

A year after Charlottesville, the fight continues

Smash white supremacy!

By Sam Ordóñez

A year ago, a coalition of far-right, white supremacist organizations descended on the city of Charlottesville, Va., to hold a rally claiming to “Unite the Right.” Though many of these groups tried to disguise their intentions as being about “free speech,” on the first night they arrived they marched through the city with torches.

The next day, they were met by an anti-fascist coalition determined not to let open cries of “blood and soil” go unchallenged. Though the rally was cancelled when the far-right found themselves outnumbered, one of the white supremacists drove his car into a crowd of anti-fascists, killing an activist named Heather Heyer.

The same far-right coalition has called an anniversary rally in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 12 at Lafayette Park. They will be met once again by the workers and the oppressed of this country, who refuse to allow these reactionary ideas to spread.

Several demonstrations are planned throughout the day to confront the white supremacists. A rally will begin at 11 a.m. at Freedom Plaza organized by the Shut It Down D.C. coalition. Another demonstration is planned for 11 a.m. at Lafayette Park, initiated by the Answer Coalition.

The reactionary forces may also try to hold another torch-lit march in Charlottesville the night before their D.C. rally. A demonstration is planned there to confront them if they do indeed try to march, beginning on Saturday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Rotunda on the University of Virginia’s campus.

Expecting a clash between the people and the far-right in D.C., the capitalist state rushed to find a way to protect the white supremacists — even proposing to reserve a train exclusively for them!

On hearing that a special train, met by a police escort to the rally, would be provided to the right-wing groups, the largest transit union in the city, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, stated that it would refuse to transport them.

Coming so soon after the massive wave of teacher strikes in the “right to work” South, the refusal of this union to cooperate with the protection of open white supremacists shows the growing consciousness of the working class and its renewed militancy.

Heyer’s death was a tragedy, and she should be remembered as a hero. But from such a great tragedy came a fundamental shift in the fight to dismantle white supremacy. The people of Durham, N.C., rose up

Continued on page 5



Defendants defeat charges for tearing down a Confederate statue in August 2017 in Durham, N.C.

FASCISTS BEWARE

in Portland, Providence 3

Support

NUTRIASIA WORKERS 4



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ICE 6-7

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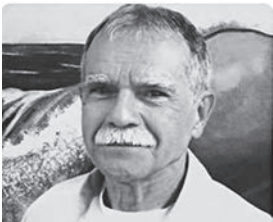
Flotilla attacked ,



Ahed Tamimi

VENEZUELA

Behind the assassination attempt 10



OSCAR LÓPEZ RIVERA

detained in Panama 11

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#METOO at Ohio State Editorial 10

PERU 8

SYRIA 11

MOVIE REVIEW

Racial struggle, workers solidarity in ‘SORRY TO BOTHER YOU’

By M. Matsemela-Ali Odom

A surprising blockbuster film of this summer is “Sorry to Bother You” by Boots Riley of the Oakland-based rap group The Coup. Sharing its name with the concurrently written 2012 Coup album, “Sorry to Bother You” stars LaKeith Stanfield from “Get Out” and “Atlanta” as the protagonist, Cassius “Cash” Green, and Tessa Thompson from the motion picture “Dear White People” and “Selma” as Cash’s girlfriend Detroit.

Distinguishing itself from the horror film “Get Out” and the Afro-futurist “Black Panther,” “Sorry to Bother You” is the result of the revolutionary communist worldview of Riley, whose activism preceded his career as a cultural worker.

Some critics have described the film as an absurdist dark comedy. Absurdist works of art are defined by their focus on the inability of their main characters to find purpose in life. In this sense, the 1999 comedy “Office Space” is an absurdist film. “Sorry to Bother You” is best placed in the tradition of Black revolutionary cultural work, including the late Amiri Baraka’s Afro-surrealism, the late Aimé Césaire’s poetic knowledge and radical scholar Robin Kelley’s freedom dreaming.

“Sorry to Bother You” explores the life of Black youth in the postindustrial cities of the U.S. West. Like the vastly different films of a generation earlier, such as “Boyz n the Hood” and “Menace II Society,” or the historical drama “Fruitvale Station,” Riley’s film in many ways captures the particular contradictions of Black life in California.

There are no acts of extreme fratricidal violence, nor is Black life defined by exceptional moments of police terror, though these incidents exist in the film. Instead, the millennials Cash and Detroit struggle with the alienation of unemployment, underemployment and meaningless labor.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, the setting for “Sorry to Bother You,” the median income of white households commonly exceeds \$110,000, while those of Black households barely exceed \$40,000. Black wages there are on par with the national trend, while the income of a white family in the Bay Area is twice the national norm.

Simply put, as formerly incarcerated shipyard worker turned author Chester Himes showed in his 1945 novel, “If He Hollers Let Him Go,” the California Dream is

a nightmare for African Americans. Such conditions for Black Californians have resulted in the re-gentrification of California’s coastal cities as Black workers and the Black poor are pushed further inland.

In “Sorry to Bother You,” Detroit works as a sign twirler. Initially jobless, Cash lives in his uncle Sergio’s garage. The home has gone into foreclosure, and unless Cash can earn enough money, he and his uncle will be evicted. Cash gets what he initially views as a break when his friend Salvador helps him land a job with the telemarketing agency RegalView. Initially stumped, Cash rises rapidly up the ranks when he is able to use his “white voice” — a racialized tone of affluence and carelessness.

Riley presents two responses to poverty and workers’ oppression: liberal individualism and multiracial workers’ solidarity. Cash ascends to the top level of the corporate structure by negotiating neo-slave labor deals and weapons sales for corporate giant WorryFree. Cash earns enough money to save his uncle’s house and purchase a foreign sports car and a high-priced loft.

Meanwhile, coworkers Diana, Salvador and Squeeze organize a wildcat strike to demand fair wages and benefits. Yet for their protest to truly succeed, the coalition needs Cash to participate.

Sharp Black manifesto

In the climax of the film, “Sorry to Bother You” is revealed to be the sharpest Black manifesto to reach the screen in decades.

The son of Black Power activist and Civil Rights attorney Walter Riley, Boots was raised in a very politically active family. As a child, Riley moved from Chicago to Detroit and then to Oakland. As a teen in the mid-1980s, Riley joined the Progressive Labor Party and the International Committee Against Racism. Riley is a communist and former Teamster and United Parcel Service employee.

In many ways, Riley’s own geographical shifts appear in the political vision displayed in “Sorry to Bother You.” Reflecting the politics of the League of Black Revolutionary Workers and the Black Panther Party, Riley calls for a revolutionary movement of international workers’ solidarity where the most oppressed will lead.

Moreover, Riley abandons orthodox perceptions of

Continued on the next page

WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.

A year after Charlottesville: Smash white supremacy! 1

Racial struggle, workers solidarity in ‘Sorry to Bother You’. 2

Providence activists drive out far right 3

Fascists ejected from Portland, Ore.3

Community honors MOVE anniversary3

Justice for NutriAsia workers!.....4

WW letter to NutriAsia4

Uniting migrant, LGBTQ and HIV struggles.....4

Detroit janitors win \$15/hour5

Kavanaugh no friend to workers.....5

Portland, Ore.: No water for ICE!6

Hunger strike at immigrant prison.....6

Syracuse activists serve ICE eviction notice6

Protests hit Northeastern contract with ICE.....6

Occupy ICE SATX, a beacon of hope6

Houston activists protest kid prison7

The movement to abolish ICE7

★ Around the world

Perú: A long and revolutionary history 8

Ahed Tamimi released 9

Freedom Flotilla to Gaza assaulted 9

Behind the assassination attempt in Venezuela 10

Syria peace talks in Sochi make progress — without U.S. .. 11

Africa celebrates 100 years of Mandela..... 11

★ Editorial

A #MeToo moment at Ohio State..... 10

★ Noticias en Español

Solidaridad clasista para migrantes.....12

La vivienda es un derecho12

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Activists drive out far right

By Workers World Boston bureau

Despite heavy rain, the anti-fascist working class of Providence, R.I., and their local allies turned out in force on Aug. 4 to stop a demonstration by the fascist umbrella group “Resist Marxism.” The group has been active in Boston and across the U.S. for some time, providing a veneer of legitimacy under which more extreme fascist groups can organize.

The primary constituents of the fascist rally were American Guard, an anti-immigrant hate group, and a “free speech” group, both of which were armed and ready to assault counterprotesters.

The group’s emergence in Providence is worrying, but local people of color and LGBTQ organizers were aware of the danger these fascists pose to our communities and were able to organize a militant, determined response.

Despite a heavy police presence, the anti-fascist, working-class activists were able to drive these reactionaries from the plaza in front of the Rhode Island State House in a humiliating defeat for the local fascist movement. □

Providence, R.I.



PHOTO: STEVE AHLQUIST

Fascists ejected from Portland, Ore.

By Sam Shipman
Portland, Ore.

The far-right nationalist group “Patriot Prayer,” with leader and senatorial nominee Joey Gibson in tow, came to Portland, Ore., on Aug. 4 with the explicit purpose of promoting hatred and causing violence against the working people of the city.

This cryptofascist gathering did not go unchallenged. Anti-fascist fighters from all over the Pacific Northwest heard the call to defend the city and arrived in droves to do just that.



Portland, Ore., on Aug. 4.

As expected, the Portland Police Bureau went out of its way to ensure that ultranationalist aggressors were protect-

ed from facing any of the consequences that naturally come with chauvinism, racism and homophobia. The bigots’ safety was ensured while progressive forces were viciously targeted by police with tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, concussion grenades and physical force.

The cops’ attack did not end with just the anti-fascists. Eder Campuzano, a reporter for The Oregonian, wrote on Twitter and posted photos showing that he was shot in the head with a police projectile. The object

penetrated his helmet and caused significant injury to his head, forcing him to be treated at the hospital.

Anti-fascist forces stood their ground even in the face of extreme police and state repression, ensuring that these far-right invaders would not be allowed a secure platform to spread their hate.

In the end, Patriot Prayer was forced to retreat to the buses they had used to shuttle people in from all over the country. But only after they had been given a very clear reminder that anywhere fascism shows its hateful head it will be resisted and smashed by any means necessary. □

Community honors MOVE anniversary

By Philadelphia Workers World bureau

Communities rallied together in the heart of West Philadelphia on Aug. 5 to mark the 40th anniversary of the police siege and assault on the MOVE family.

The all-day itinerary of events also commemorated the 40th anniversary of the unjust arrest of the MOVE 9, which was ordered by white supremacist Mayor Frank Rizzo on Aug. 8, 1978.

The day’s packed schedule began with dozens of runners, walkers and bicyclists, who endured the scorching sun and triple-digit temperatures to participate in a 5K marathon. The event raised money to fund the livelihood and ongoing legal battles of the MOVE 9.

Later that afternoon, a public forum was held at Mastery High School — Shoemaker Campus in West Philadelphia. A series of panel discussions, hosted by Lavinia Davis and Orie Lumumba, brought the community together to discuss the history of MOVE and Philadelphia’s rich tradition in the Black Liberation struggle. Gentrification, mass incarceration, police brutality and “fake news” were all analyzed in a way that revealed the brutal and dishonest tactics of the ruling class’s ongoing war against Black radicals.



Participants in the 5K marathon run

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Long Live Revolution! Long Live John Africa!

The forum began with an affecting performance by the youth of the MOVE family, who marched into the hall to the song “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now” and then assembled on stage and chanted in unison. They showed that the organization is stronger and more numerous than ever. Shouts of “Ona Move! Long Live Revolution! Long Live John Africa!” reverberated throughout the auditorium.

