Struggle gains broad support

Native peoples block toxic oil pipeline

By Kris Hamel

Aug. 23 — The start of construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline, a multi-state, 1,100-mile-long crude oil pipeline to be built under the Missouri, Mississippi and Big Sioux rivers, was temporarily halted on Aug. 18. Led by people from the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation) and other Indigenous nations, protesters forced the U.S. government and the pipeline’s corporate owners to stand down after a series of heroic actions blocked access to the construction site near the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota.

Thousands of people representing about 300 Indigenous nations as well as many non-Native people have gathered in solidarity near Standing Rock, and vow to stay there until the pipeline project is cancelled. They stand ready to peacefully defy any court injunction that would allow the pipeline construction to proceed. They will not back down despite arrests, surveillance, police highway blockades, and limited resources.

On July 26, the Obama administration, via the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, quietly approved the pipeline, and construction plans by Energy Transfer and Enbridge swiftly moved forward. Standing Rock received a “48-hour notice” that digging was to begin under the Missouri River, a source of water, livelihood and a way of life for Native and non-Native peoples in the region.

Months of struggle by Indigenous peoples, farmers, ranchers and environmentalists of many ages and nationalities preceded this important temporary victory. This included “the establishment of the Camp of Sacred Stones in Standing Rock, actions in Iowa, several youth runs for sacred water, including a 2,000 mile trek from North Dakota to Washington D.C., petitions and testifying at hearings with the Army Corps,” outlines Lakota writer Wakíŋyaŋ Waánataŋ (Matt Remle). (lrinspire.com, Aug. 19)

‘Historic moment’ unfolding

The struggle to protect the water and defend tribal sovereignty is mobilizing Indigenous people in the U.S. to a degree not seen in decades. Many say that they are protecting the water for the millions of people in the region who rely on the Missouri River for water. They point out that oil pipelines inevitably leak and break and cause immense environmental devastation as a result.

According to the Wall Street Journal, a mouthpiece of the corporate defilers of the Earth, the Dakota Access Pipeline, one of the interrelated Bakken pipelines, has
Moorehead to PFP convention

‘Solidarity with most oppressed must be central to our movement’

Below is a slightly abridged version of remarks by Workers World Party presidential candidate Monica Moorehead to the nominating convention of California’s Peace and Freedom Party on Aug. 12.

Peace and Freedom has a history of showing solidarity with those for national liberation and for socialism. Your party selected Eldridge Cleaver, minister of information for the Black Panther Party, as your first presidential candidate. This was a monumental act of struggle and solidarity that Peace and Freedom should be proud of.

Why do Marxists run in the elections? We know that elections are not impartial. Elections are not fair. Bourgeois elections will never have or change the antidotal conditions of the our class — the workers and oppressed peoples. Marxists, however, use every arena of struggle at their disposal to push forward the revolutionary struggle, including the electoral arena.

Workers World Party has a set of demands to help give voice to our class, which has been silenced by the bourgeois.

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Boston salutes Black August

The Boston Branch of Workers World Party held a “Dialogue with Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Candidate,” on Aug. 20 to commemorate Black August. This is a month-long salute to the lives of freedom fighters who left a lasting legacy in the name of Black Liberation, radical resistance and mass consciousness. Miya X, a WWP leader in Boston, moderated the discussion.

Black August originated in honor of the fallen warriors who valiantly fought to liberate Black Panther leader George Jackson on Aug. 7, 1970, from the U.S. penal system. Jonathan Jackson, George’s 17-year-old brother, was one of the martyrs. George Jackson, author of “Soledad Brother” and “Blood in My Eye” and a leader of the Black Panther Party, was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1971, by San Quentin prison guards.

The discussion included the ongoing struggle for Black Liberation today represented by the Black Lives Matter uprising.

Left, Miya X. Above, USW 8751 leader Georgiata Scott and Monica Moorehead.

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 jobs. If you’re young, you’ll never have to face the bad future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold on 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,上岗.
Fight for $15 links racism, low-wage economy

By Joe Piette


Thousands more joined them at the close of the convention to march on this city where the descendants of courses to protest against racism and poverty wages.

The events were organized in Richmond because it was the capital of the Confederacy. The Fight for $15 Facebook event page explained the choice of the former heart of the enslaving Southern states was to reiterate that the links between the ways workers are treated today and the racist history of the United States, and connects the Fight for $15 with the growing Black Lives Matter and other movements to protest against racism and poverty wages.

— representing 64 million U.S. workers being underpaid for their labor, but for all workers. While migrant and Black and Brown workers make up the vast majority of those in the lowest-paid industries, many of white-collar workers would benefit from an increase in wages and benefits, just as white sharecroppers and other workers profited from Reconstruction after the end of Civil War.

Before the Saturday morning meeting started, hundreds of workers and their families gathered at and planned a peaceful test where they joined local residents and McDonal's workers in a spirited rally against poverty wages.

The convention ended with approval of a five-point resolution calling for: 1) a National Day of Action on Sept. 12 at state capital buildings throughout the U.S. for presidential and other political candidates to make pay raises a priority for their campaigns; 3) for direct actions and demonstrations at presidential debate locations; 4) for legislation to raise minimum wage standards in cities and states that were once part of the Confederacy; and 5) for the right to join unions without fear of retaliation.

March targets monuments to slavery

Despite 96-degree weather, 10,000 people marched through Richmond after the convention ended. They gathered in Monroe Park and proceeded up Monument Avenue — an infamous street lined with racist monuments memorializing Confederate generals and other white supremacist leaders. The march passed the Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart statue and ended at the monument glorifying slavery-defender, Confederate General-in-Chief Robert E. Lee.

In September 2015, Monument Avenue was the main route for international championship bike races. These were picketed by the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality and other groups. Protesters both condemned the monument and its legacy and were outraged prominently in the publicity, and also elevated a long struggle to stop real estate development of Shockoe Bottom. This is a slave burial ground near downtown Richmond. The African-American community is demanding that be restored to a place for African-American citizens.

