States is the only country to have ever used nuclear bombs 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 sit-ting U.S. president to visit the city, Obama offered no apology for the government’s decision to bomb the two Japanese cities and the consequent devastation.

Atomic bomb survivors and Japan’s peace movement insist Washington take responsibility for its deplorable actions at the end of the war — and remove U.S. troops and bases from their country. The people of Okinawa have militantly op-posed the presence of U.S. bases since they were erected on their island.

The legacy of Hiroshima is pacifism. “Never again” is inscribed on the war memorial. On the 71st anniversary of the bombings this year, people came from all over Japan to show respect to those who died and demonstrate their desire for peace.

The post-war Japanese Constitution, which the U.S. imposed, renounced war and military engagement abroad. Since then, however, Japan has built up its mil-

itary and supported U.S. interventions in Korea and Vietnam.

Japan’s current right-wing Prime Min-ister Shinzo Abe has ordered more mili-tary spending, ended a ban on arms ex-ports and passed security laws that allow sending troops abroad. He has done this despite opposition from the majority of the population and organized protests by bomb survivors and anti-war, anti-nucle-ar organizations.

Abe’s actions have been urged by Wash-ington, which seeks Japanese military expansion in East Asia, in concert with the U.S. military build-up in the region — with all forces confronting China and north Korea. Behind the diplomatic pos-turing of the Obama administration, that is the real goal of the U.S. “pivot to Asia.”

Clearly, U.S. militarism is expanding. The never-ending war drive is intrinsic to capitalism; the U.S. is compelled to seek global, strategic, military, economic and political domination.

Actions speak louder than words

Of his trip to Hiroshima, Obama said that it reaffirmed “our vision of a world without nuclear weapons.” Yet, can the U.S.government be believed about this “goal”?

The Obama administration has com-mitted \$1 trillion to upgrade and build “nuclear modernizations” of weapons, bombers, missiles and submarines over the next 30 years.

The Pentagon publicly admits to hav-ing 4,571 nuclear warheads. Secretary of State John Kerry said Washington would hasten dismantling retired nuclear war-heads by 20 percent. The number of weapons dismantled annually has dwin-dled, however, with only 109 cut last year. (New York Times, May 27)

The Guardian newspaper says the cur-rent administration has decreased the nuclear weapons stockpile less than “any president since the end of the cold war.” (May 27) Congressional right-wing war hawks share responsibility for that, as they have vociferously opposed weapons reduc-tion.

The Obama administration claims it seeks a world without nuclear weapons. If that were true, it should cancel the \$1 trillion allocation for “nuclear mod-ernization” and disarm immediately. It should redirect the funds to jobs, health care, education, housing and food pro-grams here and pay reparations to refu-gees and other victims of U.S.-led wars and occupations abroad.

Nuclear war threatens human life on earth. The global stockpile is equiva-lent to 150,000 times the potency of the bombs dropped on Japan. On the anni-versary of the worst bombing in history, anti-imperialist forces worldwide must renew the push for nuclear disarmament, especially of the U.S. war machine — to stay Washington’s hand so there is never another nuclear catastrophe. □

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

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Sanders, Clinton and revolution

Continued from page 3

The demonizing of Black Lives Matter, suppression of the workers’ struggle, the attacks on LGBTQ liberation and the sil-encing of the Bernie or Busts point to a specter haunting America — a momen-tous pro-socialist movement.

To those who recognize that capitalism is literally killing the proletariat — the working class — do not abandon what you have seen, heard and experienced with your own bodies. Now is the time to join

a worker-led movement that centers the liberation of all oppressed and margin-alized people: Black, Latinx, Native and LGBTQ. Show your unwillingness to back down from the pressures of the main-stream. For the Bernie or Busts, there is no Bernie, so you must hold true to your cause and proceed with the Bust.

Many have moved to supporting the efforts of Workers World Party, a party working globally to accomplish bring-ing the power to the people and refus-

ing the intimidation of imperial forces — an organization confronting racism, homophobia, islamophobia, xenophobia and the increasing symptoms of capital-ism and patriarchy.

For those who have posed the ques-tion, “If you don’t vote for Hillary, what’s your solution?” here it is: Divest from capitalism, support the revolution, and let the working class, the oppressed, the vanguard, be the leaders of the radical change we need. □



¡Alto a la agresión de Washington!

