By Workers World Staff

The weekend of Aug. 11-12, the first anniversary of last year’s deadly march by neo-Nazis and hooded Klan members in Charlottesville, Va., confirmed one thing: These fascists don’t control the streets — no way.

Instead, large rallies, marches and protests by progressive forces in both Washington, D.C., and Charlottesville owned the day.

The “alt-right,” as the violent white supremacists are euphemistically called, were encouraged by the racist, misogynist, anti-immigrant Trump presidency to climb out of their klaverns last year and show themselves in public in Charlottesville in an armed torchlight parade carrying fascist symbols.

Even after one of them, at the end of the rally, plowed through a crowd of people with his car, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer, Trump at first refused to condemn them, referring to “hatred, violence and bigotry on many sides.” Only after a storm of protest did he reluctantly amend that and mention racism.

This year, calling themselves “Unite the Right,” the organizers applied for a permit to rally in D.C. on Aug. 12 at Lafayette Square. They estimated that 400 people would attend, including former KKK Grand Dragon David Duke.

On the day, barely two dozen fascists showed up. Only a huge police presence saved them from the anger of the thousands who turned out to stop them. According to ABC10 news, “Unite the Right rally participants said other members were ‘scared’ to attend the rally in D.C., making the group of about 30 vastly outnumbered by the thousands of counter-protesters surrounding the area.”

Earlier, when the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority announced it would close down gates to the general public and let the fascists take special trains to the rally, the system’s largest union, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, refused to go along. The WMATA then publicly rescinded its offer of special trains for the fascists. But on the day it went ahead anyway and closed down gates to the general public, prompting charges from the union that the agency had lied.

While the openly Nazi and white supremacist forces may now be afraid to take to the streets, that doesn’t mean they have been defeated. On the contrary, they are not only in their klaverns and death cults, but many wear the uniforms of local police and Border Patrol.

The slogan “Cops and the Klan work hand in hand” is still valid. And the far-right Trump appointees now in charge of so many federal agencies — like the notorious

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Elizabeth Ramos, wheelchair user and disability rights fighter
Murdered by power failure in Brooklyn

By the New York Disabilities Bureau of Workers World Party

Elizabeth Ramos, 56, beloved activist in the disability community, died early Sunday morning, July 29. She did not die as a result of her disability nor of old age. She died because there was a 5-hour power outage in the Spring Creek Towers housing development where she lived on the 16th floor.

Formerly Starrett City, the Towers is a complex of nearly 60 buildings and 15,000 residents, the largest federally subsidized rental development in the U.S. Ramos, a wheelchair user since the age of 12 due to scoliosis (curvature of the spine), also had the disability of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), which is chronic bronchitis and emphysema. She had been on a respirator since she was 13.

The apartment electricity went out at 5 a.m., and Ramos’ respirator ran only on electrical power. Daughter Ashley Ramos said she immediately tried to help her mother with oxygen from backup tanks, but her mother passed out. The family performed CPR and called 911.

Ashley said when she told the 911 operator that her mother was a wheelchair user, she was cruelly admonished to “calm down.” Medical help took so long to arrive, her mother was dead by the time it came. The family disputes the New York City Fire Department’s adversarial claim that Ramos died of causes other than the power failure.

According to her family, Ramos often worried, after being denied use of a backup generator by building managers, about what would happen during a power outage. The building complex, which operates its own power plant, has experienced many power outages.

A tireless fighter for access and disability rights

Elizabeth Ramos was most known for her efforts to expand accessible transportation services for people with disabilities. Ramos served as a board member for the pioneering advocacy group, Disabled in Action; participated in advocacy work at the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled; and was a member of Independence Care System. She actively participated in the current effort to stop New York Gov. Cuomo’s plan to dismantle ICES, an excellent health insurance program allowing people with disabilities to live independent lives and not be forced into institutions.

“Elizabeth Ramos was a tireless disability rights advocate and pillar of our community,” said commissioner and wheelchair user Victor Calise of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency. “She showed up, leaving her no viable access to transportation. There was no level of service, response time or convenience available to her, in contrast to able-bodied passengers seeking on-demand transportation.

On July 29, 2018, she died suit in Brooklyn Supreme Court under New York City and New York State human rights laws to get the Uber taxi app classified as a public accommodation like taxis.

Ramos was featured in the Daily News then about Uber’s lack of accessible taxis: “[Uber] not having accessible taxis is deflects the purpose for people like myself, for people in a wheelchair, to live a normal life.”

On June 6, Ramos won a partial legal victory in her suit. A Brooklyn judge ruled Uber could no longer use the mandatory arbitration clause in its passenger contracts to force customers to accept private dispute arbitration, instead of exercising their right to take legal claims to court.

Ramos vowed: “I am not going to stop until we can get to the app and get a ride as quickly as everyone else.”

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigen- dered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope in the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

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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 binged on a regular basis. WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should re- main in their hands, not stolen in the form of capital- ist profits. The wealthy workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guar- antee 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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Announced on Aug. 7, the Biden administration filed a lawsuit challenging this policy on Aug. 7 on behalf of several immigrant plaintiffs, with the aim of ending the policy altogether. The lawsuit was filed in the District of Columbia, and the government officials and immigration agencies have been no help in reuniting families — the rest are separated for other reasons. Finding the parents has been a Herculean task because government lawyers admitted that they had no plan to do so. The U.S. government is not searching for deportees. But volunteers and contacts for the ACLU and other legal, immigrant and humanitarian organizations are working with allies in Central America to do the arduous, but crucial work, to find the parents.

‘Turn the plane around’

Defying established laws and policies, the U.S. government is callously rubbing to deport immigrants at the southern border, no matter their desperate circumstances. Xenophobe Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued new rules in June denying asylum to individuals fleeing domestic and/or gang violence. This flies U.S. and international law, which recognizes gender-based persecution as grounds for granting asylum. Federal courts have also permitted asylum for people fleeing gay violence. Saskatchewan Attorney General Ralph Goodale, in court, two plaintiffs, a woman who had fled horrific spousal abuse, and her daughter, a target of gang threats, were granted asylum, as were 26 other Canadians. Although U.S. border interviewers found their stories believable, they still denied these two refugees asylum.