First National Convention of Fight for $15 marches in Richmond, Va.

North Carolina NAACP and Moral Monday leader the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II addressed the Fight for $15 crowd at the Richmond event. Barber said, “It took us 400 years to get from 0 to $7.25. We can’t wait another 400 years. Labor without a living wage is not a viable way to live and we need a living wage.”

Organizing the South against wage slavery

The South as a region is home to some of the most reactionary anti-worker legislation in the U.S., rooted in its history of slavery and racism. The region is a bastion of so-called right-to-work (for less) and other racist anti-union laws. For instance, in Virginia and North Carolina it is illegal for public workers to collectively bargain. The South has the lowest level of unionization in the U.S. The restructur- ing of the capitalist economy taking place on a global scale is more and more finding that the U.S. South is a vital region for exploitation of cheap labor from workers, particularly Black and Latinx workers.

In many ways, the South is a laboratory for reactionary legislation that is then imported to other parts of the U.S., such as right-to-work laws and attacks on collective bargaining in Wisconsin, Michigan and elsewhere. It is no coincidence that Charlotte, N.C., is now the second-largest banking center in the U.S., behind New York City.

There will be a referendum this November in Virginia on whether or not to put “right to work for less” into the state constitution. More information on the Vote No campaign is at ow.ly/XpypEDcZKRI.

The Southern Workers Assembly is a network of unions and workers’ organizations in the South committed to building rank-and-file, democratic, social movement unions. The SWA helped to mobilize Southern unions to participate in the Richmond march.

The SWA contingent included workers from United Electrical Workers Local 500, who have been waging their own Fight for $15 and a Union at the Cum- merbilt Engine Plant in North Carolina. Signs of the SWA marchers had images of Black people who have been killed by police with the words: “Black Lives Matter to Labor.”

The Workers World Party campaign for Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president also participated in the march, distributing a statement of solidarity with “Fight for $15 and a union.” Also distributed was an announcement about the Southern Socialism Conference, Hard Times Are Fighting Times on Sept. 24 in Durham, N.C.

For more information about the conference, which took up some of the most pressing struggles of the day, go to hardtimesconference.org.

Bus drivers’ union protests ‘transit racism’

By Martha Grevatt

Detroit bus drivers, represented by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 26, held a press conference on Aug. 17 to announce the filing of a federal civil rights complaint with the Department of Justice against the Regional Transit Authority. The RTA, created by state legislation in 2012 but still not in operation, combines the Detroit Department of Transportation and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transit into one entity serving southeast Michigan. The union charges the regional authority with violating the civil rights of Black Detroiter — the majority of the city’s population, who depend on public transit — by diverting 88 million in federal funding from DDOT to SMART.

Filing the complaint jointly with the union were 842 Detroit transit riders. Local 26 President Fred Westbrook made it clear that the union is not opposed to having one regional transit provider. The issue is the racist treatment of Detroit, which is 85 percent African American and has a 40 percent poverty rate. Suburbanites in Oakland County, with a poverty rate of just 10 percent, have the option of leaving their cars at home and taking public transportation. Poor Detroiter need the buses to get to the suburbs, where the jobs are. Local 26 also wants pay parity with SMART drivers, who are represented by a different ATU local and make $4 more an hour than DDOT drivers. To keep DDOT financially solvent, Local 26 members recently took an 8 percent pay cut.

For the RTA to begin operating, vot- ers in a four-county area must approve a property tax increase in November. Ini- tially, two suburban representatives on the RTA board, Oakland County Exec- utive L. Brooks Patterson and Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, blocked the plan. The Michigan Democratic Party reversed Patterson. Patterson has a long history of racism, going back to his opposition to school desegregation in Pontiac, Mich., in the 1970s, when he was associated with the Ku Klux Klan.

By uniting with the bus-riding public in the fight against racism, the union is demanding real social justice unionism in action.
Letter carriers fight cuts in mail delivery

By Dave Welsh
Los Angeles

After a five-year struggle, the letter carriers’ union won the fight to main- tain six-day and Saturday delivery by the United States Postal Service, the nation’s largest unionized employer. Deliveries have even been expanded to Sunday.

Now the union is facing a serious new threat from the privatizers and union hustlers’ legislation that would eliminate door-to-door delivery of the mail — at the cost of tens of thousands of jobs.

At the 70th biennial convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers, hundreds of union delegates gathered at 7 a.m. on Aug. 19 in front of the Los An geles convention to demonstrate their latest attack on the people’s mail service.

A carrier from St. Louis led the crowd in nonstop chanting of “Door-to-door must stay,” and thousands of others from rank-and-file carriers. National President Fred Rolando said the NALC “will never accept the elimination of door-to-door delivery.”

Workers at NALC convention protest “clus ter boxes.”

The USPS proposes to replace most door-to-door delivery with “cluster box es” in every city. This change would include the elderly and disabled, would have to walk to get their mail. Canada Post tried to implement this, too, but was stopped in 2015 by a determined local organ izing campaign led by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Community an gers was such that the mayor of Montreal famously used a jackhammer to destroy a cluster box.

Co-sponsoring the L.A. rally was the Harvard Boulevard Block Club of South Central Los Angeles, which provided the sound. Club members also brought a realistic-looking mock-up of a cluster box — and an ax, which two letter carriers used to thoroughly demolish it. Two members of the block club, Jefferson de Azevedo and Scott Scheffer, addressed the rally.

“The Black Lives Matter movement is shining a spotlight on racist police kill ings and on the deep poverty in many communities of color, while anti-union forces are pushing this plan to destroy 80,000 postal jobs,” said Scheffer. “The post office is a source of stable, union jobs for Black, Latinx and other work ers, and that racism will not be tolerated in this office. We’re going to stand with you, knowing that workers and poor people can’t rely on corporate presidential can didates. Our strength is with workers and our communities.”