EDITORIAL

Libia, Siria e Irak están de nuevo en las noticias. No por nada optimista. 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 EUA.

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 infligirán 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 extenso desde que las fuerzas EUA-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 agravó la crisis de refugiadas/os 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 Damasco. Esto fue lo que atrajo a Siria el grupo Estado Islámico, o EI. La guerra resultante ha matado cerca de 300.000 sirias/os y convertido a millones en refugiadas/os. Últimamente, EUA ha cambiado sus tácticas y bombardeado Raqqa, la “capital” del EI.

El Pentágono está enviando de nuevo 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 EUA 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 Faluya y Ramadi con el fin de quitárselas 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?

La estrategia de EUA con organizaciones como el EI y al-Qaeda tiene dos caras. A partir del 1979, la CIA y Arabia Saudita financiaron y nutrieron en secreto a al-Qaeda y a grupos con similar ideología feudal para luchar contra el gobierno progresista en Afganistán que había abolido la compra de novias y había abierto escuelas y otras instituciones para las mujeres.

Cuando el ejército soviético salió en defensa del gobierno, Washington utilizó esto como una excusa para intensificar una guerra general en Afganistán. Cuando las maestras afganas fueron asesinadas por los reaccionarios que EUA estaban armando, los medios de comunicación imperialistas todavía los llamaban “combatientes libertarios”. Sin embargo, desde que EUA invadió en el 2001, los imperialistas han pretendido estar al lado de las mujeres afganas.

Después del 9/11, Washington cambió su lealtad. Al-Qaeda y Osama bin Laden, quienes habían estado en su nómina, se convirtieron de pronto en su enemigo predilecto. Decían que al-Qaeda estaba aliado a los 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.

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 el EI como pretexto para una intervención directa.

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 matanza de camiones en Niza fue la excusa para esta masacre de inocentes. El ataque de Niza, el acto de un individuo, fue estampada en los titulares; los bombardeos Manbij, el acto deliberado de dos gobiernos, quedan en el olvido.

No todas las noticias son malas para las/os sirios: una ofensiva siria-rusa parece orientada hacia la liberación de Alepo - la ciudad más grande y capital comercial siria - del EI y fuerzas similares. Las fuerzas sirio-rusas han rodeado 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 aquí, 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 partido capitalista que llegue a la Casa Blanca, le toca al movimiento antiguerra en los EUA combatir estos actos de agresión imperialista. □

Golpe y ‘contragolpe’ interrumpen estado turco

Por John Catalinotto

Dos semanas después del colapso de un intento de golpe de estado, el presidente turco Recep Tayyip Erdogan, y su Partido Desarrollo y Justicia (AKP) aún tienen que estabilizar el gobierno turco y el estado.

El régimen del AKP ha concentrado su represión contra los que considera miembros de la organización Hizmet, dirigida por Fethullah Gülen, a quien Erdogan acusa de organizar el golpe. Gülen ha estado viviendo en el exilio en los Estados Unidos desde 1999. Antes de 2013 él y su grupo estaban aliados a Erdogan y el AKP.

Ni Erdogan ni las fuerzas de Gülen representan a la clase obrera ni a una verdadera posición antiimperialista. Ambos defienden la continua opresión de la comunidad kurda, que representa el 18 por ciento de los 80 millones de personas que viven en Turquía.

El 24 de julio, el CHP — un antiguo partido regente que representa a los seguidores de Kemal Atatürk, el fundador de la Turquía moderna en la década de 1920, y ahora segundo en escaños parlamentarios — realizaron una manifestación en la plaza Taksim de Estambul de cientos de miles en apoyo al AKP en contra de la los golpistas. Oradores de AKP también participaron. Las confederaciones de sindicatos DISK y KESK apoyaron esta acción.

Erdogan se reunió con los líderes de la CHP y el MHP, el partido de extrema derecha que es el cuarto más fuerte en el Parlamento y obtuvo el apoyo de ambas formaciones. Él no ha buscado una reunión con la coalición socialdemócrata HDP que es pro-kurda, a pesar de que este partido habló en contra del golpe.

