

# After racist cops gun down youth Rebellion in Milwaukee

By Workers World Staff

Aug. 15 — As part of the ongoing international resistance against police terror, youth rose up in rebellion in Milwaukee the evening of Aug. 13 and again the following night.

After a cop gunned down 23-year-old Sylville Smith on the North side of Milwaukee, a center of the Black community known as Sherman Park, eyewitnesses state that youth in the immediate area rebelled in self-defense against this latest atrocity of police terror.

During the evening a police car was disabled by fire, along with a bank and six other businesses from which some goods were allegedly liberated.

The next night, following a protest march that took place without confrontation, some young people again rebelled. They reportedly threw construction material at police cars. One 18-year-old man was shot and seriously wounded. Police, who were out in force, reported they arrested 17 people.

Wisconsin's Republican Gov. Scott Walker, a favorite of the reactionary Tea Party, called a state of emergency and activated the National Guard. Walker also activated the Guard during the 2011 occupation of the State Capitol in Madison when he was making a direct attack on public-sector union members and their families.

The police execution of Sylville Smith follows the murder of numerous Black people by police and vigilantes in Wisconsin in the past few years, including Jay Anderson, Dontre Hamilton, Bo Morrison, Tony Robinson, Corey Stingley and Derek Williams.

Milwaukee police are now in the process of settling lawsuits about public strip-searches of dozens of Black residents, among other horrific crimes.

## Cops occupy Black community

The latest people's rebellion comes after a summer during which city police and other repressive state forces continued to engage in military-style occupations of popular gathering places for Black youth and their loved ones, such as Sherman Park and the Milwaukee lakefront. Black youth report they can't move anywhere in the city without some form of police harassment and brutality.

As of Monday, Democratic Mayor Tom Barrett had turned down use of the National Guard, but imposed a 10 p.m. curfew on teenagers. Milwaukee and suburban police and sheriffs continue to occupy Sherman Park.

Throughout the weekend, Walker, Barrett, Police Chief Edward Flynn and Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke — to name a few politicians — along with the corporate media, have been denouncing and violence-baiting the courageous youth who are fighting police terror and occupation. Meanwhile, they're cheering on the cops who are rampaging through the North Side brutalizing and arresting community members.

Numerous community supporters are defending the rebelling youth and others, including such organizations as Disarm, Divest, Dismantle and Abolish the Police; Youth Empowered in the Struggle; the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement; the Nation of Islam; Workers World Party; and the Coalition for Justice.

The last organization was formed by Dontre Hamilton's family after he was gunned down by killer cop Christopher Manney on April 30, 2014.

An Aug. 14 Coalition for Justice statement reads: "What happened last night was not the result of greed or an ignorant display of anger as some have called it, but rather pain and frustration built up from over 400 years of oppression. ... We are one of the most segregated cities in the United States. We are the worst city for Black children to grow up in. We are a city of inequities, of under-education, of unemployment, of oppression, of drug abuse, of violence." (facebook.com/justicefordontre)

Members of the Coalition for Justice joined the Aug. 14 protest march and did volunteer work, along with others, to clean up the neighborhood.

Like across the United States and similarly in Latin America, the Caribbean and other locations in

the Western Hemisphere, present-day conditions in Wisconsin for people of African descent are rooted in slavery.

## The right to rebel

In Madison and Milwaukee, in particular, the U.S. capitalist system has imposed some of the worst apartheid-like, genocidal conditions in the U.S. on the Black community.

Members of the Madison-based Young Gifted and Black Coalition and of Freedom Inc. have given testimony before a United Nations human rights panels exposing these conditions.

People of African descent in Wisconsin have always

*Continued on page 4*

## Fighting for \$15 and a union

The first-ever "Fight for \$15" conference was held the weekend of Aug. 13 in Richmond, Va. Thousands of low-wage workers marched through the streets of the former capital of the Confederacy to "draw links between the racist history of the United States and current policies ... and the low wages workers are experiencing," stated national organizer Kendall Fells. Look for coverage from this conference in an upcoming Workers World.

WW PHOTO



## Cleveland Pride carries on Southern Workers' School NYC activists: 'Abolish police!'

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# Strength, visibility at Pride in the CLE

By Susan Schnur  
Cleveland

The trend of business-oriented LGBTQ Pride celebrations around the U.S. was overcome in Cleveland, at least for 2016. After 27 years of continuous Cleveland Pride festivals and marches, the corruption at the nonprofit Pride Cleveland was so great that the business owner who had taken it over abruptly canceled the whole event on July 28, claiming vague and unsubstantiated security threats.

The response of the greater community was swift and decisive. The Cleveland LGBT Community Center, along with 18 other groups and organizations, put together their own march and festival in two weeks' time. In fact, for the first time in more than 20 years the event was called a "march" and not a parade.

The focus was on responding to the bloody hate crime at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando Fla., with pride and



determination, and to continue the fight for full civil rights for everyone in the LGBTQ movement. There were no shopping or FBI recruitment booths this year. There was dancing, laughing and local musicians. Of course, the organizers made nice with the Cleveland Police Department, but many participants knew that we must organize ourselves to defend ourselves and our interests. □

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# Brigade reaffirms solidarity with Cuba

By Ellie Dorritie,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

The 47th Venceremos Brigade returned from Cuba by marching across the Peace Bridge, which links Fort Erie, Canada, with Buffalo, N.Y., on Aug. 8. In making the trip, the members defied the continuing U.S. restrictions on travel to that socialist country. Chanting "We're gonna end this travel ban!" they were met with cheers, banners and rallies, and a picnic.

Welcoming the Venceremos Brigade were brigadistas from earlier Venceremos Brigades and members of IFCO/Pastors for Peace Cuba Travel Challenge, the National Network on Cuba, Workers World Party, the Latin America Solidarity Committee, the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Niagara and the International Action Center.

In a joint statement with IFCO/Pastors for Peace, the two travel challenge groups openly declared that they had traveled to Cuba in solidarity and without licenses. They reaffirmed their commitment to defending, through continued civil disobedience, Cuba's national sovereignty and right to self-determination. Their struggle will con-



tinue, they emphasized, until the blockade and travel ban are lifted, the U.S. Naval Base and prison at Guantánamo Bay is closed with the illegally occupied land returned to Cuba, and the U.S. government ceases its attempts to subvert the Cuban revolution.

They pointed out that as the energy surges for building a movement in the U.S. for racial, economic and social justice, this movement must look to Cuba as a role model. Cuba has shown us that another world is possible. □

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Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994



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Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis, Bob McCubbin

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Ramiro Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis  
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### Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

### Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**National Office**  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
[wwp@workers.org](mailto:wwp@workers.org)

**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

**Baltimore**  
c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.221.3775  
[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)

**Bay Area**  
1305 Franklin St. #411  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.600.5800  
[bayarea@workers.org](mailto:bayarea@workers.org)

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.286.6574  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
712 Main St #113B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.883.2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

**Chicago**  
312.630.2305  
[chicagowwp@gmail.com](mailto:chicagowwp@gmail.com)

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)

**Durham, N.C.**  
804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)

**Huntington, W. Va.**  
[huntingtonww@workers.org](mailto:huntingtonww@workers.org)

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

**Lexington, KY**  
[lexington@workers.org](mailto:lexington@workers.org)

**Los Angeles**  
5278 W Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
[la@workers.org](mailto:la@workers.org)  
323.306.6240

**Milwaukee**  
[milwaukee@workers.org](mailto:milwaukee@workers.org)

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

**Pittsburgh**  
[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)

**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585.436.6458  
[rochester@workers.org](mailto:rochester@workers.org)

**Rockford, IL**  
[rockford@workers.org](mailto:rockford@workers.org)

**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)

**Virginia**  
[virginia@workers.org](mailto:virginia@workers.org)

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)



# E4F marches against cops and gentrification

By Imani Henry  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Equality for Flatbush Project (E4F), a people-of-color-led, multinational grassroots organization which does anti-police repression, affordable housing and anti-gentrification organizing in the Flatbush and East Flatbush sections of Brooklyn, organized a march and rally on Aug. 13.

E4F is working on 11 campaigns through volunteer power. This is the first march organized in the Flatbush community and the first time a march has happened connecting police violence, racism and gentrification in our neighborhood.

Some 250 people from all over Brooklyn braved the scorching heat to march in the sun, but hundreds more participated beforehand in this effort. These included many people who went door-to-door to get endorsers from businesses, who then put up flyers for the march, and all the folks who went out leafleting and doing tape-ups on poles late into the evening.

