

In answer to Trump, racists, Nazis Freedom fighters topple white supremacy statue

By LT Pham
Durham, N.C.

Aug. 14 — A crowd of over 100 people gathered today in front of the Confederate statue in downtown Durham to protest white supremacy. The solidarity protest was called two days after white supremacists and neo-Nazis descended upon Charlottesville, Va. — where they left many people injured and one activist, Heather Heyer, dead.

The demonstration was called by the Durham Branch of Workers World Party in solidarity with local anti-racist and anti-fascist forces. There were firsthand accounts from those who took on the ultra-right in Charlottesville — organizers, activists, mothers and medics who were on the scene. In front of the old Durham courthouse, the crowd chanted “Cops and Klan go hand-in-hand!” and “No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA” as sheriff’s patrol cars blocked the streets and police filmed demonstrators from the steps of the courthouse.

Freedom fighters rallied in front of the courthouse while inside the county commissioners held a meeting. Durham County Commissioners have been under scrutiny and pressure from local organizers for their refusal to tackle issues of policing and deportation in the city.

At the height of the rally, local Black student organizers spoke to their struggle to remove a Confederate statue on the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill’s campus. The students led the crowd in a chant of “Tear that statue down!” As the chanting reverberated off the courthouse, demonstrators began to circle around the monument, demanding it come down.

In North Carolina in 2015, then Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law a bill blocking removal of Confederate monuments. The N.C. General Assembly continues their attempt to suppress resistance. Currently there is a bill under consideration that would make it legal for a driver to hit demonstrators with their car and face no consequences.

In Charlotte, lawmakers are attempting to make it impossible for demonstrators to rally by legislating that organizers must pay for all lost time on parking meters in order to receive a protest permit.

The fight against white supremacy is a fight against the ruling powers that be — the politicians and profiteers who have just as much blood on their hands as the Ku Klux Klan who showed up in Charlottesville.

Organizers and protesters in Durham sent a clear message: Love does not trump hate; only mobilized

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COMMENTARY
ON
AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION:



‘We Won’t Go Back — Turn Bakke Back’

By mYia X
Workers World Boston bureau

The latest attacks on affirmative action by the Trump administration and the Department of Justice aim to turn back the clock and heighten the divide among oppressed groups. While the current debate attempts to push through an agenda that purports an illusion of equal access for all, the facts reveal that institutionalized racism remains rampant across all areas of education and employment.

An Aug. 1 New York Times article reported an internal DOJ memo that could potentially redirect resources in the Civil Rights Division. The document doesn’t explicitly mention affirmative action but uses the phrase “intentional race-based discrimination.” This implies an attack on programs designed to recruit more students of color to university campuses.

To fully grasp the gravity of what’s at stake in this struggle, we must go behind the veil and follow the intersections of white supremacy, education, money and power. In the book, “Classroom and The Cell,” Mumia Abu-Jamal states: “Since the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, where the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public education in America, powerful social forces have tried to defeat it. ... Something insidious began with Brown and it ain’t never stopped.”

Enter Edward Blum, a former stockbroker, long known for his “Model Minority” attempts to dismantle affirmative action and voting rights for people of color. Mother Jones writer Stephanie Mencimer revealed that Blum started his crusade in the 1990s.

In a follow-up to the infamous 1978 Bakke case, when a U.S. Supreme Court ruling pushed back affirmative action, Blum was one of the driving forces behind the 2015 Fisher v. University of Texas lawsuit. Under Blum’s sponsorship, Abigail Fisher, a 23-year-old white woman, filed a lawsuit challenging the use of race in college admission. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the basis of the law in a narrow 4-3 decision.

Now, with the election of Trump and his appointment of racist Jeff Sessions as U.S. attorney general, the Department of Justice is being used by right-wing forces to dismantle hard-fought protections for access to education for students of color.

In addition, earlier this year, Republican Sens. Tom Cotton and David Perdue co-sponsored and introduced the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act, also inextricably linked to the attacks on affirmative action and migrant rights.

These attacks are alarming, but we have also seen the power in a united movement against imperialism, capitalism and all forms of racism.

We salute the recent Constituent Assembly in Venezuela. The 545 seats of the Constituent Assembly are representative of 173 sectors, including Indigenous people, students, persons with disabilities, communal councils, workers and others.

This is a revolutionary understanding of affirmative action in theory and practice. □



Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigenerational 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 for 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.

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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Attacks on proactive health care for women and children

By Sue Davis

It's widely known that nearly 400 restrictions on abortion have been passed by states since 2010. Their purpose: to severely limit women's options when choosing to have abortions. But what is not well known is that some states have also passed hundreds of proactive measures that improve women's reproductive health and rights as well as children's health.

A new study, released Aug. 1 by the Center for Reproductive Rights and Ibis Reproductive Health, shows there is a direct correlation between an increase in maternal mortality and child illness when access to legal, safe abortion is limited and there are few or no laws affirming women's health care. The study updates "Evaluating Priorities: Measuring Women's and Children's Health and Well-Being against Abortion Restrictions in the States" issued in 2014.

"Among states with 10 or more abortion restrictions, we see higher rates of maternal mortality, pre-term births and low birth weight as compared with the national average," Terri-Ann Thompson, Ibis co-author, told Rewire. (Aug. 2) She added that when Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women is increased, maternal and infant mortality decreases as well as babies' low birth weight.

The scientific study scored states by comparing the number of abortion restrictions against nearly two dozen measures of maternal health and child welfare, ranging from mortality to food insecurity.

When variables were plotted on a graph, the study revealed that more restrictive states clustered at the negative end of the health-and-welfare spectrum, while the least restrictive states were at

the positive end. The graph also showed that restrictive states typically lack evidence-based health and welfare policies that support women before and after pregnancy as well as their children.

For instance, child mortality is higher than average in states like Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana that have a dozen or more abortion restrictions. The maternal mortality rate doubled between 2010 and 2012 in Texas, which has extreme restrictions on abortion and no laws affirming women's health and wellbeing. (WW article, Sept. 18, 2016) In fact, anti-abortion legislators in Texas recently pushed 20 new anti-choice laws in a special session the week of July 24. That immediately prompted CRR to challenge them in court; the center has also filed suits against retro laws in Arkansas and Louisiana.

"This report clearly lays out that politicians pushing extreme anti-choice laws at the expense of public health have their priorities exactly, backwards," concluded CRR President and CEO Nancy Northup in a statement.

Stop cuts to teen pregnancy programs

A related topic, teen pregnancy, has recently made headlines — but not because the number of teens having babies was cut by 50 percent between 2007 and 2015 (though that's still higher than in other industrialized countries).

In a shocking and just plain stupid about-face, Trump's Department of Health and Human Services announced it will end grants of \$200 million to 81 local governments and health groups in its Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program in 2018. That is two years before the experimental program was scheduled to end in 2020. (New York Times, editorial. Aug. 13)

HHS is headed by arch-conservative Tom Price, who voted in Congress to end Title X, the family planning program for poor women, and who denounced the preventive health mandate for free contraceptives for women in the Affordable Care Act. He appointed Valerie Huber, who previously ran an abstinence advocacy program, to be HHS assistant secretary for adolescent health programs. Huber has slammed the TPPP, claiming it "typically normalizes teen sex." (NYT, Aug. 11)

However, reliance on abstinence-on-

ly programs since the 1980s have not produced results, while teaching about contraception and sexually transmitted diseases in addition to abstinence has. By not giving participating groups a chance to see if their experimental programs produced results, the HHS is restricting science-based exploration — which is totally in line with the racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ, warmongering Trump administration's anti-science agenda.

Vigilance, resistance and fightback on all reproductive health issues are needed to combat the Trump attacks. □

Trans woman killed Union honors slain shop steward

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

In the early morning hours of July 31, 32-year-old TeeTee Dangerfield was found shot multiple times in her car outside her Atlanta residence. This is the 16th homicide of a trans woman of color so far this year.

TeeTee was a well-respected and loved member of UNITE HERE Local 23 who was in training to be, in her words, "the best shop steward." A customer favorite and a champion of her fellow staff, she had worked for 12 years at various restaurants in the Atlanta airport.

On Aug. 11, UNITE HERE organized a memorial for TeeTee at the airport chapel, running from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. to allow co-workers and others on multiple shifts to honor her vivacious, loving spirit and welcoming smile. Union members wore


bright red T-shirts made especially for the occasion to "say her name."

Her union issued a statement which read in part, "While we mourn the fact that her life was taken so soon and so violently, we are also angry. Angry that transphobia and hate continue to manifest in our communities, where all individuals have the right to live their lives as whomever they are. ...

"For our part, we will continue to fight for workplace protections for our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, which is but one piece of the larger movement to end the discrimination and violence often directed at the trans and broader LGBTQ community. We will honor TeeTee's memory by lending our collective strength and voices to say: Enough is enough! Not one more!"

As of this writing, TeeTee's killer has not been identified. □

Poems by Lamont Lilly



HONOR
IN THE
GHETTO

urban renewal

amazingly
all the ghettos are gone now.
somehow
they've become
quaint parks
and pleasant
neighborhoods again.
but only
for an array of new faces.
new faces
that wouldn't even
come to the place
when it was
all black.

when it was unclean
and downright
mean at night.
somehow
all the ghettos are gone now.
quaint parks
and pleasant
neighborhoods again.

PART 3

letter to pam africa

you have lifted our wings
and armed them with resistance.
stirring the pot
standing in the face of winter.
truth speaker
fire breather
living and brewing the revolution.
keeping the seat warm
where harriet tubman once sat
training soldiers
saving souls
daring us to keep up.
keeping the seat warm
where harriet tubman once sat.
on a move.
on a move.



PHOTO: APRIL SAUL

tell the black girls

tell the black girls
we believe in their magic.

tell the black girls
how they were born
from a long tradition
of black woman dream merchants
miracle makers
and super heroes.

tell the black girls
how special powers
are interwoven
in their braids and cornrows.
god gifted
in the tips
of their twists and locs.

tell the black girls
how the others
can only dream

and imagine their powers.
tell the black girls
we believe in their magic
and it's real.

rank and file

bring your homemade signs
on cardboard
and wooden sticks.
bring your mic and
to loan voice.

bring your rocks
and molotov cocktails
in case they bring it.
bring your fire
for the teargas
that's sure to come.



to stay awake out there
we're depending on them.

bring the women
so we can stand together
and fire back.

