Guards indicted at last

Texas prisoners win

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

A tremendous victory after a long struggle has been
won by activist prisoners at the Ramsey Unit Prison in
Brazoria County, Texas, when four prison guards were
taken off the unit and indicted on felony charges. (Hous-
ton Chronicle, July 11) Prisoner-activists were responsi-
ble for exposing, challenging and publicizing the guards’
illegal and brutal treatment.

The victory came after prisoners Nanon Williams,
Donsha Crump and Neil Giese, all Muslims, were re-
peatedly thrown into solitary, had phony disciplinary
cases filed against them, lost visitation rights, lost tele-
phone privileges, were removed from working on their
education and faced gross discrimination.

But these men filed grievances, wrote to the media
and contacted state legislators as well as higher state
prison officials. They mobilized “outside” support by
contacting activists and progressive media.

After months of struggle, four of the prison person-
nel were fired, indicted by a grand jury in early July and
criminally charged.

Events at the Ramsey Unit that led to the criminal
charges are typical of everyday actions by guards at the
hundred-plus Texas prisons. The Texas Department of
Criminal Justice was founded on racism and the convict
lease program, when people of color were arbitrarily ar-
rested and “leased” out for no pay to work for plantation,
mine and factory owners.

Brutality, trumped-up charges, rapes, denial of medi-
cal treatment and anti-Muslim persecution are rampant
and real every day of the year in Texas jails.

A year of prisoner organizing

Problems at the Ramsey Unit began for the Muslim
prisoners in 2017, almost a year ago, when a new war-
den, Virgil McMullen, was assigned to the prison after
Hurricane Harvey devastated the Houston area in Au-
gust. Prisoners at Ramsey, only 30 minutes from Hous-
ton and close to the Gulf of Mexico, had to be evacuated
because of the severity of the storm.

After Warden McMullen read a Workers World eyewit-
ness article about conditions created by the hurricane,
he confronted prisoner Williams, who was quoted in the
article. Williams had spoken with a WW reporter about
the dangerous and treacherous conditions for evacuated
prisoners, sleeping on gym floors along with rats, roach-
es, mosquitoes and snakes. (tinyurl.com/y844jgrt)

Williams, who, along with other Ramsey prisoners,
communicates regularly with a Workers World report-
er about prison conditions, recounted the warden’s
threats, including that McMullen told Williams “not to
let McMullen’s name ever come out of his mouth again.”

Chanting, “I believe that we will win,” a coalition of activ-
ists, students and faculty toppled Silent Sam, the University
of North Carolina-Chapel Hill’s infamous Confederate monu-
ment, late Monday, Aug. 20. Protesters, who earlier in
the evening placed banners around Sam’s base denounc-
ing white supremacy and the legacy of slavery at UNC,
brought the statue down shortly after 9:15 p.m. by pull-
ing on a rope affixed to the statue’s neck.

Continued on page 10

One more down

Racist Silent Sam
toppled

By Zachary Richardson
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Continued on page 6

WHAT IS SOCIALISM? 9

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Respect for
Aretha

Labor united to
free the children

Abortion rights
battle in Argentina

Philadelphia

Nation Win
Prison Strike

End prison slavery!

Revolt of the spymasters

Hero of
Honduras
The “Black August Is Black Love” art show, lecture and open mic were held on the evening of Aug. 10 at the Brown Building in San Diego’s City Heights neighborhood. The Brown Building is a community and cultural organizing space set up in cooperation with the Lesbian Wellness Project. For the past year, Rahel Suri Saldivar-Soto, Workers World Party organizer, has coordinated regular art shows along a variety of intersectional themes regarding race, class, gender and sexuality.

The Black August Planning Committee, spearheaded by Workers World Party members, chose the theme “Black August Is Black Love” to define this month of events. As Che Guevara famously noted: “The true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love.” As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. similarly noted, “Love is the kind of spiritual dynamic so desperately needed for survival.”

The keynote speaker was Laala Aziz of Pillars of the Community. Aziz detailed the centrality of Black August’s origins in the California prison system and its sustained international presence. Mychal Odom and Gloria Verdieu of Work in the California prison system and its sustained internality. Aziz detailed the centrality of Black August’s origins in the California prison system and its sustained international presence. Mychal Odom and Gloria Verdieu of Work in the California prison system and its sustained internality. Aziz detailed the centrality of Black August’s origins in the California prison system and its sustained international presence.

Odom began by telling the crowd, “All prisoners are political prisoners” and urged them to get involved in local campaigns against police abuse and mass incarceration. Adding historical context, Gloria Verdieu read Mumia Abu-Jamal’s statement on the Haitian revolution.

The remainder of the event showcased the visual art and spoken word of such local cultural workers as the pointillist Dara Njeri, Joie Cole, Kay Marie, Maharaami Peace and others.

This event served as the first of many Black August events in San Diego, three of which are directly organized by Workers World-San Diego.

The other WWP-sponsored events will be the art show, “Spirit of Sango: Anti-Police Brutality in San Diego, Past and Present” on Aug. 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 6443 Imperial Ave., and the official Black August Commemoration forum on Aug. 25 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Malcolm X Library.

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

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

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

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

‘Black August Is Black Love’

By Workers World San Diego bureau

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WW PHOTOS

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WW pays tribute to the activism of Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin

By Monica Moorehead

When the great Aretha Franklin was alive, what became lost was how her music, and herself as a person, were influenced free from the constraints of her times, starting with the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. With her death, her impact on and support for various movements and causes became more public, adding to her already astounding legacy.

The Rev. C.L. Franklin, Aretha’s father, was an organizer for the historic 1963 Detroit Walk to Freedom, the largest Civil Rights march in the U.S. until the March on Washington drew 250,000 people a few months later.

