



Football star sits for U.S. anthem to ‘Stand up for oppressed people’

Bulletin: *The San Francisco Police Officers Association, which always defends killer cops like the ones who fatally shot Mario Woods, a 26-year-old Black man 20 times in 2015, sent a letter Aug. 29 to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and 49ers CEO Jed York demanding that Colin Kaepernick publicly apologize for his comments on police brutality. For more updates, go to workers.org.*

By Monica Moorehead

Aug. 29 — When Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, two Black men, were murdered by police in Baton Rouge, La., and St. Paul, Minn., respectively, in early July, a number of prominent Black athletes condemned these atrocities.

Members of the New York Liberty, Minnesota Lynx and other Women’s National Basketball Association teams wore Black Lives Matter pregame, warm-up shirts with Sterling and Castile’s names on them. They and their teams were threatened with fines until the WNBA hierarchy was pressured to rescind them due to overwhelming mass support.

Without a doubt, the most outspoken male athlete after these murders was Colin Kaepernick, a 28-year-old quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers in the National Football League, who led his team to the Super Bowl in 2013.

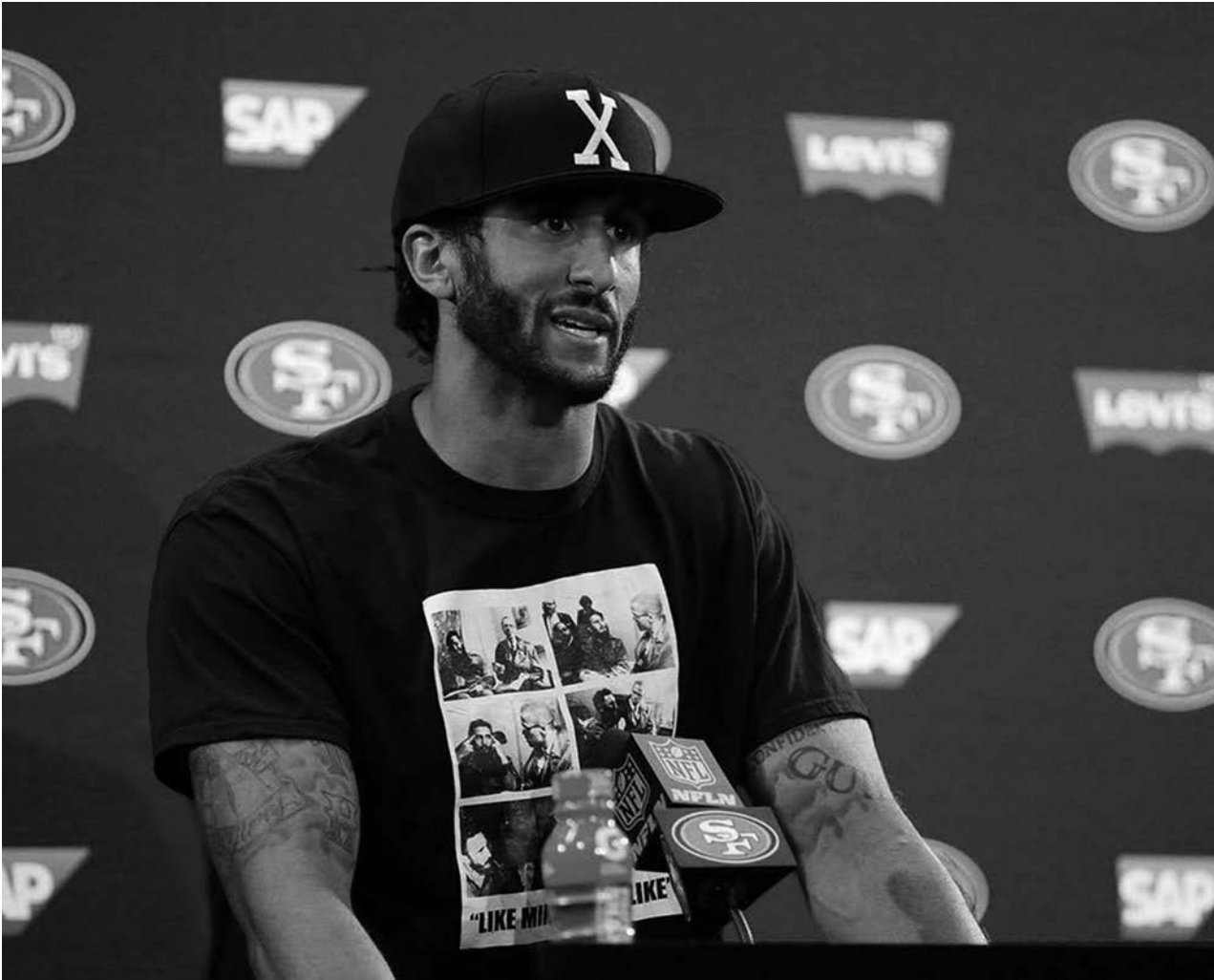
Kaepernick stated on Instagram, along with the video of Sterling’s murder: “This is what lynchings look like in 2016! Another murder in the streets because [of the] color of a man’s skin, at the hands of the people who they say will protect us. When will they be held accountable? Or did he fear for his life as he executed this man?”

During a 49ers’ preseason game with the Green Bay Packers on Aug. 26, Kaepernick refused to stand during the playing of the U.S. national anthem. He told Steve Wyche from NFL.com: “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.” He specifically raised how the police are getting away with murder without any accountability. (usatoday.com, Aug. 27)

He went on to say, “This is not something that I am going to run by anybody. I am not looking for approval. I have to stand up for people that are oppressed. ... If they take football away, my endorsements from me, I know that I stood up for what is right.”

Kaepernick’s heroic action has caused a firestorm of horrific racist reaction on social media. Some 49ers’ fans posted on Twitter about burning Kaepernick’s jersey and called for his dismissal from the team. People are attacking his heritage: Kaepernick’s birth father is Black and his birth mother is white. Kaepernick was

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Wearing a shirt showing the 1960 meeting between Fidel Castro and Malcolm X, Colin Kaepernick speaks at press conference on why he sat during the playing of the U.S. national anthem, Aug. 26.

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Lamont Lilly to Peace and Freedom Party: ‘True socialism must connect to the most marginalized’



Speech of Lamont Lilly, Workers World Party candidate for vice president, to the Peace and Freedom Party convention in Sacramento, Calif., on Aug. 13.

In January of 1971, Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton declared, “The Black Panther Party grew out of the Black Power Movement, but the party transformed the ideology of Black Power into a socialist ideology, a Marxist-Leninist ideology.”

This statement reflects the core of what the Black Panther Party subscribed to be, and by this time, how the Black Panther Party subscribed to think — through a Marxist-Leninist class analysis.

They formed because poor Black people were being terrorized by the Oakland police. They formed because the Black community was in need of “bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace,” because they clearly realized that capitalism was an archenemy to Black Liberation.

This is the same crossroads that the Black Lives Matter Movement is currently standing right in the middle of, comrades. As socialist and progressive leftists, we must support this movement with commitment and vigor. How could we not? In the last three years, it has, no doubt, inspired the poor and oppressed worldwide.

The Peace and Freedom Party has a long and deep history directly connected to the Black Liberation Movement. It was Eldridge Cleaver who served as the Peace and Freedom Party’s first official presidential nominee — a nomination that marked a direct connection to the boots on the ground, to the broader movement in a very militant and revolutionary manner.

That is what true socialism should reflect — a connection to the most oppressed — a commitment to the proletarian working class — to the disenfranchised and most marginalized.

The Black Panther Party considered themselves the vanguard, and rightfully so. And so do many of the various fractions of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Those were the youth and working poor we saw in Ferguson and Baltimore — fighting back against tanks and teargas with their bodies, laying it all on the line, connecting their local struggles to Palestine and Libya, building on the revolutionary spirit of Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

This is the exact brand of theory, message and revolutionary application that the Moorehead/Lilly campaign has been involved in since day one, sisters and brothers. We are, indeed, ingrained in it.

The Workers World Party U.S. presidential candidate, Monica Moorehead, was down in Ferguson twice in 2014. Not for photo-ops and self-promotion, but to genuinely help the people organize. And so was I.

She was there in Baltimore with the Baltimore People’s Power Assembly. I was there, literally, when the Baltimore Rebellion first popped off — when the Baltimore police were pepper spraying and tear gassing women and children, when they were locking up more than 300 protesters. And we were still there when all of the cameras left, feeding and organizing, listening to the people, distributing Pampers.

I am not telling you this to boast, sisters and brothers. I am simply sharing with you the kind of connection and relationship that the Moorehead/Lilly campaign shares with the broader movement, from the labor struggle, to the immigration movement, to Black Lives Matter.

We do not “wear the movement” as credentials. We are, instead, interwoven within the movement as dedicated Marxist-Leninists.

Sisters and brothers, there’s a new generation that has really taken a liking to socialism, and they’re speaking out against state violence and police terror — against poverty, unemployment and the failure of capitalism — against global war and the military-industrial complex. They are speaking up for gender equality, queer and trans rights. They need us to speak with them, comrades.

If you open our 10-Point Program — which, hopefully, all of you have a copy of by now — I do believe it speaks for itself.

Bold. Principled. Revolutionary. All power to the people!



Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Capitalism threatens autoworkers' jobs

By Martha Grevatt

“Constant revolutionizing of production,” Karl Marx and Frederick Engels wrote in 1848, “uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation distinguish the bourgeois epoch from all earlier ones.”

These words, written almost 170 years ago, are truer today than ever before, with the auto industry a prime example. Whenever the bosses at General Motors, Ford, Chrysler or their overseas rivals announce some new restructuring, the end goal is always the same: higher profits, fewer workers.

Only a month ago, the CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), Sergio Marchionne, said of that corporation: “I think we will be de-carred in the U.S. by [the first quarter of] 2017.”

After being “de-carred,” FCA will build only trucks and sport utility vehicles in the U.S. By assembling products with the highest profit margin, FCA can “close the operating [profit] margin gap with our competitors.” (Detroit Free Press, July 28)

FCA’s major product reshuffling, which members of the United Auto Workers were told of during last year’s contract negotiations, involves taking the Dodge Dart out of Belvidere, Ill., and the Chrysler 200 out of Sterling Heights, Mich. The upheaval will move the Jeep Cherokee from Toledo, Ohio, to Belvidere, and the Ram truck from Warren, Mich., to Sterling Heights. The Warren plant would get a low-volume, high-priced Jeep Wagoneer. The Dodge Viper would be discontinued, costing 150 jobs.

Workers had assumed then that the Dart and the 200, less profitable to build than trucks and SUVs, would be moved south of the U.S. border and be assembled by low-paid workers. But, by getting out of the small and midsize car business altogether, FCA has taken an even more drastic step.

Since July 5, when a shift at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP) was eliminated, 1,420 workers have been on



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Rank-and-file autoworkers and supporters of the Autoworker Caravan protest the “gigantic profits” of auto companies, Jan. 10, outside the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

indefinite layoff by FCA. Most had already been on intermittent layoffs during the first half of the year. After 20 weeks on layoff, they cannot collect state unemployment benefits. Union-negotiated supplementary unemployment benefits run out after 13 to 52 weeks, depending on years of service.

Supposedly, all of these workers should be called back when the next generation Ram truck is launched at their plant, but how do they pay their bills now?