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Lamont Lilly was the 2016 Workers World Party U.S. vice presidential candidate. In 2015 he was an Indy Week "Citizen Award" winner for his activism and journalism. The selections presented are from his forthcoming book of poetry, "Honor in the Ghetto." Contact the writer at llilly1@eagles.nccu.edu.

100th Anniversary of Silent March of African Americans

By Dolores Cox

An estimated 10,000 African-American women, men and children participated in a silent march in New York City on July 28, 1917, to protest racist violence, lynchings and other injustices. The NAACP organized the march, as well as church and community leaders who saw the importance of Black people having their own demonstration because they were the main victims of recent violence.

Participants in the march included James Weldon, NAACP field secretary and author of the “Negro National Anthem”; intellectual and author W.E.B. Du Bois; Madame C.J. Walker; and Adam Clayton Powell Sr.

The march protested brutal attacks by white racist mobs on the Black population in East St. Louis, Ill., as well as lynchings in Waco, Texas, and Memphis, Tenn. The action was recognized as one of the earliest mass demonstrations by African Americans and was viewed as a precursor to the Civil Rights Movement.

The solemn parade took place on Fifth Avenue from 57th Street to 23rd Street in Manhattan. Marchers carried banners and signs reading: “We march because we deem it a crime to be silent in the face of such barbaric acts” “We march because we want our children to live in a better land” “Thou shall not kill” “Mothers, do lynchers go to heaven?” “Your hands are full of blood” and “Make America great for democracy.”

There were no chants or songs; only the rhythmic sounds of marching feet, led by a line of muffled drummers, could be heard. Children marched in the front, wearing white. Women, also in white, marched behind them, and men wearing dark colors followed.

‘Why Do We March?’

“Why Do We March?” circulars were distributed before and during the parade. The action’s goal was to promote anti-lynching legislation and rights for Black people. About 4,000 Black men, women and children were lynched with impunity from 1877-1950, reported the

Equal Justice Initiative in 2015. Thousands of racist whites in Southern cities watched these atrocities.

Weeks before the New York march, racial tensions grew between Black and white workers in East St. Louis. Historic migrations of African Americans from the South occurred as they fled Jim Crow segregation, discrimination, disenfranchisement, oppression and terrorism by racist whites. They traveled to find jobs in industrial centers where labor was scarce due to World War I.

However, some white workers saw the arrival of African Americans as a competitive threat to their jobs, wage security and privileges. Many traditionally “white” craft unions shamefully hindered or excluded Black workers from union membership, labelling them strikebreakers. Yet they were also condemned for not joining unions. Though refused opportunities, Black workers’ abilities were disregarded.

East St. Louis was a great industrial center, with huge meatpacking and manufacturing facilities — and it was one of the largest markets in the country for unskilled labor. In 1916, when thousands of white workers struck packing plants, company owners used Black workers from the South as strikebreakers. After the strike, Black workers retained their jobs and received the same wages as their white predecessors.

In 1917, mostly white workers struck American Ore Company, which then hired white and Black workers as strikebreakers. Racists whipped up hostility to the Black workers.

East St. Louis racist terror

On July 2, 1917, the New York City NAACP sent Du Bois and writer Martha Gruening to East St. Louis to investigate the racist outrages that had begun the night before. The September 1917 issue of the NAACP magazine, *The Crisis*, wrote about “The Massacre of East St. Louis” and “The Negro Silent Parade, New York City.” Detailed reporting, eyewitness accounts, survivor testimonies and photos were included.

The magazine included a May 23, 1917,



letter from Edward Mason, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union in East St. Louis. He referred to “the immigration of the Southern Negro into our city for the past eight months. ... Since the influx of undesirable negroes has started no less than ten thousand have come. ... [T]hey are being used to the detriment of our white citizens.” Black Southerners were considered outsiders, as opposed to white ethnic immigrants. The fact that Blacks were also Americans meant nothing to these union leaders, noted *The Crisis*.

Mason called upon union delegates to go to City Hall to demand that the mayor and the city council “take some action to retard this growing menace and devise a way to get rid of a certain portion of those who are already here.” Union leaders’ rhetoric fueled the violence. Some unionists threatened mob rule if the authorities took no action against the Black population. The riot “was deliberately planned and executed,” reported *The Crisis*.

Thousands of white men, women and teens descended on East St. Louis, viciously attacking African Americans. White militias refused to protect the Black population, declaring they were there to guard whites against them, observed the magazine.

The *Crisis* described how racist mobs took pleasure in the suffering of their victims and boasted about killing “n—rs.” Their manhunts were sporting events. They bashed in heads, gouged out eyes, dragged Black people from street cars and through the streets, beat and stoned them, snatched babies from their mothers, beheaded Blacks, kicked corpses, lynched and even burned people alive.

Rioters cheered when they shot their victims as they fled from their burning homes. The riot lasted 24 hours. From 100 to 200 Black people were killed, and 6,000 were forced out of their homes.

Wilson spurns Black leaders

The NAACP appealed to President Woodrow Wilson. Though he made an election promise to implement anti-lynching laws, he refused to do so. After the march, Black leaders involved in the protest went to Washington to meet with Wilson, who did not keep the appointment. They left their petition for Wilson, urging him to prevent future racist riots and lynchings. Federal discrimination against African Americans actually increased during Wilson’s presidency.

A year after New York’s 1917 parade, a silent parade took place in Newark, N.J. More terror came in 1919 with the “Red Summer” of racist riots in Tennessee, Nebraska, Chicago and Washington, D.C. In August 1989 another NAACP-sponsored silent march, encouraged by Director Benjamin Hooks, was held in Newark to protest recent Supreme Court decisions weakening anti-discrimination policies.

In June 2012, the NAACP organized silent marches across the country to protest police stop-and-frisk practices toward African Americans. A federal judge ruled in August 2013 that the New York Police Department practice was unconstitutional.

Prior to this year’s 100th anniversary in St. Louis, there was a week-long commemoration of the riots and march. About 300 people marched in silence. In New York, a planned anniversary re-enactment of the silent march, set for July 28, was not granted access to Fifth Avenue because Trump Tower is located there, so it was held on Sixth Avenue. Participants displayed portraits of current victims of racist police and vigilante violence from around the country.

Additional sources: Black Voices; Huffington Post, July 28; hyperallergic.com/392280; Yale University’s Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Labor unions condemn fascist attack

By Kris Balderas Hamel

Labor unions, especially those representing education, health care and public service workers — whose members are a majority women and people of color — were swift to condemn the racist, fascist violence in Charlottesville, Va.

The American Federation of Teachers, representing more than 1.6 million education workers, including teachers and other staff, issued a statement Aug. 12 condemning the fascist killing. The statement called it “a dark turning point for our country” and encouraged its members to participate in protests and vigils around the U.S.

The AFT stated: “This type of domestic terrorism has pilloried communities of color, Jews and other marginalized groups throughout history. ... Friday’s torch-light march showed that white supremacists are so emboldened that they don’t even feel the need to wear hoods. The violence directed at counter-protesters was meant to instill fear in the hearts of people who are fighting for a more in-

clusive [U.S.]. ... This is a significant moment, and we must act now.”

The union also noted: “As students go back to school this year, they’re going to be afraid. For too many, this type of racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia will replicate itself in our communities and on our playgrounds. It’s left many of us educators determined to discuss this with our students.”

On Aug. 13, the AFT and more than two dozen leaders in its Higher Education Division issued another statement in which they hailed the counterprotesters who “did the work of bending the arc of history toward justice. We send them our solidarity and our support, our admiration for their bravery, and our commitment that we will be with them throughout whatever is to come.”

The union leaders decried Trump for his racism and bigotry and demanded members of the administration “correct their course. They must reflect on their role in normalizing racism through statement and policy, and on their responsibility in creating the sense of moral license that

enabled racist terrorism to manifest itself in the streets of Charlottesville and on the grounds of the University of Virginia.”

‘We cannot be silent’

Service Employees International President Mary Kay Henry issued a statement Aug. 12 on behalf of the union, which represents almost 2 million health care workers in the U.S. and Canada: “SEIU members condemn the violence spread by white supremacists in today’s deadly terror attack. Our hearts are heavy with grief for the families who are now dealing with the death or injury of a loved one.

“This tragedy is a reminder that ... we have yet to address the long legacy of racism and slavery that is deeply embedded in our history and experienced in our present day. We cannot be silent and must speak out against the violence and intimidation we have seen in Charlottesville and far too many other cities. Working people must, and we will, join together and organize our communities to eliminate racism at all levels and create a world where everyone, no matter the

color of their skin, can participate, prosper and reach our full potential.”

National Nurses United also condemned the fascist violence in Charlottesville. NNU Executive Director Rose-Ann DeMoro emphasized, “As a society, it is incumbent upon all of us to forcefully repudiate all expressions of white supremacy, racial hatred, and bigotry. Anyone familiar with the history of how white supremacy has stained our nation ... cannot be surprised that continued expressions of that virulent philosophy would lead to violence today.

“All ... elected leaders,” said DeMoro, “starting in the White House, have a responsibility to condemn racial hatred and the violence it encourages, and disassociate from those promoting it.” The union leader praised those who took a “a stand for cultural diversity and understanding among all people. We have a long ways to go to assure the equality, civil rights and civil liberties of all our people. There’s no time to waste.”

The national officers of the United
Continued on next page

Activists across U.S. 'double-down' on anti-racist solidarity



Cleveland

WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR



Huntington, W.V.

WW PHOTO: BENJI PYLES

Workers World Staff

A huge wave of anti-racist protest is sweeping through the U.S. in determined response to events in Charlottesville, Va. A “Unite the Right” gathering of a few hundred armed white supremacists, Ku Klux Klan units and neo-Nazis seized public space there in a torchlight parade on Aug. 11 and the next day attempted to occupy Emancipation Park, previously named Lee Park after Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

The white supremacists were met and pushed back by an anti-racist crowd of thousands. Young queer people of color were the leadership in the call to action. They were joined Aug. 12 by a wide range of people who understood the immediate mortal danger that the rise of white supremacists pose to people of color, migrants, Muslims, Jews, women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities and others. As the crowd demonstrated, one of the Nazis assaulted the marchers with his car, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring many others.

Within 24 hours, over 700 “Solidarity with Charlottesville” demonstrations were posted on the Vox Media website. Many of these took place over the weekend, from a quiet candlelight vigil in



New York City

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Electrical Workers, representing some 35,000 workers in manufacturing, public sector and private nonprofit sector jobs, issued a Facebook statement condemning white supremacy and neo-Nazi attacks, and promising “to continue organizing in our workplaces and communities to fight racism, fascism and bigotry.”