So when the New York Police Department and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation tried to stop the march by denying permits, the onslaught of community support for two days, both through social media and with phone calls, forced



WWW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

them to issue permits.

The rally was held under the shade of the trees in Prospect Park, so people could sit and be fully engaged — versus suffering in the heat. It was co-chaired by this writer and Zakiyah Sayyed, a leader of the Brooklyn Anti-gentrification Network. Speakers included Alicia Boyd, founder of Movement to Protect the People; Elizabeth C. Yeampierre, of UPROSE; Bisi Ideraabdullah, executive director of Imani House; Christine Lewis, leader of the Domestic Workers United; Noha Arafah, lawyer and activist with New Yorkers Against Bratton; Michael Higgins, from Families Families United for Racial & Economic Equality; as well as community members from Bushwick, Brooklyn,

Jamaica, Queens and elsewhere who took the mic to talk about struggles happening in their neighborhoods.

Ryan Richardson and Michael “Ziggy” Mintz, both part of the leadership of E4F, talked about components of the newly launched Real Estate Watch Project of the E4F Investigative Research Team, who work to hold greedy landlords and developers accountable by providing information and tools to empower residents.

Nabil Hassein, of Millions March NYC, took time away from the very important occupation at #AbolitionSquare, formerly known as New York City Hall Park, to come to the rally. #ShutDownCityHallNYC started on Aug. 1. That is the kind of direct action and occupation that led to the resignation of William Bratton as police commissioner on Aug. 2.

## Visits to enemy territory

The march stepped off from the park with the goal of “visiting” targets of gentrification and police repression along the way. First stop was the infamous 23-story luxury development at 626 Flatbush Ave. owned by Hudson Companies, where studio apartments start at \$2,000 a month.

Flatbush is largely a Black and Brown (South Asian and Latino/a) migrant com-

munity where the average median income is under \$40,000 a year. Hudson boasts of offering “51 affordable units for people making between \$33K-\$40K” a year, but the other 200 units will go to people who can afford \$4,000 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. Already small, long-time businesses have been closed or are fighting to keep their leases on the block.

Known for being part of the first wave of gentrification in the historically Black neighborhoods of Fort Greene and Bedford-Stuyvesant, Greenlight Bookstore is one of the first businesses to lease commercial space at 626 Flatbush Ave. In 2015, the Greenlight Bookstore owner, Rebecca Fitting, a new white resident of Flatbush, helped to organize “meetings on crime” in our neighborhood, giving a platform for police to further terrorize us. E4F has mobilized for that police meeting to intervene and make sure residents of color were heard and facts of police violence in the neighborhood were put front and center.

The march was confronted by a Hudson Company employee who told the community members they were on “private property” and had to leave — which is funny since the developer has been openly advertising “tours” of the complex. The Hud-

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## BALTIMORE

# WWP candidates on recent DOJ report

By Workers World Baltimore Bureau

The Department of Justice released a 164-page report on the city of Baltimore Police Department that is a scathing condemnation of widespread racism and civil rights violations over several decades, including discrimination against women.

Like the earlier national report on the Ferguson, Mo., police department, this Aug. 10 report has become national news.

The report comes about 16 months after the death of Freddie Gray, a Black youth who suffered fatal injuries while being transported by Baltimore police in a van. Since then, and after the “not guilty” decisions that cleared the police involved in his arrest and transport of any misdoings, there have been continued protest demonstrations and some confrontations between the police and the Black community.

Workers World newspaper interviewed revolutionary socialist candidates Andre Powell, who is running for mayor of Baltimore, and Sharon Black, who is running for City Council president. Both are local organizers for Workers World Party and the People’s Power Assembly. Both candidates are active in the local struggle against police terror.

**WW:** What is your reaction to the DOJ report?

**Powell:** First, we should take note of the timing of this report. It came out after the charges were dropped against the police in the Freddie Gray trial. The timing is disappointing if not actually suspect.

**Black:** I would like to add that we have been pointing out the exact same points this report makes, but for several decades. And we were not quiet about it. There have been countless protests, marches and some of us have even gone to jail protesting these abuses.

So it’s not new to us and certainly not to the community. The report is all fine and good, but the lack of any substantial solutions or conclusions is glaring.

You should know that on the ground nothing has really transpired other than lots of talk of so-called reform. Life for those in the community remains miser-



Andre Powell

able in terms of police terror. There hasn’t even been one firing of the police who have actually been exposed in this report. This is incredible when you think about it.

**Powell:** I and my running mate, Sharon Black, are calling for the disarming, divestment and disbanding of racist police. These are immediate steps.

**Black:** Police are an occupying army in the poor and Black community of Baltimore. They need to get out. There is a tremendous amount of propaganda that

says we need the cops and repression but genuine facts do not support this.

Baltimore city rates as one of the top five cities in the United States that have the highest percentage of police per person and yet violence and crime are still prevalent. Our campaign has insisted that the only way to improve the quality

of life for the people in our communities is to provide jobs and education. The people must have power to end the severe alienation and powerlessness that turns peo-



Sharon Black

# Workers School lifts up Southern organizing

By Dante Strobino  
Raleigh, N.C.

Workers from 12 Southern cities, several workplaces and a number of unions gathered here for the Southern Workers School over the Aug. 5-7 weekend to continue their study of the political economy of the Southern region of the U.S. and develop organizing skills. Attendees also participated in a strategy session about “How might the 2016 elections open opportunities for organizing Southern workers?”

The Southern Workers Assembly has been building the Southern Workers School as an important institution to train and develop rank-and-file workers to organize the South. The school has held eight sessions since March, tackling issues such as the role of slavery in shaping the political economy of the U.S. South, lessons from the history of past organizing campaigns such as Operation Dixie and the Civil Rights movement, fighting women’s oppression in the workplace, and building campaigns at work for more protections for LGBTQ people after passage of North Carolina’s House Bill 2, which targets trans people. The school also offered basic organizing skills such as learning how to map your workplace and tips for one-on-

one discussions with co-workers.

“The school is really important for us to continue to draw in Southern workers to educate ourselves and to continue to broaden out this fighting movement at the workplace,” stated Leonard Riley, leader of International Association of Longshoremen Local 1422 and the Carolina Alliance for Fair Employment in Charleston, S.C.

The latest school session occurred amid a massive year-long media onslaught about the capitalist presidential elections, making workers feel like almost nothing else is going on in the world or at their workplaces. While most workers are confronted with an impossible choice between voting for an outright racist billionaire who hates workers like Donald Trump, or holding their nose and voting for another racist, anti-worker candidate like Hillary Clinton, the school sought to elevate workers’ roles in building a social justice union movement. After all, it is the class struggle that is the motive force that changes history, not rich politicians.

## The class struggle expands

The movements for Black Lives Matter and Fight for \$15 have rocked this country over the last few years and totally changed the expectations of the masses.

ple’s anger inward and at each other.

**Powell:** Yes, the police are basically a tool of capitalist rule. Ultimately, they need to be abolished along with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and the Pentagon.

To continue the day-to-day struggle against police brutality, the People’s Power Assembly, which we work in, the Baltimore chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Ujima Peoples Progress Party are building for a major march and rally for justice for Koryn Gaines, a 23-year-old mother who was shot to death by Baltimore County police on Aug. 2. □



WWW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

They are forcing the politicians to change their political programs in an attempt to hold onto their fading support base.

“These politicians don’t care about low-wage workers or Black people. They just want our votes,” stated Rolanda McMillan, a McDonald’s worker from Richmond and leader of Raise Up. “That’s why we must organize our people and build power to challenge them and the corporations.”

Delegations participating in the school included ILA dockworkers from Charleston, S.C.; fast food workers and members of Raise Up from several cities, including Richmond, Durham and Biscoe; state and city workers belonging to the United Electrical Workers (UE) from three states, including Local 150 from North Carolina, Local 160 from Virginia and

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# Angola 3 book-signing honors political prisoners

By Henry Hagins  
New York

For the many veterans of the human rights struggles, past and present, who were in the room, it was more than a book signing acknowledging the paperback publication of Robert Hillary King's autobiography, "From the Bottom of the Heap." It was a tribute to the Angola 3.

King and Albert Woodfox are the two surviving members of the Angola 3, who, as members of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense inside the notorious prison compound at Angola, La., fought to improve living conditions in this massive torture chamber starting in the early 1970s.

The three spent from 29 to nearly 44 years in prison in solitary confinement, which meant, to put it bluntly, decades of being tortured.