Lumumba began by celebrating the release of Debbie Africa. But he also drew the audience’s attention to those who were not in attendance at this event: Phil and Merle Africa, members of the MOVE 9 who were killed by the prison system; John Africa himself, who was assassinated by the Philadelphia Police Department on May 13, 1985, along with 10 other MOVE members; and especially the five MOVE children of Janet, Janine, and Consuela Africa who were killed that

day. Consuela was in attendance and was specifically honored.

MOVE 9 members were held in prison when news of their family members’ assassinations reached them in 1985. The system that prevented them from grieving together was the same system that perpetrated that mass murder and that aims to isolate and destroy all Black radicalism in the U.S.

Panelist Saleem Holbrook described his own growing awareness of the MOVE struggle. It was only after he was sentenced to life in prison (an unjust conviction that has since been overturned) that he heard Ramona Africa interviewed on the radio. It challenged his media-fabricated understanding about MOVE as being composed of “angry, crazy people.”

Holbrook heard Ramona’s message of Black liberation and environmental justice and was inspired to reach out to Chuck Africa, who was incarcerated at the same prison. Oppression of Black inmates was particularly intense at this state correctional facility, Holbrook explained, and there was “open war between prisoners and staff. When they took you to the hole, when they uncuff you, you knew you better start swinging.”

Despite that, one morning Holbrook withstood guard retaliation in order to shout to Chuck across the walk: “Ona Move!”

“Oppressed people must organize to defend themselves, to provide for each other and to meet each other’s needs,” Holbrook added. “No one is going to organize us but us.”

Black identity in the age of ‘Black Identity Extremists’

Other panelists included Russell Maroon Shoatz, son of the political prison-

er of the same name; Temple University Professor Linn Washington; Candice McKinley of Black Lives Matter Philadelphia; and Mastery High School Principal Sharif El-Mekki, who insisted on the need for schools to be open community centers — and the need to teach positive Black identity to students.

“Most teachers are parachuting into a community when school starts and then skyrocketing out when the bell rings,” stated El-Mekki. “Educators learn racism from the same place that police officers learn racism. Racism is learned at kitchen tables, on car rides home and in classrooms.”

El-Mekki added, “It’s not a holistic education if it’s devoid of the concept of social justice.”

The focus on systemic injustice was particularly poignant, given the Trump-Sessions Justice Department’s recent targeting of what they call “Black Identity Extremists.” Brad Thompson, lawyer for the MOVE 9, drew the connection between MOVE and contemporary Black liberation activists:

“We need to free the MOVE 9 not because they are the only examples of injustices in this country, but because they are the most extreme examples. ... They only pose a threat to the systems of injustice that seek to perpetuate their own power.”

Mumia and MOVE in Black August

After the panel, the audience was treated to a concert featuring local artists and musicians, including Seraiah Nicole, Mic Africa and Raw Life Crew.

Attendees were encouraged to follow the hashtag #FreeMOVE9 and @MumiaFreedomBound on social media. Black Panther, MOVE supporter and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal has a hearing in Philadelphia on Aug. 30 where a large mobilization to free Mumia is planned.

Mike Africa Sr. has a parole hearing in October. Chuck Africa will be up for parole in November and Eddie Africa in January. Janet and Janine Africa were up for parole and should have been freed along with Debbie; their parole denial is currently under appeal. Their next hearing is scheduled for May. □

‘Sorry to bother you’

Continued from page 2

class struggle and recognizes, just as the great C.L.R. James did, that all people whom capitalism seeks to exploit are members of the working class and class struggle takes many forms. Riley make this argument clear in his portrayal of Detroit’s visual art and the constant scrimmaging of Cash’s former high school football team.

As Cash reaches the pinnacle at RegalView, he is invited to a party by WorryFree CEO Steve Lift. At this party, Cash discovers that WorryFree is turning humans into beasts of burden — Equisapiens. Here Riley channels what the late Cedric Robinson called “the creation of the Negro” in his

seminal text, “Black Marxism.”

At this point, Cash joins the resistance against WorryFree and RegalView. Unit-ing the workers, the football players and Equisapiens, the movement led by Cash, Detroit, Salvador and Squeeze gains better working conditions and unionization for RegalView employees. Yet, as the credits scene shows, this is just the beginning.

The film’s title, “Sorry to Bother You,” carries a dual meaning. As Riley has admitted, it not only reflects the disruptive practices of telemarketers, but the abandonment of false consciousness amongst workers. More than a reflection of the absurdities of Black life, “Sorry to Bother You” is a call for resistance. □

Justice for NutriAsia workers!

By Stephen Millies

Striking NutriAsia food workers in the Philippines have been heard around the world. More than 300 workers in Marilao, Bulacan province, were violently attacked on July 30 by 50 of NutriAsia's security thugs. Twenty members of President Rodrigo Duterte's Philippine National Police helped beat up the strikers.

The following letter was sent on July 31.

To NutriAsia Inc.
and Joselito D. Campos Jr.:

Workers World condemns the horrendous working conditions that NutriAsia is imposing: the layoffs of 75 contract workers, the low pay of \$7.11 a day, the 12-to-16-hour days often imposed on the workforce, and the violent attacks on striking workers, leading to 20 arrests and the hospitalization of four. The International Trade Union Confederation has condemned the Philippines as one of the worst countries in the world for workers.

Worker World demands that NutriAsia immediately complies with the demands of the workers, including regularizing the entire workforce, providing safe and healthy working conditions, paying a livable wage and respecting the workers' right to unionize.

Sincerely,
Deirdre Griswold
Editor, Workers World
www.workers.org

Nineteen workers were arrested. Filipinos were shocked at photos of the bloodied 56-year-old Leticia Tetiza. (PhilStar.com, Aug. 2)

Strike supporters claim that one of those arrested, who was found with a gun and drugs, was planted in their ranks. (ABS-CBN News, Aug. 2) They also claim that the police and the company would employ this dirty tactic to justify their brutality.

NutriAsia is the biggest producer of condiments and food sauces in the Philippines. Its employees are rebelling against wages of \$7.22 a day for working in subhuman conditions.

These include temperatures of 40 degrees below zero F in the bottling and packaging departments. Workers also get serious burns from products that are nearly boiling.

While NutriAsia refuses to provide workers with adequate safety gear, it found more than \$1.6 billion to take over Del Monte in 2014. NutriAsia's CEO is Joselito D.

Campos Jr., whose family fortune was estimated at \$650 million in 2017. He gave his workers a Christmas bonus worth \$57 after deductions.

Like capitalists around the world, NutriAsia finds it easier to exploit temporary workers on contract. Strikers are demanding the regularization of their employment, a living wage and health benefits.

Support the strikers!

Shortly after the police attack on the strikers, Filipino activists organized demonstrations in front of Philippine consulates in both New York City and Chicago.

Fifty people came to the New York protest on July 30. "When workers' rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!" was chanted on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue in front of the consulate. Speakers defended the strikers.

Julie from GABRIELA pointed out that 6,000 Filipinos are forced to leave their homeland every day to find work. That's 2 million people a year. Millions of Filipinos workers work for \$7 or less a day.

Jonna from Migrante New Jersey spoke in Tagalog, while Antonio from the International Migrants Alliance spoke in Spanish. People were reminded that it was Filipino farmworkers in California



WW PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES
New York City, July 30.

who actually initiated the historic grape boycott in the 1960s.

A lively protest also was held on Aug. 2 in front of the Chicago consulate on Michigan Avenue. After speakers expressed solidarity with the NutriAsia workers, demonstrators broke bottles of ketchup and other NutriAsia condiments on the sidewalk to dramatize their anger at the company and its government backers.

The U.S. labor movement should support the NutriAsia strikers. Behind dictator Duterte in Manila is the wannabe dictator in the White House. For 120 years the U.S. government and corporations have exploited the Filipino people.

Solidarity statements should be issued by unions and other organizations.

For more information contact bayanusa.org and anakbayanusa.org. Source: [#SupportNutriAsiaWorkers](#) leaflet.

Uniting migrant, LGBTQ and HIV struggles

By Cosmia Bohannan-Blumke

When most people read the phrase "AIDS crisis," they likely envision a period of the 1980s and early 1990s when AIDS was a mysterious and terrifying disease, when gay, trans people and people of color all over the planet were dying of neglect, lack of treatment and little to no public understanding.

When many activists and followers of the HIV prevention movement read the phrase, they don't just think of the past, but of the present.

The truth is that the crisis never truly went away. Eventually, as treatments emerged, the suffering began to alleviate and deaths were less frequent, AIDS receded from the public eye. However, people still die of untreated AIDS, and most of them are Black and Brown, Indigenous, trans and gender nonconforming, sex workers, people without jobs, without homes, without public platforms, who come and go unseen and unheard. What's more, the stakes may be higher now than they have been in decades.

It was recently reported that the Trump administration has been real-locating federal funds intended for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program to the same Department of Homeland Security agencies responsible for separating families at the U.S.-Mexico border and detaining any and all migrants they choose, indefinitely and with impunity.

'Trumpcare makes HIV AIDS again'

The slogan "Trumpcare makes HIV AIDS again" has arisen in response. Its message is true, but it is not just Trump and his cabinet of CEOs that are responsible for the now-heightening crisis.

Simultaneously, Gilead Sciences is holding hostage the patent for PrEP — the most advanced treatment yet for HIV/AIDS — and threatening a price increase of 250 times the manufacturing cost. This tactic is used by corporations to prevent the manufacturing of cheap-

er alternatives to their product. To Gilead Sciences, it is simply not profitable enough for the lives of HIV patients to be saved; they have to be the ones doing the saving, and doing it only for those who can afford it.

This reprehensible affront to the needs of the suffering cannot entirely be pinned on Gilead, either, for the company is just following the most basic rule of capitalist enterprise: Expand or die.

Thankfully, the HIV prevention struggle persists. It has now reached a critical juncture, at the heart of not only the LGBTQ liberation struggle but also the migrant struggle.

During this year's LGBTQ Pride season, protests across the country demanded justice for Roxana Hernández, an HIV-positive trans woman from Honduras. Hernández undertook a treacherous journey with the Caravan of Refugees, up through Central America and Mexico, to seek refuge in the United States. She contracted HIV while in Honduras after being sexually assaulted by a gang of men. Hernández stated her reason for seeking asylum in the U.S. quite simply: "They kill trans people in Honduras."

Tragically, they kill trans people here, too.

Upon reaching the U.S.-Mexico border in May, Hernández applied for asylum with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Subsequently, she was forcibly confined in holding cells called "ice boxes," where she endured extreme cold, was denied adequate food and water, and had nothing but a concrete bench to sleep on.

These conditions, notably reminiscent of those in Nazi concentration camps and the harshest forms of solitary confinement, exacerbated Hernández's AIDS symptoms and complications. When she requested medical attention, guards yelled at her and joked about her appearance. After more than a week of diarrhea and vomiting, she was finally admitted to a hospital. She died of complications from AIDS on May 25 after a long and

valiant struggle.

The CBP has said that holding cells are only intended to house detainees for 12 hours. Roxana was detained for five days before finally being transferred to a private Immigration and Customs Enforcement prison. HIV prevention and human rights activists agree that it is not only cruel, but medically negligent to hold an HIV-positive person in an "ice box" for any period of time.

To date, no officer of any agency has been indicted in Roxana Hernández's murder by neglect.

Sixth to die in ICE custody

Hernández was the sixth person to die in ICE custody since October. She was not the first trans woman to suffer such a fate. After Victoria Arellano died of an AIDS-related infection after being refused medication in a men's im/migrant detention center, her fellow detainees were divided up and relegated to solitary confinement so they could not share her story.

That was in 2007. Why didn't people shut down the streets for Arellano back then?

It is only recently, due to the spotlight shone on ICE and other Homeland Security agencies by migrant activists due to their practice of family separation, that stories like Hernández's and Arellano's are gaining widespread acknowledgment.