Even when SHAP is back up to full speed, employment at the Warren Truck Assembly Plant is projected to fall from 2,400 to 1,000 when it loses the Ram. Only a portion of these workers will be picked up by SHAP. Technological advances will, as Marx put it, “revolutionize” the process to require fewer hands.

Overall, the FCA’s profit-driven overhaul is expected to cause a net loss of 900 jobs in metro Detroit — even at current sales levels.

Canadian, European autoworkers’ future uncertain

In 2013, the Canadian Auto Workers merged with the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers of Canada to form Unifor, now in contract negotiations with the Detroit auto companies. With no new product commitments from GM as yet, Unifor members in Oshawa, Ont., are worried about their plant closing. The

chant on the floor is, “No product, no contract!” Oshawa already experienced the closing of GM’s truck plant in 2008. Now, Unifor has just 23,000 hourly workers at all three companies.

The future of FCA’s Brampton, Ont., plant, which produces the full-size 300, Charger and Challenger, is also uncertain. CEO Marchionne has stated that the 300 could be produced in Windsor, Ont., alongside the minivan.

Across the Atlantic, the impact on the auto industry of Britain’s exit from the European Union is the subject of speculation. Ford and GM have 25 percent of the British market and GM’s British Vauxhall division produces for export to the Continent. Now import tariffs could make vehicles more expensive, impacting sales and jobs.

Vauxhall’s Ellesmere Port plant, with 2,000 workers, could be on the chopping block. “GM indicated cost cutting” — read job-cutting — “was on the cards as the effect of Brexit could cost it up to \$400m [million],” the BBC reported July 21. GM’s Opel division, which closed a plant in Bochum, Germany, in 2014, might also shutter more plants. Already Opel workers’ hours have been cut, with GM blaming Brexit.

Ford has no plants in Britain, but exports from the EU to Britain. The Brexit vote pushed down stock values at Ford, GM and even FCA, which has only 2 per-

cent of the British market.

Ripple effect of a multiplier industry

Mass layoffs in auto are said to cost eight jobs indirectly for every job cut directly — in parts-supplier plants, steel mills, tire companies, restaurants and bars around the plant, and public jobs affected when the tax base drops. Unifor-commissioned studies estimate over 30,000 jobs would be lost indirectly if either FCA’s Brampton or GM’s Oshawa plant closes. In Detroit, suppliers affected by restructuring include Martinrea, which has already announced it will close due to the axing of the Chrysler 200.

The possible job loss projections are based on current sales, which in the U.S. have surpassed sales in 2006 — before the auto recession sent sales tumbling. Since then, tens of thousands of UAW jobs have been eliminated.

Over the decades, auto plant closings have had a racist, disproportionate effect on Black autoworkers, whose ranks were decimated when plants in Detroit and Flint were closed while newer suburban plants stayed open.

The new rounds of layoffs will have a similar racist impact. Sales rebounded after the auto industry bankruptcy — in no small part due to relaxed credit terms and loans to buyers that stretched payments out over up to eight years. The companies made record profits by hiring workers for less, under the two-tier pay structure. Thousands of oppressed youth were able to get union jobs that, even with a lower wage, paid more than double minimum wage. Now they will be the first to be laid off in the latest restructuring.

Around the world, jobs are being cut even in the midst of record sales and profits. Another crisis of capitalist overproduction, accelerated by unpayable loans, would devastate autoworkers and their communities.

During the Flint sit-down strike of 1936-37, the UAW raised “30 for 40” — 30 hours work, 40 hours pay. Today, winning that demand could create 30,000-plus new union jobs at the Detroit Three’s U.S. plants alone.

The labor movement worldwide must revive the demand for a shorter work week. □

Boston homeless fight back

By Gerry Scoppettuolo
Boston

It’s a fact of life that oppressed communities resist — especially when our survival is at stake.

Seven hundred people in Boston’s homeless and addiction recovery programs were forcibly removed from the city’s Long Island shelter and forced onto the streets and into inadequate temporary shelters on Oct. 7, 2014. Since then, this most marginalized community has fought back. Despite living in the direst of circumstances, 100 of Boston’s homeless and recovering community and their supporters rallied at Boston’s City Hall on Aug. 22 to demand the Long Island shelter be reopened.

Speaker after speaker denounced Mayor Marty Walsh and the Boston Public Health Commission for the disaster that closed down 11 recovery programs and the city’s largest shelter.

Bishop Felipe Teixeira, with the Catholic Church of the Americas, led off the rally, declaring: “This is a corrupt city. If Mayor Walsh were Black, he would be in jail for what he’s done. Give us back Long Island!” Others testified to the incredible injustices that have followed in the wake of the closure.

A farm on the island that was worked by homeless people in recovery and that supplied fresh vegetables for those in shelters was given away recently — by Mayor Walsh through a hidden process — to the B-Good Restaurant chain with a thus-far-unfulfilled assurance that part of the produce would be given to the homeless.

Sara Riegler, assistant director of the farm when it served the homeless and an organizer of the rally, described the farm to rally attendees: “Five to ten people worked the farm and were given job training and permanent beds in the shelter while at the same time producing 25,000 pounds of fresh vegetables every year.”

Cassie Hurd, of the Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee, which called the rally, reminded the ralliers that, as part of Boston’s failed 2020 Olympic bid, Long Island would have been turned into an archery range and stadium by Mayor Walsh.

Oppose privatization

Nino Brown, a leader of Boston’s Mass Action Against Police Brutality, part



WW PHOTOS: LIZ GREEN

of the Black Lives Matter Movement, pledged solidarity, saying: “We are opposed to the privatization of public lands and resources. This is no different than what the Boston Public School System is doing in education.”

Aubri Esters and John Leyner, formerly homeless and leaders of the BHSC, spoke movingly of how their lives were transformed by having access to the services available at Long Island. Other speakers brought supporters to the rally, including a delegation from the Cardinal Medeiros Transitional Program for formerly homeless.

Other speakers at the rally included Eli Gerzon from Make GE Pay, Medical Students for Long Island, Grantlee Payne

from Serving Our Selves, Michael Kane from the Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants, Maria Cristina from City Life and this writer from Workers World Party.

The overall housing crisis in Boston is assuming epic proportions. Half of the city’s inhabitants earn less than \$35,000 a year. Private developers have the Boston Redevelopment Authority as their government conduit; the authority is only granting building permits for high-rise luxury condos and luxury apartments.

Billions of dollars of global capital are flowing into the coffers of real estate developers and banks, fueling a massive gentrification campaign just as poor people are being forced to move out of the city, move in with relatives or go into shelters with record overcrowding.

Neighborhood groups like “Keep it 100% Egleston” and “Reclaim Roxbury,” from Boston’s Black and Latinx communities, are pushing back against these plans as a matter of survival. Efforts to link the organized homeless citywide will broaden this people’s struggle in the future. The Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee is planning another action for Oct. 7, the two-year anniversary of the closure of Long Island. □



Legal challenges battle for Mumia’s life and health

By Henry Hagsins

To paraphrase Fidel Castro, what the imperialists fear most is the mass duplication of Mumia’s exceptionally heroic example.

The prolonged fight to secure the most effective hepatitis C antiviral medication for Mumia Abu-Jamal and the decades-long struggle to ultimately free him continues with unabated determination. The fact that Mumia “is who he is,” helps to explain why this effort is so arduous and so important.

Thousands of other prisoners, themselves captured and held under suspicious conditions, are also impacted by Mumia’s case.

As colossal and well-armed as U.S. imperialism is, both internally and externally, it trembles at the very idea that the sheer weight of Mumia’s arguments, which its apologists can’t credibly refute, can have a most destabilizing influence on its self-arrogated right to dominate and rule the world.

This what the rulers really fear: any challenge to their authority. And they especially don’t want that challenge to be ideologically organized. Hence the con-

tinued cowardly effort to kill him; now, through medical neglect and abuse.

Of course to Mumia’s defenders, the rulers’ posture is fully unacceptable. When Mumia called, freedom fighters the world over answered.

Legal battlefield

Fresh dispatches from the legal battlefield by Bret Grote and Bob Boyle, lawyers for Mumia in this case, show that their measured arguments have been carefully looked over by presiding Judge Robert Mariani, who made suggestions that help Mumia’s lawyers to further sharpen their focus of complaint and remedy.

Filed Aug. 5, in the form of judgment opposition papers against former and current Pennsylvania Department of Corrections heads at Mahanoy State Correctional Institution, including Superintendent John Kerestes, these documents seek to particularly identify those responsible for “activating a climate of medical abuse and neglect.” Since 2014 and continuing through 2015, this climate has placed Mumia’s life in continued grave danger.

Sought after hepatitis C antiviral medicine remains out of Mumia’s immediate

reach. Earlier, the authorities had used the high cost for treatment as another mean-spirited excuse. Yet informed experts contradict them.

Lawyers Grote and Boyle have indicated that they have met the 14-day resubmission deadline to refile an amended complaint for Judge Mariani, who is seen as slow but methodical.

Judge Mariani dismissed one section of the complaint on Mumia’s behalf “because Mumia was transferred from Geisinger [hospital] and is no longer subject to its authority. [The] judge saw Mumia’s claim against Geisinger as moot, but did permit First Amendment association claim (based on the prohibition on visits and communication with his attorneys, spouse, and family during his May 2015 hospitalization) to proceed against defendant Kerestes.” (memo submitted by Mumia’s lawyers, circa Aug. 9)

In a related development, defense attorney “Judith Ritter filed a new Post Conviction Relief Act petition (PCRA) in Mumia’s case August 8th, 2016, based on the June 2016 US Supreme Court opinion in Williams v. Commonwealth in which the Court ruled that former PA Chief Justice Ronald Castille should have recused

himself from Williams’ 2012 appeal of his death sentence given his role in authorizing the death penalty in Williams’ 1986 case as the DA of Philadelphia.” (lawyers’ memo)

Castille was the DA during direct appeal in Mumia’s case and refused to recuse himself in Mumia’s PCRA appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, according to Mumia’s lawyers.

Also included in arguments submitted to Judge Mariani on Mumia’s behalf was a declaration by Dr. Joseph Harris that includes his assessment of Mumia’s guarded medical condition and prognosis to return Mumia to better and safer health.

The denial of the existence of political prisoners in the United States, by government at the three major levels, is not because of some stubborn refusal to recognize. It is designed to further criminalize dissent by denying capitalist society’s responsibility for the conditions that gave rise to dissent in the first place. We must never be fooled.

Brick by brick, wall by wall, we’re gonna free Mumia Abu Jamal and all political prisoners!

Henry Hagsins is an active member of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition.

Wisconsin Prison authorities keep hunger strikers on brink of death

Special to Workers World from Waupun, Wis.

August 22 — According to a letter from hunger striker LaRon McKinley, the “Dying to Live” hunger strike in Waupun Correctional Institution, which began June 5, has reached a crisis.

On Aug. 15, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (WI DOC) decided to suspend the force-feeding they had subjected the prisoners to since June 17. They allowed McKinley and Cesar DeLeon — the two of the six hunger strikers who have taken the struggle the furthest, to go without food or water for 72 hours, until they were severely dehydrated. Then they tube-fed them again.

“Presently, and for most of this week, we have been under retaliatory attack by our warden as a direct consequence of our political efforts ... to force an end to prolonged Administrative Confinement,” McKinley stated.

On Aug. 13, a coalition of prisoner supporters from across the state gathered in Waupun to protest WI DOC practices and



Aug. 13. Supporters of hunger strikers at Waupun prison in Wisconsin. WW PHOTO:

show solidarity with the hunger strike. They were greeted by offensive gestures, threats and insults by local residents, some of whom probably work at the prison.