The statement goes on: “UE stands with the people of Charlottesville and all of their allies who marched against the bigots and bravely stood up to hatred, racism, and violence. Our union was founded on the principles of equality for all — regardless of who you are, where you came from, or what you believe. UE local leaders and members enforce these principles in our workplaces and communities every day. We reject Trump’s pandering to white supremacists and hatred which is contrary to the core principles of UE. [We] will fight like hell to stamp out the scourge of racism, bigotry, and hate.”

Many local unions around the country took this opportunity to take a stand for social justice and urged their members, via texts and email, to join in protests against white supremacy and racial hatred in their cities and communities. □

West Virginia to rallies all over the state of **Wisconsin**. (wibailoutpeople.org)

A rousing protest in **Syracuse, N.Y.**, led by Black Lives Matter brought hundreds out at a local site where an 1851 action by thousands of abolitionists freed a local African-American man being dragged back into enslavement by federal marshals.

In **Cleveland**, over 300 people gathered to say, “NO to white supremacy!”



Brooklyn, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

In **Brooklyn, N.Y.**, 400 people heard a speaker from Peace Action of New York connect the racist violence in Virginia to U.S. attacks on Syria and north Korea.

Thousands of people came out to demonstrate at Trump Tower in **New York City** on Aug. 14, enraged at the alliance of President Trump and his administration with these reactionary forces.

A Charlottesville protester, Lee Patterson of **Baltimore**, spoke to the deep-rooted reasons for growing militancy when he told Workers World: “Today we saw the bare face of capitalist white supremacy. We believe that today is the time to stand up against racist terrorists that come from the capitalist system.” Here is a sample of such actions, which continue to grow.



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: DEANDRA PATRICA

PHILADELPHIA

A crowd of 200 people gathered at Philadelphia City Hall on Aug. 12 for a vigil commemorating the victims of fascist violence. It was somber as Philly R.E.A.L. Justice, Workers World Party, Refuse Fascism, the Industrial Workers of the World and other local organizations highlighted the trajectory that led to the day’s tragic events. The Philadelphia vigil was organized by Philly Socialists and the local Socialist Alternative branch.

Most speakers agreed that the time is now to double-down on organizing. After an hour there, the crowd took to the



Columbus, Ohio

WW PHOTO: JOSH LINK

streets, walking north on 15th Street and then down the Broad Street off-ramp onto eastbound Interstate I-676. With absolutely no police interference or presence, activists marched on the highway between two exits, then got off and dispersed.

— **Report by Deandra Patrica**

COLUMBUS, OHIO

A demonstration was held in Columbus, Ohio, on Aug. 13 to show solidarity with those who were attacked by fascists at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville. Several hundred socialists, communists and other central Ohio activists marched from Goodale Park to the steps of the Ohio Statehouse.

There, a rally and vigil were held to commemorate the life of Heather Heyer, who was martyred when a fascist intentionally rammed the crowd with his vehicle, and to honor the many others who were injured in that attack. Several members of local chapters of socialist and communist organizations delivered impassioned speeches on the necessity for those on the left to organize and fight back against the rising tide of fascism and white supremacy.

— **Report by Josh Link**

ATLANTA

Hundreds came out in Atlanta on Aug. 13 to a Charlottesville solidarity event called by All Out ATL. In 2016 this mix of antifa-aligned groups initiated a demonstration against a Klan gathering at Stone Mountain.

The protest gathered at Troy Davis Park, so named by the community for an African-American man murdered by the state in 2011. After speeches, including a class-conscious, anti-racist talk by Dawn O’Neal, the march stepped into the streets, 1,000 strong. Workers World carried the banner: “Smash White Supremacy! Fight Racist Terror! Black Lives Matter!”

The target of the march was Piedmont Park and its racist statute celebrating the end of Black Reconstruction in the South. The statue was promptly defaced, with no reported arrests.

— **Report by Dianne Mathiowetz**

HOUSTON

Residents of the most diverse city in the U.S. came together in solidarity with those attacked by far-right racists in Charlottesville on Aug. 12. Houstonians of all nationalities, genders and immigration status stood together to denounce the murder of Heather Heyer and pledged to fight the right wing in Texas.

Speaker after speaker condemned the racism of the alt-right, demanded an end to their terrorism, and stood up for undocumented people, women’s right to choose, and an end to the anti-transgender “bathroom bill” that hate-filled Texas legislators are currently trying to pass.

One emotional speaker was Colombian immigrant Ericka Chaves, mother of one



Durham N.C.

WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

of the dozens injured in Charlottesville, Houstonian Natalie Romero. Chaves said her daughter was the first in her family to attend college, and she is on a full scholarship at the University of Virginia. Romero has a skull fracture and many cuts and bruises, but is expected to recover. The family is raising money to cover her mounting medical bills. Chaves thanked everyone for their support and said she knew her daughter would continue to stand up for justice for all.

A young reproductive justice activist drew cheers when she said, “I’m not here just to talk about a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion or have a child. I’m here to say that Black mothers must have the right to raise a child that doesn’t have to see racist statues of Robert E. Lee. And that undocumented mothers have the right to not be separated from their children because of deportation.”

The Texas legislature is now considering a bill that could cause more deaths like Heather Heyer’s or serious injuries like Natalie Romero’s. House Bill 250 would make it semi-legal for a driver to run over a protester if that protester is blocking traffic, as long as the driver is “exercising due care.”

— **Report by Gloria Rubac**



PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY

Milwaukee, Wis.

California Bay Area

Over 500 people came out in Oakland, Calif., on the night of Aug. 12 for a vigil in solidarity with Charlottesville. They rallied at Latham Square, then marched through the downtown area and eventually reached the I-580 freeway — where they shut it down in both directions.

The next day, another rally of a few hundred people gathered again in Latham Square. The rally was organized by the Anti Police-Terror Project. The organization’s spokesperson Cat Brooks said, “We know these neo-Nazis, these alt-right folks are on their way to Berkeley and San Francisco on the 26th and 27th. As opposed to waiting for those days to come out in droves to tell them they’re not welcome here, we figured we’d start now. ... You are not welcome in the Bay. We are not scared of you. We will not stay inside. We do not cower to bullies, and these are our streets.”

Many other rallies were held in San Francisco, San Jose and other cities and towns across the Bay Area.

— **Report by Terri Kay**

Anne Pruden and Susan Schnur also contributed to this article.



Oakland, Calif.

PHOTO: GIEROSS



Houston, Tex.

PHOTO: LILIANA CASTRILLON

MAKE RACISTS AFRAID AGAIN:

‘Cops and Klan, hand in hand’: Lessons of Charlottesville

By Sara Flounders

A participant in the Aug. 12 Charlottesville, Va., anti-racist mobilization.

The racist “Unite the Right” mobilization in Charlottesville on Aug. 12 exposed once again the collusion of the capitalist state, its repressive police agencies and the current mobilizing of fascist organizations in the U.S.

Across the country, hundreds of anti-racist rallies and vigils in solidarity with those resisting the ultra-right onslaught in Charlottesville have infused the anti-Trump movement with an anti-racist character.

But at the same time many politicians in Virginia and across the country have jumped to microphones and wrung their hands, decrying violence and urging “love, not hate.” These politicians have time and again provided legal and political cover for vicious neo-Nazi and ultra-right groups.

Trump, understanding his own racist base, did not play the expected presidential role of expressing condolences and urging love and compassion. He first refused to condemn the neo-Nazis at Charlottesville who boasted that they helped elect him, and then gave only a grudging disapproval after facing mass pressure.

Resistance on the ground to racism and fascism

At Emancipation Park on Aug. 12, lines of camouflaged militia members wearing body armor and helmets openly flaunted assault rifles, side arms and knives. The courts had ruled that this fascist gathering of armed thugs was protected as “free speech.”

Police stood far to the side, appearing to be completely uninvolved, as Nazi groups in fascist regalia and Klan covens carrying bats and Confederate flags made numerous forays into the crowds of determined anti-racist protesters. Through community pressure, the park had recently been renamed Emancipation Park instead of Lee Park, after Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Tear gas, pepper spray and smoke bombs were fired at the anti-racist militants, along with bottles and rocks. The anti-racist forces linked arms, stood their ground and fought back. Each projectile tossed their way was thrown back, along with some extras.

The night before, police had casually watched as hundreds of heavily armed neo-Nazi and racist groups, from League of the South to Identity Evropa and assorted dregs, marched with torches to occupy the University of Virginia. The corporate media treated it as a glorious spectacle.

The corporate media had also given wide publicity to the claim that thousands of racists were mobilizing to attend. Every possible effort was made to frighten anti-racist forces from coming to Charlottesville to stand up to the ultra-right militias.

In the end, the white supremacist turnout was only several hundred, while thousands of multinational resisters came to confront organized terror.

The police, by helicopter, video cameras and a command post on the sixth floor of the Wells Fargo bank, overlooked the scene. The police role was to watch fascist action unfurl, while claiming neutrality.

Brian Moran, Virginia’s secretary of public safety and homeland security, compared the police role to “watching fights

at a hockey game.” Jason Kessler, the white supremacist organizer of the Unite the Right rally, said his forces had “networked with law enforcement officials” for months.

About 1,500 police from various local, state and national police agencies were brought into Charlottesville — but not to keep the fascists from acting. When Gov. Terry McAuliffe declared a “state of emergency” and riot police moved in, they moved first against the anti-racist protesters.

The State, the Klan and guns

Groups similar to the Ku Klux Klan, Nazis, right-wing militias and other white supremacists exist in all capitalist countries. In times of capitalist stability, they are portrayed as ugly but irrelevant fringe groups.

In the U.S. big business media, these racist forces are put forward as tolerated because of “First Amendment” guarantees of “free speech.” Workers and oppressed people are told that protecting the rights of such groups ultimately means the basic protection of everyone’s rights.

Police and prison guard membership in Klan and other racist organizations is tolerated with a wink and a nod in hundreds of repressive state agencies involved in upholding “law and order” across the U.S.

While militant and armed organizations of oppressed people, such as the Black Panther Party and other self-defense groups, were systematically shot, jailed and viciously repressed, racist white supremacist organizations are quietly allowed to proliferate.

While a Black child such as Tamir Rice can be shot down by cops for holding a toy gun, one state after another has passed



Charlottesville cops guard Confederate statue of Robert E. Lee.

“open carry” laws protecting the right to carry assault rifles. Clearly such “rights” exist only for certain white people, and not at all for people of color, as witnessed by the police killing in Saint Paul, Minn. of African-American Philando Castile, who had a license to carry his gun.