However, this doesn't come as a surprise to those paying attention to the struggle. In June 2015, in a truly iconic move, trans, Latina and migrant activist Jennicet Gutiérrez interrupted then-President Barack Obama during a White House dinner on LGBTQ issues to bring attention to the conditions faced by migrants like Arellano being held in DHS detention. She was escorted out to the approval of many attendees, particularly cis gay white men.

This action and its fallout highlighted the vast political divide between the moderate, liberal forces in the LGBTQ movement and the forces advocating for

LGBTQ liberation, including the abolition of police, prisons and capitalism itself. Now that criticism of ICE is increasingly "en vogue," moderate forces are more likely to accept the necessity of raising these issues, but even then still failing to provide real political leadership about them. So a class-based divide remains and the struggle in the streets continues.

These many interrelated cases demonstrate that the only way forward is through building solidarity among the migrant struggle, the LGBTQ struggle and the movement for HIV prevention, and through achieving class consciousness that allows us to see that all these struggles are vital for complete liberation from capitalism and patriarchy. The resolution of this united struggle is socialist revolution.

In socialist Cuba, where trans women hold seats in local government, where current President Miguel Díaz-Canel was an early advocate for furthering LGBTQ rights, and where tremendous medical advances have made Cuba the first country in the world to completely eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, we have a brilliant example to strive for in our own struggles for liberation.

The history of how LGBTQ liberation was championed in Cuba is documented by the late, great transgender activist Leslie Feinberg in "Rainbow Solidarity: In Defense of Cuba," a collection of articles from his column "Lavender and Red" published in this paper.

Let us never forget the battles that we have fought, the lessons that we have learned and the perspective that we have gained. It is because of the nature of capitalism that the suffering of migrants, LGBTQ and HIV-positive people continues. It is up to the revolutionaries of all genders, sexualities and nationalities to unite, act up and fight back. □

Leslie Feinberg's series on LGBTQ history, "Lavender & Red," appeared in the Workers World newspaper in 2004-2008.



Read it free: workers.org/books

Detroit janitors win \$15/hour

By Martha Grevatt
Detroit

The movement for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for all workers took a step forward in Detroit when 1,700 downtown janitors, represented by Service Employees Local 1, ratified a contract that raises their hourly pay to \$15 over the next three years. These workers, who clean government and corporate buildings, make as little as \$9.45 an hour, and many rely on public assistance to supplement their meager income.

At a mass rally on July 23, the union announced an Aug. 1 strike deadline if the demand to raise pay to \$15 during the life of the contract was not met. A week later, workers were celebrating, having ratified the new contract on July 28. The strike threat was enough to compel the

cleaning companies to bring wages up — with no concessions in health care or other benefits to offset the added labor costs. In addition, the Detroit City Council unanimously voted in July to support the janitors’ demands.

“It was a hard fight, but we were victorious,” said bargaining committee member Kris Sherman-Burns. Sherman-Burns was one of the 30 janitors who represented their peers in negotiations.

“We showed working people across Detroit that when we come together, we can win better futures,” said janitor Lati-sha Pinkard. (Detroit News, July 30)

Local 1 emphasized during the victory celebration that they will continue to build the One Detroit movement to win \$15 an hour, fighting for airport, arena, fast food and other workers in the city. □

Smash white supremacy!

Continued from page 1

and toppled a Confederate statue outside the city’s old courthouse two days after Heyer’s murder. Some 40,000 people marched in Boston a week later, forcing the far-right to flee behind a police escort.

The destruction of the Confederate statue, a physical monument to slavery and white supremacy, led many cities across the South to remove their own statues out of fear they would be turned into crumbled piles of cheap copper.

Even the bourgeois media, normally so quick to decry “violence” when the people assert their power, were forced to recognize the need for militant anti-fascist tactics. Though they focused on the predictable fascist sympathizing of the racist-in-chief, President Donald Trump, they could not deny the righteousness of those who confronted the far-right.

New fronts in the fight against white supremacy

Where does the fight against white supremacy stand, a year after Heyer’s death? Far-right rallies across the country have been confronted and pushed back by anti-fascist activists, but the white-supremacist nature of the capitalist state has reared its head in new ways.

In many states, neo-Nazis are openly campaigning for public office. Mass incarceration and police terror against

Black and Brown communities have horrifically manifested themselves in the migrant concentration camps and family separations at the southern border. Red Fawn Fallis has been sentenced to prison for protecting the right of Indigenous peoples to their land during the struggle against the Dakota Access oil pipeline at Standing Rock.

U.S. imperialism continues to brutally exploit Latin America, Africa and Asia as well as Black and Brown people at home. The imperialist proxy wars in Syria and Venezuela continue, and a new one has been started in Nicaragua.

The people have been rising to meet these challenges. Hundreds of thousands took to the streets to protest the war on immigrants, and ICE facilities have been occupied in cities all over the country. One such occupation, in Philadelphia, has already forced the city to end its information-sharing agreement with ICE.

ICE detainees and prison inmates have gone on hunger strike to protest the brutal prison conditions across the country. Earlier this year, prisoners in Florida went on strike; a national prison strike is planned to start on August 21.

The fight against white supremacy did not begin in Charlottesville, and it will continue for a long time after it. But in the year since, we have seen undeniable evidence of the strength of the movement to smash white supremacy. □

Kavanaugh no friend to workers

By Sue Davis

President Donald Trump appointed Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court because he trusted Kavanaugh to do his — and the ruling class’s — bidding. Almost as soon as he was nominated, Kavanaugh’s lap-dog adherence to capitalist oppression and exploitation, and contempt for workers’ rights, were exposed.

No wonder the organized labor movement quickly condemned Kavanaugh’s nomination. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka denounced Kavanaugh’s “dangerous track record protecting the privileges of the wealthy and powerful at the expense of working people.” The Communication Workers union anticipated he would “continue to protect the interests of already powerful corporate CEOs instead of working families.” The Service Employees union asserted that “Kavanaugh would tip the scales of justice against working people.”

Not only has Kavanaugh consistently sided with the bosses on labor and employment issues, but he has shown a willingness not to follow Supreme Court precedent and strike out on an aggressively anti-worker agenda, which has particular relevance today to immigration issues, union representation and workplace rights.

In that sense Kavanaugh will be no different from Justice Anthony Kennedy, whom he would replace on the court. Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion in the despicable Citizens United decision — that corporations have First Amendment rights just like people — could always be counted on to support management in major decisions.

Kennedy did that in two blockbuster anti-worker cases decided 5-4 this spring: Epic Systems, which made it legal for employers to require workers to sign class-action waivers; and Janus, which denied prior SCOTUS precedent that people working in the public sector who choose not to join unions have to pay dues (“agency fees”), because they benefit from collective bargaining. The Janus ruling struck down the right of public sector workers to have strong, united representation on the job and, basically, replaced that with right-to-work (for less!) conditions.

Kavanaugh: undocumented workers not ‘employees’

Two cases highlight Kavanaugh’s boldness in overturning precedent, though there are a whole range of decisions in which he consistently ruled for bosses over workers, especially in National Labor Relations Board decisions.

His dissent in the 2008 case of Agri Processor Co. Inc. v. NLRB is particularly illuminating. Not only did the judge throw out two Supreme Court precedents when he ruled, using biased language, that undocumented immigrant workers were not employees; he also asserted that these workers had no right to engage in collective bargaining.

Kavanaugh affirmed Agri Processor’s claim that undocumented workers were not covered by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 because a more recent law — the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 — said it was illegal to knowingly employ them. But the judge ignored the precedents in the Hoffman Plastic Compounds and Sure-Tan cases that affirmed undocumented workers were “employees” covered by the NLRA.

Not only does this expose Kavanaugh’s lack of compassion for and bias against im/migrants, but it signifies the possibility that he could support a ruling that would establish a new, blatantly racist precedent in the future. Given Trump’s up-front hostility and outrageously criminal meanness to im/migrant families, Kavanaugh is Trump’s dream-date candidate for the court.

Kavanaugh’s “willingness to go out of his way to write a whole group of people out of the protection of the [law] ... is troubling,” wrote Sharon Block, former member of the NLRB, who is now a Harvard Law School professor. (HuffPost, July 11) It’s more than worrisome; it’s downright dangerous for those fleeing countries that have been impacted by U.S. power politics and violence.

However, there could be other, very serious implications for all workers if undocumented workers can’t unionize, observed the HuffPost article: “That would only make it harder for native-born workers to land jobs; it would drive down pay and working conditions across industries.” Kavanaugh’s interpretation of the law “could easily apply to other critical workplace statutes, including the minimum wage and overtime protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act. ... Employers would have much less to fear by committing wage theft and undercutting pay for everyone.”

Wow! That sure explains why Kavanaugh topped Trump’s SCOTUS wish-list.

Attacks on OSHA, labor protections

Another Kavanaugh dissent, in the 2014 decision SeaWorld of Fla., LLC v. Perez, not only attacked the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s right to levy fines against SeaWorld for safety violations after the whale Tilikum killed trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010. It also dismissed OSHA’s protections for workers as “paternalistic” and questioned the basic premise of OSHA’s role to determine appropriate levels of risk for workers.

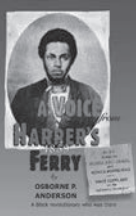
Kavanaugh stated that owners who provide public entertainment should be free from addressing known risks for workers, and workers should be able to decide whether the risks are worth taking. He argued that the majority decision could lay the foundation for OSHA outlawing NASCAR races and National Football League games.

Jordan Barab, a former OSHA official during the Obama administration, was quoted in the HuffPost article: “Kavanaugh’s idea of making America great again apparently harkens back to the time before Workers Compensation laws and the Occupational Safety and Health Act were passed. Back then employers who maimed or killed workers often escaped legal responsibility by arguing that the employees had ‘assumed’ the risk when he or she took the job and the employer therefore had no responsibility to make the job safer.”

Doesn’t that sound like something Trump would tweet? But, hey, don’t give him any ideas or he’ll try to get rid of OSHA regulations. His recently departed lackey, Scott Pruitt, has already started at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Davis, a longtime reproductive justice activist and author of the pro-choice novel, “Love Means Second Chances,” will cover Kavanaugh’s positions on abortion rights and reproductive justice in a separate article.

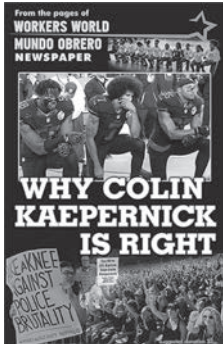
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WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero

Excerpt: ‘Last October, Colin Kaepernick, the African-American former quarterback for National Football League’s San Francisco 49ers, was asked after a game why he was wearing a Muhammad Ali t-shirt. He said, “To pay homage. [Ali] fought a very similar fight and was trying to do what’s right for the people.”’

No water for ICE!



WW PHOTO: CASSIE MUSTER

FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) PDX held a demonstration and banner drop on Aug. 1 to demand the city of Portland, Ore., shut off utilities to Immigration and Customs Enforcement and sever all ties to the agency and its contractors. Members of the Portland branch

of Workers World Party, the International League of Peoples' Struggle, the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee and Occupy ICE PDX gave speeches after a banner drop from the Hawthorne Bridge and a march to City Hall.

— Report by Joshua Hanks

Activists serve ICE eviction notice

Abolish ICE activists occupied the hallway leading to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Syracuse, N.Y., on July 31 before 10 people were arrested.

About 100 people had marched to the ICE location at 401 S. Salina St. where a spokesperson read an eviction notice to the agency. This said in part:

“We have found your office and its counterparts in violation of a series of

basic human rights in Syracuse: You have intimidated the entire immigrant community by working with Border Patrol to establish public transportation checkpoints, by invading or threatening to invade the homes of residents, and through aggressive interrogations of our community members. You have kidnapped an as-yet unknown

Syracuse



PHOTO: SYRACUSE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE DEFENSE NETWORK

tection.’ ... Get out, now.”