Outraged, District of Columbia Dis- trict Judge Emmet Sullivan ordered the government to “turn the plane around.” If this was not done, the judge threatened “contempt proceedings” against Sessions and the heads of federal agencies in charge of immigration. The plane returned the two to the U.S. that night. The judge then blocked the deportation of all plaintiffs while the lawsuit is underway. (The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies and the ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging this policy on Aug. 7 on behalf of several immigrant plaintiffs, with the aim of ending the policy altogether. The lawsuit was filed in the District of Columbia, and the government officials and immigration agencies have been no help in reuniting families — the rest are separated for other reasons. Finding the parents has been a Herculean task because government lawyers admitted that they had no plan to do so. The U.S. government is not searching for deportees. But volunteers and contacts for the ACLU and other legal, immigrant and humanitarian organizations are working with allies in Central America to do the arduous, but crucial work, to find the parents.

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On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

D.C. transit union refuses to work on Nazi-only trains

After neo-Nazi decided to commemorate last year’s Unite the Right march in Charlottesville, Va., with an Aug. 12 march this year in Washington, D.C., it was leaked that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority would coddle the Nazis with private cars. But Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 immediately fought back. Local President Jackie Jeter said in a statement, “More than 80% of Local 689’s membership are people of color, the very people that the Ku Klux Klan and other white nationalist groups have killed, harassed and violated. The union will not play a role in their special accommodation.” (Washington Post, Aug. 3.) The statement went viral, and WAMATA responded Aug. 4, that it was canceling the special train.

JetBlue pilots sign first contract

JetBlue Airways Corp.’s 3,037 pilots approved the first labor contract in the carrier’s history by 74 percent of those voting, announced the Air Line Pilots Association on July 27. The agreement, which took more than three years of negotiations, “provides significant pay increases, improvements to retention and improved working conditions,” said ALPA President Tim Canoll. This is JetBlue’s first labor agreement since its founding in 1998.

Meanwhile, the company’s flight attendants voted this spring to join the Transport Workers Union, after two previous attempts failed. “This agreement is a victory for our inflight members’ bargaining rights and is a victory for the union movement in the airline industry,” said TWU President Bill de Blasio. “This is JetBlue’s first labor agreement since its founding in 1998.

Chicago window washers win historic raise

About 260 Chicago window washers — who struck for over a month after their contract expired June 30 — won a historic 27 percent wage hike! This raises the pay of a seasoned window washer earns from $21 an hour to $262 over the life of the new five-year contract. An essential demand for these high-risk workers was also met: their life insurance was doubled from $50,000 to $100,000. (Chicago Sun Times, July 27) The union overwhemingly ratified the contract. Washer Cruz Guzman cheered, “We put our livelihood on the line and won the biggest wage increase for Chicago window washers in Local 1 history.

The bosses at Corporate Cleaning and Service 1, two of the six companies that employ the washers in the city’s downtown buildings, tried to beat the mainly Latinx workers down. The companies threatened that they’d go bankrupt, though they enjoy massive tax breaks. But the workers, represented by Service Employees International Local 1, fought back. They dressed up like superheroes and stopped traffic to bring attention to their low wages. (WW, July 10)

Disneyland theme park workers win $15 an hour by 2019

The 9,700 workers at Disneyland Park, Disney California Adventure Park and Downtown Disney, represented by four labor unions in the Master Services Council, ratified a new contract on July 26. (For background, see Workers World article, May 28.) Disneyland Resort officials agreed to a minimum wage increase of $1 an hour per year across two years of the agreement. This will put cast members at $15 per hour by 2019, which will be one of the highest minimum wages in the country and three years ahead of the state’s minimum wage standard.

A full-time cast member who currently earns $11 an hour would earn an additional $8,000 per year. Minimum rates for hourly cast members will increase by 20 percent immediately from the current minimum rate of $11 to a new minimum rate of $13.45. Even though Disneyland Resort points to the numbering agreement as recognizing the value of its cast members, it took a well-organized union fightback campaign of many months to end poverty wages. (DisneylandNews.com, July 29)

### Missouri voters push back anti-union offensive

By Martha Grevatt

Tuesday, Aug. 7, was an election day in five states, mostly primaries or special elections. The most newsworthy vote, however, did not interest candidates for office.

On that day, voters in Missouri overturned union-busting “right-to-work” (for less!) legislation — by a 2-to-1 margin. Unions won “union security” clauses in contracts that made every worker they represented a dues-paying member. In order to weaken organized labor, the U.S. Congress passed the 1947 Taft-Hartley law that has allowed states to ban union shops.

In the last six years, six states — Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin and, most recently, Missouri — have joined mostly Southern states in passing “right-to-work” legislation. Missouri became the 28th state in the country to take this union-busting approach when then-Gov. Eric Greitens signed the legislature’s bill into law in February 2017.

By making union membership optional, this kind of legislation ensures less pressure at the bargaining table. As a result, RTW states have lower average wages, more uninsured workers and higher rates of on-the-job injuries and deaths.

Under RTW, it is illegal to require an employee to be a member of a union, but perfectly legal to make low wages, mandatory overtime, lack of health benefits, supervisor abuse and a whole host of injustices a condition of employment. As the saying goes, “If you don’t like it, there’s the door.”

A union army fights back

Unions in Missouri fought back. An army of over 100,000 workers spread out across the state to collect the 100,000 minimum number of signatures needed to put RTW up for a statewide vote. Over 300,000 signatures were actually collected. After getting the issue on the ballot, union members continued their tireless efforts with phone banking and door knockers.

The Missouri effort paralleled the successful defeat of Senate Bill 5 in Ohio in 2012. That bill would have banned collective bargaining for public workers, going even further than a similar bill in Wisconsin that contained an exception for police and firefighters. In Ohio, the union membership collected a trillion signature — almost five times the legal requirement — and defeated SB5 handily. Ohio is still not a RTW state.

Missouri’s Greitens, who resigned in June as governor after an extravagant affair in which he photographed a woman nude without her consent, nevertheless campaigned to keep RTW through a shadow group, A New Missouri. Right-wing, corporate-backed, anti-union organizations spent millions to convince workers that they would save a bundle of money by not having to pay union dues. But they were outspent by labor and were crushed at the polls.

Of the state’s 114 counties, 100 voted down RTW. In St. Louis, the vote was 88 percent “no.” A majority of the city’s residents are people of color. When workers have unions, racist and sexist inequality is reduced. While all workers need to organize to make more money than non-union workers, the benefit is greatest for workers of color and women. Also, for LGBTQ workers, a union contract is often their only legal defense against discrimination in states where laws do not protect them.

The pushback by the unions, involving millions of members across levels, caused a rout after the reactionary U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Janus v. AFSCME. The high court ruled on June 27 that public sector unions could no longer require nonmembers, whom they are legally obligated to represent, to pay a “fair share” fee in lieu of union dues. This effectively made every state in the country “right-to-work” for public sector employees.

After the Janus ruling, statements from various unions made it clear that they were not throwing in the towel and letting anti-union forces have their way without a fight. In Mis- souri, labor won this round.