The attack on door delivery is part of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2016. Retired letter carrier Jamie Partridge told the rally, “All the Democrats on the [House postal oversight] committee voted to send the bill to the House floor in a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Title II of the bill has a ‘poison pill’ which would eliminate door delivery to all businesses and most residents. These are the same Democrats who sponsored HR 28, to pre serve door delivery. So we can’t trust the politicians. They make deals with each other. We have to turn up the heat from the grass-roots, so they won’t sell us out again.”

Carl Walker, 40, a residential carrier in North Tonawanda, was a companion, Dorothy Amado, said Jurado faces a mandatory five-year minimum prison sentence.

“This was an additional blow to the Walker family, who had invited Jurado into their home and considered him a friendly neighbor.

Jurado denies having a racist motive, claiming he acted out of anger at being fired from a job at another local fire sta tion. However, his racism was exposed by his targeting of the town’s only Afri can-American firefighter. Moreover, his companion, Dorothy Amado, said Jura do posted a Facebook message inviting the Klam to frighten her daughter’s Afri can-American partner. (Buffalo News. com, Aug. 9)

Moreover, Donald Trump’s racist rhet oric against immigrants and other people of color is emboldening bigots to take ac tion against oppressed people.

Community, firefighters support Walkers

Immediately, the community rose to the occasion and flooded the Walkers with cards, letters, flowers, baskets of fruits, furniture and toys. Hundreds of people from near and far have expressed solidarity and offered concrete help, not only to show they care but to show oppo sition to racism.

Construction workers demand water, rights

It must have been unbearable in the 100-degree heat when unrepresented iron workers in Nashville, Tenn., dared to go on strike at K&D construction company on July 29 to demand water. The so-called rodbusters’ homemade signs read, in English, “Strike: We won’t work without water,” and in Spanish, “Huelga! No trabajamos si no dan agua!”

But that’s not all. They’re sick of making only $14 an hour for dangerous work with no benefits, especially when construction is booming in Nashville.

On July 29, rodbusters at Gilley Construction, which is building the corporate headquarters for HCA, the world’s largest for-profit health care corporation, went on strike for higher pay, benefits and better working conditions. The workers are supported by Middle Tennessee Jobs with Justice, which notes that Nashville gave HCA $66 million in tax dollars to “incentivize” the project, but didn’t establish standards of pay, safety or treatment for the workers building the project. (middlesnwj.org, July 25 and Aug. 1)

Minnesota nurses vote to strike — again

On Aug. 18, nurses represented by the Minnesota Nurses Association voted overwhelmingly to call a second unfair labor practice strike against Allina Health at five hospitals in the Twin Cities area. The nurses contacted a seven-day ULP strike ending June 25. At the last negotiating session on Aug. 1, Allina announced it wanted to cap its contribution to health care premiums, shifting cost increases to the nurses. Allina ignored the nurses’ requests

Continued on page 10
Community supports youth uprising against cops

By John Parker
Milwaukee

Solidarity with youth fighting police terror was strong at an informal gathering in Sherman Park here on Aug. 21. The park was the location of a youth uprising in 1971 that was organized by the Milwaukee, an African-American man, by Milwau-

keee police on Aug. 13.

The Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement initiated the community pic-

nic to support the courageous youth being vilified by both corporate media and city officials for demonstrating against Smith's death. The Milwaukee protesters were met with an aggressive police force, like a reaction to protests in Balt-

timore after the police killing of Freddie Gray in 2015 or in Ferguson, Mo., against that of Michael Brown in 2014. In those cities, instead of dispersing, youth decided to act in self-defense, allegedly answering police aggression by throwing objects at the cops and setting fire to a BP gas station next to the park.

Homes were also burned. However, Babette Grunow, who co-hosts a radio program in Milwaukee and lives near the park, voiced on-the-air skepticism about placing responsibility on youth protesters. She noted that one landlord had previously spoken of the benefits of collecting insurance money instead of continuing ownership of the homes.

Those gathered at the community cook-out all agreed that the anger of the youth was justified. Meeting at the park were activists from Bail Out the People Movement, union members, an NAACP member, youth from the Industrial Work-
ers of the World, as well as neighborhood families. Members of Workers World Party came in support from Durham, N.C.; Rockford, Ill.; and Los Angeles and from Detroit Free Press (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together).

People were in agreement that the best way to change the youth's reaction was to get the police to stop killing Black people, and instead of budgeting more money for cops, use money to provide jobs and op-

portunities for youth.

The event was also a speak-out for the community, as people shared the micro-

phone to denounce injustices they had personally experienced from police. One Black youth, who appeared to be around 11 years old, told this writer, “The police came up to me while I was just sitting in the park and put a gun to my head.”

Many people spoke about the need to reopen Sherman Park for the youth. Af-

ter the rebellion, the police enforced a 6 p.m. curfew. They surrounded the park with an orange plastic fence; a constant reminder of yet another resource denied to the Milwaukee community, which al-

ready suffers from one of the highest un-

employment and incarceration rates in the U.S.

A Black man in his twenties, who is a volunteer at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee located in Sherman Park, said, “We bought all of these mate-

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employment and incarceration rates in the U.S.
Women immigrants held in the Berks County Family Detention Center in Leesport, Pa., launched a courageous hunger strike on Aug. 8 to protest their confinement and that of their children, whose health and well-being are being deteriorating. In a speech at the Berks, ‘Madames Berks,’ they assert, ‘We are desperate and we will get out dead or alive.’ (Democracynow.org, Aug. 17) Their children are suffering, many not eating or sleeping.

Olga Byrne of Human Rights First, an immigrants’ advocacy organization, says, “The Obama administration’s detention of families has serious long term effects on both children and their mothers. Even a few days in detention can be harmful to the health of children.”