An up-and-coming singer, Aretha Franklin signed a contract saying that she would never perform in front of segregated audiences. Civil Rights activist Jesse Jackson Sr. spoke to the Detroit Free Press about Franklin’s activism: “When Dr. King was alive, several times she helped us make payroll. On one occasion, we took an eleven-city tour with her, as Aretha Franklin and Harry Belafonte. And they put gas in the van. She did eleven concerts for free and hosted us at her home and did a fundraiser for my campaign. Aretha has always been a very socially conscious artist, an inspiration, not just an entertainer.” (Aug. 15)

When the legendary singer, Otis Redding, wrote and first sang “Respect” in 1965, the lyrics mainly focused on personal relations. But when the song became a mega hit for Aretha Franklin in 1967, she gave it a whole new meaning as a political anthem for Civil Rights and then for empowering women. Just a year later, she sang at the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When activist Angela Davis was placed on the FBI’s most wanted list, she ultimately was acquitted. However, “Respect” became a symbol for bail, and it especially became a symbol for Aretha’s father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, who was an important Civil Rights leader. You can hear the freedom cry in so many of her songs, and nowhere more so than in the great anthem “Respect”, which was the #1 song on the Billboard charts in the summer of 1967 — the very summer when the Black community of Detroit rose up in a historic rebellion against racism and police brutality.

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By Shelley Ettinger

The beloved, sublime, musical genius Aretha Franklin emerged from, reflected and gave voice to the oppressed Black nation, especially of Detroit, where her father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, was an important Civil Rights leader. You can hear the freedom cry in so many of her songs, and nowhere more so than in the great anthem “Respect”, which was the #1 song on the Billboard charts in the summer of 1967 — the very summer when the Black community of Detroit rose up in a historic rebellion against racism and police brutality.

“But that was such a moving moment. It was a moment in which the campaign for my freedom achieved a really populist status among people in this country, and probably throughout the world. It will be forever grateful to Aretha, because I think she played such an integral role in the success of the campaign.” Aretha Franklin also supported same-sex marriage. In 2011, she surprised a gay couple at their wedding reception by performing for an hour.

Aretha Franklin was arrested by Rolling Stone magazine in 2008 as the greatest singer of all time. To put it bluntly, every singer is measured in terms of coming before or coming after Aretha ever since “Respect” was released.

In one of her most recent interviews, Aretha Franklin stated she wanted most to be remembered for being a good mother toward her children. But she should especially be remembered for using her once-in-a-lifetime artistry to help fight for social equality for all humanity. To take her moving “Amazing Grace” rendition one step further, she was simply amazing Aretha. Aretha Franklin, present!”

An urgent appeal to raise funds for Ramona Africa’s health care

Ramona Africa, MOVE’s Minister of Communication, a Philadelphia-based organizer with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMAJ), has been a steady stream of people stop ping by her church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, to honor her. Since the news of Franklin’s death, there has been a steady stream of people stop ping by her church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, to honor her. Since the news of Franklin’s death, there has been a steady stream of people stop ping by her church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, to honor her. Since the news of Franklin’s death, there has been a steady stream of people stop ping by her church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, to honor her. Since the news of Franklin’s death, there has been a steady stream of people stop ping by her church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, to honor her. Since the news of Franklin’s death, there has been a steady stream of people stop ping by her church home, New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, to honor her.

For more information and to help raise funds for Ramona Africa, see the url: gofundme.com/helpsavemamonafrica.
Unions mobilize to defend immigrants, defeat ICE

By Scott Williams
Philadelphia

Over 2,000 union members and community supporters rallied here on Aug. 15 for “Labor United to Free the Children.” Called as the largest show of union support for im/migrants since Trump’s racist family separation policy began, the event was primarily organized by UNITE HERE, the hospitality workers’ union, which brought nearly 1,000 members from up and down the East Coast to the action.

Major building trades unions, including the International Electrical Workers and International Painters and Allied Trades, also came to affirm working-class solidarity. Hundreds of their members marched alongside sanctuary advocates and immigrant organizations such as Justos. Unions from public sector work- ers in the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, education workers (American Federation of Teachers), retail and food workers (Food and Commercial Workers), transportation workers (Teamsters) and other unions were present with large contingents.

Unions targeted Philadelphia for this major demonstration to protest the city’s notoriously vicious Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. The city’s ICE has arrested more undocumented immigrants without criminal convictions than any other ICE office in the country. Philadelphia ICE has also refused to release 100 percent of asylum seekers once their cases have been resolved. (WHYY, Aug. 15)

An occupation to abolish ICE started in Philadelphia in early July and contin- ues as of this reporting. The movement’s demands include the abolition of ICE and the closure of the Berks Family Detention Center, located an hour from Philadel- phia, Berks is a major migrant prison in the U.S.

A tsunami of outrage began to gather in April in response to the Trump admin- istration’s “zero tolerance” of immigrants at the U.S. Southern border and the vi- olent separation of migrant and immigrant children from their parents. In that crackdown, over 2,300 children 12 years old or younger were brutally incarcerated.

But after their jailing, these children represented only 20 percent of the to- tal number of children who were caged in U.S. immigrant youth concentration camps.

In fact, as of June 21, there were ap- proximately 9,500 migrant children locked up in U.S. prisons, in addition to 2,900 or more children jailed after zero tolerance was declared. That’s because the Office of Refugee Resettlement, a divi- sion of the Department of Health and Human Services, has been “sheltering” — that is, incarcerating — unaccompanied immigrant children since 2003. These are generally teenage migrants who reach the U.S. border without a parent. (tinyurl.com/y4ah7m6r, NBC, June 21)

At the Aug. 15 solidarity event in Phil- adelphia, unions and allies pledged to continue fighting for immigrants and their families. “Labor United to Free the Children” — working-class solidarity in the struggle against racism and bigotry — is desperately needed for the thousands of migrant children who remain in U.S. prisons.

Rally for solidarity with striking Puerto Rican teachers
Puerto Rican teachers went on strike Aug. 15 to save the island’s public school system from U.S.-imposed austerity at- tacks. A rally in support of the strike was held the same day in New York City’s Union Square.