Union members must dump Trump and dump racism

Commentators in the media are quick to point out that this union win happened in a state that went overwhelmingly for Trump in 2016. The vote was a setback for Trump, who is at war with the labor movement. His attitude was made clear most recently with a series of punishing executive orders aimed at unions such as the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents federal workers.

Yet some workers who voted against RTW in Missouri are still supporting Trump. Reasons given reveal backward attitudes toward migrants and the Black Lives Matter movement. It was the rebellion in Ferguson, Mo., after the racist police killing of Mike Brown, that gave impetus to an upsurge in the BLM movement nationwide. (Washington Post, Aug. 10)

Black Lives Matter is absolutely a union issue. Mike Brown’s mother Lesley McSpadden is a union activist in the Food and Commercial Workers union. Philando Castle, killed by cops in Minneapolis, was a Teamster. Jovan Fresco, killed by security guards in Rockford, Ill., was the son of a United Auto Workers Fiat Chrysler worker.

Racism is the number one tool that the bosses use to divide the working class. If union members want to give real meaning to this victory in Missouri, they must dump Trump — and the systemic racism and bigotry he epitomizes — and work to build classwide solidarity.
Solidarity underway with prison strikers

By Dianne Mathiowitz

Atlanta organizations responded to a call from the Workers World Party branch here to work cooperatively in support of the 2018 National Prison Strike. Beginning Aug. 21 and continuing to Sept. 19, prisoners in state institutions and for-profit prison facilities across the U.S. are expected to conduct a series of work stoppages and hunger strikes to bring attention to their demands.

Among the issues driving them to take the risk of severe repression are demands to be paid for their labor; immediate improvements in their living conditions, such as decent food and medical care, access to rehabilitation programs and education; and an end to brutality at the hands of guards.

The first Atlanta support event is a pre-strike cookout on Aug. 18 to reach out to families of prisoners and formerly incarcerated people in an expression of solidarity. When a father, mother, sibling or child is imprisoned, the chains of incarceration wrap around the family and strangle the community.

Women on the Rise, an organization of formerly incarcerated women of color, are key organizers of this gathering, and will be bringing their members and contacts to the neighborhood Westside Park for food, music and socializing.

On Aug. 21, the first day of the strike and the date of the murder of famed Black Panther organizer George Jackson, the coalition will direct messages of solidarity through words, music, poetry and drumming to those caged in the Atlanta City Detention Center.

The ADCC is already the target of grassroots organizers demanng an end to its contract with Black Panther Party leader George Jackson’s, the coalition will direct messages of solidarity through words, music, poetry and drumming to those caged in the Atlanta City Detention Center.

The ADCC is already the target of grassroots organizers demanding an end to its contract with the private prison companies, GEO Group and CoreCivic.

An Atlantic City, N.J., prison mailroom intercepted and confiscated hundreds of health and safety violations in its maximum security facility near Buffalo, N.Y., began Sept. 9, 1971.

The organizations taking part in the coalition keep growing and, in addition to Workers World Party, include Georgia Detention Watch, World Without Police, the New Jim Crow Action Group, Uplifting People, the Industrial Workers of the World, Black Lives Matter, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Food Not Bombs and The Tear Down.

Lucassville Uprising

Death row prisoner’s hunger strike

Death row defendant Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan continues his hunger strike on July 21 in the supermax Ohio State Penitentiary, remains on hunger strike. Twenty-five years ago, the Lucasville prison rebellion, Imam Hasan, Keith Lamar, Namen Mateen, George Skatres and Jason Robb are still imprisoned and under death sentence. Most of these five attempted to negotiate during the uprising and helped prevent additional loss of life.

The 1993 Lucasville Uprising took place at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility where incarcerated people were struggling with overcrowding; guard violence and guard-instigated, inmate-on-inmate violence; poor sanitation, food and health care; and limits on how they could talk to loved ones by phone. (For more background, seetinyurl.com/y7pogrsc.)

Twenty-five years later, these issues are the same ones highlighted in the upcoming National Prison Strike, called by incarcerated people for Aug. 21 through Sept. 9. The dates mark the state killing of Black Panther organizer George Jackson, in California; a California prison riot; and the Attica Prison uprising in New York state. (See “Prisoners call for national strike,” Workers World, July 29).

Imam Hasan. To participate in “phone zap” actions for the Imam, go to tinylr.com/yidhaqksen. (Young, see Ohio — Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan has been refusing food since the morning of July 28 in protest of a conduct report and new restrictions on his confinement. A conduct report is a summary of an alleged violation committed by a prisoner. (A copy of the report is available at tinylr.com/y7ypogras.)

“The charges against the Imam include rioting or participating in a riot — though no riot occurred. The conduct report will be reviewed by a Serious Misconduct Panel, which will then make recommendations to the Chief of the Bureau of Classification, Brian Wittrup. However, Brian Wittrup is also the author of the conduct report. “This is the equivalent of a prosecutor first arguing a case, and then putting on a judge’s robes to determine the sentence,” said Ben Turk, a supporter named in the conduct report who will testify before the panel. There can be no justice in such an arrangement.

“The conduct report primarily stems from Turk attempting to send publicly available documents about the upcoming national prison strike to Imam Hasan. The prison mailroom intercepted and confiscated the paper copy of these documents, but not the copy sent through the JPay email system. (A copy of the seized material is available at tinylr.com/y7ypogrm.)

“IImam Hasan has stated he regards the Trump administration’s attempts to pass Prison Reform Amendments, as well as that of his supporters. He intends to pursue remedy through the courts. A determined human rights advocate, Hasan has engaged in many hunger strikes over his years at the supermax prison. His commitment to justice and the assertion of his rights in this matter is strong.

“Supporters encourage people to protest the Imam’s treatment by calling Director Gary Dill, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 644-387-0588.”

Children held by racist border policies

Continued from page 3

fer while they’re apart, but when reunited are often depressed, anxious, distant, fearful and angry. Many suffer long-term psychological damage.

Journalists, photographers, lawyers and others have not been allowed into facilities to see the conditions of children’s confinement. Reports have circulated of children kept in cages, forced to work, neglected and physically and sexually abused. At Southwest Key facilities, three minors have been sexually abused by an older detainee or employee. The Trump administration is paying the company $438 million this year to house child migrants in its 26 U.S. facilities. The Nation reported on July 27 that Southwest Key Prison, headquartered in Phoenix, has hundreds of health and safety violations in its Texas facilities over the last three years.