Today 45 states have laws permitting open-carry guns in public places. But the open carrying of weapons, including assault rifles, is selectively enforced, based on race and class.

In a capitalist society, the racist, heavily armed police determine at every minute who has rights. On average cops kill one Black person every day in the U.S.

It may be legal for right-wing vigilantes to carry weapons. But if Black Lives Matter forces mobilized with weapons for a march with torches onto a university campus, would police have just watched?

If workers — Black, Latinx, white — went to a contract negotiation with their boss, heavy weapons in hand, or if a group of tenants armed with assault rifles met with their landlord, would police just stand down?

Tear down the racist statues

In a concerted assault on systemic racism and state terror, Black communities and anti-racist forces, in the South in particular, are organizing to take down monuments celebrating generals and leaders of the Confederacy during the U.S. Civil War. Most of the racist statues were erected by white town councils from the 1890s to 1920s to concretize the violent overturn of Black Reconstruction following the Civil War.

The Charlottesville community’s victory in removing the name of slaveowner Robert E. Lee from Emancipation Park was the pretext for the neo-Nazi and KKK occupation there. But antifa forces, Black Lives Matter, religious and pacifist currents courageously mobilized in the thousands and united in the streets.

Workers World Party had a well-organized and bold contingent from three cities and friends from other areas in the region. Their organized street tactics helped give cohesion to the mobilization. The lead WWP banner declared: “Make racists afraid again! Smash white supremacy!”

The thousands far outnumbered the racists, and their resistance gave determined pushback and, ultimately, forced the white supremacists to disperse.

Every minute in Charlottesville reaffirmed that no police or any agency of the state can ever be relied on to protect the oppressed or to fight the right-wing militias. These forces, both state and vigilante, operate together to protect property instead of people, enforce racist norms, terrorize the oppressed and strive to disarm resistance.

In times of capitalist crisis these gangs of armed thugs appear to suddenly surge as an organized force of terror. At such times the real relations between these extreme racist organizations and state-organized repressive organizations come into full view.

A class understanding of the historic role of the police and right-wing racist forces can contribute to deeper political understanding and stronger unity as we fight against the enemies of the poor and oppressed. This leads to the conclusion that workers and oppressed people must form their own organizations of self-defense and struggle, independent from the police and other organs of capitalist state repression. □

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

The following is a statement from Workers World Party, which sent many of its members to Charlottesville, Va., to beat back the Nazis and Klan who marched there.

‘Watershed in fight against fascism’

The coming out into the light of day of an openly fascist movement in the United States, as happened on Aug. 11-12 in Charlottesville, Va., confirms at least three things about the state of this country.

First, the media manipulation and financial maneuvering by a significant far-rightwing section of the billionaire class to get one of their own into the White House has emboldened the most racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, misogynist, male-supremacist, murderous scum of this decaying capitalist society.

Second, the progressive movement that has grown in defense of the rights of workers, oppressed Black, Latinx and Native communities, women, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people and immigrants refuses to be cowed by these heavily armed thugs. Those protesting the Nazis and KKK fought back with incredible valor in Charlottesville.

And third, the police and other repressive forces of this capitalist “democracy” are no protection against the ultra-right. Indeed, they allowed the gun- and club-toting bigots to hold a Nazi and Klan-type “torchlight” parade through the city — something that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. The progressive movement needs to continue to be self-reliant, combative and united.

The fascists were almost exclusively white men. The counter-protesters represented a united front in action of a broad spectrum of people, predominantly young, from every demographic in this country. It was an inspiring glimpse of the kind of unity and solidarity that is needed to overcome the bigots and the plutocrats, end the daily

violence against the oppressed, and bring about revolutionary social change.

Those in the ruling establishment who see their reputation in tatters are appalled by what happened, but not for the right reasons. They want to continue to exploit and dominate most of the world, but behind a veil of “democracy” and “human rights.”

They cringed when Trump first publicly commented on the murderous attack by one of the fascists, who gunned his car into a dense crowd of protesters, killing activist Heather Heyer and wounding dozens more. The bigot-in-chief could not bring himself to even mention the groups responsible, saying he condemned “many sides, many sides.” Three days after the atrocity occurred, they finally got him to go before the cameras a second time and read from a script in which the racists and Nazis were named.

The events in Charlottesville will long be remembered as a watershed in the developing movement to tear down the walls of white supremacy and all forms of bigotry and unite the popular forces fighting for a better world. The people are showing by their actions that only by taking the fight for justice into their own hands, with no confidence in the organs of state power, can they make progress.

On Aug. 14, youths in Durham, N.C., tore down a Confederate statue with their own hands, expressing their fury at the murder in Charlottesville.

Long live the independent struggle of this new progressive movement against the fascists, the cops and the capitalist establishment! □

SMASH WHITE SUPREMACY!

Charlottesville eyewitness: ‘Sticking together to battle white supremacy’

Workers World managing editor John Catalinotto interviewed WW correspondent Taryn Fivek, who was in the Workers World Party contingent at the counterprotest of the Nazi/Klan march on Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12.

Sent to scout ahead where people were forming up to march, my comrade Nate and I were consulting with a journalist we knew in the street. Suddenly there was a very loud noise, which I first thought was a bomb, followed by a lot of screaming. The noise turned out to be the sound of a car hitting bodies not more than 15 feet from us.

After the car hit the bodies, the Klansman put the car in reverse and you could see the car was totaled from hitting the bodies at high speed. He also slammed into two cars parked along the street, waiting to go. It seemed as though the people in those cars were also in shock. I saw someone comforting an elder, a Black woman, in one of the cars, like she might be having a heart attack.

I looked at the scene and tried to determine who might need help the most and ran to a woman, who later we found out was Heather Heyer, to try to keep people from moving her. I could see by the way her eyes were moving that she had suffered severe injury to her spine and head, and shouldn't be moved.

Your judgment of time in moments like these is never accurate, but it seemed to me it took a long time for the paramedics to arrive. I don't think there were people there who were qualified to deal with that level of trauma. Heather, who was a 32-year-old paralegal worker and a staunch anti-racist from Charlottesville, died. Others were gravely injured.

The slow-moving emergency crews were just another example of what we in the anti-racist counterdemonstration were aware of: The state was out in force to protect the Klan and Nazis, not to save the anti-racist demonstrators.

Cops and Klan work together

The left outnumbered the Klan scum and Nazis in the streets. But we were also facing 1,500 cops and National Guard who were mobilized against us, not there for our protection. And there were heavily armed militia forces, looking like they were just back from Iraq, with automatic weapons, sidearms and hunting knives. They were on the same side as the police and the state.

We had to realize we're not facing just the more extreme and unpopular figures like Jason Kessler or David Duke, and the Nazi-like characters who follow them, but we were facing the imperialist state. We need to overthrow the system. The system that incubates and helps these Klan terrorists flourish.

The anti-fascist forces in Charlottesville were diverse. Various Christian



Workers World contingent arrives at Emancipation Park, Charlottesville, Va.

PHOTO: ALEX RUBINSTEIN #CHARLOTTESVILLE 89637991

groups were involved, some clergy, as well as anarchists and people from a lot of different tendencies. A huge diversity of people were there, including from the African-American community. Local people, even those who were not in the streets with us, were supportive, honking their horns at us and our banners.

As far as I saw, we were the only revolutionary Marxist tendency there for the entire day. Other tendencies like the Democratic Socialists of America showed up in the afternoon, and some were in the streets near where the car struck.

Given the balance of forces, the crowd of our people, the militant left forces, acted in a defensive way the entire day — at least up until the murder. The Klan and Nazis, on the other hand, knew they could act with impunity. They knew they had the state backing them up.

During the day a dozen racists jumped on and beat a Black youth, Deandre Harris, with clubs and kicks, injuring him severely, without intervention from the police.

Our side knew we faced the hostility not only of the Klan and Nazis but also of the state. I admire the fact that everyone in the movement acted in a defensive way, confronting the racists where necessary but not recklessly.

Attack angers anti-racists

After the car attack, however, the idea that the left would tolerate racist speech or behavior disappeared. People were fu-

rious, lost all fear and no longer held back.

A Klansman walked through the crowd, where people had blood on them, with a “Make America great again” hat on, and someone came out of nowhere and sucker-punched him. I saw Klansmen getting Confederate flags torn out of their hands.

People didn't care any more. They spit in the face of the racists and that scared the Klan. They were terrified. So the racists snuck into the parking garage and slipped out of town because they knew how angry the people were.

A lot of the Nazi-Klan program was shut down. I saw a video of a press conference, and what looked to be locally based white elders just shut it down. We know that decent people of all types will come out against the Klan and Nazis, but it's important that these same good people make the connection between the Klan and the Nazis and the state that allows the racists to act with impunity.

We're angry too at the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), which appeared in court to allow these Nazis to come into the street against the wishes of the local people. So it wound up that the cops were there to protect the Klan. They watched as the racists threw rocks, maced us, threw bricks at us and finally killed Heather. It was not just a question of abstract free speech.

Workers World Party participation

The WWP contingent from three different branches — New York, Baltimore

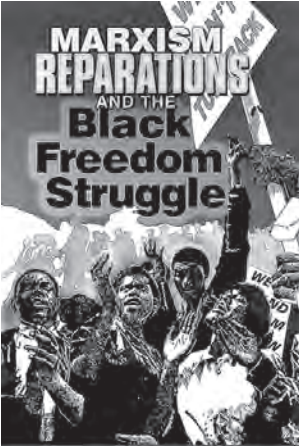
and Durham, N.C. — with many friends from other areas, including nearby Roanoke, Va., numbered at times 50 or more people, and acted in a coordinated way. Our political approach could be seen in the big, colorful banner, reading, “Make racists afraid again; Smash white supremacy!” We were vibrant, loud, unashamed.

The contingent was courageous and multinational, youth and elders alike. That gave me — and I'm sure others, too — confidence and courage because of how we stuck together, had each other's backs, made decisions after a democratic discussion and then followed the leadership.

That our tactics were coordinated turned out to be a really wise approach, especially when Nate and I were sent ahead. That's when the car struck the people. There are no guarantees, but WWP does its best to plan its tactics as best as possible and not just do spontaneous actions. The decades of experience in street action is passed between the generations of WWP comrades. We make sure to do things intentionally and consciously.

Nate and I were in touch with the comrades responsible for our group. They asked us to come back to the delegation, so we left with them that night. It helped so much to be in the midst of our comrades' solidarity.