“We believe Warden Foster has changed the force-feeding regimen in response to our protest; unfortunately, the changes are retaliatory: increasing the pain, harm and danger these men are experiencing in an effort to break their will,” said Chance Zombor, who led the Aug. 13 march, to Workers World.

A sudden intake of calories by a starved and dehydrated person causes violent metabolic shifts, leading to a potentially

fatal condition called refeeding syndrome. WI DOC has begun a regimen that is very likely to cause refeeding syndrome.

According to The BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal), “Refeeding syndrome can be defined as the potentially fatal

shifts in fluids and electrolytes that may occur in malnourished patients receiving artificial refeeding.” Refeeding syndrome can cause heart or respiratory failure.

In Waupun, WI DOC only allows the prisoners to drink lead-polluted water available to the 165-year-old institution, which causes diarrhea and exacerbates their dehydration.

McKinley suspects WI DOC is intentionally keeping them on the brink of death. According to his letter, after 42 hours without food or water — because they refused to drink Waupun’s polluted water — McKinley and DeLeon, “were di-

agnosed as seriously dehydrated, and the tube-feeding was then recommended, but this time they made us both go exactly 30 more hours, to exactly 72 hours each. Seventy-two hours without water is a well-known and medically held time limit that would and is generally believed to kill most people.”

The hunger strikers believe Waupun staff will continue force-feeding them every 72 hours in an effort to make the hunger strike as unbearable as possible. McKinley goes on to describe his body’s response, which mirrors the symptoms of refeeding syndrome: “Due to the stress and ordeal that our bodies had gone through, they kind of reacted as if they had been poisoned when said fluids were eventually forced into the stomach.”

Outside supporters are demanding that the DOC allow McKinley and DeLeon to drink bottled water, and that Wisconsin meet the strikers’ central demand: a one-year halt to any form of solitary confinement. They are asking people to contact Warden Foster, WI DOC Secretary Jon Litscher, and Gov. Scott Walker.

More information, including phone numbers and email addresses, can be found at SolitaryTorture.blogspot.com. □

Tribute to Black women Killed by misogynoir

By Betsey Piette Philadelphia

Over 100 demonstrators gathered at North Broad and Cecil B. Moore Avenue near Temple University on Aug. 3 to pay tribute to three Black women who were victims of state violence and “misogynoir.” (Misogynoir is the word created by queer Black feminist scholar Moya Bailey to describe the racist and sexist hatred directed at Black women and girls.) All three women were killed within the same week.

Korryn Gaines was murdered by police in Baltimore County, Md., on July 31

during a shootout when police used a militarized SWAT team to deliver a warrant to her home. Gaines was killed and her 5-year-old son was injured. Police also scrubbed her social media accounts after the incident, removing the video she had posted of the confrontation.

The body of the young Black trans woman Skye Mockabee was found in a parking lot in Cleveland on July 30. She was the seventeenth trans person killed in the U.S. in 2016. The average life expectancy of trans women of color is 35 years. Mockabee was only 26.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE Philadelphia, Aug. 3.

wasn’t “submissive enough.” Her murder was witnessed by her children who were home at the time.

All the speakers at the rally were Black women and trans women of color. Toward the end of the rally, a long scroll with the names of dozens of women of color who were victims of state violence was carried into the intersection, which was blocked by demonstrators as the names were read. □

In the momentous political event that marked “Black August,” freedom fighter Jonathan Jackson, at the age of 17, burst into a San Rafael, Calif., courtroom, armed, to free his brother, George Jackson, along with Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette, on Aug. 7, 1970. The three “Soledad Brothers” were being tried and faced execution — despite a lack of evidence — for killing a white prison guard at Soledad prison following another guard’s murder of three African-American inmates.

George Jackson had been imprisoned for over 10

years for a \$70 robbery and faced an indeterminate [read “life”] sentence. He was a leader of the Black Panther Party, vanguard organization of the Black Liberation Movement, founded in October 1966 in Oakland, Calif.

Jonathan Jackson was joined by San Quentin prisoners James McClain, Ruchell Cinque Magee and William Christmas inside the courtroom where they took a judge, district attorney and three jurors hostage and demanded the Soledad Brothers’ immediate release.

As Jackson drove away, court police and San Quen-

tin guards opened fire, killing him, McClain, Christmas and the judge. The rest survived, including Magee, who has been incarcerated for 53 years, currently the longest-held U.S. political prisoner.

Workers World republishes here the original article written — with some small edits suggested by the author — by Fred Goldstein, who was then a leader of Youth Against War and Fascism and a supporter of the Panthers, and is the author of the books, “Low Wage Capitalism” and “Capitalism at a Dead End.”

— WW staff

Black August 1970 • 1970 Black August The Heroes of San Rafael

By Fred Goldstein

August 7, 1970, shall go down in history as the day of the heroes of San Rafael. On that day four courageous Black liberation fighters gave the world a truly awe-inspiring demonstration of revolutionary heroism and self-sacrifice in the struggle against the racist tyranny of U.S. imperialism. Their deed has already become an imperishable part of the revolutionary heritage of the Black Liberation struggle and of oppressed people everywhere.

Three of these heroes were prisoners of war — captives in the war of the master class against Black America. The fourth was a young revolutionary whose brother was being held prisoner in the concentration camp called San Quentin.

On August 7, 1970, they tore loose from the very jaws of the monster. In a blaze of glory, these prisoners of war broke the iron grip of the slave master, struck him a surprise blow and captured the enemy in his own lair. By a stroke of historic justice they were able to capture a judge, a prosecutor and a juror — representing the three elements of the capitalist frame-up system which has consigned an endless procession of helpless victims to perish, to die a slow, agonizing death in the dungeon-graveyards of iron and cement. Fate could not have planned a more fitting circumstance.

Died for the people

“We are revolutionaries,” they proudly proclaimed. “We want the Soledad brothers free by 12:30.” Their deed was performed for the people and for history.

They showed the people that they were not afraid to die for liberation. They showed the people a black-robed tyrant torn from his throne and trembling in the hands of Black revolutionaries.

They proved before the people, the exploited and oppressed Black people everywhere, that the jailer can be taken prisoner; that the prosecutor of the people can be forced to reckon with the people’s justice; that the hangman can be made to beg for his life; that those who torture and torment the people, those who remorselessly show no mercy and turn a deaf ear to the cries of pain and suffering — that these brutes turned loose in society by the master class can be struck down by determined and revolutionary representatives of the people. This is what the heroes of



Aiming to free his unjustly imprisoned brother George, Jonathan Jackson, 17, William Christmas, James McClain and Ruchell Magee take judge, prosecutor, three jurors as hostages to waiting van Aug. 7, 1970.

San Rafael wanted the people to see. This is what the people saw. This is what they will remember.

In a flash of revolutionary daring, the heroes of San Rafael breached the fortress of the enemy where he thought he was impregnable — in the court. They assailed that onerous organ which has been held sacred and inviolable by ruling classes throughout history. Since the dawn of class society this institution has served the rich, the exploiters, as the arena of class discipline, where the poor are held to account for every act of rebellion, be it large or small, personal or political, against exploitation and class domination. In all areas of life there is no place where the master class has grown so accustomed to submission as in the courts.

Therein lies a great political, moral and psychological victory won for the Black Liberation struggle at San Rafael. Political because the example has been inscribed indelibly into the minds of thousands of as yet anonymous revolutionaries who cannot but be inspired by such a heroic exploit. This example alone has already prepared a future augmentation of the forces of liberation.

Morally, the people cannot but contrast the heroic self-sacrifice of the brothers with the bestiality of the ruling class which used overwhelming numbers to slaughter its own devoted servants rather than permit Black men to be free.

Psychologically, the slave masters have been terrified by the boldness and innovative tactical conception. The tension in the ruling class must increase tremendously as a result. No court is safe any more. Blind passivity and fatal acceptance by its victims can no longer be taken for granted by the enemy. Every prison has

become a veritable cadre school of the oppressed. The courts will have to become armed camps. The bourgeoisie will have to show the people its teeth in every “hall of justice” across the country.

Rulers sacrificed own stooge

Only those who fail to see the power of the people’s revolutionary potential can see a defeat in San Rafael. True enough, they did not achieve their tactical objective. But this was unavoidable. Even the most seasoned revolutionary could not have predicted that the enemy would, without remorse, without a moment’s hesitation, slaughter its own judge, prosecutor and jurors. In this deed the pigs exceeded their previous record for brutality.

Who could have foretold the complete overthrow of all rational procedures of warfare? Who could have gauged that fear and rage would drive them to devour their own? These brave warriors were hardly naïve. On the contrary, having lived the caged existence of the dungeon, these fighters were on intimate terms with the system in its most brutal and sadistic aspects.

The tactic of San Rafael flows directly from the present stage of the struggle. The revolution, the war of liberation has sunk into the bones of the people. There is a universal desire to struggle. But the people have not yet created an army capable of dealing the enemy blow-for-blow on an equal basis, capable of smashing the power of the oppressor.

Under those conditions the people are forced to begin the struggle sporadically and against vastly superior forces. At

Below,
Angela Davis.



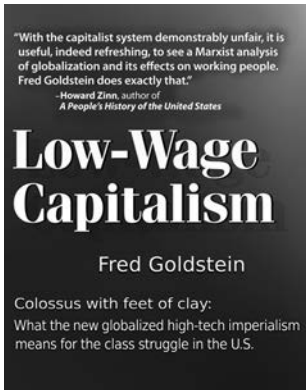
these junctures, groups and individuals scale the heights of revolutionary heroism against the most overwhelming odds. Being unable to select the terrain of battle, being unable to commit large-scale forces to equalize the conditions of battle — in fact, being powerless to exercise control over any of the decisive elements which influence the military outcome of any major struggle, the people are nevertheless determined to fight and die for liberation. Therefore, they must begin the struggle under conditions handed to them by the class enemy — that is, under circumstances which must inevitably be unfavorable.

It is at such moments in history that the most fearless and determined representatives of the oppressed people come forward to do battle. They form the vanguard and their deeds become the inspiration and the foundation for future struggles and for ultimate victory.

It is to such an illustrious category that James McClain, Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas and Ruchell Magee belong. Their courageous sacrifice deserves nothing less than the highest tribute. The only tribute worthy of their example is to build a revolutionary fighting force which shall not only equalize the battle but which shall carry out a relentless and implacable struggle for the revolutionary destruction of imperialism and the capitalist foundation on which it rests.

Epilogue: A year later on Aug. 21, San Quentin guards murdered author and revolutionary George Jackson. Enraged at his assassination and protesting racist “brutal, dehumanized” prison conditions, 1,200 inmates of New York’s Attica Correctional Facility rebelled on Sept. 9, 1971. Four days later, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller ordered 600 state and National Guard troops to storm the prison. Within 10 minutes, they fatally shot 29 prisoners and 10 guards. Surviving prisoners were ferociously beaten, many injured were left untreated.

Soledad Brothers Drumgo and Clutchette were acquitted by a San Francisco jury on March 27, 1972.



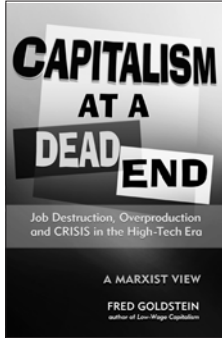
Low-Wage Capitalism

describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.



Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com

Available at all major online booksellers.

Korryn Gaines didn't have to die!

By Carl Lewis
Baltimore

Korryn Gaines, a 23-year-old African-American woman, was shot to death on Aug. 1 by police in Randallstown, Md., in the predominantly African-American Carriage Hill housing complex in a suburb outside Baltimore. She was holding her five-year-old son Kodi, who then had to have bullet fragments removed from his face and undergo surgery on his arm.

Baltimore County Police, without obtaining a search warrant, broke into her home after a long standoff. The BCP were after Gaines to serve her a warrant for a misdemeanor charge relating to a traffic violation.

It is illegal for a heavily armed SWAT team to break into a home and use deadly force to deliver a misdemeanor warrant. The NAACP, the American Civil Liber-

ties Union, the National Organization for Women and the National LGBTQ Task Force denounced the killing and called upon the Department of Justice to investigate her death and the police shooting of her son.

Korryn Gaines was armed with a shotgun to protect herself from continued harassment by the police and her justified fear that the police would “shoot first and ask questions later” — which is exactly what happened.

Despite the fact that Rhonda Dormus, Gaines’ mother and a registered nurse, was at the scene and could have de-escalated the situation, the BCP refused to let her communicate with her daughter. The police, who had been issued body cameras months earlier, claimed they were not used due to “lack of training.” However, eyewitnesses said the police massed outside her apartment were clearly wearing

body cameras.

Gaines had been livestreaming their illegal entry on both her Facebook and her Instagram account, but the BCP told Facebook to deactivate the media “until further investigation of the recordings.” Facebook did so, generating criticism and suspicion from the public about the social media’s complicity with the police request.

According to an Aug. 3 article on The FreeThoughtProject.com, Gaines was able to transmit some of the recordings on Instagram in the final moments before her death, letting the public know that she was not holding her son hostage but protecting him.

“Facebook has thus far refused to comment on their shutdown of Gaines’ social media accounts — but the fact that an individual can lose the ability to transmit an accurate record of what is transpiring

in the world so easily during a rapidly escalating situation is dangerous for transparency and accountability. It inevitably leads to situations whereby the public is forced to rely on those that have killed someone to give a proper accounting of the events leading up to their death — an almost certain exercise in futility,” FTP concluded.

The FBI and local law enforcement, in standoffs involving armed far-right and white supremacists, usually end those situations “peacefully.” But when Philando Castile in St. Paul, Minn., complied with police instructions and provided his license, while notifying them that he had a concealed weapons permit, this African American was immediately shot to death.

Escalation of police killings of Black women

Wesley Lowery wrote about the Gaines
Continued on page 9

Baltimore: You can vote for socialists

From an Aug. 24 press advisory from the Baltimore Campaign for People's Power.

Baltimore voters will have the chance to choose two independent socialist candidates in November. Sharon Black has won official ballot status for the position of City Council president, and Andre Powell is running for mayor.

Black and Powell are mounting a platform that includes fighting for a \$15 minimum wage; a comprehensive jobs program, not jails; and an end to police terror. Both candidates are members of Workers World Party and have been deeply committed to organizing support for the Black Lives Matter movement for the past two years.

Under the hashtag #Socialists4Baltimore, they are demanding that Baltimore put people’s interests before those of the banks and big business.

In comments on the campaign, Andre Powell, who will be filing for write-in status, stated, “We fought an uphill battle this summer, collecting over 8,000 signatures in some of the worst heat and weather conditions, in order to qualify.”

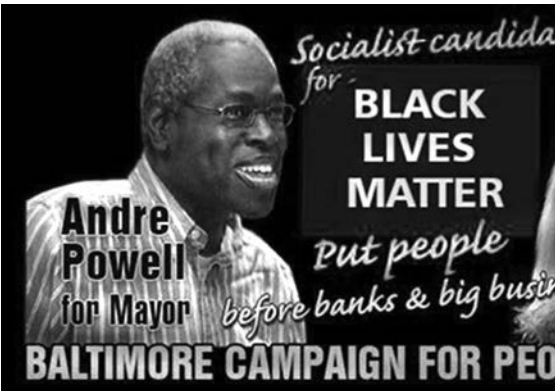
He elaborated: “We took our campaign to almost every neighborhood in Baltimore from Cherry Hill and Westport to West and East Baltimore. Despite the almost impossible threshold for independents to obtain ballot status, we did it! Thousands of people enthusiastically signed up, illustrating that the people of

Baltimore want real change.”

Sharon Black emphasized, “We are entering the next phase of our fight — to engage with the powers-that-be, the current establishment, to turn around the present paradigm of the rich first and poor and working class people last.”

Black continued, “Council President Jack Young needs to answer to the people who want and desperately need a livable wage, and to those who are sick of public financing tax tricks that serve to deepen racism and segregation in Baltimore.”

Powell and Black noted the significance of their socialist campaign: “Our campaigns have virtually no funds. We have no big business donors or special interests backing us. But that will not stop



us from launching an amazing, viable, volunteer-based, on-the-ground campaign. We expect to win. In fact, we have already won! Because our campaign is not about personalities or individuals or even solely centered around the ballot box, but about the life-and-death issues facing the people of Baltimore.

In Wisconsin, voters have a choice

By Workers World Staff

Poor and working people in Wisconsin will have a choice in November to vote for socialist Presidential candidate Monica Moorehead and her Vice Presidential running mate Lamont Lilly of Workers World Party. The candidates were certified to be on the ballot by the Wisconsin Elections Commission as of Aug. 25.

Neither Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton represent the people — both candidates and their parties are pro-war, anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer, anti-woman and anti-worker.

What a refreshing and much-needed contrast to have Moorehead as a choice, the only Black revolutionary socialist woman running for president. The candidate will be visiting the Midwest in September, making stops in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Moorehead and Lilly’s campaign is in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement; defends the Milwaukee Rebellion against cops murdering Black and Brown people; supports unions, other workers’ organizations, the LGBTQ community and women’s liberation; and fights for a socialist system that puts people before profits and nurtures the environment.

There is a climate in Wisconsin of unrelenting racist austerity created by Wall Street forces and their political servants, such as Gov. Scott Walker and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. Many gains that working-class and oppressed peoples won over the past 100 years have been



WWP members and friends in Milwaukee, July 2016.

eviscerated.

It was in this climate that members and friends of Workers World Party conducted a signature-gathering blitz from June 30 to July 10 in Milwaukee, Madison and other areas of the state.

Activists gathered over 3,700 signatures in working-class and oppressed communities, where they received warm responses to the Moorehead-Lilly 10-point program. Two thousand valid signatures are required to obtain ballot status for presidential candidates in Wisconsin. During the blitz, WWP members and others from organizations such as the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement, also supported a community conversation event where Lilly spoke; a protest at the right-wing Bradley Foundation; and a Red, Black and Queer slideshow at the LGBTQ community center.

The WWP candidates are also on the ballot in Utah and New Jersey.

WWP members and friends are now organizing for a Midwest tour by Moorehead that will include stops in Detroit

and other Michigan cities, Sept. 8-13; Chicago, Sept. 15; Milwaukee, Sept. 16; and Madison, Sept. 17. All events are free and open to the public.

Detroit: Saturday, Sept. 10, 5-8 p.m., candidate’s forum at 5920 Second Ave.

Chicago: Visit facebook.com/ChicagoWWP.

Milwaukee: Friday, Sept. 16, 6:30-

8:30 p.m. at the African American Women’s Center (formerly Carpenters’ union hall), 3020 W. Vliet St.

Madison: Saturday, Sept. 17, 1-3 p.m. at the Villager Mall, Room A, 2312 S. Park St.

For more information: facebook.com/mooreheadlilly2016, workersworlddetroit.org, www.vote4socialism.org. □



and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have marched against the Republicans in Cleveland and the Democratic Party machine in Philadelphia. They have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about **REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**.

The campaign just sent a delegation to Milwaukee to show solidarity with the rebellion there. Visit our website at workers.org/wwp/campaign-news/ for weekly updates on our work.



In the remaining weeks before the Nov. 8 election, we have a chance to reach millions more with ads, online voting, ballot access work and additional travel around the country.

But we can't do this without your support!

We are a working-class party and our only source of income is from people like you. Help us get out the voice for revolutionary socialism to counter the Clinton war machine and Trump’s racist, anti-people offensives.

DONATE! DONATE!

The Moorehead/Lilly needs your vote

Workers World Party candidates — Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have marched against the Republicans in Cleveland and the Democratic Party machine in Philadelphia. They have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about **REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**.

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#Social

Racism, sexism tarnish Olympic Games

By Monica Moorehead

Moorehead is the 2016 presidential candidate of Workers World Party. With a father who was a basketball coach and a mother who admired Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali, Moorehead says she has “always made it a point to watch the Summer and Winter Olympic Games as far back as I can remember.”

I will never forget the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City when track and field sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who won the gold and bronze medals, respectively, in the 200-meter dash, carried out a heroic protest against the racist repression of Black people in the U.S. They bowed their heads and thrust their proud black-gloved fists in the air during the playing of the National Anthem. That protest drove home the point that the Olympics are not even close

to being devoid of social inequality. And it was true of the recent Summer Games of the 31st Olympiad held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — the first South American country ever to host the Olympics. Over 11,000 athletes from over 200 countries participated in the games. The International Olympics Committee estimated that about half of the world’s population, 3.5 billion people, watched at least one minute of the games, whether on television or streaming on the Internet. For two weeks in August, the majority of the world’s people were inundated not only with astonishing athletic skills, but with bourgeois propaganda that reinforced the double standard separating people of color, women and transgender athletes from white male athletes.

It started with the opening ceremony when NBC commentator Meredith Vieira stated that the Portuguese “immigrated” to Brazil. She failed to mention that the Portuguese brought the slave trade to Brazil, which resulted in Brazil becoming home to the largest African diaspora in the world. Vieira went further by using the racist terminology “cultural cannibals” when referring to Brazilians who perform music heavily influenced by their African roots.

Gabby Douglas from the U.S., who during the London Olympics in 2012 had won the gold medal as best individual all-around gymnast, was horribly ridiculed on Twitter for not placing her hand over her heart when the national anthem was played after she and her teammates won the best all-around team medal in Rio. Douglas, who is African-American, felt compelled to apologize for not being “patriotic” enough. She also faced a sexist backlash for not wearing her hair in a certain manner and not smiling enough.

Douglas left Rio before the closing ceremony. Compare Douglas’ treatment to that of Ryan Lochte. The white gold-medal-winning swimmer was caught lying to the Brazilian government, claiming to be the victim of an armed robbery, when in fact he had been intoxicated and helped destroy a gas station bathroom. He was initially treated with kid gloves. The 32-year-old was described as a “kid” who deserved a “break” — a far cry from how 20-year-old Douglas was treated. (Huffingtonpost.com, Aug. 18)

Sexism dominated the Olympics

The Olympics were riddled with general and individual sexist comments against women. John Miller, an NBC Olympics’ chief marketing officer, stated, “The people who watch the Olympics are not particularly sports fans. More women watch the Games than men, and for the women, they’re less interested in the result and more interested in the journey. It’s sort of like the ultimate reality show and mini-series wrapped into one.” (fusion.net)

When Simone Manuel became the first African-American woman to win a gold medal in swimming, the original headline in the Mercury News did not even mention her name. It read: “Michael Phelps shares historic night with African-American.” The News issued an apology to Manuel, who spoke out against police brutality after her victory.