U.S. prison reform advocates, immigration enforcement officials on July 30 to stop giving psychotropic medications at the Shiloh Residential Treatment Center in Mansel, Texas, to migrant children without their parents’ permission. (Washington Post, July 31.) She ordered all children removed from the locked, super-secure facility unless they would harm themselves or others. Children testified about being daily dosed with Shiloh with drugs and witness- ing other children being forcibly medicat- ing, rendering them unable to walk, and being denied phone calls and drinking water — and then brutalized if they tried to access water. Yet the government still continues with this notorious facility to house migrant children, despite its his- tory of child mistreatment. In December 2014, Texas Rep. Shirley Jackson Lee tried to get Shiloh closed due to forcible drugging, physical abuse and death of minor children, based on Houston Chronicle reports. As of Aug. 8, 28 mi- grant children remain there.

Shiloh is one of a network of for-profit prison companies, GEO Group and CoreCivic.

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Shiloh is one of a network of for-profit prison companies, GEO Group and CoreCivic.
Trump, the Pentagon and the establishment

By Fred Goldstein

Aug. 11 — The latest round of U.S. sanc-
tions on Russia illustrate how the Pen-
tagon and its allies in the capitalist gov-
ernment are moving independently of the U.S. president to undermine his personal diplomacy in conflict with the mil-
itary's goals.

For reasons that are a matter of much speculation, Trump has sought to roll back the U.S. corporate press policy to include a rapprochement with Russia. He has done this since he began his election cam-
paign. This attempt at realignment was expressed dramatically at the Trump-Pu-
 tin Helsinki summit in July.

Make no mistake, Donald Trump is no partisian of peace. He is bellicose, belliger-
ent and an impulsive warmonger when it suits him. He is a bully in international re-
lations as well as an authoritarian promot-
er of Ölertism and a puppetry at home.

Pentagon feeds war machine

Trump has done much to feed the Pen-
tagon war machine. He has given the brass record budget increases, with the 2019 military budget officially topping $716 billion.

In short, he has done everything to keep the military-industrial complex satisfied and on board with his administration.

The increase in military spending is one of the largest in modern U.S. histo-

ry, jumping by 9.3 percent from 2017 to 2019," according to Todd Harrison, direc-
tor of defense budget analysis at the Cen-
ter for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank." (Washington Post, June 10)

This marks an increase of $83 billion just in the past four years.

Meanwhile, the masses of people are losing their health care, their child care, their food stamps and their housing while suffering from poverty, joblessness and underemployment. But Lockheed Mar-
 tin, Boeing, Raytheon, United Technolo-
gies, Northrop Grumman and other mer-
chants of death are binging on profits.

Pentagon still dominates U.S. politics

Perhaps Trump thought his generosity to the generals and admirals would keep the Pentagon and the high command in sync with his personalized diplomacy. Not so.

As for softening toward Russia, the Pentagon is having none of this. The mil-
itary-industrial complex controlled by the administration, National Security Ad-
visor John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have subverted Trump's person-
el diplomacy.

For example, Pompeo and the State De-
partment just recently notified Congress that the administration considers Russia behind the poisoning of two former Russian-
spies in England with a chemical agent last March — six months ago!

Washington claims that Moscow vio-
lated the Chemical and Biological Weap-
on Convention and the Hyde-Forbes “Elimination Act” of 1991. This is the act that U.S. imperi-
alisim used against Syria and the Demo-
cratic People’s Republic of Korea and normalizing relations with Russia.

The sanctions imposed on Russia in-
fluence hundreds of millions of dollars on services to Russia's defense establishments that could hypothetically be used for military pur-
poses. More draconian sanctions, deny-
ing Russian access to U.S. markets if it tries to use its arsenal of chemical weapons — a charge that Moscow vigorously — will be in-
picted in 90 days.

DPRK-Trump agreement sabotaged

Trump has seized on the diplomatic overtures of Kim Jong Un, head of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and of the Workers’ Party of Korea. Kim tried to defuse the crisis on the Korean Peninsula and to meet with Dém-
achurization. Trump accepted the invitation and promoted a bilateral summit meeting held in Singapore on June 12.

This was a “landmark” meeting that set the stage for the US to move to demide-

cratization. But what you may not be aware of is that our purpose

isolate for 1,000 years. This is the act that U.S. imperi-
alisim sought to achieve through sanctions against Russia’s energy sector.

In addition to spending $300 billion over the past four years, the U.S. military has spent $176 billion to build a “global power projection platform” during the Trump administration.

Trump, Marxist and the state

Marxist analysis is needed to untangle the complicated political relations inside the Trump administration and with Con-
gress. According to Marx, the capitalist government is the executive committee of the ruling class.

The corporate press is the buffer class. But that executive committee is by no means politically ho-

mogeneous or unified. In fact, the greater the crisis in imperialism and capitalism, the greater the divisions among the ruling class.

The pentagon's presidency itself is a reflection of the crisis of capitalism. Even though he has not been defeated by any mass movement, entire political rise was based upon the personal demoralization of a section of the establishment, including the failed attempt to completely take over Ukraine in 2014. His election is part of a widespread racist, anti-im/migrant wave generated across the capitalist world, including Europe.

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According to Marx, the capitalist government is the executive committee of the ruling class. That truth still holds. But that executive committee is by no means politically homogeneous or unified. In fact, the greater the crisis in imperialism and capitalism, the greater the divisions within the government and within the state itself.

In Charlottesville, Washington D.C.: *Victory for anti-racists*

Continued from page 1

torturer Gina Haspel, director of the CIA?

The crisis stems further from the ruling class's insatiable thirst for profit and the resultant growing inequality and grinding poverty of the masses in the U.S. These masses are the ultimate social base of imperialism, a base that is eroded with every tax cut for the rich, every attack on social services, every act of racist police brutality and mass incarceration. The ruling-class parasites are desperate to suck every last nickel of profit out of the masses as their system declines.

Both views of the crisis, Trump's and that of the broader capitalist ruling class, are false. Capitalism has no solution to its profound crisis.

Workers.org Aug. 16, 2018
Trump nominated Kavanaugh to overturn legal abortion

By Sue Davis

One of President Donald Trump’s most fervent — and contentious — vows on the campaign trail was that he would appoint justices who would dismantle Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruling that established the right to legal abortion 45 years ago.

That followed through in June when he confirmed the conservative majority affirming the so-called First Amendment rights of workers, faith-based groups and commercial employers to discriminate against women, often women of color, into keeping unplanned pregnancies.

Trump’s second nominee to the court is Judge Brett Kavanaugh, whose position on abortion and other women’s health issues is of primary concern, especially to the 57 percent of the population who support women’s access to legal abortion.