Members of A Call to Action for Puer- to Rico shared and translated for rally goers the following concerns raised by the Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico/Teachers’ Federation of Puerto Rico (FMPR):
A new school year has begun in Puer- to Rico, but 1,200 teachers have not been assigned to schools. Other teachers are being assigned extremely far from their homes. For example, a teacher from the island of Vieques, off the eastern coast of the main island, was assigned to teach in Cabo Rojo, which is on the west coast of the main island. There are schools that have teachers assigned, but no students assigned. Yet 2,700 teachers have been told they have a job, but no teaching as- signment. Teachers’ tenure is not being respected.

Transportation routes have not been assigned to buses, so students have no way to get to school now that their community schools have been closed. There are schools with no water, bathrooms or food. Yet schools in perfectly good con- dition are being closed, and students are being sent to trailers that cost more than $1,682,000. In some schools, two classes of students are being placed in one classroom, a violation of fire codes.

Special education students are not being assigned to schools that have the appro- priate facilities for their needs.

Messages of solidarity are going out to the FMPR from teachers and other work- ers across the U.S.— Arizona, California, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Ten- nessee, as well as international solidarity. (tinyurl.com/y9aaqyrq)

— Report by Workers World staff

Faculty Forward scores victory at Iowa university

By Mike Kuhlenbeck
Iowa City, Iowa

The members of Faculty Forward Iowa, part of a national organizing campaign by the Service Employees International Union, scored a major victory at the University of Iowa earlier this month when administrators agreed to expand benefits for non-tenure track faculty.

For several months, more than 200 FFI members have been organizing on behalf of non-tenure track (NTT) faculty at the university. As noted in the FFI mis- sion statement, “We believe that through organizing we can build power to stand up for what we are worth, demand in- clusion in the academic community, and claim a voice for quality education.” (seiafacultyforward.org)

The University of Iowa Non-Tenure Track Organizing Committee has drawn up a list of 12 demands they are urging administrators to meet. As noted in the FFI mis- sion statement, “We believe that through organizing we can build power to stand up for what we are worth, demand in- clusion in the academic community, and claim a voice for quality education.” (seiafacultyforward.org)

According to FFI: “We continue to meet with the ad- ministration, orga- nize, and work to win improvements on all of the other issues that are im- portant to us. We hope to work with them to effect similarly sweeping improvements on the issues of job security, predictable, decent raises, parental leave, contract con- sistency, representation on campus, and more.”

From the pages of Workers World newspaper
Women in Argentina may have lost a vote for the right to abortion on Aug. 9, but they are not daunted. They are not in-
timidated or afraid. They are angry.
They are determined. With renewed energy, they say they will keep on fighting until they win this fundamental right.

The current struggle is for legalization of elective abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy; 62 percent of the popula-
tion supports reform. The lower house of the Argentine Congress had passed such a law twice this year, in a demonstrated mass movement. However, the more con-
servative Senate narrowly defeated legal-
ization 9 to 9 with 9-3 majority; two senators abstained. The majority of “no” votes were cast by men over the age of 50.

The vote left in place anarchic law enacted in 1981, penalizing women who have abortions and doctors who perform them with up to 4-year prison sen-

tences. Legal abortions are only allowed when the mother's life or health is in danger. Results from rape or if a woman's life is in danger— but these are nearly impossible to obtain, especial-

ly by poor, rural and Indigenous women. Hundreds of thousands of women, especially youth, have been out in the streets demanding legal abortion for many months. There is optimism that women will ultimately be victorious be-
cause the women's movement has mush-
roomed in size and strength, winning ac-
tivities and protests everywhere.

For 16 hours, throughout the Senate debate and vote, tens of thousands of women gathered in bitter cold outside Congress Palace in Buenos Aires. Protesting the vote's result, wom-

en demonstrated there and around the country. Despite their disappointment, women knew they were close to winning, that they have momentum on their side and that they will win.

Even former President Cristina Fer-
nandez, now a senator, who had opposed abortion, was persuaded. She said, “The ones who made me change my mind were the thousands and thousands of young girls who have taken to the streets.” (New York Times, Aug. 9) Anti-abortion Presi-
dent Mauricio Macri said he would sign a reform bill. His health minister, Adolfo Rubinstein, supports reform, citing the dozens of deaths of “clandestine” (ille-
gal) abortions.

Journalist Soledad Vallejos enthu-
siastically told the Guardian newspaper Aug. 9, “This is the battle we have been wait-

ing for because society has been changed by these five months debating this law.” Vallejos belongs to the Ni Una Menos (Not One Less) movement for abortion rights. Her struggle has become a name of its own. Originally, the name meant another woman's life lost to gender violence; now it also demands not another death caused by an unsafe abortion.

Catholic Church: pillar of misogyny

The patriarchal Catholic Church force-

fully intervened to block abortion law re-

form. Pope Francis, whose home country is Argentina, and bishops instructed ruling legislators to pressure sen-

ators to vote against the bill. Reportedly, Catholic organizations issued and issued warnings to senators.

Many “no” voters cited religious beliefs. Some gave unscientific or bigoted reasons to oppose abortion. Argentinian writer Nora Cortinas, a founder of the Moth-

erfly Movement said: “I have been to the Catholic Church with the Senate vote, and criticized Church officials for inter-

vening in other people's lives and being hypocritical.” The Abortion Organization protests the murders of 30,000 leftists and activists killed during the 1976-83 brutal military dictatorship in Argentina. The mothers and grandmothers also seek to locate adult children who were stolen as babies from women political prisoners and then reunite them with their rightful families. Cortinas emphasized the Church's complicity in these atroci-

ties, saying priests blessed the torturers, while some gave the kidnapped babies to military and other right-wing families.

Cortinas explained her position on the abortion struggle: “In a health law like this, religion has nothing to do with it … and then this Church says we need to save two lives. [but] babies, born every day in our country, are forgotten by the Church, living in poverty.” (Telesur, Aug. 11)

Prior to and during the voting, the Catholic Church’s reactionary role was unmasked for all to see. After the defeat, thousands of people queued up outside the Congress to renounce the Church at tables staffed by the Argentine Coalition for a Secular State.