These women were not granted asylum at the U.S. border, but, with the American Civil Liberties Union’s assistance, have appealed and filed petitions in federal court requesting new screenings. The government asserts that the women do not have a legal right to challenge their imprisonment or to appeal through the courts as newly arrived immigrants. A federal judge agreed. But an appeal has been filed on the women’s behalf—and it’s a test case for other “noncitizens,” too.

Stop detentions and deportations!

The U.S. government’s policy regarding Central American families fleeing violence and extreme poverty in their homelands is to lock up women with their children, including babies, in “family detention centers.” Instead of providing safe, healthy environments, or allowing these families to live with relatives, the state punificiously jails them in isolated facilities, providing little or no legal or social services and violating their civil and human rights.

The practice of detaining families expanded in 2014 when the government tried to stop immigration, mainly from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala—countries where the U.S. continues to play a large role in fomenting violence and instability. In 2009, former Secretary of State, and current presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton supported a right-wing coup against the democratically elected government of Honduras. The coup ushered in repression and violence on a massive scale, causing many people to flee.

In the summer of 2015, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee ordered the government to release migrant children and their mothers within 20 days, arguing that their detention violates the Flores Settlement, which established policies regarding the care and opportunity for noncitizens, too.

Activists can springboard from the directive and demand the closing of all 74 U.S. prisons and jails. The U.S. jails more people per capita than any country in the world. With less than 5 percent of the world’s population, the U.S. imprisons more than 25 percent of those incarcerated globally. More than 16 million people a year cycling through immigration detention facilities, civil commitment facilities, and prisons in U.S. territory.

Increased support is needed for the growing number of prisoners’ rights campaigns to fight this predatory, racist system. Prison justice campaigns have exposed systematic torture, including solitary confinement. American Civil Liberties Union, more than 80,000 prisoners are held in solitary on a daily basis, including 25,000 prisoners in long-term isolation, suffering from mental and physical harm.

Tens of thousands of prisoners are held in Supermax prisons, Secure Housing Units, Restricted Housing Units, Special Management Units, and other isolation cells in prisons and jails around the country. Keeping prisoners in 23-hour lockdown has become routine practice in understaffed prisons. These figures do not include prisoners in immigration detention centers.
Mississippi’s prison population, long ranked as one of the highest per capita in the U.S. or the world, has undergone a marked decline as state and federal sentencing reforms have kicked in. Between 2014 and 2015, the prison population in Mississippi shrank by almost 3,000 inmates, reducing it to 18,845 as of January 2015.

Such a giant reduction should be cause for celebration among Missis- sippi residents and officials. How- ever, a series of articles in the Clar- ion-Ledger newspaper of Jackson, Miss., reveal that municipalities across the state are being financially drained by the decline in inmate population.

The wave of mass incarceration that began in the 1990s, set off mostly by policies enacted by former President Bill Clinton, caused such a huge growth in the prison population that state and federal corrections departments had to scramble to find the money to house them. A whopping 544 new prisons were built across the country between 1990 and 2005 to ware- house hundreds of thousands of mostly non-violent offenders. Being imprisoned put a heavy financial strain on Black and Latinx offenders. That’s another new prison built every ten days for 15 years. (Politifact.com, July 31, 2015)

In Mississippi, state prisons became so overcrowded that by the late 1990s the state Department of Correction be- gan paying municipalities to hold its in- mates. County prisons and jails sprang up throughout the state as shrewd politicians and private contractors saw big profits to be made off legalized human trafficking.

The state government provided the counties $29,754 per inmate per day for housing costs and guaranteed to keep the county facilities at a minimum of 80 percent capacity. On top of that, county prisons could put the inmates to work. (MenemiscLaw.com, April 18) This guar- anteed stream of cash was part of a paid super exploitation wages, if they receive any wages at all, and are prohibited from unionizing or going on strike.

Since at least the late 1990s, prison- ers have been forced to work for little or no pay — or be given the “choice” of rot- ting in a cell. In Mississippi, they per- form such services as garbage collection and street cleanup, as well as carpentry, painting, plumbing and welding at mu- nicipal buildings and repairing municip- al vehicles. “I don’t think it necessarily started out this way, but the inmate pop- ulation has become the backbone of some of these counties that are involved,” said Mississippi Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher. (HuffingtonPost.com, April 14)

One key reason for Mississippi’s incarceration rate falls, state prisons have more space avail- able to hold the prisoners they had been shipping off to county facilities. And as the state Corrections Depart- ment starts taking its inmates back, counties whose local econ- omies grew to be dependent on the prison-industrial boom are searching for ways to fill the void. “We can’t go very long be- fore we’re deep in the hole,” said Stone County Supervisor Dale Bond. According to Bond, both Stone and George counties have already each lost 80 of their inmates, costing each county $72,000 per month. (clarion-ledger.com, April 8)

Fisher has offered to allow counties to keep their state in- mates on the condition that they forfeit the per diem pay- ments they had been receiving from the state. According to Scott County Sheriff Mike Lee, “It was a tough decision, but we decided we couldn’t afford to do without the inmate labor.” In other coun- ties, especially where prisons brought into the incarceration boom of the 1990s are still being paid for today, layoffs and tax hikes will be enacted to recoup the losses. Sending reforms undoubtedly bene- fit thousands of victims of the racist U.S. “justice” system, and should be support- ed on that basis. The amount of reform will ever be enough to repair the damage wrought by racist mass incarcer- ation and prison labor super exploitation. Only a complete elimination of society into one that values workers and the op- pressed over profits can truly right this wrong.
Baltimore jury rejects cops’ story

By WW Baltimore Bureau

A Baltimore jury heard the cry for justice from family and community in the case of 24-year-old Aaron Winston. A Black dock worker, Winston was brutalized by police on Feb. 21 at Power Plant Live, a collection of bars, restaurants and other attractions in a stricken downtown Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

After severely injuring him, the cops charged Winston with multiple counts of assault, resisting, obstruction, disorderly conduct and failure to obey an order.

On Aug. 17, the jury found him not guilty of all charges.