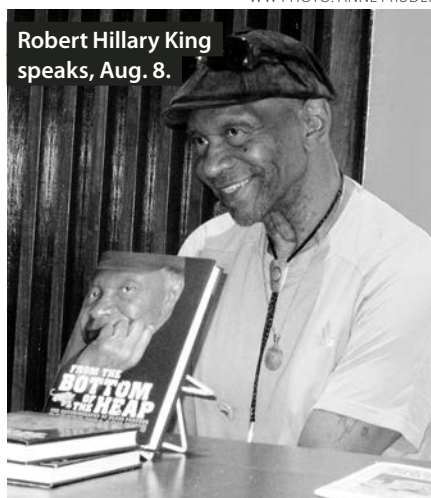
The third member, Herman Wallace,

had been released in October 2013. This was an act of supreme cynicism by the prison authorities, as Wallace died of liver cancer only three days after leaving prison.

Albert Woodfox was released on his birthday in February, after having spent more than 43 years in solitary confinement.

Robert King won release in 2001, never forgetting his brothers that were left behind.

This book signing event was held at the union headquarters of SEIU 1199 in midtown Manhattan during the evening of Aug. 8. The audience was made up mainly of supporters, who applauded the frequent



Robert Hillary King speaks, Aug. 8.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

acknowledgements of Woodfox and King during the ceremony for their heroic endurance.

Speakers also did a shout out to slain Panther George Jackson and noted the significance of "Black August," associated with the struggle for and repression of Black Liberation fighters who were prisoners.

Attendees were treated to a cultural presentation from a former partner in the duo Serious Business, before guest speakers shared their observations about the current state of affairs regarding the ongoing fight to free our political prisoners, along with overall conditions inside the United States.

Speakers, besides King and Woodfox, included Anne Lamb of the Jericho Movement; Russell Shoatz III, the son of political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz; and Ramona Africa of the MOVE 9, among others.

Common themes raised by the speakers included continued support for political prisoners, the need to honor their efforts and the never-ending need to fight for their release.

The Angola 3 bring to mind a poem penned by Vietnam's venerable liberation leader, Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh), whom French imperialism once imprisoned:

"Without the cold and bleakness of winter, the warmth and splendor of spring could never be. Misfortune has steeled and tempered me, and further strengthened my resolve."

Ho Chi Minh would be proud of the example set by these three heroic men. □

# Abolition Square action says: 'Abolish police'

By Sara Flounders  
New York

Abolish the police! A revolutionary concept has sprouted organically from the intense ferment and combative spirit of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Grassroots encampments in three cities challenge the vicious defenders of racism and class rule at the roots.

They renamed City Hall Park here "Abolition Square" and focused the occupation on a world without police and state terror. They have kept this territory liberated since Aug. 1, defying an extreme heat wave.

This occupation is part of a national effort, including Chicago and Los Angeles, that focuses on the current and historic role of systematic police terror in maintaining white supremacy.

Colin Ashley, a People's Power Assembly organizer, has since Day 1 been part of the logistics team, which helps pull together food supply, cleanups, nightly housing on park benches, workshops and cultural programs. Ashley was helping to set up the daily dinner at Abolition Square on Day 12 while filling in WW:

"Activists are continuing to engage in a conversation dedicated to the question of abolishing the police and prisons and what it legitimately takes to get this. We are discussing strategic ways of doing community outreach, as well as ways of maintaining links with the multiple



PHOTO: JOE CATRON

groups that have shown solidarity with Abolition Square."

## New tactics to heighten demands

Ashley summarized three major accomplishments of the occupation: "First, activists have created a solid foundation for a coalition of grassroots organizations dedicated to Police Abolition as a radical vision.

"Second, groups and individuals have created workshops on self-defense, cop-watch and know your rights. Third, the occupation has also become a center for historical and political workshops on such varied topics as the History of White Supremacy, Black and Native Solidarity, Immigration and Imperialism, Global Political Prisoners, Queer Liberation As an Anti-Police Movement. The workshops held here at Abolition Square can

be reproduced around the city.

"In undertaking this occupation we have tapped into what is seemingly a national Black Lives Matter movement's desire to diversify tactics as well as escalate demands."

Flyers handed out at the occupation are headlined "Abolish White Supremacy, Abolish the Police." They proclaim: "If we are serious about ending white supremacy, then we need radical change. It is time to re-imagine security in our communities." "The demands of the occupation are:

1. Fire [New York Police Department] Commissioner Bill Bratton & End Broken Windows Now!
2. Invest in Black Futures! Defund the NYPD's \$5.5 billion budget and invest in Black and Brown communities.
3. Reparations for all victims of police violence from the NYPD budget."

On Day 2 of the occupation, hated Police Commissioner Bill Bratton announced he was stepping down. But no announcement was made ending the vicious police policies known as "broken windows" that he initiated.

## Principles of unity

An Orientation Guide explains why the action was called and why raising demands for abolition and not reform of the police and prison system is the way forward for the Black Lives Matter movement. The guide explains that no amount of body cameras or retraining will change the rac-

ist, violent nature of the police. Such fake reforms further increase the budget and the power of racist NYPD, it says.

The guide lists principles that give examples of how people are able to organize themselves socially without police intervention. These principles include no cooperation with or involvement of NYPD or any law enforcement entity and no closed-door discussions with politicians. No physical or mental harm to others. Sexual violence, including harassment, will be dealt with swiftly.

Nate Peters, a People's Power Assembly organizer, who has been a daily presence at the encampment, told WW: "#Abolition-Square has drawn a line in the sand: The police are an inherently racist and brutal institution. If we want to abolish police brutality, then we must abolish the police."

This revolutionary demand and the courageous activists who have raised it deserve broad support from the entire Left and workers' political movement.

Many different kinds of active support are urgently needed. Spending time at the encampment during the day, especially morning shifts, is especially helpful. Also bringing food and supplies and participating in workshops and classes.

Supporters everywhere can spread the word and share the message — Abolish the Police.

For more information, follow #Shut-DownCityHallNYC and #AbolitionSquare on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. □

# Community in rebellion after cops gun down youth

Continued from page 1

faced oppression and super-exploitation. But over the past 40 years, they have faced increasing terrorist assaults by Wall Street forces and their political servants. These assaults have increased rapidly since 2011 under Gov. Walker and the right-wing-controlled Wisconsin legislature.

Between the 1930s and 1950s, tens of thousands of people of African descent moved from southern states to Milwaukee for employment in the numerous, sprawling industrial plants in the city. Even though many were occupationally segregated jobs, they were in union plants. Homeownership in the Black community in Milwaukee was high and often passed from generation to generation.

With capitalists purposefully moving many plants out of the North side of Milwaukee in the late 1970s and early 1980s, along with legislation like the so-called North American Free Trade Act, devastation soon followed in Black communities, leading to today's increasingly abysmal conditions. Many Black neighborhoods in Milwaukee now resemble areas in Detroit and other Midwestern cities with large Black populations that have been decimated by the policies of Wall Street banks and corporations.

Over the past 10 years alone, there have been at least 20,000 foreclosures in Milwaukee, most in the Black community. Black people are 240,000 out of a total city population of 600,000.

The right-wing, Milwaukee-based Bradley Foundation has led the ruling-class offensive to shred such social safety nets as unemployment insurance and welfare benefits; cut hours at or eliminate recreation centers and libraries; and destroy public sector unions where many from the Black community could previously find employment providing living wages and benefits.

Some 13 percent of Black men in Wisconsin are incarcerated, double the national average. ([tinyurl.com/qdfw4c3](http://tinyurl.com/qdfw4c3))

Capitalism has left the Black youth in Milwaukee, Madison and elsewhere in the state — along with other oppressed people and a growing number of poor and working-class whites — with bleak futures with low-wage or no jobs. Black communities

are occupied and beloved family members are gunned down by the police.

As the Coalition for Justice wrote on Aug. 14: "What happened last night was a revolt and an uproar, not just a disturbance. The media has no problem to classify us at thugs. ... The people are angry. The people are fed up, and the people are demanding their freedom."

The Black youth of Milwaukee have the right to rebel against genocidal conditions! Resistance is justified from Africa to Palestine to Milwaukee! Police and National Guard occupiers out of Milwaukee now! Stop the War on Black America!

For more information, updates and how to support, see [www.facebook.com/justicefordontre](http://www.facebook.com/justicefordontre).



## At Peace and Freedom Party convention

# WWP builds solidarity for Black Lives Matter movement

By Judy Greenspan  
Sacramento, Calif.