Film director Lucrecia Martel explained that today's movement demands women's autonomy, but “for some, their last bastion of power is their power over women, and those people don't want to concede that territory to the Church.” (Telesur, Aug. 11)

Yet bold young women are challenging patriarchy and misogyny every day and everywhere.

Two needless deaths since the "no" vote

It is estimated that 450,000 clandestine abortions were performed annually in Argentina, a country of 44 million people—one every 40 seconds. Some 70,000 women are hospitalized yearly because of botched procedures, a leading cause of maternal deaths. The lack of legal abor-

tion is a public health crisis.

The reality is women have abortions. The issue is whether women can have medically safe procedures or must con-
tinue to undergo risky, often dangerous, abortions, sometimes with life-threaten-

ing results. Additionally, pregnant wom-

en with cancer are routinely denied che-

motherapy and other treatment because Catholic doctrine prevails in medical profes-
sions for the Right to Decide issued a state-

ment blaming all abortion-related deaths on Argentina’s “National Execu-
tive Power” and the senators who voted against legalization. The organizations

asked: “How many more dead pregnant women are needed to understand that abortion should be legal, safe and free? Clandestinity kills!” Ni Una Menos called these deaths “femicide” by the state and said, “[The senators] don’t care about the lives of the women.” (Telesur, Aug. 14)

Telesur reported Aug. 9 that the law was “not presented again in Congress” March 2019, but by then an estimated 87 more women will have died and 48,000 will have been hospitalized for abortion complications.

Women on the move

Activists in the Argentinian women’s movement hail their feebacks, the hero-
ic women organizers against the military dictatorship, as well as the leaders of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo. A rejuvenated

movement protested gender violence in 2015 and then added demands for repro-
ductive rights. Now women workers are calling for a paid equal work and an end to workplace gender discrimination. President Macri's austerity program has propelled the working class into ac-

tion. His policies would severely impact women; many are among the lowest-paid workers and/or have precarious jobs. Teachers, mostly women, marched for higher pay March 6.

On International Women’s Day, March 8, hundreds of thousands of women marched in Buenos Aires for equality, abortion rights and an end to gender violence. They also called for a general strike, linking their struggles with the class struggle. Pro-choice women work-

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By Martha Grevatt

Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan has been on death row in Ohio since 1993, when he was wrongly convicted of killing prison guard Robert Robb at the Lucasville Uprising, which took place in April of that year. He is one of five defendants who were convicted in the Lucasville, Ohio, prison during the uprising who could be executed for murder.

Several dozen other inmates, including Greg Curry, were given long sentences. Most of those named as Lucasville defendants are now housed at the Ohio State Penitentiary supermax facility in Lucasville.

Hassan, Curry and others are regularly subjected to intense harassment because of their convictions stemming from the uprising. Hassan has spent in vain phone to meetings held this year to mark the 25th anniversary of the rebellion. In April on the anniversary of the uprising, Hassan, Curry, Keith Larson, Jason Robb and Nameer Mateen had their email access taken away. Larson, Robb and Mateen are members of the five who were granted a reprieve of death row in connection with Lucasville.

The fifth person on death row, George Skatzes, is in a different state prison. It took the Lucasville movement to get their normal rights as prisoners restored.

On July 27, Hassan was charged with five pending violations rules and put in solitary confinement — "the hole." All the charges were in connection with the national prison work stoppage set to begin this week. While he was being held, Hassan began a hunger strike, which he ended 12 days later due to medical complications.

Normally, alleged infractions at OSP are addressed before the Serious Misconduct Panel, but Hassan was dragged before the Serious Misconduct Panel for a hearing Aug. 14. He was not allowed to hire a ballistic expert to prove it was not his gun, the cop who gave false testimony said he "must have made a mistake." Williams is still in jail after 27 years. It had not been for the courage and guts of prisoners Williams, Crump and Giese, these recent prison system abuses in Texas would never have been exposed, nor the prison guards fired, indicted and charged with crimes.

Activities have been organizing this year to commemorate and support Black August — the anniversary of previous prison resistance and uprisings from California to New York to protest the treatment of a prisoner-initiated National Prison Strike from Aug. 21 to Sept. 9. The prisoner support movement emphasizes the crucial need for support for every prisoner in the U.S., every month and every year. Because the real crime is the system that unjustly incarcerates the poor and the nationally oppressed while the rich literally get away with murder.

Gloria Ruthe was an organizer of the Prisoner Solidarity Committee in Texas during the 1970s, communicating with prisoners throughout the state. At the historic Ruiz v. Estelle class-action case in 1978 in Houston, the FSC brought people to protest outside and pack the federal courtroom inside. Through that civil rights case, the Texas prison system was eventually declared unconstitutional. Since 1995, Ruthe has been a leader of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement and is today a leader of Houston FIRE (Fight For Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere).
Black GIs at Fort Hood jailed for protesting ‘riot-control’ duty

By John Catalinotto

Aug. 23, 1968

At dawn, 43 were arrested. The men began gathering at 9 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23, at 65th and Central to protest the use of federal troops in Chicago to protect against real or imagined mass protest. The mass protest reached the startled ears of General Boles of the first Armored Division. He came out personally at about midnight to plead — with the men to disperse. They refused.

Then, the massive support that these protesters had from the rank and file throughout the post, the nervous general said that they could stay there all night without repercussions. He even raised his right hand and swore to this concession with eight other brass hats (eight colonels) as witnesses, he said he refused to sign a paper to that effect as suggested by some of the men. The men stayed.

At 5:45 a.m., Lt. Col. Kulo, the post provost marshal, announced: “I want you all to go back to the barracks.” They did not leave.

At 5:58 a.m., Kulo threatened: “I’m asking you to leave now. Otherwise MPs will take you in.”

The bugle sounded. Sixty MPs marched up and took 43 men away for “failure to report” (for revolting) — Article 80, in violation of Article 90 (disobeying a legal order), which calls for a general court-martial for serious charges with sentences greater than six months). Thirty-four are facing a special court-martial. One was acquitted.