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll in June, 81 percent of Democratic registered voters, 71 percent of Independents and 43 percent of Republicans do not want Roe v. Wade overturned.

Women of reproductive age (18-44), 74 percent of registered voters, 71 percent of Independents and 69 percent of Republicans do not want Roe v. Wade overturned. Among working people, but especially immigrant women, often women of color, into keeping unplanned pregnancies.

The university’s decision comes at a time when abortion would be overwhelmingly available, if she does not want to carry her rapist’s child, to term, our nation must affirm her autonomy because our laws are her last resort. But just under Kavanaugh’s vi- sion … of tradition and conscience, wom- en wouldn’t have that last resort.

Instead a woman’s ability to get repro- ductive health care would overwhelm- ingly depend … on whether she could afford it, and therefore disproportionately on race and zip code as well. The only way to stop this is for people to take ac- tion.

That’s what’s needed to counter the “shock-and-awe” campaign that anti-abortion groups told The Daily Beast about on Aug. 2. Motivated by what they consider a “once-in-a-generation chance to end legal abortion,” groups like the so-called Pro-Life Action League and Ameri- cans United for Life are organizing more public relations blitzes, swing- state field operations, targeted advertis- ing of wrenching graphic videos of amniotic fluid and fetal parts, phone-banking activities, and long-standing protests outside abortion providers on weekends.

They also plan a visible presence at town halls, other public events and rallies across the country, the dem- ocrats in the midterm elections. But with a difference. They are “tamping down the hysterical rhetoric” — graphic images of fetuses and abortion procedures — “we won’t heart and minds to their cause.

Even before the campaign was an- nounced, pro-choice advocates and pub- lications advocate and writer for The Nation, called Kavanaugh “bad news for reproductive rights.” (New York Times, July 9)

NARAL, the National Women’s Law Center, the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum — raised the “personal liberty standard” on July 5 as a new litmus test for SCOTUS judges.

Planned Parenthood Executive Vice President Dawn Laguens defined the per- sonal liberty standard based on the Four- teenth Amendment as one that “only confirm a justice who affirmatively declares that she believe that the Consti- tution protects individual liberty and the right to make one’s own personal deci- sions about their bodies and their per- sonal relationships, including the use of contraception, the right to have an abor- tion, and the freedom to marry whom you choose. That is what the American people want to know.”

The group called for marches on Sun- day, Aug. 26 — Women’s Equality Day (the day the Nineteenth Amendment es- tablished women’s right to vote) — to pro- test Trump’s nominee.

Need to counter anti-abortion troops and stigma

On the Senate floor July 25, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) denounced the threat Kavanaugh would pose to reproductive rights for all Americans:

“Instead a woman’s ability to get repro- ductive health care would overwhelm- ingly depend … on whether she could afford it, and therefore disproportionately on race and zip code as well. The only way to stop this is for people to take ac- tion.”

Platform called for visible and vocal support from the majority of Christians — mainstream Protestants, both Black and white, and Catholics — who say abor- tion should be legal in all or most cases. According to a 2017 Pew Research Center study, 29 percent of Americans agreed with the statement “There is too much prejudice against a person who chooses to have an abortion.”

Women that noted had abortions in the thousands even when it was illegal, that a woman’s abortion decision would “fuel resistance.” Historian of abortion Rickie Solinger agreed: “Crimi- nalizing sex and pregnancy management may not be efficacious in the struggle to enact mass disregard for the law. We are heading for some wild disobedience.”

For more information, see the source of most of the SOLC quotes at savetogetherlab.com.

Iowa workers fight to save UI Labor Center

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Aug. 13 — Iowa workers are fighting to save the University of Iowa’s Labor Cen- ter from being closed by administrators in the wake of continuing attacks on the working class.

University administrators announced they are defending the Labor Center along with a host of other programs and services at this invaluable institution to close its doors within the year. The announce- ment was made prior to discussion with members of the Labor Center. If adminis- trators have their way, the center’s closing will have devastating consequences for all Iowa workers.

The Labor Center, established in 1930, has since provided direct education an- nually for over 2,500 workers across the Hawkeye State. To quote a July 12 press release from the Iowa City-based center, for decades the Labor Center is “‘the only unit in the entire state university system that specializes in re- search and education for and about Iowa’s workers.”

Iowa is notorious for its “right-to- work” laws. Its government has been a stronghold of corporate for- mation. Statewide budget cuts by the Re- publican-controlled state government have devastated social services and been especially hard on Iowa’s working poor. The center’s closing would be symbol- ic of UI leaders acting as guardians of the ruling class.

The university’s decision comes at a time of “spiraling inequality, when the combination of stagnant incomes and rising tuition are putting a college educa- tion increasingly out of reach,” according to Professor Colin Gordon. (Iowayr. com/td/46668)

Professors, students, union members, working-class state workers and com- munity activists launched the “Save Our Labor Center” campaign to put pressure on administrators to keep the center open. SOLC organizers argued: “the decision to close the center is not about ‘state funding cuts,’ noting that the cen- ter’s 2016 General Education Fund al- location, $650,000, “is less than the UI president’s annual salary.”

According to a testimonial by Daven- port native Rodney Blackwell, a member of Communications Workers Local 7100: “Many Iowans work full time. They don’t have the time to find out about all the laws. That’s why the labor center is im- portant — to educate the few, to educate the many.”

SOLC public hearings will be host- ed across the state in Des Moines (Aug. 14), Cedar Rapids (Aug. 17), and Sioux City (Aug. 28). More hearings and dates will be announced in the future.

Professors and SOLC activists are launching an SOLC organizing campaign to save the Labor Center, “to organize workers to build a movement to organize masses of workers together to share your experience, and have your in- put become part of the public record.”

For more information, see the source of most of the SOLC quotes at saveourlabcenter.com.
The crisis of the Puerto Rican nation continues spiraling downward and is about to hit bottom. The main news every day concerns Puerto Rico’s economic, social and environmental crisis. Each day proves without a doubt Puerto Rico’s character as a colony. Each event adds another nail in the coffin of the farcical “pact between Puerto Rico and the United States” that was the “Free Associated State of 1952,” a false autonomy for the dependency.

During the second week of August, it was clearly exposed who really, directly governs in Puerto Rico: the Congress of the United States, through its imposed Fiscal Control Board (a dictatorial Junta). Those who voted in past Puerto Rican elections, thinking that they would elect their own leaders, have seen that their vote was a fantasy exercise in vain. The reduced participation in the last elections indicated Puerto Ricans’ growing lack of confidence in their government.