Some in the WWP delegation from Durham stayed to make sure any of the anti-racists who might have been arrested were able to make bail. We feel this solidarity with all anti-fascist fighters. □



MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.
Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes
Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy
Black Youth: Repression & Resistance LeiLani Dowell
The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead
Domestic Workers United demand a Bill of Rights Imani Henry
Black & Brown Unity Saladin Muhammad
Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal
Alabama's Black Belt Consuela Lee
Are Conditions Ripe Today? The Watts Rebellion John Parker

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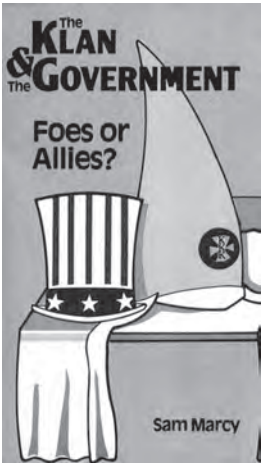
The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

The capitalist government has covertly encouraged and promoted the Klan over decades. It is often overlooked in media reports that the durability of the Klan rests on long-term bonds to the state.

The capitalist government not only tolerates organizations like the Klan, but once the class struggle of the workers and oppressed people takes on the character of a mass upsurge, the capitalist government is more likely to encourage the Klan.

If the U.S. is resorting to naked armed force on a world scale, to threatening nuclear first-strikes, is it likely that the peace of the oppressor imposed on the oppressed will prevail?

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/y9t8d8ok>



Cuba answers charges of ‘harming diplomats’

By Cheryl LaBash

The U.S. government and corporate media unleashed a new propaganda offensive against socialist Cuba on Aug. 9 by making unsubstantiated charges that two U.S. and one Canadian diplomat in Cuba had lost hearing due to some devices being used against them earlier this year.

The media’s source was U.S. officials who “spoke on condition of anonymity,” a bizarre leak. (New York Times, Aug. 9) Also, two Cuban diplomats had been asked to leave the U.S. on May 23. The reports implied, without asserting it, that the Cuban government was somehow responsible for the ailments of the diplomats.

Cuban statement

On Aug. 9, the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded, saying:

“On 17 February this year, the United States Embassy in Havana and the Department of State informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the occurrence of some alleged incidents affecting some officials of that diplomatic mission and their families.

“Cuba took this issue with the utmost seriousness and acted expeditiously and professionally in order to clarify the facts of this situation, initiating a comprehensive, priority and urgent investigation on the indications of the highest level of the Cuban government. To this end, it conveyed to the United States Embassy the need for information-sharing and proposed to establish cooperation between the competent authorities of both countries.

“The Cuban authorities set up an inter-institutional expert committee for the analysis of the facts; expanded and reinforced the protection and security measures of the mission, its staff and diplomatic residences; and new channels were made available for direct communication between the Embassy and the Department of Diplomatic Security.

“In this context, on 23 May, the Department of State informed the Cuban Embassy in Washington of the decision that two Cuban diplomats leave the United States territory. This led to a protest by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs due to this unjustified and unsubstantiated decision.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirms that Cuba complies rigorously and seriously with all its obligations arising from the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations in connection with the protection and inviolability of diplomatic agents and the premises of diplomatic missions.

“Our country’s impeccable track record in this area is recognized internationally and Cuba is universally considered as a safe destination for both visitors and foreign diplomats, including Americans.

“The Ministry categorically emphasizes that Cuba has never, nor would it ever, allow that the Cuban territory be used for any action against accredited diplomatic agents or their families, without exception. Moreover, it reiterates its willingness to cooperate in the clarification of this situation.”

The unauthorized U.S. officials implied that an acoustics device was used that caused damage, but they give no

evidence of what occurred or of Cuba’s role.

Anti-Cuba rhetoric

On June 16, the current U.S. administration spewed out aggressive anti-Cuba rhetoric in Miami, staged for the counterrevolutionary Cubans who have been opposing the socialist government in Havana since they fled the anger of the Cuban masses in the years following the revolution. At the same time, the administration faces Cuban-Americans and business sectors who prefer more nearly normal relations with Cuba.

Since Dec. 17, 2014, steps toward normalizing state to state relations dialed down overt U.S. hostility to the socialist project just 90 miles from Florida. The intent to restore capitalism and undo Cuba’s planned economy has not changed, nor has the economic, financial and commercial blockade been significantly eased.

The Guantánamo Naval Base still occupies 45 square miles of Cuban sovereign territory as it has since 1898, when U.S. imperialism for the first time reached beyond the North American continent to conquer territory. Guantánamo is a symbol of the U.S. intention to dominate all of Latin America and the Caribbean. Look at the U.S.-led war against Bolivarian Venezuela, bolstered by full-court media lies.

There has been a change, though, in U.S.-Cuban relations. There are direct commercial flights with multiple U.S. airlines and airports. There are discussions in states from coast to coast exploring business exchanges with Cuba of agriculture products, pharmaceuticals and medical technology. This all has given

many ordinary people in the U.S. a favorable view of Cuban reality.

Until this so far relatively short window, only the brave participants in travel challenges could learn about Cuba by going to Cuba.

There is a growing material interest in ending the blockade — from Pennsylvania farmers who now dump milk they can’t sell, from Gulf Coast longshore and port workers, from lung cancer patients or the one in three U.S. residents with diabetes or pre-diabetes who may fear amputation and who want access to Cuban medical advances in treating these diseases.

City councils and state legislatures are passing resolutions calling for the end to the blockade. For anyone who wants to stop or reverse the U.S. relationship with Cuba, the warmer people-to-people contact is a stumbling block.

U.S. weaponry

Those in the U.S. state apparatus who seem to be insinuating that Cuba is developing sonic weaponry should be reminded that in September 2009, the U.S. government used a new weapon against the people of Pittsburgh: the LRAD Sound Cannon.

Since 2009, the state has used this weapon in Ferguson, Mo.; in New York City; and in Standing Rock, N.D., against mass protests. LRAD was developed by the U.S. Navy in 2000. Plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the New York City Police Department for use of the device reported “they had developed migraines, sinus pain, dizziness, facial pressure and ringing in their ears,” something similar to what was alleged to happen in Havana. □



By G. Dunkel
Anchorage, Alaska

The Arctic is heating up twice as fast as the rest of the world. As its ice and snow cover melt and its glaciers recede, the newly bared soil and waters retain more heat, thus reinforcing the melting. According to the Canadian weather service, some areas of the Canadian Arctic are warming up at four to five times the world average.

Critical components of the Arctic’s infrastructure most urgently affected by global warming are roads, which aid transportation of goods, services and people and facilitate communication between communities.

Ice roads

An ice road is a winter road that runs on a naturally frozen water surface — a river, a lake or an expanse of sea ice — in cold regions like major portions of Alaska and Canada’s Yukon and Northwest Territories. The roads can also be built over-

land by using ice chips.

Ice roads open up access to isolated areas that have no permanent roads. Some 80 percent of Alaskan communities — but not a majority of its population — live in so-called fly-in communities without road access to the rest of the state. Many of them are almost entirely Indigenous.

Some of these communities have a water connection and can get supplies like fuel oil or snow machines by barge. But most need ice roads to connect to the outside world.

The Canadian Arctic has 3,300 miles of official ice roads. This year a number of communities in the Northwest Territories nearly ran out of fuel for generators because global warming meant their ice roads had to be built later and melted earlier.

Even in the depths of winter, frequent storms and thawing made the roads dangerous with ice that was sometimes too weak. Alvin Fiddler, grand chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which represents 49 Indigenous communities in northern Ontario, told the New York

Times, “These roads are the only way our people can survive.” (April 19)

Permanent roads

There are a number of tweaks that can extend the usefulness of ice roads: using semi-submersible vehicles to clear off snow; spreading water from under the ice to layer it on top, making it thicker; and using ice-penetrating radar to accurately measure the thickness of the ice. But the only practical solution seems to be permanent roads.

The Indigenous communities are clinging to settlements that their ancestors established many years ago. They need a solution to preserve their homes and ancestral lands and to be able to get to mines and other job sites that need labor.

But permanent roads, which are expensive to build, have major difficulties due to permafrost. The frozen ground contains ice globs that melt at different rates, depending on how far they are below the surface. Such melting can open up big holes and slumps in the roads.

Bethel is a major town in western Alaska. It has a hospital and a fish-processing plant and is an administrative and transportation hub for the 56 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. It is off the grid and only accessible by river or air, but it does have an extensive local road system.

The paved roads in Bethel resemble a roller coaster because the underlying permafrost has melted in some spots and not in others. But guard rails, which keep slips and slides from being deadly, tend to vanish as the permafrost underneath them weakens.

Permanent paved roads in Alaska require extensive, expensive maintenance.

Unpaved roads like the one from Tok through Chicken and on to Dawson have the same waves, and are also very dusty in the summer and hard to maintain in the winter.

Capitalism and the Big Melt

The science establishing that global warming is mainly due to human activity is now generally accepted. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that if this warming goes beyond 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, there will be deadly heat waves, extreme weather and catastrophic increases in sea levels.

What is just as established, but far less accepted, is that this warming is due to the capitalist drive for profits — quick, immediate profits at the expense of the environment and human life on this planet. Capitalism must expand or die.

The differences in approach to global warming between China and the U.S. are instructive. When the socialist revolution took power in 1949, China was terribly poor and underdeveloped. It has made big concessions to capitalism since then, but still has a strong socialist orientation behind much of its economic policies, particular in infrastructure.

China is now a world leader in renewable energy and is implementing economic plans that shift away from fossil fuels as quickly as possible. The U.S. capitalist government, by contrast, has withdrawn from the Paris Accords in order to remove any restraints on companies that profit from coal, oil and gas extraction.

The only truly permanent solution to the roads problem in the Arctic is to start the process of environmental sustainability, stop the production of heat-trapping gases and end global warming. These objectives can be only partially achieved under capitalism. □

Trump targets Venezuela for invasion

By Chris Fry

Failing to shake the resolve of the Korean people when he proposed war, even nuclear war, on that small country, Donald Trump has now targeted Venezuela. “We have many options for Venezuela and by the way, I am not going to rule out a military option,” he said on Aug. 11. “We have many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option if necessary.” (theguardian.com, Aug. 11)

The Venezuelan government’s response to Trump’s threats was both swift and decisive. Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López said: “As our minister of defense and a Venezuelan citizen, I say it is an act of madness. As a soldier, I stand with the Venezuelan armed forces, and with the people. I am sure that we will all be on the front lines defending the interests and sovereignty of this beloved Venezuela.”