Legal help was arranged by the American Servicemen’s Union. Lawyers for the prisoners have refused to be tried by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and the Workers Defense League. The 34 special courts-martial defendants are being represented by attorneys from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Statement of a Black GI at Fort Hood

Ironically, 43 men are to stand trial here at Fort Hood, Texas, for refusing riot duty in Chicago and 43 men will probably be tried and convicted. Ironical because it is Fort Hood that should be on trial and not 43 disgruntled Black soldiers.

First, I would like to say that the policy of “Equal Rights and Opportunity” as outlined by the Army Regulations has broken down here at Fort Hood as usual due to human elements. These men as well as I are very much aware of the racial inequality that has existed here and this should be considered a part of what they are protesting. For weeks in class I listened to white first and second lieutenants assault the Negro rioters [in 100 cities following the assassina-

South Carolina prisoners demand ‘End prison slavery’

By Jared Ware

Bishopville, S.C.

Jared Ware: I want to give you an opportunity to talk about change. What changes would you like to see in the prison system? I know some of you are abolitionists, but what can be done for immediate change? What do you think are the origins of reform?

Dr.: I’m always thinking about it as a dismantling process. I’ve been trying to push that for a while. We call it a dismantling process. And that gives the opportunity for other people to get in with their reform ideas, because I don’t think we can go from one angle all the way to the other angle, like from zero to a hundred. It’s just not going to happen like that. It is not going to play out like that.

Nonetheless, some of the things that I feel can actually improve: First and foremost, sentencing reform in the state of South Carolina. It’s not just sentencing reform in the state of South Carolina, it’s actually sentencing reform across the nation. They need to get rid of that Truth-In-Sentencing deal, period.

We need an end of dehumanizing conditions, and that goes back to the opportunity for other people to get in with their reform ideas, because I don’t think we can go from one angle all the way to the other angle, like from zero to a hundred. It’s just not going to happen like that. It is not going to play out like that.

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Revolt of the spymasters

By Fred Goldstein

Bulletin, Aug. 20: Some 100 additional former government officials, including some partisans of the “free speech” of John Brennan? Brennan denounced Trump as dangerous in an op-ed for the Washington Post. Trump has revoked a protest within the department over Trump’s conduct and the political and military decisions he has made.

The CIA is not an agency unto itself. It is deeply connected to the ruling class and its officials. Trump is acting more and more like an authoritarian ruler and making sections of the political and military establishment into a small, defiant government in Ankara and Moscow. The fact that Trump wanted the Pentagon to back a parade aimed at glorifying himself was not greeted kindly among the brass, especially since he is trying to discipline them. Even though Trump has given them hundreds of billions of dollars in weapons and soldiers, they were not buying his extravagant appetite for pomp and ceremony dedicated to celebrating Trump!

Secretary of Defense James Mattis denied that the price tag for the parade would be $92 million, but all other government and department estimates were around that figure. Trump tried to place the blame for the cancellation on the majority African-American city. They rebutted his argument, showing that the D.C. part of the cost was minuscule. So Trump had to suffer a public humiliation at the hands of the brass. They don’t want to fan the flames of Trump’s authoritarianism at a time when he is wrecking their alliances in NATO and blocking them in their drive against Russia.

Clearly, the capitalist state is deeply divided with differences over what the crisis of imperialism is and how to deal with it. The CIA is not an agency unto itself. It is deeply connected to the ruling class and its officials. Trump is acting more and more like an authoritarian ruler and making sections of the political and military establishment into a small, defiant government in Ankara and Moscow. The fact that Trump wanted the Pentagon to back a parade aimed at glorifying himself was not greeted kindly among the brass, especially since he is trying to discipline them. Even though Trump has given them hundreds of billions of dollars in weapons and soldiers, they were not buying his extravagant appetite for pomp and ceremony dedicated to celebrating Trump!

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Clearly, the capitalist state is deeply divided with differences over what the crisis of imperialism is and how to deal with it.
What is Socialism? Denmark, imperialism and social democracy

By Deirdre Griswold

For several years now, large polling companies have been asking young-er people in the United States whether they preferred socialism or capitalism. Of those who expressed an opinion, the majority have replied “socialism.”

This is a welcome sea change from atti-tudes in the U.S. during the very reactionary period that began with the rise of Reagan and the Cold War and has continued for decades.

But the word “socialism” can mean dif-ferent things to different people. In this series, we intend to give some historical perspective to the word “socialism”—where it comes from and how its meaning has evolved with the works of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, V.I. Lenin and other theoreti-cal (and practical!) leaders of the movements for profound, revolutionary social change.

And we’ll look at how “socialism” is often used today in a very different way, a way that promises change without revolution, by adding the word “demo-crat” to mean progressive reforms leg-islated under capitalism.

It was long required of bourgeois economists in this country—especially economists in this country—especially among billionaires and an increasingly wealthy 1 percent—in that the means of production belonged to the state, not individual capitalists—that they push the lowest limits of social security and health care as the all-and-end-all of social development.

But that doesn’t work now, in the era of Trump rollbacks of all progressive social programs; the stoking of racism, misogyny, bigotry and xenophobia; and the incredible and growing wealth divide between billionaires and an increasingly pauperized working class.

So some of the writers in the big capi-talist media are defending—not social-ism—right to be rich but “social democ-racy.” A case in point is an Aug. 16 column by Viviana Weinstein in the New York Times by Paul Krugman, who often writes for that paper on labor issues and calls himself a “progressive.”

Socialism versus ‘social democracy’

Entitled “Something Not Rotten in Denmark,” Krugman praises that coun-try for changing its economy so that it’s been “verring (modestly) to the left where we’ve veered right. And it has done just fine.” He contrasts the large amount of government spending in Denmark with the fear mongering by U.S. politicians against the “redistribution of wealth” through social programs. He points to things like longer vacations, a national health system, a much larger proportion of workers in unions, lower unemploy-ment and a longer life expectancy to show that life is better for Danish workers than for U.S. workers.