Fiscal board’s power over Puerto Rico’s government

Judge Laura Taylor Swain, of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, presides over the bankruptcy cases concerning Puerto Rico’s government. Since Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory and not a municipality, bankruptcy cases cannot be heard by bankruptcy court judges, only by federal district court judges.

The last decision resolved two lawsuits filed by the Puerto Rican government, one from the Legislature and another from Gov. Ricardo Roselló. It referred to the FCB’s power over the insular government under the Puerto Rican Constitution. It must be remembered that this Constitution was authorized by Law 606 of 1952, which was approved by the U.S. Congress. With a sentence, the judge dismisses any aspirations of local autonomy: “The power granted to the board by section 205 (b) (1) (K) of PROMESA allows the FCB to make binding policy choices for the Commonwealth Government, despite the governor’s objection of the recommendations under section 205.” (El Nuevo Día, 9-2-2018).

Section 205 of the PROMESA law refers to public policy recommendations and is the legally the implementation of the interests of the U.S. Congress: to control payrolls, reduce expenses (pensions, benefits, etc.) and privatize government agencies that are potential profit generators. Although the judge establishes that the FCB cannot pass laws, she said that it has “budgetary” and “negotiation” tools. As the saying goes, “Whoever pays the piper calls the tune.” When the FCB imposes a fiscal plan that satisfies U.S. interests, it goes above and beyond any Puerto Rican law. For example: What difference does it make if the Puerto Rican government wants to preserve the Christmas bonus for public and private employees (in an obligation under PR law) if the FCB’s fiscal plan does not include any source to pay for it?

It should be pointed out here that the FCB’s fiscal instrument has two central purposes: to balance the budget and return Puerto Rico to the credit market. Of course, central to this is paying the bondholders as much as possible at the expense of the people.

As a result of this decision, imposing the Junta’s fiscal plan will greatly exacerbate the people’s situation. Apart from the reduction of the Christmas bonuses — which is the annual stimulus that helps families and small businesses balance their budgets and stay afloat for the rest of the year — layoffs will increase; employment positions will decrease and retirement plans will be reduced, pushing thousands into absolute poverty. Also, government services will be cut and worsened at the central level and in the municipalities where budgets will shrink even further.

Consequences for educational system

Classes have been taught at the beginning of August in Puerto Rican schools. How will the dictatorship of the U.S. Congress through the seven Junta members impact the Puerto Rican educational system? Never before has a school year started in such a clumsy manner, with so much uncertainty for teachers, students and their families and with so much disorganization and incongruence, especially for students in elementary school and those who need special education.

It should be noted that even though Gov. “Ricky” Rossello filed a lawsuit against the Junta, his government is politically in sync with the Junta. Rossello has used the Puerto Rican government as an “easy tool” to achieve its purposes. The Roselló administration, which tried to overthrow the Junta’s fiscal plan, is the government that is taking over a copy of a U.S. state.

This Junta’s work has followed the suggestions of U.S. business interests by hiring administrators, companies, consultants and others, offering them multimillion-dollar contracts. His policy has been to imitate even the failures in many U.S. states, such as “charter schools,” called “alliance schools” in Puerto Rico. This attempt has been/is being counteracted by hiring of Philadelphia-born Julia Keleher as secretary of education. She is in step with the repressive policy used by the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, who recently visited the island to reinforce plans to privatize education.

At least it was a premonition, Roselló’s reply to a reporter at the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Gazette magazine, when asked why Keleher was hired, was: “Very bluntly, we asked her to break the system and rebuild it again.” (The penn gazette.com, April 23).

This is precisely what Keleher is doing. In a Machiavellian way, she closes and consolidates schools based on numbers and figures, without visiting them, knowing the condition of their buildings or learning about the adjacent communities. She has closed model schools which are in good physical shape with special classrooms to accommodate the different tasks required for special education students, who exceed 40 percent of Puerto Rican school population. With the excuse that thousands of children left after Hurricane Maria, Keleher closed nearly 300 schools located in the poorest, most remote neighborhoods in the mountains and rural areas, and concentrated the students in urban areas, creating difficulties due to lack of transportation. She gave no reasons for her actions to teachers and family members who asked why. Often, she only replied, “Because.” — showing there had been no planning process other than statistics.

Just two or three days before the start of school on Aug. 13, it was reported that due to overcrowding in schools where the new plan had consolidated the student body at random, the Department of Education purchased 14 trailers worth $1.6 million for use as classrooms. These trailers are mounted on unsafe concrete blocks and lack electricity and toilets.

Moreover, the “national educational system” is dividing existing classrooms in established schools to accommodate two classrooms. That is dangerous, since there is only one door for both entry and exit. Meanwhile, schools in excellent condition remain packed.

Top school ‘sold’ for $1

Schools in good condition have been sold. A shameful example was the Julia de Burgos School in Carolina, which was “sold” for $1 to the Living Water Fountains Church. It is now a bilingual, Christian private school called “The Fountain Christian Academy.”

The changeover, a mural painted in 1966 by José Antonio Torres Martínó was destroyed. This changeover goes against the island’s Constitution that ensures a secular, public education.

The Department of Education is a total mess. It tried to impose online tuition. Many children are in the care of their grandparents, who are unfamiliar with the internet and difficult to persuade. Also, areas far from city centers still lack a consistent internet signal. For this reason, the education department had to accept at the last minute that children could enroll in school just as they used to before the hurricane.

Regarding teachers, they also received a real slap in the face from Keleher. She has changed the subjects they teach at random, invalidating their education, training and experiences. She has changed the grades they teach and sent teachers to faraway places. For example, a 60-year-old teacher in Patillas, in southern Puerto Rico, was assigned to teach on the island municipality of Vieques, which would be a four-hour commute for each way, including the boat ride.

The teachers are ready to fight back and have called for a strike on Aug. 15, two days after school starts.

Puerto Ricans living in Philadelphia have begun a campaign to “decorate” the Supreme Court building with “Wanted” posters showing photos of Julia Keleher and David Skedel, a law professor at the school and member of Local 219 of the teachers’ union.

On Oct. 27, the International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico will hear testimony in New York City about the attacks on education that are part of the colonial crimes being committed against the Puerto Rican people. For more information about the tribunal, visit PuertoRicoTribunal.org.
In New York City within the last year, six taxi and “black car” drivers killed themselves—in financial desperation at no longer being able to support their families or pay their debts.

The yellow and green cab, livery and black-car drivers were being run into the ground by the advent of Uber and Lyft rides, cheated by “race-to-the-bottom” fare wars and deadlocked in competition with other Uber/Lyft workers.