At this year's Peace and Freedom Party convention, held Aug. 12-14 in Sacramento, Calif., delegates were reminded of their party's early and rich anti-racist history and were urged to show solidarity with the struggles of Black and Brown people against police murders by nominating Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, Workers World Party's presidential candidates, to head their ticket.

While Moorehead and Lilly did not win the nomination, the PFP was moved to a greater understanding of the need to build solidarity with the Black Lives Matter uprising. The PFP has ballot status in California and has usually endorsed candidates of national parties in the presidential elections.

Dave Welsh, a retired postal worker and member of PFP since 1967, motivated the discussion that continued throughout the weekend. "In the early days of the Peace and Freedom Party, the movements against the Vietnam War and the Black Liberation movement were the focus for our presidential campaign. We formed an alliance with the Black Panther Party. The comparable issue here today is support for the Black Lives Matter movement, and Monica and Lamont have done a tremendous job of supporting that movement," Welsh concluded.

The convention began Friday night with speeches from the four presidential candidates: Moorehead and Lilly for WWP; Gloria La Riva for the Party for Socialism and Liberation; Lynn Kahn, an independent; and Laura Wells representing the Green Party candidate, Jill Stein. The unspoken question of the night was: Which way forward for the PFP and for the movement of activists, who need to be convinced to support socialist candidates in the upcoming elections?

### Moorehead: 'Forge solidarity with the most oppressed'

In her talk, Moorehead asked the question: "Why do Marxists run in the elections?" She noted that while elections will never change the "fundamental conditions of our class," revolutionaries will use "every arena of struggle including elections." She went on to explain that in the fight for socialism, "the struggle to unite the workers and the oppressed of the world, must also be a struggle to forge solidarity, in both words and deeds, with the most oppressed sectors of our global class."

Moorehead urged the activists not to fall into the trap of minimizing "the importance of combating racism, the oppression of immigrant workers, and the oppression of women, and lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, and queer people for the sake of 'unity.'"

Both WWP candidates in their opening remarks to the convention urged the PFP to show their solidarity with the Black and Brown youth who were fighting in the streets against police killings and terror. They called for unity among left parties to support the most oppressed.

Lamont Lilly, the young vice presidential candidate, likened this moment to a critical political crossroads for the anti-capitalist movement and argued that "true socialism should reflect a connection to the oppressed, a commitment to

the proletarian working class, to the disenfranchised and most marginalized."

Lilly stated that "the Black Panther Party considered themselves the vanguard, and rightfully so. And so do many of the various fractions of the Black Lives Matter movement."

"Those were the youth and working poor we saw in Ferguson and Baltimore fighting back against tanks and teargas with their bodies, laying it ... all on the line, connecting their local struggles to Palestine and Libya ... building on the revolutionary spirit of Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela," added Lilly. Both Lilly and Moorehead traveled to Ferguson to show their solidarity after the police assassination of Michael Brown.

The other presidential candidates found themselves pressed to express their support for the Black Lives Matter uprising in their talks.

Saturday was the day for nominations from the floor for the various candidates and the final tally of delegate votes choosing the 2016 PFP presidential candidate.

### Parker: 'Build movement for socialism'

John Parker, who received over 33,000 votes as the PFP candidate for U.S. Senate in the June primary, gave a moving talk, challenging the delegates to be true to themselves and to either move the organization "forward in relevance" or to "remain static" and ignore our "responsibilities as revolutionaries."

Parker said, "Monica Moorehead is a leader in the Black Lives Matter solidarity movement and represents a turning point for the Peace and Freedom Party, not away, but inwards toward its legacy of solidarity for the purpose of unity, for the purpose of building the movement for socialism. I nominate Monica Moorehead for president."

Jefferson de Azevedo, a member of the Los Angeles branch of WWP, stressed the need for all the groups seeking the PFP nomination to work together in unity. "We've got to stop being so individualist, and be socialists. We must work with each other and help each other or we will never win. My enemy is capitalism," Jefferson said.

Sekou Parker, an 18-year-old Black delegate from South Central Los Angeles, felt he had to speak out and endorse Monica Moorehead: "I believe in change. This country has to change." He recounted the time that he was walking home and a police car slowed down and started driving slowly beside him. Parker noted, "It was probably the scariest moment of my life." The young man wondered: "Are they going to arrest me? Are they going to shoot me?"

At the same time that Parker and other delegates were speaking, a Black man was being shot and killed by the police in Milwaukee, and the Black community was rebelling against this latest police murder.

The WWP candidates lost the political battle to be on the PFP ticket; the delegates chose Gloria La Riva of PSL. Despite this, Moorehead and Lilly made a strong impression on the other candidates and on the PFP delegates. The discussion of the weekend was framed by the overwhelming need to build solidarity with the oppressed communities, particularly

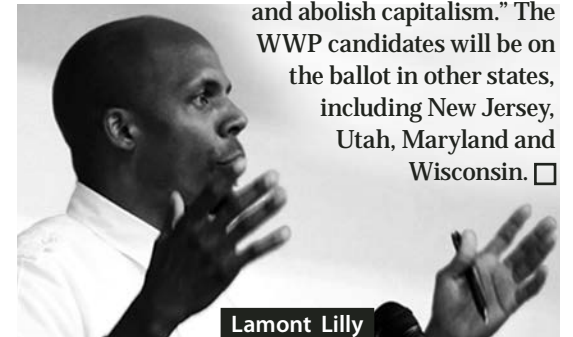


John Parker

with the struggles of Black and Brown people against police terror and murder.

Moorehead summed this up in her talk to the convention: "If we are to erect a new, united, revolutionary socialist movement, our first order of business must be to find a way to maximize concrete solidarity with targeted communities.

This, and only this, can be the foundation of the dawning of a new revolutionary socialist project."



Lamont Lilly



Monica Moorehead

The Moorehead/Lilly campaign will run a write-in campaign in California (and many other states) and continue to politically organize to demand "Black Lives Matter, stop ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and all deportations, and abolish capitalism." The WWP candidates will be on the ballot in other states, including New Jersey, Utah, Maryland and Wisconsin. □

## Happy birthday, Fidel!

Statement of Workers World Party Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead and Vice Presidential Candidate Lamont Lilly.

People everywhere celebrated the 90th birthday of Fidel Castro — the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution — on Aug. 13.

Since its socialist revolution in 1959, Cuba has been a beacon of hope for every poor person. Capitalist New York City, home to Wall Street, has over 25,000 homeless children, but every child in socialist Havana has a home.

While the Pentagon has 800 military bases occupying the world, and continues to occupy Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, socialist Cuba trains and sends doctors to other countries. Socialist Cuba converted an old naval academy into the Latin American School of Medicine. Even the White House had to commend the courageous Cuban health workers who fought Ebola in Africa last year. Cuban medical workers have restored the sight of hundreds of thousands throughout Latin America in "Operation Miracle."

Women have full equality and their own organization, the Federation of Cuban Women, founded by former guerilla fighter Vilma Espin. LGBTQ rights are advancing in Cuba. As noted by transgender warrior and WWP managing editor Leslie Feinberg more than two decades ago, "Cuba's National Center for Sex Education carries out its important collective labor — including combating what remains of pre-revolutionary prejudice against same-sex love."

None of this could have happened without Fidel Castro's leadership of the struggle that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista on Jan. 1, 1959. Before that, beautiful Cuba, the pearl of the Caribbean, was just a giant sugar plantation and casino for Wall Street.

### History has absolved him

After Batista staged a military coup in 1952, Fidel led revolutionaries, including his brother Raúl, to attack the Moncada military barracks in Santiago on July 26, 1953.

Like John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859, the heroic assault on the Moncada was defeated. Most of the revolutionaries were tortured and killed.

Fortunately, Fidel Castro survived. Put on trial by dictator Batista, Fidel electrified the Cuban people with his "History Will Absolve Me" speech to the court.

Batista was forced to release Fidel and the other survivors two years later. Fidel and his comrades went to Mexico where they met Che Guevara and organized a new revolt. The revolutionaries came back on the boat "Granma" and landed in eastern Cuba on Dec. 2, 1956.

Only 12 of the revolutionaries survived the landing. A two-year revolutionary war followed. Despite being supplied with planes and bombs by the Pentagon, Batista's army crumbled, and he finally had to flee Cuba on Jan. 1, 1959. The island was liberated from his bloody dictatorship.

One of the first acts of the Cuban revolutionaries entering Havana 57 years ago was to tear down the "whites only" signs on the beaches. The Cuban Revolution was a tremendous victory against racism.