Police slay Black man in hail of bullets

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Activists trying to bring to light the police killing of Jamarrion Robinson marched on Aug. 19 to CNNA’s Baltimore headquarters from Clark Atlanta University. Very few details appeared in the mainstream media about this horrific shooting, which happened on the afternoon of Aug. 5.

Police and U.S. marshals had been sent to an apartment in East Point in southeastern Atlanta to arrest Robinson, allegedly for shooting at both a police officer and an apartment maintenance worker.

The 12 marshals broke in Robinson’s door with a battering ram and then opened led to decades of political witch-hunts. The Rosenberg Fund for Children is a crusade against communism. Red-baiting and Sen. Joseph McCarthy launched the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1933, which the ruling class conducted “a line” at tinyurl.com/z3y8qkv.)

Justice for Ethel Rosenberg!

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

The Rosenberg Fund for Children is petitioning the White House to exonerate Ethel Rosenberg. Along with her spouse Julius Rosenberg, Ethel was executed on June 19, 1953, after being convicted of trumped-up charges of committing “espionage” for the Soviet Union.

The FBI charged Ethel Rosenberg and Julius Rosenberg with conspiracy and espionage in August 1950, along with co-defendants Morton Sobell. All were sentenced to the electric chair. Refused clemency by President Dwight Eisenhower, the Rosenbergs were put to death in New York’s Sing Sing prison, orphaning their sons Robert and Michael, who were only 6 and 10 at the time.

Native peoples block toxic oil pipeline

Continued from page 1

A federal judge will soon decide on a temporary restraining order sought by the corporations to stop or limit protest. In a separate case, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will appear on Aug. 24 before a Washington, D.C., federal court seeking a stop to construction of the pipeline. Standing Rock has consistently opposed the pipeline in any form.

Statements and resolutions in solidarity with the struggle are requested and

pouring in from across the country and around the world. (See “Supporting the Fight Against the Dakota Access Pipeline” at tinyurl.com/33y8qkv.)

Members of Robinson’s family held a press conference on Aug. 14 to begin to bring the details of his killing to the larger community. At the press conference, community members did a walk-through of the apartment, which had been left just as it was at the time of the shooting.

Robinson had been killed at the top of the stairs and his lifeless body dragged down the steps, leaving a bloody trail on the steps and on the floor of the living room. At the top of the stairs, blood spatter on the walls makes a gruesome scene. There is no evidence of any shots fired in the direction of the invading police.

After the shooting, police showed Robinson’s grandmother a picture of the man they were searching for. She says it was someone different, that the police had the wrong man. The police also had knowledge of Robinson’s struggle with bipolar disorder, yet didn’t try to engage him or even wait him out. They went in with guns blazing.

At the rally, people vowed to go back to their communities with the truth about Robinson’s death at the hands of police and to continue to seek justice.

Native peoples block toxic oil pipeline

Continued from page 1

many big-name oil companies connect-

ed with it. This pipeline in being built by Energy Transfer Partners LP and its affiliate, Sunoco Logistics Partners LP. Phillips 66, the refiner, owns a 25 percent stake.

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FARC Colombia gov talks: Where are they at?

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

After four years of constant and dif-ficult talks in Havana, Cuba, between the government of Colombia and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army) insurgency and the Colombian government about ending the decades-old armed conflict, building a stable and lasting peace, an end is in sight. But this is the most diffi-cult of a trek, studded with the most defi-cate issues that pose dangerous obstacles to this crucial effort for peace and can determine its success or failure.

The agreement is both extraordinarily com-plicated and ambitious. Its goal is to end more than a half century of armed conflict caused by the criminal Colombian state, which has been the main perpetrator and still more criminal – U.S. imperialist. Of the six initial agenda points — comprehensive agrarian development; po- litical participation; ending the conflict; solution to the problem of illicit drugs; victims; implementation, verification and authen-tification — the most difficult tasks in the ordi-nized communities will involve.

The aforementioned delegations were joined by technical teams of engineers, agronomists, topographers who collected necessary information, with the support of satellite technology, so that the Roundtable of Conversations can make its final recommendation.

Apart from identifying sites, another important aspect of the visit was having discussions with the residents of communi-ties who for so long have been affected by the armed conflict.

**Significant achievements**

Enrique Santiago, legal adviser to the FARC delegation at the Roundtable of Con-vertions, has written a good summary of what has been achieved so far in the talks in his article “Three Pitfalls in a Step Tow-ard Peace,” published Aug. 19, 2011.

“These agreements seek to end existing economic and social inequality between rural and urban areas and guarantee the property rights of communities that have been dispossessed of their land; eliminating the practice of political externalization of political opponents; closing definitively the imperialist occupation of the country; protecting the biodiversity of the rainfor-est and ensuring market availability and prices for legal crops, thus offering al-ternatives to farmers to survive without having to resort to illegal crops.”

Also, “Clearing remaining explosives from the fields after 50 years of war that has made Colombia one of the coun-tries most contaminated by explosives; launching an innovative system of restorative justice for peace that will guarantee the rights of victims and hold account-able all those who have been victimized — this includes not only combatants but also, for the first time, civilians who have instigated, financed or organized the conflict and dirty war; and finding the whereabouts of the over 50,000 persons recorded as missing from the 1980s until today for reasons related to the internal conflict.”

Apart from the novel inclusion of vic-tims of the conflict in the proposals and final decisions, there is another important contribu-tion: the gender perspective. On Sept. 11, 2011, a subcommittee on gender was set up to be responsible for reviewing and including this approach in all agreements.

“This is reflected in the Joint #84 Com-munique of the FARC and the govern-ment: “The contributions of the victims who visited the Conversation Roundta-bles, 60 percent of whom were women, and of the 18 women’s organizations and LGBTQ community, 10 Colombian experts on sexual violence, international experts and former guerrillas from...”