Such is the result of the “new gig economy” — where someone is told you can “be your own boss” with “flexible hours,” but which really means 18-hour days with no minimum wage, no overtime, no health care, and the “freedom” to drive your own car and pay your own vehicle insurance. And, by the way, compete with every other taxi, limo, livery or Uber/Uber driver on the road.

But there is some very good news.

Driver-workers won a huge victory Aug. 8. The New York Taxi Workers Alliance, after months of organizing, (encountering the time of the six suicides), successfully drove legislation through the New York City Council that makes the city the first in the U.S. to regulate Uber and Lyft.

One of the drivers tweeted the day of the victory: “We just beat Wall Street!” It’s one of the first worker victories in the 21st century gig economy, and all workers should celebrate it.

In reality, the gig economy has a long and gruesome history. It was called “piece work.” Women labored in isolation day and night, each in her own room, to produce knitted or embroidered pieces at whatever small sum per item the boss offered, all the while cooking, cleaning, caretaking their children. Black women were paid next to nothing for washing and ironing at home. No minimum wage, no overtime, no health care. You provide your own scissors, needles and thread and your own table.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels described the 2018 gig economy 270 years ago in the 1848 Communist Manifesto: “The abominable competition.”

“Seventeen people have been charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and conspiracy to launder money. All these charges might seem convincing to many people, but a visit to the federal courthouse revealed a different story. There were no kingpins in the courtroom. All of the defendants were green and khaki uniforms worn by low-level app drivers.”

What is more, supporters of the defendants saw at least two of them enter the courtroom in wheelchairs. Another, Anthony Rhodes, has been in the infirmary, and is experiencing trouble with his vision. Rhodes’ attorney requested access to the defendant, as he became inaccessible to her when he was moved for medical problems.

While the median age of the defendants is 38, at least a third of the defendants are in their 50s and 60s, while others are in their late 40s. The Aug. 10 hearing was merely a status hearing, with another one ordered for Sept. 22. What that means the defendants will have had to spend at least three months in federal custody before the trial even moves forward.

A complete display of the prosecution’s evidence was not expected that day. However, the evidence produced was disgusting. The defense attorney of one of the defendants is 38, at least a third of the defendants are mere pawns in the game.

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Ireland and Mexico act to reduce global warming

By Betsy Piette

While the Trump administration in the U.S. continues to deny the pressing impact of global warming — and acts to reduce environmental protections for the benefit of global pollution industries — in at least two other countries have taken positive actions in recent weeks.

On July 12, the Republic of Ireland became the first country in the world to divest from fossil fuel companies. Then, on Aug. 1, Mexico’s President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged to outlaw hydraulic fracturing, a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

The Irish Parliament ratified the Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill to compel the Irish Strategic Investment Fund to divest itself of the shares in coal, oil, and gas “as soon as practicable [within five years].” To emphasize that, “A message to the Irish government to divest from fossil fuels is spelled out in lights in front of the Russian ambassador’s residence in Dublin.”

Ireland was ranked the second-worst EU nation for its retirement age. In June, one of the 2016 Paris Agreement on global warming, the bill enforces Ireland’s commitments to the agreement and has bipartisan backing throughout the government. In June, Ireland was ranked the second-worst European country on climate action, so the passage of this bill is welcome news.

Environmental activists view this as a powerful statement.

Mexico to ban fracking

López Obrador, who won Mexico’s presidential election over July 5, stated in a press conference on Aug. 11, “It’s so badly contaminated by the oil companies, the state-owned Federal Electricity Commission (CFE).” He accused the previous government of deliberately closing the CFE plants and using electricity from foreign countries at very high prices.

These measures demonstrate that progress is being made in the worldwide campaign to curtail global warming, stop corporate power and move toward a “clean, renewable energy future.” But the movement must go further and challenge the capitalists who ravage the earth in their drive for superprofits, no matter what damage they cause. The capitalist system is the main danger to the planet and its inhabitants.

It’s time to say so!©

Protest of ICE’s crimes

The latest in ongoing demonstrations at the proposed Houston Immigration and Customs Enforcement holding facility for unaccompanied minors was held Aug. 11. It’s ironically located on “Emancipation Avenue” — recently renamed after a community struggle to change it from the name of a Confederate commander. It highlights the profits being made in wrapping public property in yellow “crime scene” tape.

Speakers explained that since the site was being repurposed for the crime of imprisoning children — that being a crime against humanity — it was appropriate to let the public know what was planned for the place. Regular demonstrations are scheduled to hold at the wealthy neighborhood home of the real estate magnate who owns the property.

Many demonstrators spoke of their horror in hearing about the purpose of the proposed site when thinking about their own children being snatched from them and dropped into such a place. Tania Sedlak, speaking for the Fire (Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere) coalition, reminded the gathering that the imp/migration crisis is global and ongoing.

She said that even though she is U.S.-born, she considers herself a “third-generation immigrant” since her grandparents were torn from their ancestral home in India and forced into the newly formed nation of Pakistan, from which her parents migrated to the U.S.

— Report by Joanne Gavin

Part 1

Workers across Russia protest plan to raise retirement age

By Greg Butterfield

Across the vast breadth of the world’s largest country by area, from huge cities to small towns, workers young and old have taken to the streets this summer to protest against a plan by the capitalist government of the Russian Federation to raise the retirement age.

The government’s plan would, step-by-step, raise the retirement age for women from 55 to 63 by the year 2024 and for men from 60 to 65 by 2026. The plan was announced by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in June, on the eve of the Russia-hosted World Cup soccer championships. Activists and ordinary workers alike were outraged that officials tried to sneak the unpopular measure under the radar while people were distracted by the games.

President Vladimir Putin, who vowed publicly in 2005 never to raise the retirement age, has remained silent. Workers in the U.S. will immediately recognize that Russian workers have a much lower retirement age than they do. That was a key accomplishment of the working class during the early years of the socialist Soviet Union. The current retirement age was established all the way back in 1928.

It’s one of the last pillars of worker protection remaining from the socialist era. Russian workers, who have suffered greatly since the capitalist counterrevolution of the early 1990s, including a catastrophic decline in life expectancy, are determined not to see their benefits eroded.

“If the retirement age is increased, every citizen of Russia will be robbed of more than a million rubles ($18,000), and it is unacceptable,” declared Left Front leader and former political prisoner Sergei Udaltsov at a 10,000-strong protest in Moscow. (Associated Press, July 28)

Mass mobilization

Security measures for the World Cup gave authorities an excuse to ban protests in many major cities in June and July. So regional centers and smaller cities took the lead in organizing demonstrations. In many cases, these have grown into weekly or even daily actions drawing hundreds or thousands of workers.