The communications minister, Ernesto Padrino, called Trump’s statement “an unprecedented threat to national sovereignty.”

In a statement read to the press as well as to foreign diplomats, including Lee McClenney, head of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza called Trump the “boss of the empire.” He said that his comments “fit a pattern of aggression against Venezuelan sovereignty and violate interna-

tional law and the U.N. charter.” (quotes from nytimes.com, Aug. 12)

Trump’s White House later also released a statement demanding that Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro “restore democracy” and “hold free and fair elections.” This comes although the U.S. president won his office with three million fewer votes than his opponent. He won in an election that saw millions of people, particularly people of color, denied their right to vote.

Now Trump dares to threaten war because Venezuela recently held an election for the Constituent Assembly in which eight million people participated.

With his usual lying bluster, Trump demanded that Maduro “release political prisoners,” while the U.S. currently imprisons 2.3 million people, mostly Black, Latinx and Native, and including many political activists and freedom fighters who have been in jail more than three decades. (prisonpolicy.org, March 14)

As for human rights, the Washington Post reported that 963 people were shot by police in 2016 in the U.S., and that as of Aug. 13, some 611 have been killed in 2017 by the cops. (tinyurl.com/zyz2tpq)

Meanwhile, Trump condemns both sides as anti-fascist demonstrators are killed and injured in Charlottesville, Va., by Nazis and the Klan.

Trump’s national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, said the U.S. would “continue

a series of actions against the Maduro regime, which aim to strengthen the opposition” and to try to stir up divisions within the Venezuelan government. (usnews.com, Aug. 13)

The Pentagon stated that it had “not received any orders on Venezuela.” Whether or not the military received new orders, the Pentagon was already preparing for an invasion. In June, the U.S. military held exercises that it called “Operation Tradewinds 2017” on the island of Barbados with 2,500 soldiers, 670 miles from the Venezuelan coast, and then on Trinidad and Tobago, just 373 miles away. (telesurtv.net, June 7)

The U.S. military plans another exercise in November dubbed “Operation America United,” at a “temporary” base in Brazil, near the borders with Peru and Colombia and quite close to the Venezuelan border. Since the U.S. was forced to close its air base in Manta, Ecuador, the Pentagon is more than happy to have the right-wing Temer regime in Brazil allow them to open one up so that it can oversee so many Latin American countries. (zerohedge.com, May 4)

Many condemn the military threats

Progressive organizations and governments in Latin America condemned the threats from #45, which can be expected. Mindful of the many U.S. invasions and occupations of Latin American countries over the last century, however, even

leaders of countries hostile to the socialist-leaning Maduro government, criticized Trump’s threats.

Chile’s Foreign Minister Hernando Muñoz said: “Reiterating all of the terms of the Lima Declaration on Venezuela, the government of Chile rejects the threat of military intervention in Venezuela.” Mexico, Peru, and Brazil have also condemned Trump’s comments.

Jorge Ramos, head of the Spanish-language network Univision, tweeted: “Trump, like a child with a new toy, has just discovered that threatening Venezuela and north Korea can improve his image in the United States.”

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, spokesperson Rodrigo Granda, said: “Let us not allow an invasion in the style of Grenada or Panama to be repeated with impunity. There are evil presidents, and also people of solidarity.” (telesurtv.net, Aug. 12)

Even the right-wing government of Colombia, perhaps the most in the pocket of U.S. imperialism, announced that it condemns “military measures and the use of force.” (nytimes.com, Aug. 12)

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is scheduled to start a four-country Latin American tour on August 13. Perhaps he should be reminded of what happened to Vice President Nixon in 1958, when anti-imperialist demonstrators nearly overturned his limousine on the streets of Caracas. □



Workers World Party condemns Trump’s threats against Venezuela

Aug. 14 — Workers World Party-Partido Mundo Obrero (USA) condemns the statements made by U.S. President Donald Trump on Aug. 11 against the people of Venezuela, especially his open threat to use the “military option,” that is, to use U.S. military force against the sovereign people of that country.

We promise to do everything possible to mobilize the U.S. population to stop any U.S. intervention in Venezuela.

WWP/PMO also condemns as blatant lies the U.S. president’s slander against the Bolivarian government, falsely accusing them of holding political prisoners, of being responsible for the deaths of Venezuelan inhabitants and of curtailing human rights.

On the contrary, it is the so-called opposition forces in Venezuela, those who are lined up with U.S. imperialism against the Venezuelan government, who have wreaked terror in the streets with the “guarimbas,” violent demonstrations attacking supporters of the revolutionary government.

With his usual lying bluster, Trump demanded that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro release political prisoners. He dared to make this demand at the same time the U.S. imprisons 2.3 million people, mostly Black, Latinx and Native. Those in U.S. prisons include many political activists and freedom fighters who have been in jail for more than three decades.

As for human rights, the Washington Post reported that 963 people were shot by police in 2016 in the U.S., and as of Aug. 13, some 611 have been killed by the cops in 2017. Trump himself took the side of the worst fascist rats in the U.S. after

Nazis and the Klan killed and injured anti-fascist counterprotesters on Aug. 12 in Charlottesville, Va.

Thus, it is the White House in Washington and not the Maduro government that is threatening human rights and repressing the population.

Although the Pentagon stated that it had not received any orders on Venezuela, we know that the U.S. Armed Forces have already been preparing for an invasion. In June, the U.S. military held exercises that it called “Operation Tradewinds 2017” on the island of Barbados with 2,500 soldiers, 670 miles from the Venezuelan coast, and then on Trinidad and Tobago, just 373 miles away.

The U.S. military plans another exercise in November, dubbed “Operation America United,” at a base in Brazil near the borders with Peru and Colombia and quite close to the Venezuelan border.

Vice President Mike Pence is currently visiting Colombia, Argentina, Chile and Panama. It would be no surprise that he will “twist the arms” of those countries to favor military intervention in Venezuela. But some of these countries — which have repeatedly opposed and condemned the Bolivarian government — also rejected Trump’s Aug. 11 declaration, stating that they condemn any military measures and the use of force against Venezuela.

Since even his own White House staff doesn’t seem to know what this president will do or tweet next, there is no way others can be sure if his belligerent bluster against Venezuela will be turned into action.

But we must take the threats against Venezuela seriously, and will continue to explain to the U.S. working class the truth about the revolutionary Bolivari-

an government in Venezuela and to mobilize against any U.S. intervention against this sovereign country.

U.S.: Hands Off Venezuela!
Long Live the Bolivarian Revolution!
Viva the National Constituent Assembly! □

No racist boats will dock in Tunisia

By G. Dunkel

The C-Star, a ship with a dubious past in smuggling, has been chartered by the French right-wing, anti-immigrant organization Génération Identitaire, and is being used to try to turn back refugees seeking asylum in Europe. The white supremacist organization is working with an English far-right group, Defend Europe.

The refugees are attempting to get to Italy once they reach international waters off Libya. But forcing a boat in international waters to return to a previous port is illegal, according to international maritime law.

Francetvinfo, a press service of all the French TV networks, looked into the finances of C-Star on Aug. 10. After PayPal Europe got some criticism for hosting a racist project and froze Génération Identitaire’s account, the group turned to WeSearchr, a funding vehicle set up by Chuck Johnson, a former editor at the far-right Breitbart News. David Duke,



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Called by the Philadelphia branch of Workers World Party and the International Action Center, people representing over a dozen organizations gathered in Philadelphia on Aug. 8 for an emergency educational forum about Venezuela and the need to build a movement in the U.S. to support the Bolivarian revolution.



Tunisian fishery workers reject anti-immigrant campaign.

the former Ku Klux Klan leader, issued an appeal that brought in \$200,000.

When the C-Star needed fuel and water, it was announced that it was going to go into the nearby Tunisian port of Zarzis.

The fishery workers of Zarzis said there was no way they were going to allow their port to be used by racist anti-Islamic agitators.

The C-Star had to go elsewhere. It is unclear at present how the C-Star is getting supplied. □

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Self-defense and the DPRK

We live in a world where there are oppressors and there are the oppressed.

Inevitably, those who are oppressed and exploited will rise up and fight for liberation, will try to get the boot of their oppressor off their backs.

Right now the small country of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is trying to keep from being crushed by the immense force deployed by U.S. "capitalist democracy."

What should we, who live in this most powerful imperialist country in the world, do when the DPRK decides it needs a nuclear deterrent to keep the U.S. from trying to overthrow its government?

Because that's what the world has seen the Pentagon do to Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and is still trying to do to Syria.

Some governments as well as peace groups are calling on the U.S. to step back from its threats to attack the DPRK. But they are also saying the north Koreans should "freeze" their nuclear weapons program.

If the DPRK were to agree, would they guarantee its safety? What if the U.S. attacked anyway? What would they say — "Sorry"?

War is very, very real to the Koreans. They don't need to be lectured about its horrors. Some 5 million died during the Korean War, most at the hands of U.S. forces.

It has taken them years to rebuild their country, not only because of all the devastation but also because of continued efforts by the U.S. imperialists to ruin their economy through sanctions and other measures.

It is the right of oppressed people to choose the form of their struggle. As the Black Panthers put it, they have the right

to resist "by any means necessary." It is up to the oppressed to decide what tactic is best suited to their conditions. Those who come from the oppressor nation must not dictate how it should be done.

And the same is true on the international arena. If the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have decided that the only way they'll be safe from another U.S. attack is to have a nuclear deterrent, the best thing we in the U.S. can do is try to make sure that such an attack by the U.S. never happens.

Those of us who live "in the belly of the beast" cannot put conditions on those living in countries oppressed by imperialism. Our job is to defend their right to liberate themselves.

We need to explain to our fellow workers how U.S. foreign policy, including the war machine, is crafted to set up the superexploitation of workers in other countries. The billionaires who run Washington, including Trump and his cronies, can then reap untold profits from war industries and by cutting wages to the bone for workers here.

We need to explain how class oppression, where the bosses exploit workers and small farmers across the world, is interlinked with national oppression under U.S. imperialism. Racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia — all are ideological tools used to justify the brutal subjugation and robbery of whole peoples. This is true of the oppression of people of color inside the United States as well as whole nations abroad.

Workers have a way to fight back. It's called solidarity. We can rid the world of oppression and exploitation, but only if we realize our own strength by rejecting every form of bigotry and uniting with all those fighting for liberation from capitalism. □

'Hands off north Korea, peace treaty now!'