A 99-pound gymnast from Mexico, Alexa Morena, was accused of being too “fat.” The spouse of the Hungarian gold-medal-winning swimmer, Katinka Hosszú, was given “credit” for her victory. Bronze-medal winner for trap shooting Corey Cogdell-Unrein was described

in the Chicago Tribune as the “wife of a Bears lineman.”

The achievements of multiple gold-medal winners like gymnast Simone Biles and swimmer Katie Ledecky were also denigrated. Biles was described as the “next Michael Phelps” and the “next Usain Bolt.” Her response on Twitter was, “I am the first Simone Biles.” NBC commentator Rowdy Gaines stated that Ledecky was so good that “Some people say she swims like a man.” Ryan Lochte said that Ledecky has “strokes like a guy.”

The brilliant South African runner Caster Semenya, who won the 800-meter track and field race, faced racism and transphobia in Rio. Semenya, a Black woman, has faced bigoted scrutiny for the past seven years on the part of the International Association of Athletics Federations, which have questioned whether she can compete as a woman due to a genetic condition known as hyperandrogenism, which gives her a raised testosterone level.

Even though she won the gold medal, the IAAF is still investigating her, which has led to a certain level of racist and sexist scrutiny on the part of other athletes. When she attempted to congratulate two of her white competitors, Melissa Bishop of Canada and Lynsey Sharp of Great Britain, they both completely ignored her. Poland’s Joanna Jozwik, who finished fifth, stated: “I’m glad I’m the first European, the second white.”

Semenya responded, “It is not about discriminating [against] people and looking at people in terms of how they look, how they speak and how they have run. ... It’s not about being masculine. It’s about sports.” (theguardian.com, Aug. 23)

The main source for information in this article is fusion.net.



Mobilizing and organizing the people to exert their power is our ultimate goal, not just in November but year-round.” Both candidates have announced their

support and endorsement of Seventh District candidate Nnamdi Scott, another independent candidate, who represents the Ujima People’s Progress Party. Read Black and Powell’s “Ten-Point Plan for Baltimore” here: workers.org/wwp/baltimore-campaign-for-peoples-power/

Football star sits for U.S. anthem to ‘Stand up for oppressed people’

Continued from page 1

born in Milwaukee, where a recent rebellion took place against the police killing of Sylville Smith on Aug. 13. In earlier political tweets, Kaepernick said, “In California, 73% of students are nonwhite, but only about 29% of teachers are nonwhite. Couple this with who constructs the textbooks.”

Before that post was removed, Kaep-

ernick commented on the U.S. and Confederate flags: “The fact that you really believe that there is difference in these flags means that your [sic] ignoring history.” In an Aug. 28 interview on csnbayarea.com, Kaepernick accused Donald Trump of being racist and reminded the media that Hillary Clinton once called Black teenagers “super predators”.

In response to Kaepernick’s Aug. 26 act, both the NFL hierarchy and the 49ers’ owners issued similar statements defending his First Amendment right to either stand or not stand during the playing of the U.S. anthem.

But it’s important to take note that Kaepernick carried out his bold deed in the aftermath of the Rio Olympics where NBC and its affiliates showed over and over again U.S. athletes standing at attention with their hands over their hearts as the U.S. national anthem was played and the flag raised.

And let’s remember that Gabby Douglas, the African-American gymnast who won the 2012 individual all-around gold medal in London, was brutally criticized just for not putting her hand over her heart during the playing of the U.S. anthem, after she and her teammates won the team all-around gold

medal in Rio. Kaepernick’s simple action was a symbolic, revolutionary one reminiscent of Muhammad Ali’s refusal to be drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Kaepernick’s refusal also evokes U.S. track-and-field sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who raised black-gloved fists and bowed their heads to protest U.S. racism while the national anthem played during their medal ceremony at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. All three athletes suffered devastating losses in their livelihoods for many years due to racist demonization and ostracism. Kaepernick could be facing a similar fate of losing his football career since he has not secured a permanent position as the starting quarterback for the 49ers’ upcoming season.

Conservatism and militarization of the NFL

The NFL is not only the most popular professional sport in the U.S., but the most reactionary in many ways. The average season ticket holder is overwhelmingly politically conservative, since NFL stadiums are located in more affluent, majority-white suburbs. NFL players, who are nearly 70 percent African American, are viewed by these fans, who can afford very expensive tickets, as entertainers who should be seen but not heard, especially on social issues. Many of Kaepernick’s critics state he should not have any reason to speak out against injustice since he has made millions of dollars as a player and from

endorsements. They fail to point out that the average career of a NFL player is four years or less — much shorter on average than that of professional basketball, baseball or hockey players. In fact, the sheer physical brutality of football, especially knee injuries and concussions, can easily be compared to military training. This is not all that ties the sport closely to U.S. militarism. The playing of the national anthem is featured at every U.S. game, often with a military color-guard entourage. U.S. fighter jets fly over the field to the roar of the crowd. Each NFL game is a constant reminder that the military-industrial complex has permeated every institution in capitalist society, including sports.

More than anything else, what Colin Kaepernick needs is solidarity from his fellow NFL players. Currently on Twitter, people are writing solidarity messages using #ISupportKaepernickBecause. The fact that Kaepernick anticipated getting a hostile response, but did not allow it to deter him from his bold action, should help inspire and give courage to other NFL players both to defend him and, more importantly, to carry out similar actions in an organized way. In the meantime, Kaepernick has vowed to keep sitting “in order to stand with the people that are being oppressed.” (San Francisco Chronicle, Aug. 29) Moorehead is the 2016 Workers World Party presidential candidate. Lamont Lilly is her vice presidential running mate.

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Workers World Party Presidential Campaign Committee.

North Carolina

Communities unite against racist cop killings

By Dante Strobino
Durham, N.C.

Two successive actions took place recently across North Carolina as family members and community supporters continue to press for justice in racist police and prison guard murders.

On Aug. 25, supporters gathered at the office of Wayne/Lenoir County District Attorney Matthew Delbridge in Goldsboro, N.C., to demand justice for Deriante Miller. He was shot and killed by a state trooper in Kinston, N.C., on March 27.

Supporters of Deriante Miller and Dominique Worrell converged Aug. 27 at State Attorney General Roy Cooper's office in Raleigh to demand prosecution of those responsible for their deaths. The only eyewitness account says Miller was unarmed and shot without warning. The family still has not received the State Bureau of Investigation report for his death, released to the district attorney five weeks ago.

"My son was killed by State Trooper William Hardison five months ago, and I have heard nothing from the state," stated Michelle Miller, mother of Deriante Miller, at the Goldsboro protest. "Every day that goes by there is a painful hole in my heart. I need the state to do justice by my son and prosecute this killer trooper. This isn't the first time he has killed someone. When is this going to stop?"

Trooper Hardison was responsible

for the death of Clayton James, who he tasered to death in 2010. "Hardison is a butcher on the run," stated Don Cavellini, co-chair of the Pitt County Coalition Against Racism, in a statement released after the protest.

During the Raleigh protest, Sheldon Dancy spoke out about the 2011 attack he suffered from Hardison. The trooper shocked him with a taser more than 70 times and beat on his head with a nightstick, resulting in hundreds of stitches. Dancy was left to bleed in a ditch, but he was never charged with any crime.

Dominique Worrell was a young Black woman murdered in her jail cell in Southern Correctional Institute in Troy, N.C., in 2015. As in the case of Sandra Bland, the prison cover-up story was that Worrell committed suicide. Family members don't believe that account and have demanded release of her death certificate and a second, independent autopsy. The action at the State Attorney General's office took place to commemorate the one-year anniversary of her August 26, 2015, death.

Worrell's mother, Sara Blakely, and family members of Dontae Sharpe were also present at the Raleigh action. Sharpe of Greenville, N.C., received a life sentence in 1994 for a crime he did not commit.

Organizing for justice

In the wake of the police murder of Deriante Miller, family members and



WW PHOTO: MANZOOR CHEEMA
Protesters demand justice for Deriante Miller on Aug. 25 in Goldsboro, N.C.

PHOTO: LARCENE TAYLOR



community formed the Kinston-Lenoir County Justice Coalition, which co-sponsored both actions. Additionally, the Pitt County Coalition Against Racism and Mothers of the Incarcerated organized the Aug. 25 event with support from Black Workers for Justice and the Durham Branch of Workers World Party.

Members of these organizations are pushing for a broad statewide campaign to target Attorney General Cooper, who is running for the North Carolina governor's seat. Cooper is running against much-hated Gov. Pat McCrory, who is responsible for passing House Bill 2 targeting transgender people, giving major tax cuts to the wealthy, attacking voting rights, limiting increases in the minimum wage for workers and gutting many other programs, including

the Racial Justice Act.

Activists don't want to let Cooper off the hook. He has the power to prosecute the police officers and prison guards responsible for these racist deaths. Twenty-five people have been killed by police in North Carolina in 2016, including the most recent, heinous case of Deaf man Daniel Harris, 29 years old, killed by police on Aug. 18. □

Houston

Big oil poisons working-class, oppressed communities for profit

By Taryn Fivek
Houston

The smell in the Manchester neighborhood of Houston is like hot coffee — nutty, bitter and sweet. This smell isn't coffee, though. It's the smell of benzene spewing from the nearby Valero oil refinery at 1.5 to 4.7 parts per million. This is the threshold at which most humans can begin to smell the chemical, and what the Centers for Disease Control calls a possible indication of "acutely hazardous exposure."

Across the street from the refinery is Paula's house, sparsely furnished with brightly painted walls. There are heavy drapes over the window. Despite the bright sun outside, it's dark and cool inside. The television flashes in the background on mute as her grandchildren crowd together in the living room. The oldest grandson complains he has a splitting headache.

Paula tells me the family has been living there for about four years. Six children and four adults live in the three-bedroom house. When asked about the neighborhood, she sighs: "It's okay. It's peaceful. It's quiet. Except all the chemicals that are around. But that's about the only thing that concerns us."

"Sometimes we see something that happens, and we get scared, and there's been times that they have shut down the roads and they don't let us know what's going on. We have to go and ask. And they tell us: 'There's nothing to worry about.'"

Paula says activists, scientists, journalists and even politicians have visited the neighborhood to ask about the situa-

tion. But nothing has changed.

"We're planning to move as soon as we get a little bit more money together." The house was the best available that they could afford. The family has three adults working and \$700 a month to spend on rent. That \$700 gets them a house next to a toxic waste factory.

"My daughter, she works at a dry cleaner. My son, he works at a pharmacy, at CVS. And the step-dad, he cuts yards."

She frets about the children not performing well in school. She does not mention that the children live, sleep and eat in pollution that may be damaging their ability to learn and putting them at risk for degenerative brain illnesses.

Paula tells me she's never voted in her life. "It wouldn't change anything."

Poisoned in the neighborhood

According to my own assessment of the Manchester neighborhood's air monitoring data, in 2015 there were 4,325 hours that exceeded the EPA guidelines for safe air. That amounts to roughly 180 days of air that was poisonous to breathe.

EPA smog standards say anything above 70 parts per million is dangerous. In 2015, Houston's smog averaged at 81 ppm. Here in Manchester, the yearly average for 2015 was 182 ppm. For 134 hours in 2015, roughly 6 days, the air monitor detected more than 1,000 ppm.

On Oct. 18, the air monitoring station half a mile from the plant entrance measured 6,073.4 ppm at 6 a.m., the highest count for the year.