El 23 de julio, el HDP llevó a cabo una manifestación en el parque Sultangazi en Estambul, contra el golpe del 15 de julio, pero también contra el “contragolpe” — las medidas represivas por parte del gobierno del AKP.

El 31 de julio, Erdogan dijo que haría que las autoridades legales retiraran los cargos de “insultar al presidente” en contra de 2.000 personas, muchas de ellas periodistas. El gobierno de Erdogan, en el puesto desde hace una década, ha reprimido cada vez más la cobertura de los medios en los últimos años.

Erdogan consolida autoridad, ebilita el estado

Si bien es imposible descartar futuros ataques contra los partidos de la oposición, especialmente contra el socialdemócrata HDP, o la represión de los medios de comunicación, por ahora el AKP ha golpeado más duro contra los miembros del ejército, la policía, los funcionarios del gobierno y los educadores.

Desde que el golpe falló, el régimen turco ha detenido, removido o suspendido a “más de 60.000 personas en las fuerzas armadas, el poder judicial, la administración pública y las escuelas” por presuntos vínculos con la organización de Gülen, según un artículo de Reuter del 31 de julio. Alrededor de 150 generales y almirantes - 40 por ciento de los altos oficiales - se han visto obligados a aceptar una baja deshonrosa, junto con cerca de 1.400 funcionarios de nivel medio y cerca de 9.000 soldados ordinarios.

Aunque el AKP y Erdogan han podido consolidar la autoridad política y reforzar el poder ejecutivo con un estado de emergencia de 90 días declarado a raíz del golpe, es a costa



Partido Democrático del Pueblo (HDP) tuvo lugar en julio 23 de manifestación en Estambul , diciendo ‘No a los golpes, la democracia ahora’.

de alterar la estructura de mando del ejército y la policía.

Turquía, una potencia regional en Asia occidental y central, también tiene el segundo mayor ejército de la OTAN. El destino del ejército de Turquía preocupa a los imperialistas occidentales. El Pentágono, que ha capacitado a oficiales turcos desde 1950, depende de Turquía como un aliado militar contra Rusia e Irán que proporciona bases militares importantes, como la base aérea en Incirlik, que permite a EUA intervenir en la región.

Según todos los indicios, el intento de golpe del 15 de julio, a pesar de ser una tentativa seria para hacerse con el poder - cientos de personas murieron y miles resultaron heridos - se puso en marcha antes de tiempo anticipando que Erdogan y el AKP llevarán a cabo una purga. Esto plantea la pregunta: ¿Quién entre los militares hubiera apoyado el golpe si hubiera sido puesto en marcha con decisión y parecería estar ganando?

Voces cercanas a Erdogan culpan a EUA

El periódico diario turco Yeni Şafak, que está supuestamente cercano al AKP, informó la semana pasada que el general retirado estadounidense John F. Campbell, quien dirigió las tropas de Estados Unidos en Afganistán, durante el año pasado canalizó \$2 millones a generales turcos para apoyar un golpe de las fuerzas Gülen. Campbell y el gobierno de EUA lo niegan.

Ex funcionarios de la CIA urgieron al gobierno de los EUA que aprobara la primera solicitud de Gülen para la residencia, lo que indica una posible asociación de trabajo. Es costumbre de las agencias de Estados Unidos establecer contactos en toda la sociedad en cualquier país importante, y en Turquía los EUA formaron gran parte de los militares.

Voceros del gobierno turco han exigido que EUA extradite a Gülen para que regrese a Turquía. Su mensaje implícito es que deportando a Gülen, EUA puede mostrar buena fe con el gobierno turco. De lo contrario, dicen, tenemos un problema.

La crítica de Erdogan hacia EUA, junto con las críticas que enfrenta de otros miembros de la OTAN en Europa, le da la apariencia de tener independencia del imperialismo. Esto puede ayudar a ganar el apoyo de la población, que es mucho más antiimperialista que su régimen.

Erdogan y el AKP han adoptado recientemente medidas para ganar más espacio para maniobrar la política exterior turca en defensa de los percibidos intereses nacionales turcos. Esto incluye el disculparse por el derribo de un avión ruso en la frontera entre Turquía y Siria. Sin embargo, la clase dominante turca está obligada al imperialismo mundial por lazos económicos, diplomáticos y militares, y el gobierno de Erdogan no cambiará esto. □