Participating in the march and action were members of the Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network, the Workers’ Center of Central New York/ Centro de Trabajadores-CNY,

the Syracuse Peace Council, the International Socialist Organization and other groups.

— Report by Minnie Bruce Pratt

Protests hit Northeastern contract with ICE

By Belladonna Ashman
Boston

As night fell on July 31, protesters from Movimiento Cosecha, who had gathered outside the house of Northeastern University’s president, announced that they would be occupying the area until Northeastern canceled its \$2.7 million contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Protestors blocked Boylston Street, singing and telling stories until 1 a.m., when cops moved in and arrested 11 occupiers.

One week earlier, Cosecha and supporters had gathered in a park near the



PHOTO: STEPHANIE HOUTEN

Protesters block Boylston Street near Northeastern President Aoun’s house, July 31.

Northeastern University campus. They marched with signs decrying Northeastern’s connection to ICE through the Rutgers T subway station and into a student

orientation taking place.

Once there, they held a speakout explaining the university’s contract with ICE to the new students and dropped a banner reading, “Northeastern, we won’t be complicit” from a walkway between buildings. They called on the students to aid in telling the university to shut down its contract and informed them that this was just the first of Cosecha’s actions.

Cosecha rallied supporters at the Rutgers T station again on July 31 and led them on another march, going through downtown Boston during rush hour and ending outside university President Joseph E. Aoun’s home.

They proceeded to hold a speakout, demanding that Aoun cancel the contract. Speakers included undocumented organizers from Cosecha, a representative from FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere), and the fiancé of a man who was taken by ICE just days before their wedding.

Cosecha organizers then revealed that they intended to continue this protest as an occupation and that they would be camping outside Aoun’s house until their demands were met. As the occupiers prepared for the night and the following morning, the cops moved in and arrested them all. □

Occupy ICE SATX, a beacon of hope

By Andrew Perretta
San Antonio

Aug. 4 — Occupy ICE SATX’s 24-hour occupation officially kicked off with a general assembly on July 17, as well as chanting and sign displays while camp was set up. The encampment is located at the edge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office parking lot on a stretch of lawn not technically the property of the city or ICE, whose inconspicuous office sits underneath a highway overpass.

Comrades from across the spectrum of the left gathered in San Anto, Tejastlan, to show solidarity and support for Indigenous/Latinx families imprisoned under the illegal U.S. family separation policy. They were there to also give moral support to prisoners, some of whom have not yet received needed medical attention.

Present were the Autonomous Brown Berets, the Autonomous Student Network and the Contract Todo Network, whose

members formed the Occupy ICE SATX movement and represent a cross section of decentralized leftist groups in Central/ South Texas.

Over the last 18 days, the occupation has continued with three or four people present throughout the day and about the same number at night in the first week. As awareness and support increased, it grew in the second week to about twice those numbers.

The occupiers have held noise rallies most days of the week, usually with about 15 people, and in the afternoon, when buses with detainees are scheduled to arrive. Chanting, bullhorn shouts, singing and the clamor of household objects making improvised percussion could be heard through the neighborhood. Curious ICE employees flocked to their windows, and Homeland Security agents marshalled in the parking lot, bristling with tactical gear and service dogs, in an urgent response to the unarmed, nonviolent, lawful protest.

The occupiers raised their voices, reminding that “No one is illegal on stolen land” and advising onlookers to “Quit your job!” This caught the attention of local media TV crews, which in turn caused Homeland Security to reroute or cancel bus transportation of prisoners on several days.

Reactionaries from the “Patriot Front,” wannabe kossacks that are part of the U.S. immigration pogrom, attempted to attack the camp on Saturday morning, July 29. But occupiers stood their ground — nonviolently. They would not be triggered into reaction, and only incurred mild vandalism and a stolen flag. “Asher,” an occupant at the camp, stated: “ICE has a vested interest in the operations of white nationalist groups. ICE’s work is the realization of such groups’ manifestos.”

Word of the attack spread to community members who then came out and



PHOTO: OCCUPY ICE SATX

showed even more support during the second week. Friends of the occupiers and local concerned citizens from a broad racial and class spectrum donated needed items: food, chairs, blankets, toys, crayons, diapers and other children’s items.

About 50 families travel to the ICE facility every weekday morning to try to visit imprisoned loved ones and seek information about their immigration cases. For the children and parents visiting the prisoners, the camp now has much needed supplies, a full pantry and makeshift refrigeration.

A typical evening at Occupy SATX consists of cooking out, listening to music and reflecting on each day’s direct actions — a beacon of hope. □

Hunger strike at immigrant prison

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

The Northwest Detention Center Resistance held a protest against immigrant detention on July 14 at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash. Outside the prison, which is privately owned by the GEO Group, a 24-hour occupation continued in solidarity with the prisoners, which has been going on for weeks.

Two mariachi bands played outside the prison. The music was sent in over phones to some prisoners inside. Maru Mora Villalpando, an organizer on the outside, spoke with a prisoner on the inside and communicated his message to a large rally. He said that 170 prisoners had gone on a two-day hunger strike

and thanked the demonstrators for their solidarity.

The prisoners sent the following message: “We decided to begin a hunger strike on Saturday, July 14, in the morning, once we heard our supporters would be outside the facility on Saturday afternoon, to show we also support them, and expose the problems in here, problems with food getting worse, and in support of the families separated at the border and the children in detention.

“We want people detained to know we are not alone, to know that by being united in here our voices can be heard outside. So that everyone knows of the assaults and harassment we suffer at the hands of Geo guards.” (tinyurl.com/FB-NWDCR) □

Houston activists protest kid prison

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

The Free Los Niños Coalition held its third protest, on Aug. 4, at the home of wealthy real estate gentrifier David Denenberg, demanding he cancel the lease for his property that is planned to open as a kids’ prison. Gathering in Houston’s wealthiest neighborhood, the crowd blasted speeches and chants to the neighbors, telling them to ask Denenberg to not allow his property to bring more misery to families and children who have already been traumatized enough.

The visual of kids in a cage being watched over by a piñata of Donald Trump, drumming by the Free Radicals and Mario Salinas, poetry by Anto-

nio Gonzales, and chanting led by Rona Smith was militant and empowering.

Two days earlier, four members of the coalition went to a job fair held by Southwest Key to fill positions at their five detention centers in Houston, including the one they plan to open. After passing out flyers to 150 people waiting for interviews that documented the organization’s crimes, the activists began loudly chanting, as they were asked to leave: “No Trump! No baby jails! Don’t work for Southwest Key!”

Another demonstration will be held at the newest detention center, at 419 Emancipation Ave., on Aug. 11 at 5:30 p.m., as crowds walk by on their way to a Houston Astros baseball game. Information is available at tinyurl.com/FB-FLNC. □



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

The movement to abolish ICE

By Teresa Gutierrez

A decade ago, the abolition of ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) would have been a rare, perhaps unheard of, topic to be mentioned by any Democratic Party elected official or any organ of the capitalist media. The demand would only have been heard in the streets, from the movement on the ground, and from migrants and their allies.

But after the horror of seeing children separated from families at the southern border, of children in cages and all the other atrocities, the demand to abolish ICE has entered the mainstream and is being voiced by masses of people.

In addition, the call to abolish ICE is being wonderfully reinforced by the many ongoing, essential occupations and protests against ICE throughout the country.

What does the anti-ICE development mean for the migrant rights movement and how should the movement respond? What role can allies, as well as the genuine left movement, play in this new phase of the struggle? What demands can be sharpened in order to give the call to abolish ICE real teeth?

ICE and the so-called War on Terror

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency was created as part of the Department of Homeland Security by then President George W. Bush after Sept. 11, 2001, and the attack on the World Trade Center. The U.S. government used the WTC attack as a pretext to launch an unwarranted war against Iraq and to demonize people of color, especially Muslims.

Within the U.S., Homeland Security’s “war on terror” was created to launch terror on oppressed peoples and on the progressive and anti-war movements. Thus, the ICE war on migrants was created in the context of the deepening of the capitalist state’s repressive apparatus.

But such rabidly racist immigration policies didn’t start with the Trump administration. U.S. immigration policies have been racist and exploitative for over 250 years, beginning with the Page Act of 1875, which restricted Asian workers, especially women, and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

President Barack Obama, portrayed widely in social media memes as a heartwarming liberal, deported more people than any other U.S. president in history. Nonetheless, under Trump, anti-immigrant views, policies and enforcement have been taken to a whole new level of racism and cruelty.

To elevate the struggle to abolish ICE and the police is to build a necessary left flank to take the struggle as far as it can go. As activists are already chanting in the streets, you cannot say ‘police’ without saying ‘ice.’

Trump is an unreconstructed, blatant white supremacist. His views and policies are fortified by the white supremacists he has brought into government, such as his appointment of Jeff Sessions as U.S. attorney general. Sessions, even while being ridiculed by Trump because of differences related to the Russia investigation, has steadily carried out Trump’s racist anti-immigrant policies.

Impeachment is no solution. Should Trump be removed from office, he would simply be replaced by Vice President Mike Pence, another rabid white supremacist and anti-LGBTQ bigot.

Trump’s extreme and dangerous war on migrants must be fought. The blatant targeting of Black and Brown immigrants certainly looks like an attempt by the administration to create a white-majority nation through a kind of “ethnic cleansing by deportation.” A racist campaign that normalizes the repressive, fascist-like tactics being employed will eventually turn against more and more people, not just those born abroad or to migrant families.

This campaign of anti-immigrant racism is meant to divide the working class at a time in history when our class needs solidarity more than ever.

Is abolishing ICE enough?

The movement to abolish ICE is widespread throughout the U.S. It comes from the hope of migrant families for some relief from the terror that is raining down on them. It comes from the suburbs, from families — of every nationality — appalled at the government’s violent behavior. It comes from the cities, from people who know that workers who deliver their food and take care of their children should not be treated this way.

The movement for migrant rights should welcome this sentiment, because any push that is a push against ICE is a push in the right direction.

Because even if the words and attitudes of people are fraught with contradictions, are patronizing or misguided; even if what is done is far from enough; even if at every pro-immigrant rally the speeches end with the admonition to “vote in November,” any push that is a push against ICE is a push in the right direction.

Any actions that separate people from

the white supremacist policies emanating from Washington will be helpful and must be welcome. But that push will not be enough if all the anti-ICE energy is channeled into the November elections. The movement must not let the Democrats lead that opposition. The Democrats have shown over and over that they cannot and will not lead to help the masses. They approved, and continue to approve, the policies and wars that cause the conditions for forced migrations. They are not going to change.

But we should welcome mass opposition to ICE, and as we organize we should take the help and resources that liberals can give and that the genuine left alone cannot fund. Even when groups are funded by Democrats, we can work in a principled manner with organizations if they are bringing relief to the most vulnerable.

Build a left flank led by the workers and oppressed

The left in this country is small. It has yet to build the strength to seriously challenge the liberal bourgeoisie. In other parts of the world, especially in the global south, the left has been able to carry out many serious challenges to the powers-that-be through massive actions and huge struggles. The left in some countries is not only a threat to state power; in some places the left has taken state power.

That is not the condition here in the heart of the empire. But the left movement in the U.S. has an opportunity in the current phase of the migrant rights movement.

The movement to abolish ICE is that opportunity.

The left understands that abolishing one arm of the capitalist state is never enough. But a victory to abolish ICE would be a boost to the movement. Migrant workers would feel supported and obtain some relief, even if momentary.

A victory to abolish ICE would be a huge opening against the repressive state apparatus. And if a window against racism and white supremacist opens, it behooves the left to open it wider.

The most unifying demand: Abolish POLICE

The demand to abolish ICE can be taken further by linking it to the demand to abolish the POLICE

If the movement for migrant rights is to succeed, if it is to go far enough in the trajectory of struggle, it would gain power by linking to the other most important struggle today against state repression in the U.S. — and that is the struggle of the Black community against police terror.