In the 1990s, local Latinx activists fought to keep the city from opening a

new high school nearby.

After all, was it fair that their children would be forced to study, eat and play in this poisonous environment?

The city of Houston cynically responded to the community's concerns by opening the high school in 2000 and naming it after Cesar Chavez. Now, through a specially tailored "environmental magnet" program, the students have the chance to learn how little the ruling class values their lives when it placed their school among an oil refinery, a tire plant and a toxic waste dump.

Houston is notorious for its lack of zoning. A friend who grew up here said he attended a daycare center next to a strip club. Hunter S. Thompson wrote, "Houston is a cruel, crazy town on a filthy river in East Texas with no zoning laws and a culture of sex, money and violence." (Common Dreams, Aug. 6, 2014)

But tens of thousands of families live in Houston in the midst of environmental racism caused by more than lack of zoning and a supposed focus on "sex, money and violence." According to the census, the Manchester neighborhood in Houston is 97 percent Latinx. Thirty-six percent live beneath the poverty line. Of the 1,630 residents, 43 percent speak English "less than well."

What's labeled as laissez-faire business seems more like a slow death sentence for those who aren't rich enough, white enough or speak English "well enough."

Families in Manchester retire to bedrooms yards away from tankers of ex-

PHOTO: TARYN FIVEK
Paula and her family on the porch across from the Valero "toxic waste" refinery.



plosive chemicals running by on train tracks. According to the area air monitor, major spikes in air pollution often happen at night or in the early morning hours, while both elders and youth alike are dreaming.

How well would the families of the oil barons who run Texas sleep if they faced the same situation?

The answer is: Not well at all! The slow massacre would be a scandal. The national media would raise hell. Blockbuster films would be made about the activists who put the polluters in jail and made them pay reparations to the local community.

But wealthy white families are not being poisoned. These are working-class people of color.

While Texas politicians continue to receive millions of dollars in campaign contributions from companies like Valero, while the U.S. continues to run on capitalism that relies on Black and Brown bodies for fuel, the residents of Manchester are expected to accept their fate and die in silence.

Nevertheless, resistance to environmental racism continues, as in 2012 when local residents coordinated with Indigenous activists in other parts of the United States to blockade trucks entering the Valero refinery and stop the Keystone Pipeline, rallying behind the banner asserting "Valero Kills." □

The human toll of global warming — Alaska to Louisiana

By G. Dunkel

What ties together developments in the Alaskan village of Shishmaref, on Sarichef Island in the Chukchi Sea, with the extraordinary floods in southern Louisiana is global warming. The mechanisms and geography are different, but the crisis of climate change drives the situation in each location.

Sarichef Island has been falling into the Chukchi Sea for 35 years, said 18-year-old Esau Sinnok, Shishmaref inhabitant, in Paris. He was attending the 2015 climate change talks to raise the drastic impact of global warming in the Arctic. His commentary about this crisis was published in the Alaska Dispatch News on Dec. 9, 2015.

Iñupiaq communities like Shishmaref grew up hundreds of years ago when the Thule, their ancestors, developed the technology to catch and cut up whales to use for food and other essential needs. This process required large numbers of people who could live in fairly settled communities since these marine mammals swam by in open waters past the landfast ice (sea ice which annually attaches to the coastline or ocean bottom).

Shishmaref still depends on fishing and hunting to sustain itself, but the ice its hunters need in order to cross safely

is forming later in the year, due to global warming, making it harder to access enough meat and fish. Sinnok said it “even rained during the winter last year,” as the weather was so warm. (ADN)

The village is far north of the Arctic Circle. Much of the community is built on permafrost, which has been thawing throughout the Arctic. With its school and many residents’ homes falling into the ocean, and the Chukchi Sea’s waves pounding against the island unhindered by landfast ice, a majority of Shishmaref’s people said it was time to move. On Aug. 18, they voted to relocate their entire community.

That day, Sinnok told National Public Radio that his village “will be under water within the next three decades” — and if nothing is done, the community will be forced to move.

Many of Alaska’s Native communities face similar challenges. The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported in June 2009 that 31 Native communities were in “imminent danger” due to erosion and flooding. The key question is how to pay for the moves, given that these are Alaska’s poorest communities.

Louisiana: And the rains came

Beginning on Aug. 12, a few low-pressure weather systems stalled around Ba-



A collapsed home in Shishmaref, Alaska.

ton Rouge, La. Fueled by the warmest July on record in the warmest year on record, an extremely humid, tropical air mass started streaming off the warmer than usual waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

When this air mass hit the low-pressure systems, it started to rain — and it kept raining. The three-day totals were amazing: Watson, La., got 31.39 inches of rain; several other communities got between 20 and 27 inches in three days.

The National Weather Service and most government entities involved in disaster relief and preparedness were caught off-guard. They didn’t even have a name for this storm.

So much water falling in so short a time produced huge floods. Areas where the Federal Emergency Management Administration and the Weather Service assessed that the chances of a flood in any given year were one out of 500 — even one out 1,000 — were inundated.

These predictions are based on the

in 100 years or 500 years are no longer valid.

The Advocate, Baton Rouge’s daily newspaper, reported that this nameless August flood damaged 160,000 homes, with an estimated value of \$20 billion. Less than half the homes in the Baton Rouge area have flood insurance, which, in any case, is not designed to fully reimburse the people whose homes were impacted. Some of the damage to schools, hospitals and city facilities is covered by insurance; much is not.

NPR and other media reported that some of the people flooded out in August suffered the same fate in New Orleans 11 years ago after Hurricane Katrina. The working and poor people of Baton Rouge, many of them African-American, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous, will pay for these floods for a long time.

Climate change, both in Alaska and Louisiana, hits the poorest people in society the hardest. □

Letter of support to Standing Rock Stop pipelines, climate change and capitalism

The following is a statement published in mid-August on the site of The Red Nation about the important environmental struggle in North Dakota led by Indigenous peoples against the threatened pipeline under the Missouri River.

Brave resisters and water protectors descended on the Dakota Access Pipeline construction site to halt its construction as it lurches towards the Mni Sose, the Missouri River, at Cannonball, N.D. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Oceti Sakowin (The Great Sioux Nation) have opposed the pipeline and all pipelines trespassing treaty territory, as defined by the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie treaties.

The proposed 1,172-mile pipeline would transport Bakken-produced heavy crude oil across the major freshwater source for countless human and nonhuman lives,



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Protest outside Museum of the American Indian in NYC in solidarity with the struggle in North Dakota, Aug. 27.

the Missouri River.

The Red Nation calls on everyone to support resisters and water protectors as they put their lives on the line to halt this

devastating wasicu, fat-taker capitalist pipeline. On July 27, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe filed a lawsuit in the District of Columbia to enforce the tribe’s federally protected rights against the pipeline’s construction.

On August 24, Standing Rock as well as several other Native Nations will have a court hearing to undo the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ approval of the pipeline.

In violation of treaty law, the Corps negotiated the pipeline’s passage with the Texas-based pipeline corporation Energy Transfers through treaty territory despite massive protests citing the desecration of burial sites and culturally sensitive areas as well as threatening clean drinking water for millions. The Corps is also responsible for the continued violation of Native water rights by altering the flow of the Missouri River.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Corps, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, constructed 107 dams and six major dams on Native treaty territory. These dams flooded 611,642 acres. More than half of this land was Native land and resulted in the removal of 600 Native families. The Corps continues to violate Native water rights as defined by the Winters Doctrine, which prohibits altering the flow of rivers or the selling of water rights within original Native treaty territory even if that territory has been diminished.

Natives and non-Natives still suffer from the devastating effects of these dams and forced relocation. The Missouri River has never recovered and 90 percent of its wild game and plants were

annihilated.

In typical industry fashion, the public and vulnerable Native communities will pay for cleanup and contamination when — not if — the pipeline breaks.

Bakken oil and gas production, as it peaks, has already devastated the Native and non-Native communities, leaving the land and water dead and communities torn apart. Yet, oil and gas companies continue to reap huge profits as Bakken jobs decline, the land becomes more unlivable, and the social malaise of violence inherent to boomtown economies continues to wreak havoc.

Meanwhile, the Energy Transfers corporation is attempting to sue the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe for protesting the pipeline and law enforcement is arresting resisters and water protectors, and the true criminals walk free. Instead of merely stopping Dakota Access, we demand that the Army Corps and Energy Transfers be held accountable for the crimes of putting at risk vulnerable water supplies, the public at large and the violation of treaty rights. We demand that their profits — and the assets of all fossil fuel companies responsible for climate change — be seized to pay for the cleanup and to help begin to mitigate the deadly effects of climate change.

Capitalism is the enemy of all life and it must be stopped!

We must also recognize that upholding Native treaty rights is essential to combat climate change and benefits everyone. We demand that the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie treaties be fully obeyed as law and the restoration of the original treaty lands to the Oceti Sakowin.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse!
Hecetu Welo!
The Red Nation
(tinyurl.com/jf2ll9k)

Korryn Gaines didn’t have to die!

Continued from page 6

shooting in the Aug. 2 Washington Post, which is generally a conservative mouthpiece for the ruling class. The article included a quote from Kimberly Crenshaw, a leading Black academic and critic of police terror: “Although Black women are routinely killed, raped and beaten by the police, their experiences are rarely foregrounded in popular understandings of police brutality.” Crenshaw is director of Columbia Law School’s Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies.

The article continues: “Gaines is the ninth Black woman shot and killed by police so far in 2016, according to a Washington Post database tracking fatal police shootings — a number set to soon surpass 2015, when a total of 10 Black women were shot and killed by police.” (See also Kamakura Faure/Tanisha Green,

Medium.com/@SonofBaldwin.)

On Aug. 28, Workers World Party, Peoples Power Assembly, Black Lives Matter Movement, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Baltimore Bloc were out in full force in both downtown Baltimore and in Baltimore County to march, rally and denounce the murder of Korryn Gaines. People caravanned from downtown to the Baltimore County Police Station and demonstrated. Passing cars constantly honked their horns and gave clenched fists in support of the protest.

The group then marched to the Carriage Hill apartments across the street from the Baltimore County Police, chanting “FOP, fascists on patrol,” “No justice, no peace” and “Baltimore County Police, stop your lies, Korryn Gaines didn’t have to die.” □

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Cops kill again

The crimes and abuses of police in the United States are still far from being halted. The Black Lives Matter movement has performed a service to all who suffer from these abuses by putting this issue on the front burner.

This can be seen in the latest police atrocity in North Carolina, which added a new dimension to the confrontation between workers and oppressed peoples and the repressive state apparatus.

When a state trooper pulled over a driver on Aug. 18 for allegedly speeding, there was no reason to expect tragedy.

But the driver was Daniel Harris, a member of the Deaf community, who could not hear the state cop's orders and who used American Sign Language to try to communicate.

The cop gunned down Harris.

The Deaf community's reactions to this killing showed that this was far from a rare tragedy.

The National Association of the Deaf's Vice President Melissa Draganac-Hawk noted that Harris wasn't the first Deaf person "who was wrongfully shot by the police." (time.com, Aug. 24)

An article in GQ magazine posted Aug. 24 had the title, "The Deaf Are the Unheard Victims of Police Brutality, Until Now." Its author writes of other confrontations, from Washington state to Florida, in which police killed Deaf people for not obeying orders or for shouting. (tinyurl.com/hogybdx)

Those problems stem directly from the

inability of the police to even recognize, let alone communicate with, Deaf people or people who are hard of hearing. To show the extent of the problem, a Facebook photo showed a Deaf man with his car sticker: "I'm Deaf, I'm Not Carrying a Weapon, Please Don't Shoot." It went viral.