But is Denmark socialist? he asks. And an educated reader will reply: “No. It’s true that Denmark doesn’t at all fit all the classic defini-tion of socialism, which involves gov-ernment ownership of the means of pro-duction. It is, instead, social-democratic: a market economy where the downsides of capitalism are mitigated by govern-ment — through social-democratic social safety net.”

All very true. Denmark is not socialist. But what Krugman leaves out is the fierce class struggle that has led the rulers of this small imperialist country to accede to some of the workers’ demands in order to maintain their privi-leges and power. They have given a lit-tle in order to stay in power and continue to exploit the labor of the workers, both at home and around the world.

Gains of workers’ struggles under capitalism

He also leaves out the current workers’ struggles in Denmark to hold on to what they’ve won as they face an onslaught of capitalist reaction that is deepening throughout Europe. Far-right parties have increased in size in Denmark, while the left is shrinking, and the workers are confronting a wave of attacks on workers in Europe.

The Danish Social Democrats have become the primary party of the working class, with the Social Democrats running the government since 1982. The Social Democrats have a good record of social welfare programs, including a national health system, a strong labor movement and a strong trade union movement.

However, the Social Democrats have abandoned their socialist roots and have become an imperialist party, supporting wars and interventions around the world.

Over 500 Colorado environmentalists and activists gathered at the State Capitol on Aug. 16 to demand stronger environmental protections for the state.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of CUBA

Feinstein’s book documents revolutionary Cuba’s inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes.

This ground-breaking book reveals how the Cuban Revolution has challenged the 500 years of exploitation of human beings on this planet and the exploitation and oppression of sexuality. Rainbow Solidarity answers the demonization of the 1959 Cuban Revolution by Washington, Wall Street and Hollywood by demonstrating that the process of solving these problems is the forward motion of the revolution.

A compilation of articles from the Workers World series “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of CUBA”.

The book is available at major online bookstores and at workers.org.

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Coloradans demand stronger environmental protection

Over 500 Colorado environmental-ists, officials and residents packed the meeting of the state Air Quality Control Commission on Aug. 16. They were de-manding that the environmental bar on air pollution be raised and emphatical-ly opposed any federal rollback on fuel economy standards.

Environmentalists present were out-enguaging from numerous speakers from across the state about the need for stronger regulations to control vehicle emissions and air pollution.

The Denver meeting was held to hear public opinion on a June 19 executive or-der by Gov. Hickenlooper that mandat-ed a low-emissions vehicle program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. This proposal — pushing back the implementation of California’s 52 strict auto emissions regulations, the toughest in the U.S. The Colorado proposal would affect new cars after Jan. 1, 2022, and be stronger than the current Environmental Protection Agen-cy standards, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent by 2022.

The audience came both to support this new policy and to improve and strengthen it by including ZEVs (zero emission vehicles) in the plan. These are in the Colorado codes, but were not initially to be in the Colorado program. Statements from numerous speakers from across the state made clear that there was over-whelming support for including ZEVs in the Colorado program.

The current regulation, which nationally cause 25 percent of air pollution, to add the en-vironmental problems in Colorado. One of the major impacts cited by speakers was the increasing temperatures that cause loss of from 30 to 60 percent of the snow pack, which then affects Colorado’s water supply, winter sports and ski industry. There are in addition extreme flooding, fires, and the human and animal health problems stemming from ozone and oth-er auto pollutants.

The state public hearing will be fol-lowed by another in November to review the final program of action, which must be in place by January 2019, in time for industry planning for 2022 cars.

— Report and photo by Viviana Weinstein

Western Europe: free socialized med-icine, free education, longer vacations, earlier retirement, guaranteed jobs and more. These were the fruits of a true workers’ revolution in Russia in 1917 and were generally applied also in the East European countries under Soviet occupu-ation after World War II.

The Cold War demonized the Soviet bloc at a time when strong workers’ par-ties in Western Europe were fighting to win these same benefits. These were the conditions that led the capitalists in some Western European countries to accept social democracy as a “lesser evil” to out-right workers’ revolution.

As long as the capitalist ruling class exists, whether it makes material con-ceSSIONS to the workers or not, it calls the shots. This is especially true in periods of economic crisis—which is deepening all over the globe at present and comes di-recLty from the contradiction of capitalist “overproduction.” During this crisis, the capitalists will try to overturn the gains made by workers in order to enhance their profits in the fierce, dog-eat-dog competition that is a built-in feature of this decay system.

NATO has morphed into an aggressive armed force used against any regime or movement that challenges U.S.-Europe-an imperialism domination worldwide. In this global imperialist war, Denmark has sent troops and/or war planes to Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Estonia and Kyrgyzstan.

Trump complained during his election campaign, and still does, that the Euro-peans weren’t paying their “fair share” to NATO and demanded they raise their contribution to 2 percent of their gross domestic product. Bloomberg News predicted that would “break Denmark’s wel-fare state.” (Nov. 20, 2016)

In a capitalist country, even a social democratic one, being a partner of world imperialism has its price. The capital-ists calling the shots will make sure this price is paid by the working class, not the bosses.
Racist Silent Sam statue toppled

A large cheer arose from the crowd at the first sound of metal creaking against concrete, erupting into jubilant shouts as the statue tumbled. Rain began to fall as the monument lay flat on the ground. Some protestors kicked at the toppled statue, others screaming in glee. One activist placed a “Do It Like Durham” hat atop the fallen statue in tribute to a similar action just over a year ago when a group brought down another Confederate statue in neighboring Durham, N.C.

A large crowd, estimated between 250 and 500, had initially gathered at 7 p.m. across the street in front of Chapel Hill’s Peace and Justice Plaza to support UNC graduate student Maya Little, who in April spilled her own blood on the courthouse lawn in protest of the university administration’s continuing inaction. She currently faces criminal charges and expulsion by the university’s honor court. “It’s time to tear down Silent Sam,” Little said. “It’s time to tear down UNCs institutional white supremacy.”

Rather than memorializing the Confederacy, Little suggested UNC should devote resources to honoring the legacy of James Lewis Cates, a black Chapel Hill resident and civil rights activist who was murdered on campus in 1971 at the age of 22. Cates’ killers, three white men, were acquitted by an all-white jury.