The Cuban people were on the move. They took over U.S.-owned sugar plantations and nickel mines. Wall Street couldn't tolerate a new law that limited the bill for rent and utilities to 10 percent of a Cuban family's income.

Often using gangsters whose casinos had been seized, the banksters' CIA has staged over 600 assassination attempts against Fidel Castro.

Forces trained and armed by the CIA invaded Cuba at Playa Girón (the Bay of Pigs) in April 1961. The Cuban people gave U.S. imperialism its first defeat in this hemisphere. Fidel Castro declared, "What the imperialists cannot forgive us, is that we have made a Socialist revolution under their noses."

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries gave crucial assistance to Cuba.

Today socialist Cuba, despite the U.S. economic blockade, is developing cutting-edge therapies to fight cancer and other diseases. Cuba has what we need: free, quality health care for all. Children and mothers in socialist Cuba have lower mortality rates than children and mothers in the wealthy capitalist U.S.

When the Cuban delegation came to the United Nations in 1960, Fidel Castro moved them to Harlem's Hotel Theresa where he met with Malcolm X.

Cuba welcomed Black Panthers and other revolutionaries fleeing the FBI. Mabel Williams and Robert Williams — who had organized armed self-defense against the Klan in Monroe, N.C. — broadcast "Radio Free Dixie" from Havana.

Cuba steadfastly asserts its sovereign right to grant asylum to Black U.S. revolutionary Assata Shakur, whom New Jer-

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WW PHOTOS: LOAN TRAN



# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

### U.S. out of Syria!

No matter who drops the bombs, no matter who fires the shots, guilt for the civilians killed in and around Aleppo, Syria, lies with the U.S., other NATO imperialist governments and their allied regional powers in West Asia. These allies include Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf monarchies, which armed and funded the anti-Syrian forces. The U.S. is at the head of the gang.

It is important to make this point clear if we are to counter the fraudulent arguments pushed by the U.S. government and the corporate media.

These arguments also blame the Syrian government forces and their Russian allies for any civilians killed in the Aleppo fighting.

It is especially important to counter the media arguments because they aim to justify an increase in U.S. military presence in Syria. Their implication is that having U.S. forces “on the ground” as well as bombing from the air will make things safer for Syrian civilians.

How hypocritical can they get — making such a preposterous claim right after the 71st anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, in which it took only minutes for the U.S. Army Air Force to obliterate two civilian cities in Japan.

Certainly the Pentagon knows the consequences of its air assaults, given its massacre of civilians in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Af-

ghanistan, Libya and now in Syria itself.

U.S. imperialism bears the guilt for tens of millions of civilians killed and maimed, and tens of millions more made refugees since 1945. In addition, the U.S.-NATO wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria have exacerbated the tragic migrant crisis caused by the imperialist economic domination of Africa and West Asia and have driven whole families to leave their homes not knowing if they will even survive the journey to safety and a new life.

The Pentagon’s warplanes, rockets and drones continue to kill civilians from Pakistan to Somalia. Recent U.S. attacks just killed civilians in Sirte, Libya, and Manjib, Syria, and Saudi Arabia just killed 19 civilians, mostly children, in a town in Yemen using U.S.-supplied bombs. Washington’s policies and its warplanes don’t liberate — they kill.

It is the responsibility of the anti-war movement here in the United States to reject the imperialist argument for a “humanitarian war.” Whoever is in the White House, the Pentagon is incapable of carrying out a war in defense of humanity or of human rights. The Pentagon is a weapon to enforce the demands of the 0.01% of humanity who own and control the vast majority of the wealth of the world.

We say — and we expect all honest anti-imperialists to say — “U.S. and NATO military, get out and stay out of Syria!” □

### Brooklyn, N.Y.

## March against cops and gentrification

*Continued from page 3*

son employee then called the police on the march of mostly Brooklyn residents.

Marchers then went to visit MYSPEACE NYC, which is infamous for working with landlords who displace longtime, rent-stabilized residents of color in neighborhoods such as Flatbush, Crown Heights and Bushwick in order to bring in new white residents who are then severely overcharged to live in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. Interestingly enough, while this is their peak sales season, their office was closed.

Marchers went down sides streets to show solidarity with longtime Black homeowners and tenants whose neighborhood is being renamed “Prospect Lefferts Garden” by developers and white-led community groups in that neighborhood. The main hashtag #ThisIsFlatbush is being used by E4F and other Black-led Flatbush groups to fight the racist attempt to rename and push out longtime Caribbean residents.

As the march got to Church Avenue and Flatbush, protesters witnessed the harassment of a Caribbean woman vendor by the police. For weeks E4F has been working to stop the harassment of majority women-of-color vendors who sell fruit, cold water, snow cones and jewelry at this intersection. The group has been collecting tickets and lined up civil rights attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen to meet with the vendors. E4F is also planning to launch a public campaign to stop the NYPD from issuing \$200 tickets to these “independent” vendors. There is a similar campaign for the dollar van and cab drivers, who are Black men living in Flatbush and East Flatbush, who often get anywhere between \$600 and \$2,000 worth of tickets a month.

The final stop was at the 67th precinct in East Flatbush, which is responsible for

the murders of Shantel Davis in 2012 and Kimani “Kiki” Gray in 2013. Marchers were joined there by Ang Hicks, Davis’ aunt. The case of Kyam Livingston was also raised. On July 21, 2013, Livingston suffered for over six hours in pain, begging to be taken to a hospital, but was refused medical attention by the NYPD. As a result he died in police custody.

E4F has planned a strategy session about fighting gentrification on Sept. 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the Flatbush Library at 22 Linden Blvd. and Flatbush. Visit [facebook.com/EqualityForFlatbush/](http://facebook.com/EqualityForFlatbush/). □

## Workers School

*Continued from page 3*

Local 170 from West Virginia; the National Nurses Union/National Nurses Organizing Committee leadership from El Paso, Atlanta and Tampa; members of the Communication Workers from Virginia, some who victoriously struck Verizon and won a better contract and others who are currently voting on an AT&T contract; day laborers from New York City who belong to Jornaleros Unidos; and members of the Pitt County Coalition Against Racism in North Carolina. Several other workers who are not yet organized but are helping to form organizing committees came from plants and workplaces across the South.

Leaving the school, workers identified roughly 50 workplaces in their areas where they will begin leafleting as part of a massive agitation campaign to draw in more workers to the Southern Workers Assembly, build organizing committees and plant seeds for future union organizing campaigns. □

## Plasma centers exploit poor people for profit

By Randi Nord

Plasma donation centers may seem like an innocent way to earn extra income while contributing to a positive cause. Plasma is used to create lifesaving medications and treatments for patients with hemophilia and other disorders.

But a deeper look shows that pharmaceutical manufacturers are exploiting the poor under the guise of humanitarianism.

A prospective donor’s first visit to a plasma center takes from three to four hours, including a brief medical examination and a few tests. A donor must weigh over 110 pounds and be at least 18 years old. The donor must also go through a brief vitals’ check and survey each time they return to donate.

The donor must answer certain questions to ensure that the donation center is receiving a pure product. This survey includes questions about sexual history, living situations, travel and drug use. Donors’ samples are randomly tested for certain drugs such as opiates, cocaine and methamphetamines. A positive drug screen can result in a donor being “deferred” for a full year.

The centers pay compensation for the donor’s time, not for the plasma itself, although most centers claim pay is based on many factors including the donor’s weight. Compensation is inconsistent.

An individual may be paid anywhere from \$15 to \$80 for their donation, which can take from one to three hours. If a donor is being paid for their “time,” that equates to a wage of \$5 to \$80 per hour. This varies even more since all payments are placed on a prepaid card that is subject to fees.

For donors to CSL Plasma Inc., each transaction made on the card is subject to a 25-cent fee and more for each ATM withdrawal. Depending on the company, donors are potentially responsible for claiming this income on their taxes. Bonuses are given (usually on a monthly schedule) the more a person donates and hefty incentives are given for first-time donors.

At CSL Plasma, a new donor can earn \$50 per donation for their first month. This drastically reduces to \$15 per donation after the first month — hence the bonus incentives to donate more frequently.

Donors are also encouraged to rate workers at the donation center. Points are given out and can be redeemed for passes to line jump or can be saved up and used towards a \$5 bonus.

A donor must live within a certain distance from the center if they wish to donate. Not much information is given as to how the “donor radius” is determined: one must contact a center to learn if they live in an approved zip code.