By Greg Butterfield
New York

Eighty people turned out for a lunchtime picket at the United Nations headquarters here on Aug. 14 to condemn President Donald Trump's threats of "fire and fury" against the socialist Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The action, "Tell Trump: No war with north Korea," was called by an ad hoc group, Korean American Activists for Peace, and supported by U.S.-based anti-war groups, including the International Action Center, Veterans For Peace, Peace Action and United National Antiwar Coalition.

The crowd, about half from the Korean community and half from the anti-war groups, chanted: "No to war, no to sanctions, peace treaty now!" and "U.S. troops out of south Korea!" Chants in both Korean and English were led by protest organizers Rev. Tong-Kyun Kim, Hyun Lee of Nodutdol for Korean Community Development and other Korean-American activists.

Several solidarity statements were giv-

en. Speakers talked about the long history of U.S. intervention and threats on the Korean peninsula, stretching back to the 1950-53 Korean war, and defended north Korea's right to develop nuclear deterrence for self-defense.

Sara Flounders of Workers World Party, who had just returned from the Charlottesville protests, linked the struggle against racism and fascism at home with the struggle against war in Korea. She asserted that capitalism is at the root of these crises for the world's workers, drawing loud agreement from the crowd.

Minh Ly, a socialist student activist from Germany whose family fought in the Vietnamese liberation struggle, expressed her solidarity. Bernadette Ello-rin from BAYAN USA spoke of the unity of the Filipino and Korean people to kick U.S. imperialism out of Asia and the Pacific. Monica Moorehead of the Interna-



WW PHOTO:
GREG BUTTERFIELD
Outside United Nations in NYC,
Aug. 14.

Why the DPRK needs a nuclear deterrent

By Deirdre Griswold

Since 1950, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — north Korea — has lived under the shadow of a U.S. nuclear attack.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who commanded U.S. forces during the Korean War, told reporters in 1954: "I could have won the war in Korea in a maximum of 10 days. ... I would have dropped between 30 and 50 atomic bombs on [the] air bases and other depots strung across the neck of Manchuria." (New York Times, April 9, 1964)

MacArthur's shocking remarks weren't made public until after his death 10 years later. But his proposal to lay down a radioactive belt on the border between the DPRK and China was known at the time of the war. President Harry S. Truman fired MacArthur in 1951 after the general openly pushed to extend the war to China.

Although MacArthur was removed from his command then, U.S. nuclear weapons were, and still are, ready to strike north Korea — "locked and loaded," in President Trump's recent boastful, gangster language.

Several times each year, the U.S. carries out war exercises close to the borders of the DPRK simulating an attack on that country and the "decapitation" of its leadership. Another is set to begin Aug. 21, involving tens of thousands of U.S. and south Korean troops.

This persistent U.S. threat of war is why the DPRK has allocated precious resources to become one of the world's nine nuclear weapons states. It is now estimated to have around 30 such bombs — out of the more than 15,000 nuclear warheads in the world.

The U.S. accounts for nearly 7,000 of those warheads. Yet the DPRK is now the target of a screaming propaganda campaign accusing its leader, Kim Jong Un, of wildly leading the world into a nuclear war.

Think about it. The DPRK has no soldiers or bases in other countries. It has no nuclear-equipped high-altitude bombers or submarines circling the globe. It has no drones calling in missile strikes on other countries. All its military preparation is defensive.

The U.S. has bases all over the world. It has militarily occupied south Korea since 1945, keeping the Korean people divided. It recently deployed a missile system called THAAD in the south, despite desperate resistance from the people there.

This has intensified the worry of Koreans in the north and in the south that the U.S. could be planning a military attack

tional Action Center read the statement of the Korean-American protest organizers.

As the protest ended, organizers promised to continue the fight to end U.S. war threats and defend the Korean people's right to self-determination. □

On Aug. 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped the second atomic bomb ever deployed in conflict, hitting the Japanese industrial city of Nagasaki.



On Aug. 9, 2017, President Trump threatened a nuclear bombing of People's Korea.

on the DPRK. And Trump's recent words threatening the DPRK with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" deepened that concern, even drawing public criticism from several officials of the Moon Jae-in regime in south Korea.

How Koreans look at Trump

Ever since the election of the most openly right-wing president in recent U.S. history, the capitalist media have been full of speculation about Trump's unpredictability, his ego-driven pronouncements and tweets, his obvious ignorance or denial about crucial issues, from climate change to international relations.

If even those "in the know" here are speculating about what atrocities Trump could be capable of, what are the leaders of the DPRK to think? Isn't it absolutely their duty to do all they can to prepare for the defense of their people? Especially since the White House is packed with military brass and the budget for war spending keeps growing at the expense of social programs.

The election of Trump and his subsequent refusal to renounce the support of racist, fascist and neo-Nazi elements like the KKK has given a boost to white supremacists, who just held an armed occupation of parts of Charlottesville, Va., in which one anti-racist demonstrator was killed. Trump refused to condemn the white supremacists, who boasted they helped elect him.

The world is watching these developments in the U.S. with horror, especially people living in countries that have been colonized, neocolonized and superexploited by the imperialist powers.

Korea is one such country. It was brutally colonized by imperial Japan from 1910 to 1945. During World War II, many Koreans were forcibly moved to Japan to labor in the mines and other jobs to take the place of Japanese workers drafted to fight in the war. Some 30,000 of these Korean workers were among the hundreds of thousands of people killed by U.S. atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

To justify its hostile actions, the U.S. government has refused to sign a peace treaty ending the war that began 67 years ago. It has ringed the DPRK with military bases. In recent years, Washington has encouraged the rearming of Japan and has included Japanese armed forces in its annual "war games."

How must that look to Koreans? After so many years of U.S. war, occupation and threats, it surely doesn't seem to be a "game."

It is perfectly understandable and rational that the unrelenting U.S. threats of war have only added to the determination of the DPRK to have a strong deterrent against aggression.

See the editorial for a discussion of what people living in an oppressor nation can do.

An open letter from Guam

from Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero

Dear America,

I am glad that you are finally paying attention to what is happening in Guam. Many of you, as I am reading online, are asking for the first time, “What is Guam?” Every day growing up here, we have been told all about you. I am sorry that it is only when we are the subject of bombs that you even attempt to say the word Guam; there are so many more interesting things I wish you would want to know about us.

We, on the other hand, are not as surprised by the latest bomb threat. We are quite used to hearing Guam and bomb in the same sentence. Every month or so, when another missile is tested, or rhetoric fired, we hear how North Korea, or China, or Russia could bomb Guam. I have even saved pictures of China's infamous “Guam Killer” bombs on my computer so our Independence group can use it in Independence 101 presentations as an example of why we need to get free NOW.

Yes, there are people in Guam who want independence from you. But there are also people in Guam who hear these threats of bombs and cower to the hype. They start to believe that we need your mighty military bases and beg for more, because then we would not be bombed, right? But you have been the source of all our bomb problems.

The worst bombs that have ever been

dropped on Guam were yours near the end of World War II. At the beginning of the war, you left us defenseless to the Japanese, knowing full well that they were planning to invade Guam all along. You safely boarded your white military wives on ships and sent them home months before the attack, but did nothing to protect us. That's right, the last time an invading nation that you said you would protect us from attacked, you surrendered in two days and left 20,000 people to suffer, many falling victim to the most atrocious of war crimes.

But we are strong and we survived, not just that ugly war but also the losses that came after. When you returned in 1944, you leveled our island with your bombs, leaving most families without a home to return to. We were scattered and displaced so you could build your enormous bases. And we were so grateful to you that our people served and continue to serve your military and die for your freedom in higher numbers per capita than you.

Today you occupy nearly one-third of our island, and station bombers and nuclear-powered submarines here to flex your might to our neighbors. You play endless war games emitting fumes and dumping waste into our air, water, soil, bodies. We breathe in the fallout when you test your bombs on our sister islands upwind — those clouds make their way down here. We eat fish from the waters



you bomb around us. [We] grieve the beached whales who rot at the shore, led astray by your sonar testing.

We are being made to sacrifice — with no consent (and for many of us, against our will) — access to sacred ancient villages and a thousand acres of a lush limestone forest habitat that you want to destroy to build a firing range for your Marines. You fly bombers over my home at ungodly hours.

Come on, America, I am raising babies here. Little ones, who notice when your flag is flown above theirs, and don't like it. Who hide under the slide at their playground and tell their friends to duck when your blaring B-1s, B-2s, be everything in their safe zone.

There is a sign on the road that reads, “Slow down, children at play.”

Will you please slow down and allow my children to play? I want them to grow up here. This is their/my/my mama's mama's mama's homeland. There is no other place in the world I want them to be.

I understand that for many “Americans,” you had to flee your homeland. That America became your better life, or

at least the promise of it. That many of you long for your homeland and can't return. And sadly, many of you don't think enough about the Indigenous Americans whose lands and lives were stolen to manifest this destiny.

But this land, this beautiful island everyone wants to bomb because of you, is my land, not yours. And I don't want to flee. I left my land once for your college education. But I ached for home the entire time. As soon as I got my degrees, I came back to use them here. My home is my better life. I am nourished by my land, where my family grows our own food. I am raising bright babies, with the jungle as their backyard, and this is the life my ancestors wanted for me and for them.

I want to go to sleep peacefully knowing that my family is safe in our home. So please, stop all this bomb talk. And instead, ask yourself why Guam is still your colony in 2017.

Good night and good morning,
Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero
1:40 a.m. August 10, 2017
Yo'ña, Guåhan (Guam)

Freedom fighters topple white supremacy statue

Continued from page 1

people's power can tear down white supremacy.

The monument at the old courthouse was erected in 1924 to “honor the boys in gray” — part of the Jim Crow propaganda movement throughout the U.S. to glorify the racist Confederacy and to reinforce the “second rise” of an anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-woman Klan.

Takiyah Thompson, a student at N.C. Central University and a member of WW Durham, with support from an eager crowd, climbed a ladder and tied a rope around the statue, prompting anti-racist fighters to topple the statue. The crowd erupted in revolutionary fervor and refused to be intimidated by white supremacists, police or politicians.

The role of the state is one of direct collaboration with white supremacist forces. In order to beat them back, we

have to build a fighting movement that is staunchly against white supremacy in all its forms — from monuments and KKK rallies to policy brutality, from housing discrimination and gentrification, from the state threatening wars abroad against Venezuela and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the war at home against Black people and all people of color, Indigenous people, LGBTQ people, women, disabled people, migrants, Muslims and poor people.

Anti-racist fighters in Durham took matters into their own hands. The Confederate statue toppled down and crumpled into itself. This is the first rope of many to pull down the pillars holding up white supremacy and capitalism.