**FARC trip to Colombia**

In fact, delegations representing dif-ferent interests traveled to Colombia on Aug. 8 to facilitate — once the final ac-cord is signed — putting into effect the protocols presented last June 23 on the “economic and definitive end of bilateral hostilities and the surrender of weapons” as part of the point: “End the Conflict.”

Those on the visit — 150 people in total — were representatives of delegations of 33 members of the FARC guerrilla forces led by National Secretary member Car-lo Antonio Lozada; plus members of the national government, police, army and the commanders of the fronts in the areas visited, as well as governors and mayors; plus the International Committee of the Red Cross, international observers from the United Nations Mission in Colombia, and delegates from Cuba and Norway (the guarantor countries of the talks).

Cholera in Haiti

**By G. Dunkel**

The cholera epidemic that officially killed 9,360 people in Haiti between 2010-13 was more than 786,530 after it was introduced by the United Nations’ Minustah troops in Oc-tober 2010 had an even more pernicious effect than the earthquake which rav-aged Haiti earlier that year.

This should be kept in mind when reading the U.N. report released last week by Pa-trick Alston, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human use of force. According to Philip Frerichs, one of the U.N. experts who led the Minustah two months earlier.

In short, Minustah is a cover for the continued imperialist occupation of Hai-ti, especially meant to hide the dominant aims of the U.S. role in guaranteeing “security and stability” in Haiti precarious.

**The corporate media in the U.S. are only now giving publicity to the recent report by Alston that says the epidemic “could not have broken out but for the actions of the United Nations.” As early as November 2010, the Haitian press was documenting the U.N.’s responsibil-ity and the Haitian people were in the streets protesting.**

The U.S.-based media could have put much more pressure on U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon still hasn’t formally accepted direct responsibility. U.N. leaders from the U.S. Department of Justice, were successful in getting the U.S. Court of Appeals to accept the U.N. claim of “sovereign immunity” that allowed them to be immune from being sued.

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Workers World's editorial last Oct. 18 began: "U.S. warplanes bombed and destroyed a hospital operated by Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières/MSF) in Kunduz, Afghanistan, on Oct. 3." That attack killed 12 MSF personnel, 24 patients and four caretakers, and wounded many others.

This Aug. 15, Saudi Arabian warplanes bombed and destroyed an Abs Hospital operated by Doctors Without Borders in Northern Yemen. This attack killed at least 19 people, including one MSF staff member, wounded 24 others, including patients.

In both cases, as MSF spokespeople made clear, the hospitals had provided their locations to the military forces carrying out the bombings. They provide these locations so warplanes will avoid targeting them. When a hospital is a war crime under international law.

This is not the only similarity in the attacks. Both were carried out by U.S.-manufactured and -supplied warplanes. The pilots in both cases were trained by the Pentagon war machine. Both were following instructions from U.S. guidance systems. With the U.S. Air Force makes available to its Saudi ally.

If anyone thinks this is an exaggeration, consider the following statement from the Congressional Search Report, released April 16 to inform a discussion in Congress about U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia: "The United States has provided logistical and intelligence support to the [Saudi] Yemen operation, and U.S.-origin weapons features prominently in Saudi military operations."

The truth is the U.S. military supplies the planes and bombs, trains the Saudi pilots and influences the intelligence for the attacks. MSF's statements condemned the Saudi attack this year — just as they condemned the U.S. attack last year — and pulled out their staff members from six hospitals in Northern Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, with full collaboration of U.S. imperialism, has been bombing Yemen since March 2015. This intervention has killed 6,500 people, half of them civilians, and added another 2 million refugees to suffering humanity. In the weeks before the attack on the hospital, Saudi planes bombed two schools, killing and wounding children in one of them.

The Saudi monarchy, a U.S. ally since 1933, has supported the most reactionary political faction in Yemen’s war, one that has no need to support across the impoverished country located in the southeastern corner of the Arabian peninsula.

Just this Aug. 21, some 100,000 people rallied in Sana'a, the capital, in support of the provisional government there made up of a coalition of the Ansar Allah (Houthi) organization and the General People's Congress party of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Western countries continue to recognize the reactionary grouping headed by Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi, who fled Yemen and lives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi planes again bombed in Sana’a, this time near the crow.

The Saudi war on Yemen is thus another criminal and anti-popular adventure for which U.S. imperialism shares the guilt. U.S., Saudi Arabia, out of Yemen!

Market Elections' Getting a grip on how U.S.' democracy works

By Deirdre Griswold

How can a narcissistic bilionaire running a racist election campaign claim to speak for disgruntled workers? Why is it that the first ever White Man nominated for president by either of the two big capitalist parties is more henchman than policy opponent? What does the current, seemingly bizarre election struggle tell us about where politics is headed in the United States? History never repeats itself exactly, but knowing what the real issues and the real forces have been in earlier presidential elections can help us see through the illusions, demagogy and media hype of this one. Fortunately, there's a great book available that offers such a lesson on U.S. history: "Market Elections: How Democracy Serves the Rich," by Vince Copeland.

Yes, elections are bought and sold — for increasingly astronomical sums of money that make it virtually impossible for true representatives of the multinational working class, the majority of the people, to get elected to national office. But that's not the whole story.

There's a long history behind the evolution of the Democratic and Republican parties, and many struggles between them that at one time involved the increasing incomparability of different forms of class oppression.

As Copeland, a former steelworker and a founder of Workers World Party, writes: "A long time ago the two parties were arrayed against each other as the contending spokes of two different classes — not so much an oppressed versus an oppressor class, but two different kinds of oppressors: owners of chattel slaves versus owners of capital, who employ wage slaves. From about 1824 to 1876, the Democratic Party became an opponent of the abolitionist movement with the slogan 'Black men! No white men!' This was true for the whole of the Civil War between these two parties, and it represented the capitalists who controlled the Republican Party after the Civil War. The Democratic and Republican parties, the party of the South, represented the capitalists who owned the slave system.