By extension, the issue of mass incarceration is as heinous as caged children at the border. But centuries of racist ideology in the U.S. have prevented a mass multinational outcry on the imprisonment of Black and Brown people.

What would terrorize white supremacists most? Black and Brown unity in alliance with everyone else against the racist state.

To elevate the struggle to abolish ICE and the police is to build a necessary left flank to take the struggle as far as it can go. As activists are already chanting in the streets, you cannot say “police” without saying “ice.”

There would be a defining line between real fighters against racism and white supremacy and those who seek reforms rather than real change. The Democrats of capital would never vote for abolishing the POLICE, as their capitalist society can’t exist without a repressive apparatus.

The burden of building this movement is not on migrants. Unless they choose so. The burden is on the broader working-class movement; it is on everyone who sees the need to fight against capitalism. It is on Latinx and Brown allies to point out that record numbers of Black immigrants are being rounded up and deported, not just Brown people.

Building this movement is the goal of the Abolish POLICE movement, which would not only demand the end of detention centers for migrants, but also organize to close all prisons.

The left movement must organize now, including through a mass nationwide discussion on the role of the police and prisons, to build and elevate class consciousness, and ultimately to challenge the existence of capitalism.

Maybe a good place start would be to support the Aug. 21 to Sept. 9 National Prison Strike in remembrance of the martyred, imprisoned Black Panther Party leader George Jackson and the heroic Attica prison rebellion.

If humanity is to go forward or even survive, the discussion and organizing to end capitalism must be elected. For white supremacist Trump is itching to take hold of power in one unprecedented, horrific manner. □

Perú: A long and revolutionary history

By Kayla Popuchet

What is now Perú was the home, not only of one of the largest empires in the world at one point, but of the largest Indigenous empire. The Incas had evolved and built from earlier Andean groups such as the Chimu, the largest ancient Peruvian civilization directly succeeded by the Incas.

The Incas were a large umbrella encompassing different tribes. The empire extended from the north of Chile to the middle of Ecuador to the east of Bolivia and all of present-day Perú. Over 10 million people from different tribes and cultural backgrounds belonged to this empire, with over 40,000 languages spoken, the elite language being Quechua.

Known as Rumaisimi, “people’s language,” Quechua is still the official language of Perú, along with Spanish. In 1975, Perú was the first country in the world to officially recognize an Indigenous language. Twenty-five percent of the Peruvian population speak Quechua while others learn it in school as a second language.

Indigenous resistance to colonization

The Incan Empire is believed to have risen around 1200 Common Era, continuing until 1532 CE, when Francisco Pizarro and Spanish military forces began a campaign to conquer the vast and highly developed empire. As Incan forces battled the invaders, resistance against the colonizers was aided by the last Incan state of Vilcabamba, where the leader Manqu Inka Yupanki set up a refuge for the remaining Incas. Manco Inca’s three sons, Sayra Túpac, Titu Cusi Yupanqui and Túpac Amaru I, continued to fight for decades until they were defeated or killed.

As Spanish invaders attacked, they also began bringing kidnapped people from the West African coast to Perú as enslaved workers. The Spanish forced some enslaved Africans to fight against the Indigenous people, who at the same time were also being forced into slavery. As European diseases began killing Indigenous people, the colonizers needed more enslaved African people as workers, in a parallel to other colonized “New World” lands.

The Spanish, with their system of enslavement, created a racist caste and class system in the land that was now Perú, effectively separating and dividing workers into lower classes. The European Spanish were the most elite; then Criollos of Spanish descent born in the colonies; Mestizos who were Spanish and Indigenous; Mulattos who were African and Spanish; Indios who were Indigenous; Negros who were African; and Zambos, the lowest on the conquerors’ list, who were of Native and African descent. (Described in “Colonial Perú, the Caste System, and the ‘Purity’ of Blood,” by David Gaughran.)

A noted figure in resistance against the Spanish was a Mestizo man claiming to be a descendant of Túpac Amaru I. Born José Gabriel Condorcanqui in 1738, known as Túpac Amaru II, he organized a rebellion of over 60,000 Indigenous people at the peak of Spanish colonization. The rebellion kidnapped colonial leaders, held them for ransom and executed them in ways similar to Spanish tactics against the Incas.

Indigenous populations supported the rebellion, which was nearly successful until Túpac Amaru II was captured in 1781. Because of his heroism and success, his name adorns many streets and a long



A woman waving a banner of the revolutionary Che Guevara takes part in a protest against a U.S. mining project in Lima in July 2012.

highway in Perú, and he remains a beloved figure.

War for independence from Spain

The Peruvian War of Independence (1811-1826) came as European empires were beginning to lose other colonies. The thirteen “American” colonies had kicked out England; the successful Haitian Revolution had defeated France; and Spain had lost the Dominican Republic and its power in Argentina.

Leading the first struggles for Peruvian independence was José de San Martín, the son of Spaniards, born in Argentina, and a soldier in the Spanish military from the age of 11. He left that army when Argentinians began rising for independence, and became the highest ranked Spanish officer to join a revolutionary movement in the Spanish colonies. His proclamation in Lima on July 28, 1821, was the first formal declaration of Perú’s independence from Spain. After de San Martín’s death, Simón Bolívar completed Perú’s liberation, as well as being integral to that of Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama.

The unknown history for many is that these liberation struggles were aided by Haiti after the successful Haitian Revolution. In 1815, Simón Bolívar made his way to Haiti to seek aid from the first Haitian president, Alexandre Pétion. Haitians helped rebuild Bolívar’s army, gave food and shelter, and sent over military supplies.

Pétion gave all this with only one request in return: that all slaves be liberated. In response, Bolívar said: “Should I not let it be known to later generations that Alexander Pétion is the true liberator of my country?” (tinyurl.com/y9ta5enp)

Colonialization and capitalism

Since independence from Spain, Perú has been plagued by reactionary military rule, austerity and capitalism, to this very day. According to Peru Reports, the top 20 percent of the population owns half the wealth of the country. That wealth is concentrated in Lima, the capital city, whereas the poverty rate in the rest of Perú approaches 30 percent.

Misogyny is rampant in Perú. The Ministry for Women noted that in 2017 there was a 26 percent increase in gender-based violence. Seventy-five percent of Peruvian women asserted being victims of psychological and/or physical assault.

Racism has been poorly combated in Perú. When, in 1940, the Peruvian government took away race as a government census category to create an “all-Peruvian” identity, this amounted to the state saying inaccurately: “We don’t see color.” Though in 2009, the Peruvian gov-

ernment released an apology for “abuse, exclusion and discrimination” against Afro-Peruvians, the lack of official recognition of Afro-Peruvians has given a way to deny racism against them and made it difficult to report racism in public institutions.

In 2013, the Ministry of Education released a survey that showed 81 percent of Peruvians believed there was rampant discrimination in the country. Only 17 percent of Quechua and Aymara people reported belief in the Peruvian state’s performative “appreciation” for their culture.

Since the 2017 return of Afro identity on the state census, it is now estimated there are between 1.4 to 2.5 million Afro-Peruvians.

Because of these conditions, ongoing since the age of colonialism, movements have taken place in Perú to fight for socialism. In 1983, the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) was formed, born out of groups such as the Peruvian Communist Party-Marxist Leninist, the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Socialist Party and Revolutionary Left Movement. The MRTA operated in two wings, legally and illegally, calling for a Marxist revolution in Perú.

Struggles for socialism

The biggest focus of the MRTA’s work was to combat imperialism within Perú as well as oppose tactics maneuvered by the United States. The MRTA declared war on the U.S. within Perú and attacked every aspect of U.S. presence in the country. The MRTA kidnapped business executives and robbed banks. The director of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Perú claimed that the company “received ‘almost daily’ demands from the MRTA during January and February 1991 for ‘war taxes,’ and one director has left the country to avoid being kidnapped.” (tinyurl.com/yc5xytkg)

While the MRTA probably numbered only about 1,000 people, in 1991 the CIA

claimed the MRTA was “one of the greatest terrorist threats to U.S. interests in South America.” The CIA also compared the MRTA to the Cuban guerrilla fighters and the National Liberation Army in Colombia and Bolivia. According to the CIA, the MRTA had received training and aid from Cuba and Libya in the late 1980s and early 1990s. (tinyurl.com/yc5xytkg)

The last attack organized by the MRTA was in 1996 on the Japanese Embassy in Lima, when ambassadors from Japan came to celebrate their emperor’s birthday in Perú. The MRTA kidnapped and held hostages at the embassy, declaring an overthrow of the dictatorship of the current U.S.-backed president, Alberto Fujimori, who was of Japanese descent.

Removed from office in 2001, Fujimori was put on trial in 2007, the charges eventually including crimes against humanity for the mass murders of students and farmers and the organization of a death squad, Colina Group.

Sentenced to 25 years in prison, Fujimori was given a “humanitarian” pardon by then-President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski in 2017. Kuczynski had won the Peruvian presidency against Fujimori’s daughter, Keiko Fujimori, on the platform of making sure justice was served against Alberto Fujimori. Upon this betrayal, Peruvians protested by the tens of thousands in cities all over Perú and internationally.

While Perú has a long and revolutionary history fighting for independence from foreign empires, Perú has remained a victim of capitalism and imperialism. The U.S. is still its colonizer, with Perú functioning as its proxy in South America. The hand of the U.S. in Perú’s internal affairs promotes groups and government officials that put self-interested profit over the needs of the people. The Peruvian government cracks down on labor organizers and monitors socialists through “anti-terrorism” units.

But the people continue to rise against conditions that oppress them — continue to rise in opposition to corruption, wealth inequality, gender-based violence and racism, against foreign companies’ exploitation of Peruvian land and resources.

The first goal is the expulsion of foreign interference in Perú, especially that of the U.S. Then, a return to the land and communal living as practiced by our Indigenous ancestors; a serious process of decolonization to address systemic and cultural flaws left by colonization; and the building of socialism.

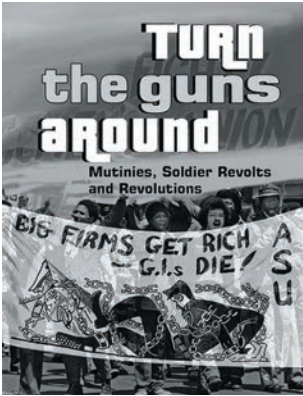
Happy July 28th! Happy Perú Independence Day! ¡Viva el Perú, carajo!

Long live Perú, dammit!

Kayla Popuchet, a Peruvian citizen, is the daughter of Haitian and Peruvian immigrants of Indigenous Quechuan descent.

TURN THE GUNS AROUND Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

by John Catalinotto



Available at online booksellers

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— Pvt. Larry Holmes GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74.

Ahed Tamimi, right, with historic Palestinian freedom fighter Leila Khaled. Brussels, September 2017.

Ahed Tamimi released

'I hope for the liberation of Palestine'

By John Catalinotto

Young Palestinian freedom fighter Ahed Tamimi walked out of an Israeli prison on July 29 after spending eight months inside. Tamimi is known worldwide since a video, showing her confronting a heavily armed Israeli soldier, went viral at the end of last year.

The now 17-year-old spent the following week meeting with resistance leaders and holding news conferences to promote Palestinian freedom. Her mother, Nariman Tamimi, was also sentenced to prison with Ahed, was charged with “incitement” because she streamed the video and was released along with her daughter.

Many in Tamimi’s extended family in the village of Nabi Saleh, in the occupied West Bank, have been active in the resistance. Three killed by the occupation forces were Rushdi Tamimi, Mustafa Tamimi and Izz al-Din Tamimi — who was killed while Ahed was in prison. Another young Nabi Saleh resident named Saba Nidal Obeid was also killed by the Israeli forces.