More than just insensitivity, the role of the police as enforcers of 21st century capitalist society determines their atrocities, just as the roots of today's police as enforcers of the 19th century slavocracy inform their racism. Cops occupy the communities of peoples of color and feel free to kill without punishment. Their unpunished, trigger-happy actions condition their confrontations with any worker, and especially anyone they consider different based on capitalist society's discrimination against and oppression of them.

What the Black Lives Matter movement has done is open a door, not only to resist all the abuses, but to question the cops' role in society. It has opened a space for Deaf people, for people with disabilities, for all workers to raise protests against the police, as the National Association of the Deaf has done following the killing of Harris.

As Marxists, we at Workers World know that there is no role for the police — a specialized armed force protecting capitalist property — in the socialist society we work every day to create.

Black lives matter! Daniel Harris' life matters! □

'IRS, hands off IFCO!'



The following is a statement from the International Action Center.

The International Action Center calls on the Obama administration and its Internal Revenue Service to halt its attack on the long-standing civil rights and solidarity group, Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. "We are all IFCO," stated International Action Center co-director Teresa Gutierrez. "An injury to one is an injury to all."

IFCO has learned that the IRS official action removing its tax exempt status is imminent. This is the time to rally and act against this politically motivated attack. The National Network on Cuba; International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity; U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration, plus international Cuba solidarity organizations, are speaking out.

Right now IFCO asks — and the International Action Center urges — that you sign and share a petition (bit.ly/saveifco) and make a comment, too. Call, fax or meet with your elected representatives. For more information, go to IFCO's Facebook page. See the one-minute video at ifconews.org. Broadcast news about this struggle widely through all social media.

Although most well known for the Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravans to Cuba, and for administering the U.S. application process for scholarships to Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine, IFCO assists many small educational and charitable projects through fiscal sponsorships. Examples include Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, Healthcare-NOW!, Jericho Amnesty Movement, and other political prisoner organizations like Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC), Family and Friends of Dr. Mutulu Shakur and the People's Environmental Center in New Orleans.

Founded in 1967 by progressive religious leaders and activists, IFCO is one

of the oldest faith-based civil rights organizations and the first ecumenical foundation founded by and for people of color. It is a voice and a tool for austerity-devastated communities in the U.S. at a time when racist, anti-immigrant, Islamophobic and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and violence are openly encouraged.

The IRS investigation and audit began in 2011 just months after the death of IFCO founder the Rev. Lucius Walker. It was sparked by pro-Zionist legislators' false accusations against the humanitarian Viva Palestina caravans, organized to aid the besieged and blockaded Palestinians in Gaza.

In 1992 Rev. Walker initiated just such humanitarian aid caravans to Cuba in a direct challenge to the unprecedented illegal, immoral and devastating economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on its much smaller but sovereign socialist neighbor. The caravan traveled to the Mexican border, where participants walked across carrying aid materials in November 1992. Border guards ripped the aid, even Bibles, from their hands.

When their iconic little yellow school bus was seized and impounded at the Texas-Mexican border in 1993, the caravanistas began a hunger strike that won its release. But IFCO was never charged or prosecuted for its relentless, consistent and principled challenges to the blockade.

Now the U.S. has formally restored diplomatic relations with Cuba, recognizing that its half-century isolation strategy has failed. But, ironically, under these sunny skies, with relaxed travel restrictions and regular commercial flights to Cuban destinations beginning Aug. 31, the IRS seeks to deal an economic blow to IFCO. As the IAC stresses: We are not distracted. We are watching. We will act. □

After 71 days on hunger strike

Bilal Kayed wins promise of release

By Joe Catron

Palestinian political prisoner Bilal Kayed ended his 71-day hunger strike Aug. 24 after securing an agreement that Israel will free him when his current "administrative detention" order, issued by an Israeli military commander in the occupied West Bank without charge or trial, ends on Dec. 12.

The deal, announced by Kayed's party, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and his legal counsel, the Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Organization, confirms that Kayed's detention will not be renewed.

At a Ramallah press conference on Aug. 25, Addameer director Sahar Francis said an Israeli occupation spy agency had demanded Kayed's deportation outside Palestine for four years as a condition of his release.

Only two days before the agreement, "the Israeli intelligence was adamant about this condition." (addameer.org)

Kayed had previously been imprisoned by Israel for 14 ½ years for participating in resistance activities during the second Intifada.

On June 13, the date of Kayed's scheduled release, Israel refused to free him, instead giving him an "administrative detention" order.

In response, Kayed launched a hunger strike June 15 to demand his release.

The deal for Kayed's freedom followed

weeks of intense mobilization worldwide, including nine events in New York City alone.

On Aug. 23, the night before the settlement, supporters gathered at the Manhattan Solidarity Center to hear reports from two local activists who recently traveled to occupied Palestine and met with Kayed's relatives and supporters, and to write him letters of solidarity.

Eight previous actions were street protests, with seven targeting G4S, the world's largest security company, Israel's second-biggest private employer, and a key contractor for Israel's prisons and detention centers, occupation and security forces, and military checkpoints.

These demonstrations sharpened in militancy as Kayed's hunger strike progressed, with protesters marching loudly through the lobbies of G4S buildings on Aug. 12 and 19.

G4S: Out of Israel's prisons!

On Aug. 7, Kayed and other prisoners affiliated with the PFLP, many of whom were then waging hunger strikes in solidarity with him, issued a statement urging supporters to escalate an ongoing campaign of boycotts and divestments against G4S.

"We call on the Boycott National Committee to issue an immediate alert to all of the boycott and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions committees in the world to take up the campaign to defend the pris-



PHOTO: JOE CATRON
New York City

oners through the international boycott of the occupation and its institutions, and boycott of its complicit corporations, led by the G4S security corporation," they wrote. (pflp.ps)

Three days later, British and Israeli media reported G4S was in "advanced talks" to sell its Israeli unit to the private equity group FIMI Opportunity Funds.

After G4S first announced its plans to abandon the Israeli market in March, BDS activists welcomed the move.

But Mahmoud Nawajaa, a spokesperson for the Palestinian BDS National Committee, stated, "Our boycott of G4S will remain among the BDS movement's top priorities until we actually see it back out of the door of Israel's regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid." (bdsmovement.net)

Following Kayed's settlement, four other Palestinian political prisoners — brothers Mahmoud al-Balboul and Mohammed al-Balboul, Ayed Heraimi and Malik al-Qadi — remain on hunger strike protesting their own "administrative detention" orders.

Efforts to free them and drive G4S out of Israel's prisons will continue, starting with Samidoun's next weekly protest on Sept. 2 at 4 p.m. outside the G4S office at 19 West 44th St.

Announcements and reports of events elsewhere, as well as news on hunger strikers and other Palestinian political prisoners, are posted online at samidoun.net.

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

U.S. war ‘games’ ramp up Korea crisis

By Deirdre Griswold

The people of the United States are growing weary of paying for this country’s multitude of foreign wars with their blood, toil and trillions of tax dollars. In addition to the expected progressive opposition to imperialist war, there is now a new phenomenon: A growing war-weariness can be detected even among the flag-wavers on the far right who have flocked to Donald Trump.

This seems to have little effect on the Pentagon, however. They roll out the plans for new weapons, new war “games,” new bases around the world as though money were no object, nor is the abject state of those veterans who suffer a myriad of physical and psychological problems.

Right now, the Pentagon is engaged in yet another of its many saber-rattling exercises against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. This one, euphemisti-

cally named “Ulchi Freedom Guardian,” involves 25,000 U.S. military personnel, based not only in south Korea but also on the U.S. mainland, Hawaii and Japan. They are coordinating operations with some 50,000 south Korean troops.

It’s a modern-day version of how colonial rulers used to lead into battle the foot soldiers of countries they had conquered. The oppressors gave the orders; the subject peoples had to provide the bulk of the cannon fodder. Except today, with electronically organized warfare, those giving the orders can be sitting comfortably on the other side of the globe.

There are two Korean states: the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (north) and the Republic of Korea (south). The north is committed to building socialism, while the south became part of the low-wage labor supply made available to U.S. capitalism’s transnational corporations.

Yet there is really only one Korean people, who share a common ancestry,

language and peninsula. The majority of Koreans, north and south, want reunification. It is the U.S. corporate-driven military occupation of south Korea that prevents this rupture from healing. And it is this occupation that is responsible for the great tensions existing between the north and south.

Ever since the beginning of the 1950-1953 war in which the U.S. failed to conquer the north, despite an invasion and bombing campaign that killed millions, Washington has constantly threatened the DPRK with nuclear weapons. Over the past few years, the north has been able to counter these threats by building its own nuclear bombs and a missile system that now includes the ability to launch the bombs from submarines.

It should be obvious that U.S. wars of aggression in this period, which have ended in the total destruction of sovereign governments — Iraq, Yugoslavia and Libya, for example — have increased the

determination of the leaders in the DPRK to bolster their defenses, whatever the cost.

Ever since the Korean War ended in a stalemate 63 years ago, the DPRK has called for a peace treaty and an end to the U.S. occupation of the south, so the Korean people can work out the steps toward reunification of their country. The U.S. answer has been the growing militarization of the area and a demonization of the north that is on a par with the worst propaganda invented by the Nazis to demean those whom German imperialism set out to conquer.

The U.S. war “games” are rightly seen by the DPRK as practice for an invasion of their country. Were that to happen, the consequences would be incalculable. An end to this critical situation must be pursued by the progressive and anti-war movements: U.S. out of Korea! End the threats and state of war! Sign a peace treaty now! □

What’s behind the terror campaign on Crimea

By Greg Butterfield

While millions of people around the world have suffered under a brutal heat wave this summer, one of the most dangerous hot spots on the planet has nothing to do with the weather.

Over two consecutive nights on Aug. 7 and 8, Russian government personnel thwarted a series of attacks aimed at sabotaging the important tourism industry in Crimea, among other targets. These assaults are planned by groups crossing the border from Ukraine. A Russian soldier and a Federal State Security (FSB) agent were killed during these actions. Russians call the attackers “terrorists.”

The events in and around Crimea must be seen in the context of the ongoing, multilayered campaign by Washington and its junior partners in the NATO military alliance to whip up war fever against Russia.

Several attackers and a large cache of weapons were captured, including explosive devices, anti-personnel bombs, grenades and standard-issue Ukrainian armed forces weapons. The FSB reported that the terror ring planned to “target critically important infrastructure” and “destabilize the situation in the region as preparations for elections of federal and regional authorities are underway.” (Tass, Aug. 10)

The FSB says the attempted attacks were organized at the highest levels of

the Ukrainian Defense Ministry’s intelligence service. Russian television broadcast a video confession **Part 1** by Yevgeny Panov, reputed leader of the Ukrainian operation, an employee of the UDM who previously fought in the war against the independent Donbass republics. Panov gave extensive information on the operation’s locations, methods and chain of command. (DONi News, Aug. 12)

At first, Ukraine denied knowing who Panov was, accusing Russia of kidnapping a random person and forcing him to make a false confession. That story didn’t hold up for long, though; residents of Panov’s hometown in Ukraine’s Zaporozhye region reported seeing him leave home the day before his capture in Crimea. Kiev then changed its story and claimed that Panov was merely in Crimea to check on property he owned there when he was caught up in the FSB operation. (Colonel Cassad blog, Aug. 12)

At a press conference after the attempted attacks were publicized, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, “I would like to turn to our American and European partners” — the backers and financiers of the Ukrainian regime. “I believe it is already obvious for all that today’s Kiev authorities are not seeking to solve problems through negotiations but are switching to terror. This is a very alarming thing.” (Tass, Aug. 10)

Besides the incursion in Crimea, Putin

cited the Aug. 6 assassination attempt against Igor Plotnitsky, head of the Lugansk People’s Republic. He was seriously wounded by an explosive device in his car. (RT, Aug. 6) After surgery to remove shrapnel threatening his liver and spleen, Plotnitsky was expected to recover. But many political and military leaders in Donbass have been killed or seriously wounded in similar attacks since the beginning of Ukraine’s “Anti-Terrorist Operation” in 2014.