“After Cates was murdered, his friends, the Black community and organizations such as the Black Student Movement — who at the time were being surveilled by COINTELPRO — rallied to demand a Chapel Hill where Black lives matter,” Little said, pointing out Silent Sam as the location of their protest.

While a few curious onlookers and “pro-Confederate” groups mindlessly ignored the edges, the crowd was overwhelmingly in support of tearing down the monument.

Silent Sam represents “a legacy of oppression and slavery that was the foundation not only of this university but the whole region,” said one graduate student, calling it “a defunct statue that communicates to students of color that this university is more interested in preserving white supremacy than creating a community of openness.”

Silent Sam was erected in 1913 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to celebrate the 50th anniversary (in 1911) of the Civil War. About 40 percent of UNC students are white, and many of these students are descendants of families that benefited from slavery and colonial expansion. Many of these families have historically supported the Confederacy, and the university has a long history of denying the role of racism in its founding and development.

The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

Examines the complex relationship between the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation.

A Voice from Harpers Ferry

Osborne P. Anderson’s account of life on Harpers Ferry appeared in pamphlet form in 1861 right after the start of the Civil War. It includes essays by Mumia Abu-Jamal, Eric Moorehead and Vince Copeland.
Heroes from Honduras: Margarita Murillo, ¡presente!

Margarita Murillo

By Teresa Gutierrez

The children and youth of Honduras will one day look back at this period in history with great lament. U.S. imperialist policy has resulted not only in massive forced migration but also in decades of brutal instability and turmoil in their beloved homeland.

In fact, photojournalist Tomás Ayuso notes that the youth of Honduras have coined a phrase of their limited hope — “the right to grow old” — as death and uncertainty have become the main options for the vast majority of young people. (NPR, Aug. 19)

But these conditions have also borne beloved heroes.

One of those is Margarita Murillo, a revolutionary campesina leader who was assassinated by death squads on Aug. 27, 2014.

Four years after Margarita’s death, her children and the Honduran resistance movement in New York City will commemorate her life on Aug. 25 with film footage, speeches, food and music at the International Action Center.

Under the banner, “We continue to demand Justice! ¡Margarita vive!” the story of this leader will be told by her three children, who now reside in NYC, as well as her son, Samuel, and daughter Kenia — Margarita’s children — continue to inspire everyone they meet. They fight on just like their mother.

Montserrat, despite being held at the border along with her baby daughter in the “hieleras” — the freezing cold detention center — remains optimistic. She, Samuel and daughter Kenia — Margarita’s children — continue to inspire everyone they meet. They fight on just like their mother. Montserrat says all the time: “My mom probably gave up her life for the resistance movement.”

Just like Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores (Lenca) of Honduras, who was also murdered by death squads, Margarita will live on. They live on in the struggles of their children and in all the young people who are fighting until victory for their homeland.

Margarita Murillo, ¡presente!

ENDORSE the PEOPLE’S TRIBUNAL on U.S. Crimes against PUERTO RICO

The Tribunal needs your support! Since the devastation of hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, the world has heard of Puerto Rico’s economic, social and environmental crisis. This crisis is not new or even due primarily to the hurricanes, but is the culmination of the savage colonialist domination and capitalist exploitation that the United States has imposed ever since its 1898 military invasion of Puerto Rico. On Oct. 27, activists and witnesses from Puerto Rico (including eyewitnesses to U.S. crimes), the Puerto Rican diaspora, the U.S. and the world will meet in New York City to take part in this colonial crimes tribunal.

A people’s investigation. The Tribunal will present a people’s investigation of the role of the U.S. government during its 120-year colonial rule, and particularly since the hurricanes’ devastation outpuerto Rico in the eye of the world’s media.

The Tribunal will feature renowned Nicaraguan legal scholar and attorney, Dr. Augusto Zamora, who will serve as prosecutor, and a distinguished jury of U.S. and international human rights leaders.

This call for action by the Puerto Rico Tribunal Ad Hoc Committee is not made solely for the sake of protest, but also seeks to strengthen the worldwide struggle for self-determination today. What is happening in Puerto Rico is different than in Nicaragua, but also seeks to strengthen the worldwide struggle for self-determination today.

We hope that your organization will endorse this very important effort and join with us on Oct. 27 in New York City.

Please endorse and share the imperialist

Please endorsements and donations to: Puerto Rico Tribunal, Codex 4249, Philadelphia, PA 19101, Online: gofundme.com/tribunaltetroico

Workers’ World MUNDO OBRERO

Trump, el Pentágono y el establecimiento

Continúa de página 12

Por supuesto, su programa está en de- sacuerdo con la política tradicional de la clase dominante de mantener alianzas con el imperialismo europeo, mientras mantiene a estos aliados en subordi- nación. El establecimiento es en gran me- dida hostil a la República Popular de Chi- na, a Irán y unificado en su oposición a Rusia, pero incluso sus asesores de dere- cha intervieron para salvar de Trump a la alianza OTAN.

Dos falsos programas para revivir el imperialismo

Obviamente, las políticas de Trump son completamente perjudiciales para las estrategias de larga data del establec- miento capitalista de EUA para la domi- nación mundial. De hecho, sin embargo, el establecimiento tiene un análisis to- talmente erróneo de su propia crisis y no puede resolverla sin un cambio global- sal. Tanto la visión del establecimiento como la visión de Trump sobre la crisis son falsas.

Sólo una comprensión marxista revolu- ctorial de la crisis corresponde a la realidad objetiva. Y sólo eso puede conducir a una resolución de la crisis favorable para las/os trabajadores y las/os oprimidos.

La crisis del imperialismo y capitalis- mo estadounidense se debe a la necesidad insaciable y agresiva de Washington y Wall Street de reestructurar y reconsoli- zar los vastos territorios que perdieron durante el período soviético en el siglo XX. Es un intento fallido.