Ahed Tamimi’s videotaped confrontation with the Israeli soldier came right after she learned, last December, that her cousin Mohammed Tamimi had received a near-lethal wound in the head from a rubber-coated steel bullet that penetrat-

ed his skull.

When asked about her role as a symbol of Palestinian resistance, Tamimi says she is “very proud that I can be a symbol of the Palestinian cause. I hope that I can live up to this title and that I’m able to spread the message of the Palestinian people, and the men and women in prison, to the whole world.” (All Ahed Tamimi quotes from Democracy Now! Aug. 6 are based on a rough transcript of translated comments.)

“I hope for the liberation of Palestine,” Tamimi adds when asked about her vision, “for the end of the occupation, for us to be able to go anywhere we want, anytime we want, without anyone preventing us from doing so.”

Asked about the difference between Jews and Zionism, Tamimi answered, “There is a huge difference between Judaism and Zionism. Judaism is a religion. You know, it’s just like Islam. It’s just like Christianity. But Zionism, that’s the occupation. That’s the killing. That’s what closes checkpoints. That’s what detains innocent people. That’s all Zionism that’s causing this conflict with Palestinians.”

The Israelis subjected Tamimi to four separate interrogations, from four to six hours each, where she had no lawyer. There were also no other women present, which is illegal under international law. She said she used her right to remain si-

lent and answered no questions.

Tamimi’s message to people in the U.S. was to “thank everyone who supported me and stood with me. ... I urge all the people, all the populations everywhere, to put pressure on their governments to support the Palestinian cause.”

Since her first words always call for solidarity with her sibling prisoners still behind bars, it is obvious she takes her role seriously. She explained “administrative detention,” which “is based on undisclosed files, so the detainee doesn’t know why they’re detained.” These prisoners continually get their sentences extended — one, Ali Jamal, spent seven consecutive years under administrative detention.

“There are over 350 children in prison,” she adds, “and three children who are under administrative detention.”

‘Give him a rose?’

In an interview with Bassem Hamimi, Ahed’s father, by the German newspaper Junge Welt done before Ahed and her mother were released, Bassem spoke as a parent of freedom fighters:

“When people in the world see Ahed beat a soldier, they have no idea what he represents for her. They don’t know her story, they don’t know that she associates all the bad things that have happened to our family with this uniform. I’m proud

of her. She is strong enough for her task of resisting the occupation. I think she did what she had to do.

“The overriding justification for her action is the occupation. The subordinate is that her cousin was badly injured on the head by a rubber bullet just before the video was shot, so that he fell to the ground and people thought he was dead.

“A short time later, the soldiers who had shot my nephew came over the wall of my house. They didn’t shoot Ahed because a camera was focused on her. There was no camera at Muhammed’s.

“I’ve been in custody nine times, Ahed’s aunt and her uncle were murdered. Her mother was arrested several times and she was shot so badly that she could not walk for two years. My eldest son was arrested three times and shot twice. They wanted to arrest one of my younger sons in 2015, and there is a well-known video in which Ahed bites an Israeli soldier.

“My house is under demolition order, and they have stormed it over 200 times and confiscated our electronic devices dozens of times. Imagine a soldier coming into your house and reminding you of all this through his presence. What would you do? Give him a rose?”

All quotes by Bassem Hamimi from Junge Welt, Aug. 3, were translated by Catalinotto.



Freedom Flotilla to Gaza assaulted

By John Catalinotto

The Israeli Occupation Force stopped and boarded by force the fishing boat al-Awda (the Return) between 40 and 50 nautical miles from shore near Gaza on July 29, seizing the boat in international waters. The IOF soldiers tased, beat and arrested the 22 passengers aboard. They not only seized the medical equipment the ship was carrying toward Gaza, but robbed some of the passengers they had beaten.

Four days later the IOF repeated this illegal action in international waters against the Freedom, a sailboat that was part of the planned Freedom Flotilla, this one with 10 passengers.

Al-Awda had left Norway in mid-July with 22 people from 16 countries aboard. The slower boat, Freedom, left from Sweden. They stopped at various ports in Europe before setting off for Gaza. Their goal was to break the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza and to win freedom of movement for the 2 million Palestinians living in — actually, trapped in — Gaza.

The Israeli blockade has caused a humanitarian crisis. Food is in short supply, keeping the Palestinian population on

the edge of hunger. Medicine is in shorter supply.

Starting March 30, Palestinians participated in a Great March of Return to the border fence separating Gaza and Israel, insisting on their right to return to their homeland of Palestine. Gaza’s population is made up of Palestinians violently forced from their houses, farms and villages during Israel’s founding in 1948 as well as their descendants. They object to the theft of their land, Israel’s inhumane blockade of Gaza and the U.S. Embassy’s relocation to Jerusalem.

Dr. Swee Ang, a medical doctor on the al-Awda, reported on Aug. 4 the brutal seizure of the boat and passengers by the IOF. Ang reported that \$15,000 worth of antibiotics and bandages were headed toward Gaza.

“Soon we saw at least three large Israeli warships on the horizon, with five or more speed boats (Zodiacs) zooming towards us. As the Zodiacs approached



PHOTO: FREEDOM FLOTILLA

I saw that they carried soldiers with machine guns, and there was on board the boats large machine guns, mounted on a stand, pointing at our boat.” Some of the soldiers who boarded were masked.

“They then approached the door of the wheel house and tasered Charlie, the first mate, and Mike Treen, who were obstructing their entry to the wheel house. Charlie was beaten up as well. Mike did not give way with being tasered in his lower limbs, so he was tasered in his neck and face.”

The two Israeli citizens who were on

al-Awda, Zohar Chamberlain Regev and Yonatan Shapira, were accused by the Israeli authorities of having attempted to enter Gaza and of conspiracy against the state of Israel. The latest reports are that they were released, as were two reporters from al-Jazeera.

From the U.S., veteran U.S. Navy Signalman Joe Meadors and retired Col. Ann Wright, a well-known anti-war activist, were participating in the flotilla. Meadors was standing watch on the USS Liberty during the June 1967 war when an Israeli aerial and sea attack on his ship off the coast of Gaza killed 34 U.S. sailors and wounded 174. Washington, at the time, continued its support for Israeli aggression against Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

See workers.org for Dr. Swee Ang’s full report on the Israeli attack on the al-Awda and the arrests, imprisonment and deportation of the activists participating in the flotilla. □

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WORKERS WORLD editorial

A #MeToo moment at Ohio State

The scandal that has erupted at Ohio State regarding its high-profile football coach centers around a pervasive issue throughout class society — domestic violence. During a July 24 press conference, Urban Meyer, the Ohio State Buckeyes coach, issued a statement saying that he was unaware of an October 2015 domestic violence incident involving his former assistant, Zach Smith, and his former spouse, Courtney Smith.

That statement was proven to be false when Courtney Smith did an interview Aug. 1 with former ESPN reporter Brett McMurphy, bringing to light that Meyer fired Smith on July 23 when he found out about charges made against Smith. Meyer claimed he “failed” to know about the 2015 incident after the ESPN interview was made public.

Meyer even stated that he was aware of at least one incident involving the same couple in 2009, when Smith worked for Meyer while he was head football coach at the University of Florida. But Courtney Smith was encouraged not to report spousal abuse in 2009 by Hiram de Fries, a special assistant to Meyer, who told her, “If you don’t drop the charges, Zach will never coach again. He’s never hit you before. He was drinking. He’ll probably never do it again. You should think about giving him a second chance.” (espn.com, Aug. 2)

This begs the question: Why wasn’t Zach Smith suspended immediately in 2009 by Meyer?

A coach or anyone who advises others has the legal obligation to report right away to a university athletics Title IX director if there has been an alleged violation of a sexual misconduct policy.

The Title IX policy states: “An individual need not be charged with or convicted of a criminal offense to be found responsible for domestic violence pursuant to this policy.” (espn.com, Aug. 2)

Ohio State put Meyer on “paid administrative leave” on Aug. 3 until it carries out a “full investigation” of what he knew and didn’t know about this development.

Meyer makes a salary of \$7 million annually for a football program which has an annual budget of \$185 million — the third largest in the country.

Ohio State announced that a “special working group” will determine if Meyer improperly handled the situation. This group includes Ohio State officials’ board members — and NO representatives of domestic violence victims’ advocacy groups.

In an Aug. 2 video interview for the Stadium, Courtney Smith stated that she made Meyer’s spouse, Shelley Meyer, aware of Zach Smith’s spousal abuse in 2015; she also informed the spouses of other coaches, who decided to keep quiet. Courtney Smith also told Shelley Meyer that it would be OK to tell Urban Meyer about the abuse and that she was concerned because Smith was coaching “young men.”

Photos of her bruises and also her bloody hand were shown during the Stadium interview. Courtney Smith stated that her own family was not supportive of her and asked her to keep quiet about her pain and suffering. Powell, Ohio, police reported that Courtney Smith was a victim of domestic violence in nine separate incidents which they received complaints about from 2012 to 2018. (cleveland.com, Aug. 1)

A rally was held Aug. 6 on the Ohio State campus in support of Urban Meyer. Reports said 23,000 signatures were gathered in defense of Meyer. No petition was circulated and no solidarity rally was announced for Courtney Smith, the survivor. Courtney Smith’s lawyer, Julia Leveridge, reports that no one from Ohio State has reached out to her client.

Leveridge said that “blaming the victim is unacceptable” and that “we believe the University must prioritize the safety and well-being of others above all else. While The Ohio State University has never contacted Ms. Smith to discuss these allegations, she will fully cooperate with the university’s current investigation.” (espn.com, Aug. 7)

People should be ready to protest if, at the end of the investigation, Meyer keeps his job. This is possible since the Ohio State administration has shown far more concern for the reputation of its powerhouse football team than for the survivor. Courtney Smith should be admired for bravely speaking out on behalf of all survivors of domestic abuse. She deserves unconditional support. □

VENEZUELA

Behind the assassination attempt

By Deirdre Griswold

Aug. 7 — An assassination attempt on Aug. 5 on the life of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro prompted headlines in the U.S. media. While Maduro was speaking at an open-air ceremony to commemorate the national guard, two drones suddenly appeared near the speakers platform. A loud bang was heard as one of them exploded, injuring seven soldiers.

Venezuelan officials reported that the other drone spun out of control and crashed into the side of a nearby apartment building.

In an interview on state television the next day Néstor Reverol, the interior justice and peace minister, reported that the remote-controlled drones had each carried about two pounds of C-4 plastic explosives. He said the attempted assassination of the president was foiled, in part, by equipment designed to jam radio signals.

Six people were reported detained in connection with the attack, and at least two have been formally charged.

Media omits all mention of sanctions

All the U.S. media commentary on this vicious crime has focused on Venezuela’s increasing economic crisis and hyperinflation, giving support to the idea that Maduro was under attack because he is unpopular with his people. This is repeated ad nauseam in the corporate media here, but the facts show otherwise.

Maduro won a second term as president May 20, receiving 68 percent of the popular vote in an election declared modern, transparent and fair by all outside observers.

As WW correspondent Taryn Fivek reported from Caracas at the time of the election: “According to the corporate propaganda machine, Venezuela is suffering under the dictatorship of President Nicolás Maduro, a former bus driver whom they blame for the shortages, hyperinflated currency, crime rates, instability and all other ills of the country, and accuse of fraudulent elections. Nothing could be further from the truth.

“What the capitalist news won’t tell you is that the Venezuelan process is one of the most legitimate in the world. You could cut diamonds on the Venezuelan democratic process. After signing a register, a voter’s finger is stained with ink to make sure duplicate votes do not occur. Each voter casts their decision on a voting machine, which can be reviewed by the voter before placing it in a box next to the machine. More than 50 percent of machines are chosen for random audit, which means that the receipt box is opened and tallies compared to the computer readout.