### Shrewdly placed donation centers

A quick look indicates that the donation centers are strategically — and shrewdly — placed in poor minority communities. First of all, poor people are more likely to put up with waiting in a three-hour line and being hooked up to an IV for an hour for only \$15. The lines sometimes get long and donors will start to complain — but they stay because they need the money.

Also, poor people are less likely to sue should a medical issue arise as a result of plasma donating. Sure, donors sign a consent form. But if there are any loopholes that would hold the donation center accountable in the event of a complication, it is unlikely a poor donor would be financially able to pursue the matter.

Fifteen dollars for three hours of work seems like an attractive option to the alternative: nothing. And yes, the whole donation process is technically voluntary. Plus donors get to help save lives in the process.

But the donation centers don’t have anyone’s best interest at heart. A plasma donation is worth roughly \$200 straight out of your arm; \$500 after it undergoes a treatment process. This makes plasma donation an extremely profitable industry that saw \$11 billion in sales. ([tinyurl.com/nj534xs](http://tinyurl.com/nj534xs))

Since the research and production companies buying the plasma typically also own the donation centers, they are able to control both supply and demand. CSL Behring, for example, a biotech research and manufacturing company, owns CSL Plasma.

To the unemployed or a worker struggling to make ends meet, donating plasma is an attractive — and legal — alternative to fill an income gap. These “donors” are actually workers as they are being compensated for their time. They are unorganized workers without the legal rights that go along with a typical workplace relationship.

Don’t let the humanitarian disguise fool you, these are just pharmaceutical companies seeking to exploit the poor for profit. They’re just really good at hiding it. □

## Happy Birthday Fidel!

*Continued from page 5*

sey state troopers tried to kill.

### When Africa called, Cuba answered

Apartheid South Africa invaded the People’s Republic of Angola in 1975 with the approval of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and his employees, President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Cuba helped Angola drive back these neo-Nazi invaders in Operation Carlota, named after a Black Cuban woman who led a slave revolt in 1843. Though the slave masters had Carlota torn apart by horses, she was avenged by tens of thousands of Cuban women and men who volunteered to fight the fascist armies of South Africa’s apartheid regime.

Alongside their Angolan and Namibian sisters and brothers, the Cuban volunteers in 1988 defeated the racist invaders at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola. Two years later Nelson Mandela walked

out of prison. The apartheid regime was being torn apart by the African National Congress.

U.S. cops are killing Black and Latina/o people wholesale. Even when their murders are recorded on video tape, like Eric Garner moaning “I can’t breathe,” these killers go free. Batista’s police also killed and tortured, but police brutality came to an end in Cuba in 1959. Batista’s killer cops and secret police were put on trial in baseball stadiums and given people’s justice. That’s what needs to happen in the U.S. Today Cuban police are genuine public safety officers who don’t usually carry guns.

Despite the U.S. reopening diplomatic relations with Cuba, it still maintains the cruel economic blockade that has cost Cuba hundreds of billions of dollars. Let’s celebrate Fidel’s birthday by demanding that this economic warfare be stopped.

End the blockade! Cuba is our friend!



## Despite economic strains

# ANC retains majority in South Africa vote

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan African News Wire

The final results of the recent municipal elections in South Africa showed the ruling African National Congress gaining 54 percent of the vote to 26 percent for the opposition Democratic Alliance. In actual percentages, the ANC won twice as many votes as the DA and many more times than the putative ultra-left Economic Freedom Fighters, which garnered approximately 8 percent.

This amounted to over 16 million votes for the ANC, over 8 million for the DA, and 2.4 million votes for the EFF.

In a statement issued Aug. 5, after 94 percent of the vote had been tallied, the ANC said: "As results from municipal elections continue to come in to the IEC National Results Center in Pretoria, an unprecedented 14 million South Africans have cast their ballots in favor of the African National Congress (ANC) in this election. This translates to 54 percent of the national vote, and dramatically exceeds numbers recorded in the previous municipal election. In 2011, the ANC secured 8.1 million votes. Whilst we have received overwhelming support from our people, we will reflect and introspect where our support has dropped."

The same statement pointed out, "These figures come at a time of intense speculation around voter apathy and citizens' alleged lack of interest in political processes."

The ANC Chief Whip in Parliament, Jackson Mthemb, noted on Aug. 5: "We are quite humbled and very happy that the people of South Africa still trust the African National Congress. Of course we have had setbacks in areas like the Nelson Mandela Bay, but we are magnanimous in victory and also magnanimous in defeat because we are democrats. At the national level, the people of South Af-

rica have — in their majority — still voted for the African National Congress."

### Role of corporate & governmental media

Much speculation about the outcome was the preoccupation of many corporate and governmental media outlets from South Africa itself to Europe and North America. Predictions that the ANC would suffer catastrophic losses in municipalities, townships and rural areas was much anticipated by opposition parties inside the country, as well as by others who have for years predicted that the nonracial, democratic political system was unsustainable.

This same outlook has guided the reporting of the results and their significance for one of the world's youngest nations, which had been subjected to white-minority rule for centuries. From 1652 to 1994, the European population and ruling class sought to eradicate all forms of resistance by the African people. The current elections in South Africa took place in the broader regional and international context of intensified warfare and destabilization campaigns against all states and parties considered part of the so-called "emerging economies."

South Africa, along with the entire subcontinent, has been suffering from an economic downturn due to several factors, including a drought, as well as a sharp decline in commodity prices that has impacted the generation of foreign exchange needed to purchase industrial goods and services. The value of the South African national currency, the rand, has declined to nearly 15 to one against the U.S. dollar.

Since the ascendancy of the ANC gov-

ernment in 1994, there has been a systematic disinvestment of private capital from South Africa, with countries such as Mexico and Ghana now ahead of South Africa in gold production. Even the price of its much-needed platinum resources has declined in the aftermath of an international slump in commodity values. The mine owners have steadfastly resisted the demands of labor unions, both those allied with the Congress of South African Trade Unions, a close ally of the ANC, and others such as the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, which has challenged COSATU for members.

These issues are usually not taken into consideration by media agencies and commentators, many of whom have never been favorable to the ANC. Since 2015, the ANC-dominated government has been at loggerheads with the U.S. administration of President Barack Obama over South African participation in Washington's African Growth and Opportunity Act. ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe has also charged that the U.S. Embassy has fostered a regime-change strategy in the country.

Privately owned media firms, which constitute the overwhelming number of news outlets in South Africa, failed to account for the general trends prevailing internationally. The losses of the ANC in Nelson Mandela Bay around Port Elizabeth and in the municipality of Tshwane, which encompasses the capital of Pretoria, were never attributed to the decline in foreign exchange revenues and large-scale unemployment stemming from downsizing of industrial employment and its peripheral effects in the commercial and service sectors.

South Africa and the Southern Africa region are not standing alone in the current international crisis of economic underdevelopment. Since the decline in the price of oil and other commodities over the last two years, states such as Russia, China, Venezuela, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Nigeria, among others, have seen a precipitous drop in economic performance.

In states such as South Africa that are governed by former national liberation movements turned political parties, the opposition has never ceased. The program of the Democratic Alliance in South Africa encompasses a heavier reliance on international finance capital as part of its platform to ostensibly improve the economy.

The EFF says it supports the nationalization of mining and land to benefit the African majority in the country. However, the strongest political rhetoric relayed by the EFF inside and outside of Parliament, where it holds over 20 seats in Cape Town, is not directed against the still white-dominated ruling class, but against the ANC. The EFF blocked with the DA in a failed impeachment resolution submitted to Parliament earlier this year, saying that President Jacob Zuma had violated the South African Constitution.

This is the same constitution that the ANC and other revolutionary organizations and trade unions fought for over a period of decades. The struggles among the ANC, COSATU and the South African Communist Party, on the one hand, and the Western-backed opposition groups on the other, will continue over the next three years, when national elections are to be held for the presidency and the legislative structures. □

## ¿Por qué EUA bombardea nuevamente a Libia?

Continúa de página 8

ceder en Siria y, de acuerdo con informes de medios de EUA, también en Libia. Cada vez más, los informes dicen que el movimiento Jamahiriya de Libia se está reafirmando en las pequeñas ciudades petroleras destruidas en el desierto al sur y en las ciudades costeras.

En abril, France 24 News informó que Saif Al Gadafi, hijo de Muamar Gadharfi, fue puesto en libertad, no ejecutado. Se especula que esta suspensión se basa en el miedo del re-emergente movimiento.