“In Saratov, rallies now take place almost every day,” reported Free Press, the left news site. “Even the terrible heat doesn’t stop people. From 300 to 1,000 attend. They hold rallies, gather signatures on petitions, which they then send to the Kremlin. …

“St. Petersburg, July 18.

“In Kemerovo, the capital of the Kuzbass mining region, the mayor’s office agreed to a protest near the racetrack, which is on the outskirts of the city and difficult to reach by public transportation. Nevertheless, about 1,500 people came to the rally, including from remote areas. …

“In far-off Nefteyushk, the demand of all is the same: ‘No to the anti-reform reform.’” (Svpressa.ru, July 20)

In most cities, protesters have also raised their voices against a planned 2 percent rise in the value-added tax on goods (similar to sales tax in the U.S.), utility rate hikes and surging prices for gasoline and heating fuel.

On July 18, a protest permit was finally granted in Moscow, although in a “designated free speech area” in a park far from public view. Thousands turned out.

The same day, hundreds flooded the famous Nevsky Prospekt in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad). City officials refused organizers a permit. So the people, banned from using signs or chanting slogans, held aloft red “stop cards” used to penalize soccer players. In this way they dramatically showed their opposition to the planned retirement age hike and use of the World Cup as an excuse to silence their protest. At least 14 people were arrested. (RotFront.su, July 19)

Despite the protests and polls showing 90 percent public opposition, on July 19 Russia’s lower house of parliament, the State Duma, approved a plan to raise the retirement age on the first reading by a vote of 328-104. (Svpressa.ru, July 20)

It passed a second reading needed for late September, before moving to the upper house.

Finally, on July 28, a day of coordinated mass protests was held in the capital and over 150 other cities across the vast Russian Federation, including at least 10,000 in Moscow. The day of action was principally organized by the reformist-led Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF), which has a wide base. Organizers included revolutionary left parties, labor unions and many groups.

The protests forced a concession from the government. On Aug. 8, the Central Election Commission authorized three groups of petitioners to begin organizing for a nationwide referendum on the retirement age hike. However, even if it was being carried out so as to divert the protest movement.

The KPRF authorized three different groups — the KPRF, the capitalist Fair Russia party and a group of nongovernmental organizations — to organize around proposed referenda with very similar wording, setting them in competition against each other. Only one of the referenda can be approved, and each requires overcoming enormous organizational hurdles. (Tass, Aug. 8)

Despite these challenges, the struggle against raising the retirement age is shaping up to be the largest protest movement of the working class in Russia since the 1990s. And it comes at a critical moment when demands for reform are being heard from the workers — but because of the growing threat posed by U.S. sanctions and NATO war moves against Russia.

As the war danger escalates, it will be essential for the Russian workers to raise their voices independently and demand mass, all-effective, internationalist means to fight U.S. imperialism than the current oligarchic rulers can manage.

Part 2 will look behind the pension crisis.

Ireland and Mexico act to reduce global warming

By Betsy Piette

While the Trump administration in the U.S. continues to deny the pressing impact of global warming — and acts to reduce environmental protections for the benefit of global pollution industries — in at least two other countries have taken positive actions in recent weeks.

On July 12, the Republic of Ireland became the first country in the world to divest from fossil fuel companies. Then, on Aug. 1, Mexico’s President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged to outlaw hydraulic fracturing, a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

The Irish Parliament ratified the Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill to compel the Irish Strategic Investment Fund to sell off its shares in coal, oil, and gas “as soon as practicable [within five years].” To emphasize that, “A message to the Irish government to divest from fossil fuels is spelled out in lights in front of the Russian ambassador’s residence in Dublin.”

Ireland was ranked the second-worst European country on climate action, so the passage of this bill is welcome news.

Environmental activists view this as a powerful statement.
Puerto Rico: La crisis se profundiza

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La crisis de la nación puertorriqueña sigue en espíritu hasta al día de hoy para que toque fondo. La noticia primacía de cada día no hace sino aumentar la indignación del pueblo. Cada día se ve prueba sin lugar a dudas, su carácter de colonia. Cada evento le añade un clavo más al ataud del fariseo del “pacto entre Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos” que fue el “Estado Libre Asociado” de 1952 aparentando una autonomía del archipiélago.

En la segunda semana del mes de agosto, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, tras una larga reunión, aprobó el Plan de Estructural de Insolvencia bajo la Ley de PR. Ha probado que fue un vaso exquisito de fantasía. La reducida participación en las últimas elecciones ya indicaba la creciente falta de confianza en su gobierno.

JCF por encima del gobierno de PR

La Jueza Laura Taylor Swain, del Tribunal de Distrito de EUA por el distrito sur de Nueva York, es la encargada de presidir sobre los casos de bancarrota del gobierno de Puerto Rico. Al ser PR un territorio de EUA no pueden ser vistos por su bancarrota del gobierno de Puerto Rico. Al ser PR un territorio de EUA directamente es el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, a través de su imponer el control de las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los estudiantes y sus familias, y tan desorganizados como los maestros que preguntan. Muchas veces sin dar ninguna razón a maestros/os, los cuales tienen el derecho a una educación y a un trabajo adecuado. No hay que olvidar que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto.

Implicación educativa y magisterio

En PR, las clases comienzan a principios de agosto. ¿Cuál será la repercusión de la dictadura del Congreso a través de sus siete miembros en el sistema educativo puertorriqueño?

¿Nunca antes había empezado un curso escolar con un proceso tan torpe, con tanta incertidumbre para maestros/os, estudiantes y sus familias, y tan desorganizado e inescrito? Sobre todo, para estudiantes de escuela elemental, y para estudiantes de educación especial.

En Puerto Rico, Se ha tratado de hacer elecciones de política vinculantes para el gobierno central, a pesar del rechazo del gobierno a las recomendaciones de la Ley sección 205(10)(X) de Promesa permite a la JSF hacer elecciones de política vinculantes para el gobierno central, a pesar del rechazo del Congreso a las recomendaciones de la Ley sección 205(10)(X).

Y el 27 de octubre, el Tribunal sobre la integración en Puerto Rico: la CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negociosbalancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto.

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Hay que destacar que el gobierno de “Ricky” Roselló, aunque sometió un discurso de rendición de cuentas en el 27 de octubre, el Tribunal sobre la integración en Puerto Rico: la CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto. La CRP que ayuda a las familias y a los pequeños negocios balancear su presupuesto y que dar a flote durante el resto del año, si se incrementaron los despido, se reducirán las plazas de empleo; se recortarán los planes de retiro suministro a la población adulta mayor y la indigencia; se recortarán y empeorarán los servicios gubernamentales tanto a nivel central como en los municipios que verán mermar aún más su presupuesto.