“What results is a multiparty system run by the dominant PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela). ...

“The PSUV’s position is buttressed by the people of Venezuela themselves. The government reports having built more than 3 million new housing units for the poor. On first glance, they seem like the sort of apartment complexes that one might find in suburban Houston. Not exactly mansions, but many thousand times better than the housing the poor might have found themselves in before, with bare brick walls and crumbling thatched roofs.

“Health care and education are free in Venezuela, with state universities offering degrees free of charge. In government housing sectors, you can often find schools and CLAP (Local Food Production and Provision Committees) centers within walking distance of one’s front door. Six million Venezuelans utilize the CLAP centers each month, receiving a box of food aid that includes rice, beans, cooking oil, pasta, canned meats, powdered milk and other items.

“The price of the box is subsidized, and nearly free under the illegal market’s exchange rates. This is one way that the Bolivarian Revolution

seeks to protect its people from sanctions, erratic exchange rates and hyperinflation.”

None of the coverage here on the recent assassination attempt has dealt with these strangling economic sanctions, imposed on Venezuela by the U.S. — in a clear effort to bring down the Bolivarian government. (The term “Bolivarian” refers to Venezuela’s efforts to free itself from U.S. domination, just as Simón Bolívar in the early 19th century fought to free Latin America from the grip of Spanish colonialism.) Nor do U.S. media report on the continuing assistance given by U.S. imperialism to the violent opposition within the country.

Sanctions, oil and the Petro

The Venezuelan economy for decades — starting long before the Bolivarian Revolution led by Hugo Chávez — has relied on oil sales to generate the currency for almost all its imports. Just a year ago, Washington sharply ramped up its sanctions, barring U.S. financial institutions from lending to Venezuela, freezing its funds in the international banking system and blocking payments to Venezuela through U.S.-controlled intermediaries.

This March, after the sanctions cut access to dollars, the Venezuelan government launched the Petro, a cryptocurrency based on shares of its vast reserves of oil, considered the largest in the world.

The Petro sparked international financial interest, and initial sales of the currency were reportedly worth 3.8 billion in U.S. dollars. In response, U.S. authorities barred U.S. citizens and firms from trading in Petros and, along with its European and Canadian allies, implemented a range of other sanctions.

Venezuela accused international financial institutions of then holding up the release of its state funds — money that had been earmarked for vital imports like food and medicine. As Maduro said, “The U.S. government is chasing every last dollar that we have in the world.”

McClatchy News reported on April 4: “The Trump administration is offering up lawyers and policy experts to Latin American governments to help them write new laws to make it easier to sanction Venezuelan officials and industries. ...

“Publicly, U.S. officials are asking for governments to do what they can to support U.S. efforts. But privately they’re pressing harder, bringing ambassadors together in Washington or dispatching diplomats across the region, to encourage allies to reform their laws aimed at ousting Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

“They’re urging Latin American leaders to join the United States, Canada and European allies who have worked together to starve the oil-dependent Caracas government of desperately needed cash.”

In an attempt to further paralyze the Venezuelan economy, more than 20 current and former Venezuelan government officials have been sanctioned, including Maduro, and the White House has barred U.S. banks from loaning Venezuela any money.

Switzerland, a supposedly neutral country that is a financial center for all the major imperialist banks, joined the U.S. in imposing sanctions on Venezuela, saying it was “seriously concerned” about “violations of individual freedom.”

The Swiss bankers have shown no such concern over Saudi Arabia’s domestic or external assaults on freedom, Israel’s genocidal treatment of Palestinians, the U.S. mass incarceration of Black and Brown people or the Trump administration’s ripping apart of im/migrant families.

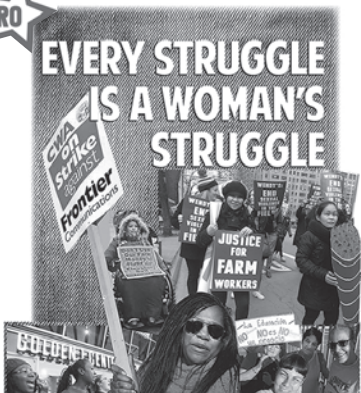
Who’s behind the suffering in Venezuela today? Not the former bus driver and union leader now in the presidency. The culprits are the imperialist world’s billionaires, starting with the hotel and golf course mogul in the White House. □

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Syria peace talks in Sochi make progress — without U.S.

By Karin Leukefeld

Without the participation of the U.S., other Western imperialist forces or the Gulf monarchies — all of whom have armed and funded forces carrying out the war in Syria and are responsible for the suffering there — the parties directly involved in the war in Syria held peace talks at the end of July. The talks indicate the success of the Damascus government in winning back control of most of the country. Leukefeld has been covering events in Syria for at least the past decade for the German daily newspaper Junge Welt, which published this article on Aug. 2. The translation is by Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

As July ended, the tenth Syria talks in Astana format [peace talks that started in Astana, Kazakhstan, in January 2017] took place in the Russian Black Sea city of Sochi. Those parties involved in the war in Syria discussed how a peace process could be set in motion. The meeting took place under the patronage of the guarantee powers: Russia, Iran and Turkey.

The agenda was set by Alexander Lavrentiev, the Russian president’s envoy to Syria, and by the U.N. Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura. Iran was represented by Hossein Dzhaheri Ansari, advisor to the Iranian Foreign Minister. Turkey sent its Astana representative, diplomat Sedat Onal. The Syrian delegation was led by the country’s U.N. Ambassador Bashar Al-Jafari.

Some opposition delegations and U.N. experts also attended. Neither the U.S. government nor the opposition National Coalition, supported by the West [U.S. and West European NATO powers] and the Gulf States, took part in the meeting.

For the guarantor powers, military,

practical and confidence-building measures were in the foreground. These included the situation in the Syrian province of Idlib, the return and support of internally displaced persons and refugees, the reconstruction of the civilian infrastructure, and the exchange of prisoners and the deceased. The political process will have to be shaped by the Syrians themselves.

De Mistura, on the other hand, emphasized the necessity of advancing constitutional reform. A commission is to meet in Geneva under his patronage. The Syrian government has already submitted a list with the names of 50 of its delegates. According to the West, another 100 people will each be nominated — half by the opposition [to the Damascus government] within Syria and half from abroad.

‘Transitional solution’ to end the fighting

The Astana talks — in which the Syrian government and the “more moderate” armed opposition groups are negotiating — have contributed significantly to calming the war in Syria since the beginning of 2017. De-escalation areas have been created, thousands of Syrian opposition fighters have laid down their weapons, and the Syrian Army has brought large parts of the country back under its control. Those who did not want to surrender their weapons were transported with relatives to Idlib or farther north in the country to areas controlled by Turkey.

This is, however, to be a “transitional solution.” Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad has made it clear that the whole country is to be brought back under control of the Syrian state. This expressly includes talks between Damascus and opposition groups.

A spokesperson for the U.S. State De-

partment stated that the U.S. would not attend the meeting in Sochi “as an observer or in any other official capacity.” Instead, Washington “continues to focus on negotiations under the auspices of the UN in Geneva,” the spokesperson said.

Maria Sakharova, spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry, called the U.S. absence “regrettable,” especially as Washington constantly assures the other parties that it wants to support the political process in Syria. That is exactly what the meeting in Sochi was about.

Moscow had repeatedly assured that this was not an “alternative to Geneva.” The U.S. government is trying to downplay the importance of the Astana format to make the mediation results achieved there seem unimportant and to prevent their implementation. This rejection is due to the U.S. failure to “bring Syria under its control,” Sakharova said. According to de Mistura, the U.N. Special Mediator for Syria who personally participated in the Sochi talks, this is a bad attitude.

A final declaration of Sochi was signed by the guarantors Russia, Iran and Turkey on July 31. It emphasizes a development in Syria in accordance with international law and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Battle against ‘terrorist groups’ in foreground

For the guarantor powers, the battle against the “Islamic state,” the Nusra Front and other groups listed by the U.N. Security Council as “terrorist groups” remains in the foreground. Separation of any territory and separatist aspirations are unanimously rejected, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country is reaffirmed, as is the “national

security of neighboring countries.”

The emphasis in the discussions is on support for a political process, which is to be led and determined by the Syrians. The Constitutional Commission should start its work in Geneva “as soon as possible.” The guarantors welcomed the “useful” talks with U.N. Special Representative for Syria, de Mistura. A new round of talks in Geneva is scheduled for this September.

The “international community,” in particular the U.N. organizations, was called upon to give more support to Syria. More efforts should be made to deliver humanitarian aid, mine clearance and the restoration of a basic civilian infrastructure. “Social and economic institutions” and the “preservation of the historical heritage” are expressly mentioned in the declaration.

All Syrians are to be helped to restore their normal, peaceful lives. To this end, more efforts will have to be made and discussions started with the mediation of the U.N. refugee assistance organization — UNHCR — and other “specialized international organizations.” The goal is to create the “necessary conditions” for a “safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their home areas in Syria.”

The guarantor powers undertook to work together to restore trust between the enemy sides. A working group is supervising the release of prisoners and hostages and the exchange and identification of those deceased. Experts from the U.N. and the International Committee of the Red Cross are to support that work. At a meeting of this working group on July 30, a “pilot project” was agreed upon. The next meeting following the Astana format is scheduled for November 2018. □

Aumenta solidaridad clasista para migrantes

Continúa de página 12

después de una protesta internacional.

Unas 600 personas, principalmente mujeres, fueron arrestadas el 28 de junio mientras ocupaban el Edificio de la Oficina del Senado en Washington. Las protestas coordinadas a nivel nacional tuvieron lugar en al menos 700 localidades el 30 de junio iniciadas por ‘Families Belong Together’.

Una delegación de Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere (FIRE) se unió a las manifestaciones en Brownsville y McAllen en la frontera de Texas/México. El FIRE y el Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero han protestado en muchas ciudades. Muchos piquetes y ocupaciones “¡Abolir ICE!” han tenido lugar en las instalaciones locales de la inhumana agencia. Se han enfrentado a funcionarios del gobierno en oficinas, restaurantes y en la calle.

Los migrantes detenidos organizaron una huelga de hambre en la Cámara de Corrección del Condado de Bristol en Massachusetts y se les unieron otros prisioneros en solidaridad. Las autoridades tomaron represalias, pero una manifestación en el exterior apoyó a los encarcelados. Las mujeres en las instalaciones de Port Isabel ICE en Texas ayunaron para forzar la recepción de llamadas telefónicas de sus hijas/os.

Organizaciones legales, humanitarias, de inmigrantes, defensoras y basadas en la fe y personas compasivas muestran solidaridad y ayudan a las/os migrantes. Algunos viajan a Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador para localizar a progenitoras/es que fueron deportados sin sus hijas/os y ofrecen asistencia legal.

Voluntarias/os simpatizantes - multinacionales, multi-generacionales, multi-género y de clase trabajadora - están ayudando en todo el país. Las mujeres están conduciendo a los progenitoras/es migrantes cientos de millas para reunirse con sus hijas/os. Hay personas paradas fuera de los centros de detención con dinero, comida, boletos de autobús y asistencia legal para las/os inmigrantes liberados. Se están llevando a cabo recaudaciones locales de fondos.

El Centro de Refugiados y de Inmigrantes para Servicios Educativos y Legales (RAICES, por sus siglas en inglés) en Texas está ofreciendo pagar la fianza para la liberación de mujeres inmigrantes detenidas, y está uniendo familias.