Manifestantes pro-Gadhafi fueron atacados por combatientes del EI en Sirte, aunque la ciudad está en manos de las milicias del EI. En la capital Trípoli y en otras ciudades, masas de gente que apoyaron el gobierno de Gadafi se están reorganizando.

Estos informes del Middle East Eye, RT News, AlterNet y otras fuentes, plantean la cuestión de qué el imperialismo EUA está realmente apuntando en Libia al abrir una campaña sostenida.

La unidad y la reorganización en Libia será un proceso difícil después de un asalto tan brutal. Pero el primer paso es el aprendizaje de la población - por desgracia, por amarga experiencia - que las bombas estadounidenses, los drones, las operaciones secretas y los mercenarios son incapaces de proporcionar paz, estabilidad o seguridad. □

# Palestinian political prisoners shake the walls for hunger striker

By **Joe Catron**  
New York

Nine Palestinian political prisoners launched hunger strikes in solidarity with "administrative detainee" Bilal Kayed on Aug. 7, joining over 100 others on strike since July 31.

Strikers include Ahmad Sa'adat, the imprisoned general secretary of Kayed's party, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. After starting his fast on July 31, Sa'adat was immediately punished by Israeli jailors with a transfer to solitary confinement.

Hundreds more prisoners announced plans to join a one-day strike inside Nafha, Ramon, Ktziot and Hadarim prisons on Aug. 9.

In France's Lannemezan Prison, imprisoned Lebanese fighter Georges Abdallah and six other Arab and Basque prisoners held a three-day fast starting Aug. 3.

On Aug. 8, supporters launched solidarity hunger strikes in a protest tent outside the International Committee of the Red Cross office in Gaza.

Kayed, detained under Israel's "administrative detention" law, will reach the 70th day of his own hunger strike on Aug. 23. He has been imprisoned by Israel for 14 ½ years for participating in resistance activities during the second Intifada. On June 13, the date of his scheduled release, Israel refused to free him, instead slapping him with an

"administrative detention" order.

This arbitrary decree, issued by an Israeli military commander, sentences him to six more months' imprisonment without charge or trial. Since commanders can renew these orders an unlimited number of times, Kayed has effectively been interned indefinitely. In response, he launched a hunger strike on June 15 to demand his freedom.

Many Palestinians fear Israel will use Kayed's precedent to hold more Palestinian political prisoners with expiring sentences. Israel currently incarcerates 750 "administrative detainees" among 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners overall.

On Aug. 11, Israel's supreme court ruled that a legal appeal for Kayed's release would not even be heard until Oct. 5, nearly four months after he began his strike. The PFLP called the court's decision "a death sentence." ([english.palinfo.com](http://english.palinfo.com))

### Kayed refuses treatment

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association reported Kayed "is still shackled to his bed with his right hand and left foot. He is suffering from pain in his chest, kidney, jaw, eyes, ears and legs, as well as severe headache. He also suffers from blurred vision, numbness throughout the body and hair loss, as well as yellowness and peeling of the skin." Kayed said the director of Israel's Barzilai Hospital, where he is detained, warned that he would be "forcibly treated" if he los-

es consciousness. ([addameer.org](http://addameer.org), Aug. 8)

Kayed refuses to accept any treatment, including examinations, and requests transfer from the medical center, where he was sent on July 17.

"What I have received from you through your struggles, your sit-ins, your demonstrations, gives me more determination to continue forward until victory," Kayed wrote in a letter to his supporters on Aug. 1. "Either freedom or martyrdom." ([samidoun.net](http://samidoun.net))

Samidoun: Palestinian Political Prisoner Solidarity Network asks supporters to call the White House at 1-202-456-1111 to demand that President Barack Obama, as the representative of Israel's biggest international funder, intercede for Kayed's immediate release.

The group has held six protests for Kayed in New York, including a march through Grand Central Terminal and the lobbies of two buildings holding offices of the British-Danish security company G4S on Aug. 12, and other demonstrations in Beirut, Brussels, The Hague and Montreal.

The next of Samidoun's weekly protests in Manhattan will start at 4 p.m. on Aug. 19 outside the G4S office at 19 West 44th St.

Visit [samidoun.net](http://samidoun.net) for more information.

*Catron is a member of Al-Awda New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.*





## ¿Por qué EUA bombardea nuevamente a Libia?

Por Sara Flounders

El ejército estadounidense reanudó el bombardeo contra el país norte africano de Libia el 1 de agosto.

El presidente Barack Obama aprobó los ataques aéreos recomendados por el secretario de defensa Ashton Carter y el general Joseph Dunford, presidente de la Junta de Jefes de Estado Mayor de EUA. Aunque aviones de guerra estadounidenses han golpeado antes, este ataque marcó el inicio de una "campaña sostenida".

Equipos de fuerzas especiales de países occidentales han estado en el terreno en Libia oriental y occidental durante meses. En julio, Francia dijo que tres de sus soldados habían muerto al sur de la ciudad oriental de Bengasi. (Reuters, 1 de agosto)

Ataques aéreos fueron lanzados en apoyo al actual Gobierno de Acuerdo Nacional de Libia que está avalado por EUA / ONU. Sus fuerzas supuestamente están tratando de expulsar al grupo Estado Islámico (EI) de Sirte, una ciudad entre Trípoli y Bengasi. El campo petrolero y el puerto petrolero más grande de Libia están en el área de Sirte. La lucha por el control de este vital recurso ha sido una fuente de continuo conflicto entre facciones rivales y milicias.

Hay dos gobiernos rivales en Libia: El gobierno de La Cámara de Representantes con base en Tobruk aliado al Ejército Nacional Libio, y el Gobierno de Salvación Nacional basado en Trípoli. Muchas milicias con lealtades cambiantes están enfrascadas en luchas por recursos y territorio.

La producción de petróleo en los últimos cinco años ha decaído a menos del 20 por ciento de los 1,65 millones de barriles bombeados en 2010.

### Excusa para expandir la guerra EUA

La razón dada por los recientes bombardeos es que van dirigidos al avance del EI. Junto con el bombardeo de Libia, las fuerzas estadounidenses están bombardeando sitios en Siria, Irak y Afganistán. Drones Predator estadounidenses siguen atacando objetivos en estos cuatro países y en Yemen, Sudán, Somalia, Kenia, Mali, Filipinas y Pakistán.

Desde la destrucción estadounidense de Libia en 2011, se han establecido bases EUA a través de África - en Yibuti, Etiopía,

Seychelles, Uganda, Mauritania y Burkina Faso. Y se planean más bases.

En esta guerra expansionista EUA, las muertes y lesiones quedan incontables y descartadas como daño colateral. Totalmente ignorado queda el trauma de millones de personas cuyas vidas han sido perturbadas, sus trabajos perdidos y sus estudios interrumpidos. Como refugiados/os desplazados, toda su seguridad ha sido destruida.

Sosteniendo que su objetivo es el EI, el mando militar EUA, junto a una alianza con otros 13 países, han bombardeado Siria durante más de dos años. Pero cuando los aviones rusos, en respuesta al llamado urgente del gobierno sirio, se dirigieron contra las mismas fuerzas que los militares estadounidenses afirmaban querer derrotar, de repente Washington denunció los ataques alegando que las fuerzas de la "oposición democrática" respaldadas por EUA estaban siendo golpeadas.

Los presidentes George W Bush y Obama afirmaron que no se necesita la aprobación del Congreso para estos actos no declarados de guerra interminable. Supuestamente, la legislación para la Autorización del Uso de Fuerza Militar que fue forzada en el Congreso en año 2001 da a los presidentes la autoridad de pasar por alto la Constitución.

En los últimos 15 años, el imperialismo EUA ha bombardeado a 14 países, siempre afirmando que lucha contra Al Qaeda, EI y otras "fuerzas terroristas oscuras".

La guerra EUA/OTAN contra Libia en el 2011 es responsable por el caos y la devastación actual en Libia. Por más de siete meses - de marzo a octubre - los aviones de EUA dispararon contra ciudades de Libia y su moderna infraestructura.

Antes de la guerra, Libia era el país más moderno en África. Cifras de la ONU muestran que tenía el nivel de vida más alto - medido por la expectativa de vida, nivel de educación, salud, alimentación y vivienda. Ciudades bien diseñadas a lo largo del Mar Mediterráneo - Trípoli, Sirte, Bengasi, Misrata y Tobruk - fueron diseñadas con bloques de apartamentos modernos, amplias avenidas y plazas, así como bellos hoteles, centros culturales y escuelas.