In the great Civil War between these two systems, the Republican Party's leaders around President Abraham Lincoln finally came around to the position that chattel slavery had to be abolished, a position that the enslaved peoples and the Abolitionist movement had fought for hundreds of years. "But after the great betrayal of Black freedom in 1877," when the victorious Union army was withdrawn from the South, leaving Black people at the mercy of Ku Klux Klan terror, "the two parties could be characterized with minor oscillations as the instruments of two political factions of the same capitalist ruling class."

Today it is the Republican Party that makes an appeal to racism and xenophobia, while the Democrats are relying on the votes of Black and other oppressed peoples to defeat Donald Trump. But the great betrayal of 1877, in which both parties conspired, has left their terrible legacy. All over this country, regardless of which party holds local office, the oppression of Black and Brown people is so endemic, so hideous, that another national uprising against racism, particularly the brutality of the police and other representatives of the state, is now underway. Oppressed people and their progressive allies are not waiting for the outcome of this election; they are in the streets.

Triumphant Wall Street and growing worker militancy

As Copeland explains, the triumph of big capital in the Civil War enabled the temperance growth of industry in the succeeding decades. Each presidential election became a contest between different factions of industrials allied with capital.

But they also had to contend with an increasingly militant new industrial working class. 

"As an MNA statement noted, Allina's demands for the three-year contract were very reasonable. But labor forcefully fought back against Allina's demands. After 2014 and reduced rates for workers with dependent children and nearly 42,000 AT&T Mobility workers reached a new tentative agreement with AT&T Internet Services (national) are still in negotiations. Meanwhile, and increases staffing flexibility.

At that point, and union voted yes, ratifying a five-year contract, which union President Sara Nelson said sets a new industry standard. It includes double-digit pay increases, enhances job security provisions, improves health care coverage, protects retirement and increases staffing flexibility.

Some 15,000 workers at AT&T West (California and Nevada) and 2,000 AT&T Internet Services (national) are still in negotiations. Meanwhile, grievance/unfair labor practice strikes in June by nearly 4,000 members of Local 94,900 and 950 in California were resolved. So were strikes called when management unilaterally reassigned work on landlines used for 911 emergency calls. They ended when AT&T agreed to meet with locals to discuss work assignments and to return work to union technicians. (June 23) The Internet Services technicians and workers at call centers voted to strike in early August. (Aug. 4)

Silicon Valley service workers demand higher wages, rights

The hidden story in Silicon Valley, where California's wealthy high-tech industry resides, is that low-wage food service workers are demanding their right to living wages and decent working conditions. On June 30, hundreds of workers, many holding signs in Spanish and chanting "Si, se puede..." marched outside Intel offices with the support of UNITE HERE Local 2850. Monica Moreno, a cafeteria worker at Intel, describes in a Guardian video that she and her partner can't afford to get their own apartment in San Jose where a one-bedroom costs $8,270 a month. No woman ever nominated for presidential office by either of the two big capitalist parties is more henchman than policy opponent? What does the current, seemingly bizarre election struggle tell us about where politics is headed in the United States? History never repeats itself exactly, but knowing what the real issues and the real forces have been in earlier presidential elections can help us see through the illusions, demagogy and media hype of this one. Fortunately, there's a great book available that offers such a lesson on U.S. history: "Market Elections: How Democracy Serves the Rich," by Vince Copeland.

Other illegal immigration. For instance, in the opinion. But that's not the whole story.

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stake and the higher the cost of what were clearly “rigged elections.”

To give a flavor of those rebellious times, Copeland quotes from a speech given to a crowd of thousands by a Popu-
list farm woman, Mary E. Lease: “Wall Street owns the country. It is no longer a government of the people, by the people and for the people, but a govern-
ment of Wall Street and for Wall Street. The great common people
of this country are slaves, and monopoly
is the master.”

How much has been ruled by the
ruling class since then to demonize as “sub-
versive” this honest assessment of the U.S. government? But an understanding of the true nature of our “democracy” is
once again animating mass movements,
especially of the young.

There is far too much in “Market Elec-
tions” to even summarize the book in this brief review. What Copeland shows is the intersection of electoral politics with the strategies of the workers, the poor farm-
ers, and the oppressed nations, and how
that shaped the history of this country.
But he leaves plenty of room for exploring the activities and organizations themselves — both appalling and ridiculous.

It’s a welcome antidote to the fawning review we found in school to know, for example, that even the superpuffed considered politicians to be “slobs,” in Alice Roosevelt Longworth’s famous assessment of Warren G. Hard-
ing, who won the 1920 presidential elec-
tion. Her patronic family had supported James Cox, whose running mate was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Harding was a creature of the competing Mellons and Rockefellerists. Had Harding been a Roo-
sevelt creature, her view of him might
have been the same, but unspoken.

“Market Elections” is an invaluable reference for those seeking to understand the history of how the ruling class has been able to use the “democratic process” to stay in power for more than two centuries — and how mass move-
ments can break through the two-party straightjacket to bring about real change.

Copeland’s book was first published in 2000 and has not yet been converted into an ebook. The paperback (596 pages) can be ordered from online booksellers or
directly from World View Forum at 147 West 24th St., New York, NY 10011 at a discounted price of $15, which includes shipping.

Continued from page 2

that are specifically targeted by Trump’s racism and fascism, who no doubt are go-

ting to vote for the Democrats out of fear of what a Trump victory could mean for their communities and limited rights they may have. Rather, it is the activist base of
our mass movements with whom we must engage in a sensitive, understanding and
convincing way about the importance of supporting socialist candidates for presi-
dent and vice president as part of a larger political struggle against being trapped
by the capitalist political establishment and their politicians.

Part of this political struggle is winning people to the understanding that indepen-
dent mass mobilization, and mass action in the streets, like the kind of militant activities that the Lives Matter move-
ment has engaged in, is at this stage of the struggle, not merely as important as, but most important.