The powers that be will crumble under the power of organized people!

Down with all statues of the Confederacy! Down with white supremacy! □

Bulletin Aug. 15 — Takiyah Thompson, the freedom fighter who climbed the Confederate statue, was arrested this afternoon following a press conference in Durham and released after a few hours, facing a hearing tomorrow morning for two felony charges of “inciting a riot” and three misdemeanor charges of “vandalism.” Thompson's supporters are asking the public to call the District Attorney's office to drop charges against Thompson and all protesters: 919-808-3010 (office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and to donate at Durhamsolidaritycenter.org/bondfund to a bail fund.

At Ravens stadium: Taking a knee for Kaepernick



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

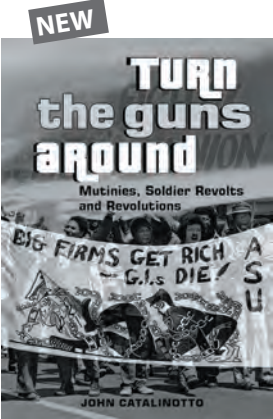
Activists supporting Colin Kaepernick against a barrage of racist attacks came out on Aug. 12 to the Baltimore Raven practice session at the M & T Bank Stadium. The diverse group of supporters were voicing their displeasure at Baltimore's National Football League team for refusing to sign a contract with Colin Kaepernick that would have given him a spot on their roster for the upcoming season.

The protesters were standing up to the NFL itself, believing that NFL owners are purposely destroying Kaepernick's football career because of his resolute and principled opposition to racism and police terror.

In the middle of last season Kaepernick took the courageous stand of kneeling during the singing of the U.S. national anthem to draw attention to police terror.

For the Aug. 12 action, Baltimore activists spread across the entrance to the stadium and knelt in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick.

— Steven Ceci



TURN THE GUNS AROUND
Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions
by John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, Catalinotto's ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

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

Available at online booksellers



Corea no se dejará intimidar

Editorial Workers World-Mundo Obrero publicado el 9 de agosto de 2017

El Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas votó unánimemente el 5 de agosto para imponer severas sanciones económicas contra la República Popular Democrática de Corea porque se niega a renunciar al desarrollo de una capacidad de disuasión nuclear.

El Consejo de Seguridad está dirigido por cinco miembros permanentes con poder de veto: Estados Unidos, Francia, Bretaña, Rusia y China. Diez países más participan en el Consejo de Seguridad, pero sólo durante dos años y sin veto.

Los cinco miembros permanentes del Consejo de Seguridad son también las potencias nucleares más fuertemente armadas del mundo.

Estados Unidos inició la carrera armamentista nuclear y es el único país que ha utilizado estas temibles armas, incinerando a más de 200.000 civiles japoneses al final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. A pesar de que la Guerra Fría ha terminado, los militares estadounidenses mantienen casi 7.000 ojivas operacionales.

¡Qué terrible hipocresía que estas potencias nucleares acusen a la RPDC de ser “irracional” y “agresiva” por buscar su propia fuerza de disuasión nuclear! ¡Y qué vergonzoso que China y Rusia, países que tuvieron que desafiar a Estados Unidos para poder desarrollar su propia defensa nuclear, se unieran a los imperialistas en este voto!

De 1950 a 1953 Estados Unidos intentó aniquilar a la RPDC. Llevó a cabo el bombardeo más concentrado de cual-

quier país del mundo. Y aunque las bombas eran convencionales, la amenaza de usar armas nucleares fue hecha muchas veces durante la guerra de Corea, especialmente por el general Douglas MacArthur.

Sin embargo, el pueblo coreano luchó con increíble valor. Finalmente, Estados Unidos se vio obligado a renunciar a su intento de conquistar Corea del norte y aniquilar el liderazgo del país. Estados Unidos firmó un acuerdo de armisticio en 1953, pero nunca ha normalizado sus relaciones con la RPDC. Al contrario, el Pentágono ha mantenido una gran presencia en Corea del sur y ha mantenido armas nucleares estacionadas allí hasta que las protestas masivas por parte de la gente en el sur forzaron su remoción.

Esto es lo que los medios de comunicación corporativos en EUA convenientemente olvidan mencionar cuando acusan a los líderes de la RPDC de actuar irracionalmente cuando intentan reforzar sus defensas. ¿Hablaron alguna vez de esa manera sobre MacArthur, el presidente Harry Truman o cualquiera de los otros líderes imperialistas que han empleado métodos militares horrendos? Y no eran para la defensa, sino para imponer la dominación imperialista estadounidense en gran parte del mundo.

El gobierno de Trump y los generales del Pentágono - que siguen apareciendo en más y más empleos en la Casa Blanca - pueden haber pensado que esta resolución del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU intimidaría a la RPDC.

Lejos de eso. He aquí algunas citas de una declaración emitida por el gobierno de la RPDC en reacción a la votación del Consejo de Seguridad:

“La resolución de sanciones de la ONU ... constituye una flagrante violación a la soberanía de la RPDC y un abierto desafío a ella.

“El acceso de la RPDC a una fuerza nuclear más fuerte es una medida justa y legítima de autodefensa para proteger la soberanía del país y el derecho de la nación a su existencia ante los actos arbitrarios de Estados Unidos ... Está tratando de impulsar la situación de la península coreana al borde de la guerra nuclear, corriendo frenéticamente para llevar a cabo ejercicios de misiles contra la RPDC y desplegando equipo estratégico masivo en la península.

“Fue contra este telón de fondo que Estados Unidos manipuló al Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas para amañar la ‘resolución de sanciones’ más atroz que nunca, poniendo una prohibición total incluso en las actividades comerciales normales y el intercambio económico, revelando así al mundo entero sus viles intenciones para borrar la ideología y el sistema de la RPDC y exterminar a su pueblo. ...

“La RPDC ya ha ganado todo lo que necesitaba ... a través de una ardua lucha bajo el más severo régimen de sanciones ... adoptado por la instigación de Estados Unidos durante las últimas décadas. Es sólo una triste esperanza considerar

cualquier posibilidad de que la RPDC sea sacudida un centímetro o cambie su posición por las sanciones de este nuevo tipo impuestas por las fuerzas hostiles. ...

“Considerar [las medidas defensivas de la RPDC] como una “amenaza para la paz y la seguridad internacional” es una lógica de tipo gánster que indica que el resto del mundo debería convertirse en colonias de Estados Unidos o ser víctima de su agresión. ...

“Mientras continúe la política hostil estadounidense y la amenaza nuclear, la RPDC ... nunca reemplazará su disuasión nuclear de autodefensa en la mesa de negociaciones o se alejará un centímetro del camino elegido por ella misma, el camino de reforzar la fuerza nuclear del estado. ...

“Ya una vez Estados Unidos emprendió una trágica guerra que hundió esta tierra en un mar de sangre y fuego, y no ha dejado piedra por voltear para borrar la ideología y el sistema de la RPDC siglo tras siglo. ...

“Si Estados Unidos no actúa con discreción, y persiste en sus temerarios intentos de sofocar a la RPDC, no vacilaremos ni dudaremos en utilizar cualquier forma de últimos recursos.

“La RPDC se aferrará a la línea de un desarrollo simultáneo de los dos frentes, la bandera duradera de la defensa de la paz, y seguirá avanzando hacia el final del camino elegido por sí mismo sin la más mínima desviación”.

¡Detengan las amenazas de guerra!
¡Estados Unidos, manos fuera de Corea! □

‘El pueblo venezolano’: Declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Republica de Cuba

*Declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Cuba
Republica de Cuba
La Habana
31 de julio de 2017*

Este domingo 30 de julio de 2017, durante las elecciones para la Asamblea Nacional Constituyente en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, el pueblo venezolano ha demostrado al mundo que es dueño pleno de sus derechos soberanos y que milita decididamente del lado de la paz, en defensa de la seguridad ciudadana, de la independencia y la libre determinación de su Patria, como lo han hecho a lo largo de toda la historia de América Latina y el Caribe, desde Bolívar.

Venezuela se volcó a las urnas como nunca antes había ocurrido en un proceso constituyente. Ese pueblo, que desafió los tranques, las guarimbas, los sabotajes económicos y las amenazas internacionales, derrotó con sus votos la estrategia del imperialismo y las oligarquías y de una oposición que no ha titubeado para desatar las expresiones más brutales de crueldad. Ofende el cinismo de todos los que pretenden culpar al gobierno y a los

defensores del pueblo de los crímenes cometidos.

Cuba denuncia la puesta en marcha de una bien concertada operación internacional, dirigida desde Washington, con apoyo del Secretario General de la OEA, destinada a silenciar la voz del pueblo venezolano, a desconocer su voluntad, a imponerle la rendición mediante ataques y sanciones económicas.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos, por su parte, ha impuesto directamente al Presidente constitucional Nicolás Maduro Moro sanciones insólitas, violatorias del Derecho Internacional y arbitrarias, que repudiamos.

Conocemos bien todas estas prácticas intervencionistas. Creen que a través de eso lograrán la sumisión del pueblo a una oposición títere que financiaron y que ahora promete hacer arder el país.

Una vez más, reiteramos lo expresado por el Presidente de los Consejos de Estado y de Ministros, General de Ejército Raúl Castro Ruz el pasado 14 de julio en la Asamblea Nacional:

“La agresión y la violencia golpista contra Venezuela dañan a toda «Nuestra

América» y solo benefician los intereses de quienes se empeñan en dividirnos para ejercer su dominación sobre nuestros pueblos, sin que les importe generar conflictos de consecuencias incalculables en esta región, como los que estamos presenciando en diferentes lugares del mundo.”

“Alertamos hoy que quienes pretenden derrocar por vías inconstitucionales, violentas y golpistas a la Revolución Bolivariana y Chavista asumirán una seria responsabilidad ante la historia.”

Nada puede detener a un pueblo dueño de su destino. Solo los venezolanos pueden decidir cómo superar sus problemas y trazar su futuro. Basta de injerencias, de conciliábulos, de traiciones al espíritu bolivariano.

Reiteramos nuestra inquebrantable

solidaridad con el pueblo y el gobierno bolivariano y chavista, y con su unidad cívico-militar que lidera el presidente constitucional Nicolás Maduro Moros. Como dijo Fidel en la Universidad Central de Caracas durante su visita en enero de 1959: “La postura del Gobierno Revolucionario de Cuba será una postura firme y sin vacilaciones de ninguna clase, porque ha llegado la hora de que los pueblos sepan defenderse y sepan plantear sus derechos.” □