Este desarrollo fue posible porque Libia se liberó de la dominación de Wall Street.

Tras la revolución de 1969 que anuló la corrupta monarquía del rey Idris, apoyada por Britania y EUA, Libia nacionalizó sus ricos yacimientos de petróleo y gas. Libia afirmó su soberanía sobre sus recursos e invirtió en instalaciones de bombeo, contenedores y puertos.

Muamar Gadafi, un oficial del ejército de 27 años de edad, dirigió la revolución que transformó a Libia, que pasó a llamarse la Gran Yamahiriya Árabe Libia Popular Socialista.

### Nacionalización petrolera ganó enemistad de Wall Street

Libia es en gran parte un país desértico; sólo el 1 por ciento de la tierra es cultivable.

Más del 80 por ciento de la población vive en una delgada franja costera de tierra de 1.200 millas a lo largo del Mar Mediterráneo. En el mayor proyecto de desarrollo de agua del mundo, Libia aprovechó el acuífero subterráneo y construyó un río subterráneo para proporcionar riego a nuevas tierras de cultivo e industrias, llevando agua potable a sus crecientes ciudades.

El gobierno subvencionó proyectos de desarrollo en algunos de los países más pobres de África. Cientos de miles de trabajadores de todo el continente encontraron empleo en los campos de desarrollo de infraestructura y de petróleo de Libia.

Cuando los imperialistas de EUA, Francia, Inglaterra e Italia comenzaron su campaña de bombardeos, Libia había anunciado una audaz empresa para suscribir una moneda africana con más de 143 toneladas de reservas de oro guardadas en el Banco Central de Libia. Este desarrollo independiente amenazaba a los bancos y empresas imperialistas occidentales de petróleo y gas.

Durante 42 años, Libia sobrevivió y prosperó, a pesar de décadas de sanciones de EUA. Cada proyecto de construcción era un reto. Sucedian sabotajes continuos, intentos de asesinato, demonización de los medios y esfuerzos de desestabilización. Pero siendo un país africano aún en desarrollo, Libia no podía soportar más de 26.500 ráfagas de bombardeo - más de 120 por día durante siete meses.

EI ha ganado terreno en Libia debido al caos que el imperialismo EUA creó allí y en toda la región. Cada institución social y política fue destruida. Bombardeos aéreos

se llevaron a cabo mientras que armas y grandes cantidades de dinero en efectivo y sobornos se propagaban por todo el territorio libremente.

Escuadrones de la muerte asesinaron a cientos de funcionarios del gobierno y líderes políticos. Decenas de miles de partidarios del gobierno y partidarios de Yamahiriya o el Movimiento Verde fueron detenidos y encarcelados en campos de detención. El peor abuso y purgas estaban dirigidas a los libios negros y los trabajadores del África Subsahariana.

En el vacío causado por esa dislocación social y destrucción extrema, las fuerzas más extremas y fanáticas, luchadores y mercenarios extranjeros—entrenados y equipados por Arabia Saudita, Qatar, Israel y las fuerzas de operaciones especiales de Estados Unidos—tomaron el control. Ahora, facciones rivales que compiten entre sí dominan ciudades, regiones e instalaciones de producción petrolera.

La existencia del EI en Irak, Libia, Siria y en otros lugares está causada por la guerra EUA y la política imperialista de instigar el odio sectario, el racismo y las divisiones étnicas.

Esta táctica ha sido utilizada con frecuencia desde que Washington armó y financió los grupos extremistas contra la revolución de orientación socialista en Afganistán en 1979.

Antes de las guerras de Estados Unidos, estas fuerzas fanáticas no tenían raíces ni ninguna base social en estos países. Ahora es la política estadounidense depender de estos reaccionarios como un ariete para derribar todas las formas de soberanía nacional y todos los estados seculares y progresistas.

La secretaria de estado Hillary Clinton tomó el crédito por hacer el llamado para ir a la guerra en Libia. Cuando se le informó del brutal linchamiento de Gadafi en Sirte, ella aplaudió, se rió y le dijo a una reportera delante de una cámara, "Fuimos, vimos, murió". (<http://tinyurl.com/jtu9jo9>)

Un cable de WikiLeaks en 2012 citó un correo electrónico de la secretaria Clinton, "Armar a rebeldes sirios y usar poder aéreo occidental ... es un enfoque de bajo costo y alta rentabilidad".

El EI recientemente se ha hecho retro  
*Continúa a página 7*

## China, calentamiento global e innovación tecnológica

Por Deirdre Griswold

Todos los esfuerzos significativos para limitar las emisiones de dióxido de carbono - la principal causa del calentamiento global - deben hacer frente a la cuestión de los medios de transporte público. De acuerdo a un estudio reciente realizado por la Defensa del Ambiente, coches y camiones ligeros de EUA son responsables de casi la mitad de todos los gases de efecto invernadero emitidos por los automóviles a nivel mundial. Sin embargo, poco se ha hecho en este país para mejorar, o incluso mantener, los sistemas de transporte masivo que la gente necesita si se quiere recortar el uso de automóviles.

¿Dónde está el gran espíritu de innovación y compromiso para reformar la infraestructura que tanto se necesita para hacer frente al monumental problema de calentamiento global? Ciertamente, no está en los EUA, donde los políticos en deuda con la clase dominante cometen miles de millones de dinero público al vasto imperio militar y a la policía represiva - y solo migajas al transporte masivo.

Pero echando un vistazo al otro lado del mundo hay esperanza. En China, un

país que hace sólo pocas generaciones estaba sumido en la pobreza, el gobierno ha dedicado grandes sumas de dinero para el desarrollo de una infraestructura moderna con alta eficiencia energética.

Éste es sólo un pequeño ejemplo de lo que China está haciendo para mejorar el transporte y combatir el calentamiento global.

### Autobús de Tránsito Elevado

Hace unos seis años, el concepto de Autobús de Tránsito Elevado se dio a conocer por primera vez. Este 2 de agosto, un prototipo del ATE se puso a prueba en la ciudad de Qinhuangdao, en el norte de China. Será necesario otro año de ajustes antes de que los autobuses sean introducidos en otras ciudades, pero ya el ATE se considera un éxito.

El ATE es un concepto totalmente nuevo. No sólo traslada muchas más personas que los autobuses tradicionales, sino que también puede aliviar la congestión de otras maneras. El autobús va por encima de dos carriles de tráfico, por lo que los coches pueden fluir debajo mientras el autobús se detiene para las/os pasajeros. Es grande: 72 pies de largo y 26 pies de ancho,

y la porción media se sienta a 16 pies por encima de la calle. Cada autobús puede llevar 1.200 personas - 40 veces la capacidad de los autobuses más viejos. Las paradas del autobús son elevadas y el autobús corre por una pista. Está alimentado por electricidad municipal y energía solar, lo que añade mucho menos CO2 a la atmósfera que otras formas de transporte.

Básicamente, este autobús hace lo que subterráneos y trenes elevados hacen - alivia la congestión en la superficie - pero a un costo mucho más bajo. Especialmente cuando una ciudad ya existe, es enormemente difícil y caro desenterrar las millas de pasajes subterráneos necesarios para un metro. La instalación de la infraestructura adicional para el ATE - pistas a lo largo del lado de la carretera y paradas elevadas de autobús - es un trabajo mucho más simple. La compañía que construye la ATE dice que, si bien el coste medio de construcción del metro es de \$100 millones por kilómetro, el ATE costará una quinta parte.

Los gobernantes capitalistas de Europa y EUA se han vanagloriado del desarrollo e innovación científico-tecnológica de sus

países. Y más que eso, han promovido una visión racista y clasista del resto del mundo para justificar su persecución depredadora y violenta por materias primas y mano de obra barata. El pueblo chino no ha olvidado los días en que, en las zonas de sus ciudades portuarias controladas por occidentales, se veían carteles: "No se permiten perros ni chinos".

### Arrogancia imperialista y racismo

La arrogancia imperialista y capitalista aún existe, pero un siglo de revueltas y revoluciones anticoloniales y pro-socialistas ha dispersado el mito de la superioridad occidental.

Cuando un país como China ha podido elevar a 800 millones de personas de la pobreza en una generación, y al mismo tiempo desarrollar una infraestructura científico-tecnológica vanguardista, es tiempo de dar crédito a quien crédito merece - a la gran Revolución China - dirigida por comunistas - que liberó al país más poblado del mundo de la dominación imperialista y creó un estado capaz de organizar los recursos del país para asumir los grandes retos de la era moderna. □