No pueden convertir al Pacífico en un “lago estadounidense” de nuevo porque la soledad y el desaliento de China se ha levantado. Pueden causar daños terribles, pero no pueden recoll- orizar el Medio Oriente o Irán porque las/os oprimidos de la región no permitirán. No pueden convertir a América Latina en un “patio trasero” de EUA a evitar que sus aspiraciones de “tumbac de régimen”. Su tratamiento brutal de Puer- to Rico y de inmigrantes latinas/os revi- enta sus falsas promesas. Y Cuba social- ísta todavía se interponer en su camino.

La crisis se deriva de la insaciable sed de lucro de la clase dominante y la creci- miento desigualdad resultante y la acumula- ción de capital por fuera de los Estados Unidos. Esta es la base social fundamental del imperialismo, una base calzonada con cada recorte de im- puestos para los ricos, cada ataque a los servicios sociales, cada acto de brutalidad policial racista y encarcelamiento masivo. Los parásitos de la clase dominante están desesperados por chupar hasta el último centavo de ganancias de las masas a me- diante cualquier medio que empiece.

De modo que ambas visiones de la cri- sis, la de Trump y la de la clase gober- nante capitalista más amplia, son falsas. El capitalismo no tiene solución para su propia crisis sistémica.

Trump, el Pentágono y el establecimiento
Por Fred Goldstein

11 de agosto - La última ronda de sanciones de Estados Unidos contra Rusia ilustra cómo el Pentágono y sus aliados en el gobierno capitalista se están moviendo independientemente del presidente de los EUA para socavar su diplomacia personal cuando entra en conflicto con los objetivos militares.

Por razones que son motivo de mucha especulación, Trump ha intentando relinear la política exterior imperialista de los EUA para incluir un acercamiento con Rusia. Lo ha hecho desde hace que comenzó su campaña electoral. Este intento de realeamiento se expresó dramáticamente en la cumbre en Helsinki de Trump-Putin en julio.

No se equivoquen, Donald Trump no es partidista de la paz. Es belicismo, beligerante y un belicista impulsivo cuando le conviene el juego, y un controvertido diplomático cuando un aliado se convierte en enemigo. Ha provocado conflictos internacionales, así como un pro-motor autoritario del racismo, el sexismo y el fanatismo aquí en EUA.

Trump alimenta la máquina de guerra

Trump ha hecho mucho para alimentar la presión vieja y nuevas para la guerra. Él ha dado aumentos audaces de presupuesto a los gregales de la guerra, con el presupuesto militar de 2019 oficialmente superando los 786 mil millones. Ha autorizado la modernización de armas nucleares. Ha financiado aumentos en aviones de combate, buses y tropas. En resumen, ha hecho todo lo posible para mantener el estrato militar industrial-satisficio y a bordo con su administración.

El aumento en el gasto militar es uno de los más grandes en la historia moderna de EUA, brincando un 9 por ciento desde 2017 hasta 2019), según Todd Hart. Resulta de un esfuerzo agresivo de defensa en el Centro de Estudios Estratégicos e Internacionales, un grupo de expertos.

Estas cifras son míticas y por mucho. Trabajadores despedidos de la Huerta Sarbanand marchan para exigir sus derechos laborales en el estado de Washington.

Trump, el Pentágono y el estatuto

El Pentágono todavía domina la política exterior EUA.

Tal vez Trump pensó que su generosidad con los generales y almirantes mantendría aérea y del�o militar de 2019 oficialmente supera y en el estatuto de los militares, pero los gregales de la guerra "inmunidad soberana". En julio, los militares deliberadamente sabotearon la condición previa para la desnuclearización y amenazaron con no volver a entrar en el estatuto de "inmunidad soberana".

Trump, el marxismo y el estado

Un análisis marxista es necesario para desenmascarar las complicadas relaciones políticas dentro de la administración Trump. En este reflejo de la crisis del capitalismo. A pesar de que perdió el voto popular por 3 millones, todo su ascenso político se basó en la desmoralización política de una fractura de las masas y la bancarrota de la dirección corporativa del Partido Demócrata. Después de votar por Obama en 2012, millones de personas bayeron por Trump en 2016. Entre los votantes había muchos que habían apoyado la candidatura de Bernie Sand- er. Llevaban cientos de millones de dólares en las cuentas bancarias, pero, en cualquier caso, no hay nada que los líderes del Partido Demócrata puedan hacer para eliminar la crisis del capitalis- mo, que es la raíz del problema.

Trump apeló a la ira después de años de reducción de salarios y socavación de los sindicatos. Al mismo tiempo, atacó los reveses del imperialismo en el exter- no, incluido el intento fallido de apoderar- se completamente de Ucrania en 2014. Su enfoque es para que Rusia y China, el racista y anti-inmigrante generalizado en todo el mundo capitalista, incluyendo Europa.

Nombramientos de derecha rompieron coalición de Trump

Truman fue un total extraño que triunfó sobre las figuras del establecimiento. Al principio, su gobierno era una coalición entre ese establecimiento y la extremada derecha. Con el tiempo, Trump explotó a las figuras del establecimiento que podían decirle que no: Rex Tillerson, ex CEO de ExxonMobil, que había sido su secretario de estado; Gary Cohn, el CEO de Goldman Sachs, quien fue su principal asesor económico; y el general H.R. Mc Master, su asesor de seguridad nacional. Los reemplazó con derechistas anti- sistema: el Consejero de Seguridad Na- cional John Bolton, el Secretario de Esta- do Mike Pompeo y el asesor económico Jared Kushner.

Trump pensó que aquel año sería libre de seguir con su programa para revivir las Figuras del establecimiento. Su programa era retirarse del Acuerdo de París sobre el medio ambiente; retirarse de la Alian- za Trans-Pacífico; intimidar a la OTAN a soportar más gastos, abrir más bases interceptadoras contra las/os trabajadores inmigrantes; alian- tar con las fuerzas antimilitar de Europa; volar el tratado nuclear de Irán; liberar una guerra comercial con China y otros países; destinar y renovar el TLANC, etc.

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