Regarding solidarity with the most op-
pressed sectors of our class, both in this
country and around the world, Workers
World Press shows that while revolu-
tionary socialists have the job of exposing the injustice, the bankruptcy and the im-
possibility of reforming the capitalist sys-
tem, and replacing it with socialism, our
party also understands that the struggle to unite the workers and the oppressed of this world and in the struggle that is essential to any genuine socialist move-
ment, and to wider socialist unity — must
also be a struggle to forge solidarity, in
both words and deeds, with the most op-
pressed sectors of our global class.

To understand the impact of capitalist globalization on the working class is to see a contradiction, because it engenders division and competition for fewer and
fewer jobs while at the same time laying
the groundwork for even wider unity and wid-
er class consciousness that transcends
nations and geography, indeed, a global revolutionary class consciousness.

However, a genuine revolutionary so-
cialist movement cannot move forward
if our answer to the question of uniting the working class is to advise all involved to minimize and marginalize the im-
portance of combating racism, the op-
pression of immigrant workers and the oppression of women and lesbian, gay,
bisexual, transgender and queer people “for the sake of unity.”

We must do the opposite of that. Unity
and trust within the working class and
within our socialist movement can only be accomplished by making the issues of the most oppressed central to our
movement. The failure to do this, we be-
lieve, was the biggest failure of the Ber-
nie Sanders campaign, when he failed to recognize the centrality of the struggle against racism as embodied by the Black Lives Matter movement. And we can’t forget Trump’s racism when it comes to immi-
grants and Muslims.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Par-
ty in the fall of 1966. Some may want to point out the imperfections of the Black Panthers and their leaders. But it is an
credible fact that the Panthers were able to do so much and survive so long in spite of violent and ever-increasing state repression. The Panthers, with minimal support from the organized left back then, evolved into the most ideological-
ly revolutionary expression of the Black Liberation Movement.

As we celebrate that tremendous anni-
versary this year, let us be sure to remem-
ber the most enduring and most painful lesson from that period. We believe that the ability of the FBI’s Cointelpro and all the forces of the racist capitalist state to jail, murder and otherwise disrupt and crush the Panthers reflected the unfortu-
nate reality that the political movement
was at best divided over supporting the Panthers against this repression. At worst, it did not do nearly enough to prevent the Panthers from being politically isolated. When liberation movements are isolated.

Contributions are urgently needed, no matter how small or large. Please make a generous donation today at workers.org/wwp/donate/. Mail checks to Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011.

Paid for by the Workers World Party Presidential Campaign Committee.
**Hacia delante, luego de las Panteras Negras**

Este artículo fue publicado en inglés el 10 de agosto por los prisioneros del Colectivo Nuevo Agosto Negro.

Por Sehu Kessa Saab Tahanski

Delante de la Puerta del Gran Palacio en Waynesburg-Pensilvania

**¿Poder para el pueblo?**

¡Necesitamos el empoderamiento de los prisioneros! Necesitamos participar en el movimiento más amplio que lucha contra el imperialismo estadounidense. Este paso en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan en este blog tiene la intención de iniciar una plataforma oficial para que los/prisióneros conscientes y politizados discutan

El diseño moderno para el aislamiento solo puede revolucionar el trato dado a los prisioneros del Maris en Illinois. El ex-Pantera Negro y luchador del Ejército de Liberación de Eldorado, Sanidad Asistente - preso político / prisionero de guerra - se encontró comple- tamente incomunicado de sus seguidores, visitantes y de su correspondencia.

En el pasado, el abogado del PPN tuvo éxito en acelerar los cambios de condiciones de reclusión en las cárceles de Estados Unidos.

**I. Condiciones en las cárceles de EUA**

El co-fundador y presidente del PPNA, Hueso, que cuenta con un año de encarcelamiento, se ha destacado por aprovechar su tiempo en el sistema de la Penitenciaria del Estado de Pensilvania, el reclusorio de la Penitenciaria Eastern State – basado en el en- medio de la tortura psicológica y la experimentación médica (programas de experimentación humana) en el pretexto de criminalidad. Una vez conteni- dos, el estado sometía a los prisioneros en aislamiento bajo lo que se ha definido como la “Bilderberg prisoner” o algún otro término más so- dificado que pueda parecer menos degradado. En este modo de vida, estos prisioneros se convertían en “los peores de lo peor” pasó por obstáculos le- graves hasta el máximo tribunal de la nación. La práctica de “peor de lo peor” produce la “Peor de lo peor” – se encuentra el nombre de 17 centavos de dólar por hora de mano de obra esclavista.

En resumen, ningún prisionero hace 50 centavos por hora de mano de obra esclavista para la fabricación de las armas, la fabricación de los nuevos diseños de represión en Marion-Il- linois; Pelican Bay Supermax; y la ADX centro de detención de seguridad máxima en Colorado.

En la actualidad, hay más de 2.500 prisioneros que hacen menos de 15 centavos de dólar por hora de mano de obra esclavista. En resumen, ningún prisionero hace 50 centavos por hora de mano de obra esclavista para la fabricación de las armas, la fabricación de los nuevos diseños de represión en Marion-Illinois; Pelican Bay Supermax; y la ADX centro de detención de seguridad máxima en Colorado.

**II. Condiciones en las cárceles de EUA**

Hoy en día, las empresas corporativas, en contratos por ganancias capitalistas, apostan a la economía de la esclavitud. De acuerdo con el estudio de los centros de reclusión de la National Prison Policy Project, la mayor parte de las prisiones tienen una plantación o un taller de producción de comida, que de hecho es un sistema de explotación. Hay una compañía estadounidense llamada BRC, Inc., que comercializa la “silla de la tortura” – el término esfumado para el público es “silla de cierre” o “silla de control”. La página web oficial ilustra un esquema del proceso de producción de la silla de control, que es una silla de poliuretano impresa con(Jo-410) y con(Jo-410) y con(Jo-410) y con(Jo-410).

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**VI. Condiciones en las cárceles de EUA**

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