La tremenda oleada de apoyo a las/os inmigrantes muestra el vínculo de solidaridad entre las/os trabajadores de todas las nacionalidades. El poder de esa solidaridad existe como un hecho material en sus luchas compartidas contra la brutal opresión del capitalismo. □

WWP denounces illegal seizure of Oscar López Rivera

Aug. 7 — Workers World Party/Mundo Obrero (USA) denounces the seizure of the Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera today by the authorities in Panama. López Rivera was headed toward Bolivia, where he was to take part in the international seminar, “América en disputa” (Latin America in the Balance), starting today in the city of Santa Cruz. He was held in the airport in Panama and is to be deported to Puerto Rico, even though he was carrying a legitimate passport and had finished his term in the prisons of the United States.

We demand that López Rivera be released so he can attend the meeting.
— Larry Holmes, first secretary, Workers World Party/Mundo Obrero (USA)

Bulletin: After receiving protests, Panamanian authorities permitted López Rivera to continue his trip.



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL on U.S. Colonial Crimes in PUERTO RICO

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EDITORIAL MO/WW 4 de agosto 2018

Aumenta solidaridad clasista para migrantes

Por Kathy Durkin

La guerra racista de la administración Trump contra las/os inmigrantes continúa. Son detenidas/os y arrestadas/os en la frontera de Texas/México, así como a lo largo de los EUA. Cientos de niñas/os aún están separados de sus padres. Pero la resistencia continúa en las calles, fuera de las instalaciones de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas y en los tribunales.

La asistencia generosa a las familias migrantes proviene de organizaciones e individuos solidarias/os. Entienden que sus hermanas y hermanos de América Central están huyendo de situaciones desesperadas de violencia y pobreza extrema, y que nadie intentaría el peligroso viaje a EUA arriesgándose a un probable arresto, a menos que no vean otra solución a su difícil situación.

La Patrulla Fronteriza ha incautado a 2.551 niñas/os de sus progenitores en la frontera México/Texas desde el verano pasado, lo que se intensificó en la primavera. El 6 de abril, el fiscal general Jeff Sessions anunció una política de “tolerancia cero” para evitar que las/os inmigrantes crucen la frontera. El secuestro gubernamental de niñas/os se intensificó después del 7 de mayo, cuando Sessions dijo que todos las/os migrantes y solicitantes de asilo, incluso aquellas/os con hijas/os, serían procesados criminalmente y las familias podrían ser separadas en la frontera.

El 20 de junio, la Unión Estadounidense de Libertades Civiles [ACLU por siglas en inglés] presentó una demanda federal en California impugnando las separaciones familiares. La jueza federal Dana Sabraw dio al gobierno hasta el 26 de julio para reunir a todas/os los niños migrantes con sus progenitoras/es.

El 27 de julio, la ACLU refutó el reclamo del gobierno en documentos judiciales de que había cumplido con el “plazo del 26 de julio ordenado por el tribunal para reunir a las/os niños que injustamente separaron de sus padres”. Pero no lo hizo ... cientos de niñas/os no se unieron. Unas/os 463 padres y madres fueron deportadas/os sin sus hijas/os, y el gobierno ni siquiera está tratando de juntarles”. (Tinyurl.com/yan2vb42)

El gobierno no dio a la ACLU las listas de quienes enfrentan una deportación inminente. Según la ACLU, las autoridades afirman que “deportarán inmediatamente a todos los padres que tengan órdenes finales de deportación una vez que se reúnan ... aunque erróneamente muchos de esos padres hayan abandonado sus solicitudes de asilo”.

Círculo vicioso: Progenitoras/es deportados, niñas/os bajo custodia EUA

El 27 de julio, el gobierno dijo que 711 niñas/os eran “inelegibles” para la reunificación, ipero inmigración ya había deportado a más de 400 de sus padres! La jueza Sabraw dijo que el gobierno era “culpable” de deportar a las/os progenitores mientras sus hijas/os estaban bajo custodia y por no tener un plan de reunificación. Ordenó que el gobierno proporcione información antes del 1 de agosto

sobre todos los padres deportados, los desaparecidos en EUA y otras/os considerados “inelegibles” para que todas/os puedan reunirse rápidamente.

La ACLU dice que el gobierno reclamó que 206 progenitoras/es renunciaron a su derecho de reunificación con sus hijas/os al firmar renuncias o consentir verbalmente. La mayoría de ellas/os enfrenta una deportación inmediata. Muchos progenitoras/es quieren que sus hijas/os regresen, pero no sabían que habían renunciado a su derecho a reunificarse. Según se informa, los agentes fronterizos coaccionaron, presionaron, engañaron y mintieron para que madres y padres firmaran las exenciones. Los formularios no estaban disponibles en sus idiomas nativos; algunos progenitoras/es no sabían lo que firmaban.

Las/os progenitores también fueron presionados para firmar apresuradamente los formularios de deportación y se les informó que verían a sus hijas/os más rápido si lo hacían, y que esta era la única forma en que los verían. El gobierno dice que 1.000 familias reunidas enfrentan una deportación inmediata.

La ACLU promete conseguir abogados para encontrar a progenitoras/es desaparecidos y brindarles ayuda legal. Una gran cantidad de demandas están en marcha a nombre de las/os adultos y niñas/os migrantes.

Efrén C. Olivares, director del Proyecto de Derechos Civiles de Texas, dijo: “El gobierno desea que el público crea que cumplió con éxito la fecha límite del 26 de julio; nada podría estar más lejos de la verdad”. (New York Times, 28 de julio)

Muchos progenitoras/es y niñas/os están en “limbo legal”. Algunas/os esperan días para reunirse, se los envía al lugar equivocado o incluso se reúnen con la niña o niño equivocado. El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos no revela las ubicaciones de las/os niños o transmite información errónea.

Ahora el ICE está tratando de obligar a las familias recién reunidas a retirar solicitudes para que sus hijas/os permanezcan en EUA, informó Vox el 29 de julio. Cuando las/os progenitores no cedieron, los agentes de ICE les gritaron, rechazaron sus pedidos y/o los separaron de sus hijas/os por segunda vez.

Las agencias federales están prohibiendo que las/os deportados regresen a EUA para conseguir a sus hijos, y chequearán a las/os progenitoras/es antes de enviar a sus hijas/os a su tierra natal.

Impactante abuso de niñas/os

Uno de los peores crímenes del gobierno EUA es el maltrato de niñas/os en centros de detención y centros de procesamiento fronterizo. Las/os abogados, trabajadores de salud y otras/os, informan de agua inadecuada; comida podrida; y falta de colchas en temperaturas frías. Algunas/os niños fueron alojados en jaulas. Algunas/os ni se bañaron. Un padre dijo que su niño pequeño regresó con piojos. En muchas instalaciones, a las/os cuidadores adultos se les prohíbe abrazar a las/os niños para consolarles.

También hay abuso sexual. El sitio web

Mientras el mercado de valores y las ganancias se disparan, también lo hace el costo de la vivienda en EUA. Se ha producido una transformación en las principales ciudades (San Francisco, Filadelfia, Washington, DC y Nueva York son solo algunos ejemplos) ya que las viviendas de alquiler a precios razonables se demueñen o se renuevan para proporcionar cooperativas de lujo y condominios para los nuevos ricos y/o los ricos establecidos que se mudan desde los suburbios o disfrutan de residencias tanto en la ciudad como en el campo.

La elección de un presidente cuya fortuna personal proviene de bienes inmuebles, aunque dice que se preocupa por las/os trabajadores, solo ha acelerado el proceso.

Las organizaciones de inquilinos luchan contra una marea de riqueza que amenaza con absorberlas.

Y la riqueza crece tanto como la pobreza. Pero no porque las/os pobres sean “demasiado vagos para trabajar”. Todo lo contrario. Según la Coalición Nacional para las Personas sin Hogar, en el 2009, hasta el 44 por ciento de las personas sin hogar tenían trabajo, pero el salario era tan bajo que no podían costear ni siquiera las viviendas más baratas. Desde entonces, solo ha empeorado.

Ese mismo año, la Coalición Nacional de Vivienda de Bajos Ingresos calculó que un trabajador/a con salario mínimo “tendría que trabajar 87 horas cada semana para pagar un apartamento de dos habitaciones al 30 por ciento de sus ingresos, que es la definición federal de vivienda asequible”.

¡Trabajar 87 horas cada semana! Eso es más que DOS VECES la semana de 40 horas, que una vez fuera el estándar. ¿Alguien recuerda cómo era trabajar ocho horas, dormir ocho horas, vivir una vida durante ocho horas y ser capaz de disfrutar los fines de semana?

Para trabajar 87 horas a la semana, hay que trabajar 16 horas cada día de la semana, lo que significa dormir cinco horas, tener tres horas para viajar hacia y desde su trabajo y comer algo sobre la marcha, luego trabajar esas siete horas adicionales el sábado - y colapsar el domingo. A menos que se tenga que trabajar en ese momento, lo cual es cada vez más probable, especialmente en los trabajos de ven-

de The Nation informa que una niña de seis años, separada de su madre, fue abusada sexualmente por un niño mayor en un centro de detención de Southwest Key en Arizona. Escandalosamente, esta niña tuvo que firmar un formulario diciendo que era su responsabilidad mantenerse alejada del abusador y “mantener los límites apropiados”.

Las/os niños sufren de ansiedad, depresión y abandono. Algunas/os proyectan su angustia y enojo hacia sus progenitoras/es. Algunas/os progenitores han dicho que tras la reunificación, sus hijas/os no les reconocen o no les hablan o no se dejan abrazar. Algunas/os jóvenes sufrirán daño psicológico a largo plazo y

ta minorista y de servicio de alimentos con salarios bajos.

No es de extrañar que la falta de vivienda esté creciendo, junto con la riqueza obscena en el tope.

¿Qué pasa con las/os desplazados? Una encuesta en 2017 mostró que en una noche cualquiera en este país rico, más de medio millón de personas, 544.000, no tenían hogar, no tenían dónde dormir sino debajo de puentes, en callejones o en refugios atestados de personas sin hogar.

Muchas mujeres con niñas/os no tienen hogar, algunas para escapar del abuso. También lo son las personas con problemas físicos, mentales y emocionales. Y como estar sin hogar solo agrava estas afecciones, muchas terminan en las salas de emergencia de los hospitales.

Hace un siglo y medio, el desarrollo del capitalismo y el triunfo de la fabricación a gran escala sobre las industrias caseras en gran parte de Europa y América del Norte aumentaron enormemente la productividad del trabajo. Hoy en día, un trabajador/a puede producir cien veces más, ya sea textiles, acero o casas, con la nueva tecnología. Una casa de cuatro habitaciones parcialmente prefabricada y bien diseñada hoy se puede ensamblar y terminar en un mes.

Esa es la ventaja del desarrollo capitalista. Pero la desventaja de un sistema económico basado en las ganancias y el trabajo explotado es la degradación total de la vida del trabajador/a.

Frederick Engels, el colaborador más cercano de Karl Marx, escribió en 1872 sobre cómo la burguesía resuelve la cuestión de la vivienda:

“Los criaderos de enfermedades, los infames hoyos y sótanos en los que el modo de producción capitalista confina a nuestras/os trabajadoras/os noche tras noche, no son abolidos; simplemente se desplazan a otra parte! ... Mientras el modo de producción capitalista continúe existiendo, es una locura esperar una solución aislada de la cuestión de la vivienda o de cualquier otra cuestión social que afecte el destino de las/os trabajadoras/os.

“La solución está en la abolición del modo de producción capitalista y la apropiación de todos los medios de vida y trabajo por parte de la clase trabajadora misma”.

Amén, camarada Freddy. □

trastorno de estrés postraumático. El dolor emocional y la angustia también afectan a las/os progenitores cuando son detenidos; y a aquellas/os que se ocupan de las/os niños traumatizados después de la reunificación.

Solidaridad, resistencia y asistencia

Desde la separación de las familias de migrantes en la primavera, ha habido una oposición activa. Una oleada de resistencia surgió en contra de las políticas inhumanas del gobierno de Trump. El presidente tuvo que retirar públicamente la práctica de separación familiar el 20 de junio

Continúa a página 11