At the Aug. 10 press conference, Putin discussed a planned meeting of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine, the Normandy 4, on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in China Sept. 4-5, to discuss the Minsk ceasefire agreement between Kiev and the Donbass republics. He said it was now “pointless,” since the Ukrainian government had demonstrated it was not interested in negotiating a political settlement.

This was a notable change in tone for the Russian government, which had previously bent over backwards to keep the Minsk negotiations alive despite more than a year-and-a-half of constant ceasefire violations by the Ukrainian side.

Imperialist aims in Crimea

Russia also shored up its defenses on its western border with Ukraine and tightened border security in Crimea. In response, Ukrainian President Peter Po-

roshenko ordered the Ukrainian armed forces on high alert near the Crimean border and along the entire front with Donetsk and Lugansk. (Associated Press, Aug. 11)

The Crimean peninsula, located between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea coast, is renowned for its scenic views, beautiful beaches and therapeutic waters. It was part of Russia before and after the 1917 socialist revolution. In 1954, during post-war economic reorganization in the Soviet Union, Crimea became part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and remained part of Ukraine after the USSR’s breakup in 1991, although many residents still identified with Russia.

On March 16, 2014, weeks after a U.S.-backed and -financed coup overthrew the legitimate Ukrainian government and installed a junta of oligarchs, pro-Western neoliberal politicians and fascists, the people of Crimea voted overwhelmingly in a referendum to leave Ukraine and return to Russia.

The Crimean people’s quick mobilization and Russia’s securing of the region’s borders scuttled one of Washington’s key goals in the coup — to seize and occupy the large Russian military base on the Black Sea, which had been leased by Ukraine to Moscow in perpetuity.

Part 2 will take up the U.S./NATO campaign against Russia

New York State Fair ‘Free Palestine!’ confronts Gov. Cuomo

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Shouts of “Apartheid, no!” and “Free, free Palestine!” rang out at the gates of Syracuse’s Great New York State Fair, as crowds of workers and students from across the northeast U.S. and eastern Canada streamed through the main gate on Aug. 25. It was “Governor’s Day,” with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo present for opening day festivities.

Demonstrators from eleven Palestinian support groups converged at the fair to denounce Cuomo’s June 5 executive

order against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, which targets apartheid Israel. Cuomo used his state power to order the creation of an “enemies list” of Palestinian supporters. Those on the list are denied partnerships and grants with state agencies unless they “renounce” their support for Palestinian human rights and BDS.

Protesters interrupted Cuomo’s opening day speech, denouncing his anti-BDS order as an attempt to “bring McCarthyism back to New York state.” Politically organized boycotts are constitutionally protected in the U.S. A flier handed out to fair-

goers pointed out that Cuomo is rewarding Israel for violations of international law and the massacres of Palestinians.

The protest was a statewide effort with representation from Adalah-NY, CODE-PINK, NYC Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, the Columbia University Apartheid Divest Coalition, the Ithaca Committee for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace-Ithaca, Jewish Voice for Peace-New York City, Justice for Palestine-Syracuse Peace Council, New York Freedom to Boycott, the Palestine Solidarity Collective and Vegans Against the Occupation. □



WW PHOTOS: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Protesters demand ‘Free Palestine,’ confront New York Gov. Cuomo at State Fair in Syracuse, Aug. 25.



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!

Estado de las conversaciones de paz FARC-gobierno

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hoy, 30 de agosto, el parlamento colombiano aprobó el plebiscito de “Sí o No” que refrendará, en consulta popular, los acuerdos alcanzados entre la guerrilla y el gobierno el pasado miércoles 24 de agosto. Este plebiscito se celebrará el próximo 2 de octubre. Un cese bilateral al fuego comenzó ayer lunes 29 de agosto.

21 de septiembre — Han transcurrido cuatro años de constantes y dificultosas conversaciones entre las FARC-EP y el gobierno colombiano para la Terminación del conflicto y la construcción de una paz estable y duradera en Colombia, llevadas a cabo en La Habana-Cuba. Ya se vislumbra el final, siendo este el tramo más difícil, cuajado de los más delicados puntos que como peligrosos obstáculos, pueden determinar el éxito o el fracaso de este crucial intento por la paz.

El proceso es sumamente complicado y a la vez ambicioso. Se intenta terminar con más de medio siglo de conflicto armado causado por un estado criminal aliado al poderoso - y más criminal aún - imperialismo estadounidense.

De los seis puntos de la agenda inicial - Desarrollo Agrario Integral; Participación política; Fin del conflicto; Solución al problema de drogas ilícitas; Víctimas; y la Implementación, verificación y refrendación — quedan los tres decisivos: participación política, fin del conflicto y la implementación del acuerdo.



La guerra entre el Gobierno y la guerrilla termina después de 52 años tras el anuncio de ambas partes de poner fin a los ataques. Arriba, guerrillas de las FARC en el campo.

Viajan a Colombia

Precisamente, para facilitar - una vez se firme el acuerdo final - la puesta en marcha de los protocolos presentados el 23 de junio pasado sobre ‘Cese al fuego y de hostilidades bilateral y definitivo y la dejación de armas’ como parte del punto ‘Fin del Conflicto’, una delegación viajó a Colombia el 8 de agosto, reuniéndose con otra de Colombia.

Las delegaciones -150 personas en total - estaban compuestas por 33 miembros de la guerrilla encabezada por el miembro del Secretariado Nacional Carlos Antonio Lozada; miembros del gobi-

erno nacional, de la policía, ejército, los comandantes de los frentes en las áreas visitadas, además de gobernadores y alcaldes; la CICR, los observadores internacionales de la Misión de la ONU en Colombia, delegados de Cuba y Noruega (los países garantes de las conversaciones).

El propósito de estas visitas técnicas fue para identificar posibles sitios donde se ubicarían las zonas donde se alojarán miembros de la insurgencia armada durante el complejo proceso de dejación de armas. Este sería uno paulatino que duraría 180 días luego de la firma del Acuerdo Final. La ONU será la responsable de recibir los armamentos, y al mismo tiempo se establecerá un mecanismo de monitoreo y verificación que velará porque se cumplan todos los requisitos acordados. En este monitoreo participarán las FARC, el gobierno e instituciones internacionales mientras que observarán las comunidades organizadas.

Además de las/os miembros de las mencionadas delegaciones, se unieron equipos técnicos de ingenieros, cartógrafos y topógrafos que con el apoyo de tecnología satelital recogieron la información necesaria para que la Mesa de Conversaciones pueda hacer su recomendación final.

Aparte de la identificación de los lugares, un aspecto importante fueron las conversaciones sostenidas con las/os residentes de las comunidades que por tanto tiempo han sido afectadas por el conflicto armado.

Logros Significativos

Un buen resumen de lo logrado hasta ahora en la Mesa de Conversaciones lo escribe Enrique Santiago, asesor jurídico de la delegación de las FARC-EP en la mesa, en su artículo ‘Tres escollos a un paso de la paz’ publicado el pasado 17 de agosto.

“Estos acuerdos pretenden acabar con la desigualdad económica y social existente entre el campo y la ciudad y garantizar el derecho de propiedad de los pequeños campesinos, poniendo fin al despojo de tierras; erradicar de la acción política la práctica del exterminio físico de los opositores; cerrar definitivamente la frontera agrícola del país, protegiendo la biodiversidad del bosque húmedo y garantizando la comercialización y los precios de cultivos lícitos, ofreciendo así alternativas a los campesinos para sobrevivir sin tener que recurrir a los cultivos de uso ilícito; limpiar de restos explosivos de guerra los campos tras 50 años de guerra que ha convertido a Colombia en uno de los países más contaminado por explosivos; poner en marcha un innovador sistema de justicia restaurativa para la paz que deberá garantizar los derechos de las víctimas y exigir responsabilidades a todos los que hayan sido victimarios, no solo a los combatientes, sino por primera vez también a civiles que han instigado, financiado u organizado el conflicto y la guerra sucia; y dar con el paradero de los más de 50.000 desaparecidos por motivos relacionados con el conflicto interno contabilizados desde los años 80 hasta hoy”. (anncol.eu)

Aparte de la novedosa inclusión de las víctimas del conflicto en las propuestas y decisiones finales, hay otra importante contribución, el enfoque de género. El 11 de septiembre del 2014 se instaló una subcomisión de género que tuvo a su cargo revisar e incluir este enfoque en todos los acuerdos alcanzados. Esto queda reflejado en el Comunicado Conjunto #82 de las FARC y el Gobierno: “Los aportes de las víctimas que visitaron la Mesa de Conversaciones, 60% de las cuales fueron mujeres, de las 18 organizaciones de mujeres y de la comunidad LGTBI, de las 10 expertas colombianas en violencia sexual, de las expertas internacionales y de las ex guerrilleras de varias partes del mundo, fueron fundamentales para enriquecer el trabajo de esta subcomisión”. (mesadeconversaciones.com.co)

Este enfoque de género gira alrededor de ocho ejes: “el acceso y formalización de la propiedad rural en igualdad de condiciones; garantía de los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales de las mujeres y personas con identidad sexual diversa del sector rural; promoción de la participación de las mujeres en espacios de representación, toma de decisiones y resolución de conflictos; medidas de prevención y protección que atiendan los riesgos específicos de las mujeres; acceso a la verdad, a la justicia y a las garantías de no repetición; reconocimiento público, no estigmatización y difusión de la labor realizada por mujeres como sujetas políticas; gestión institucional para el fortalecimiento de las organizaciones de mujeres y movimientos LGTBI para su participación política y social, y sistemas de información desagregados”. (farc-ep.co)

Este enfoque es muy significativo en una región donde el sexismo y las actitudes anti-LGBTI desgraciadamente están muy arraigadas. Es por esto que han sido las mujeres farianas un ejemplo de vanguardismo en la lucha por los derechos de las mujeres y de la comunidad LGTBI. □

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- Queremos poner fin al complejo industrial carcelario y al encarcelamiento en masivo. ¡Libertad para Mumia Abu-Jamal, Assata Shakur, Rasmea Odeh, Leonard Peltier, Ana Belén Montes, Rev. Edward Pinkney, los 9 de MOVE, Aafia Siddiqui, Oscar López Rivera y TODOS los presos políticos!

Para ponerse en contacto con la campaña para invitar a los candidatos para que presenten un charla en su campus, sindicato, grupo comunitario, o reunión en su casa, o para más información, póngase en contacto con **Teresa Gutiérrez** administradora de la Campaña Moorehead / Lilly al 917.740.2628. Visita www.workers.org/wwp/ o por correo electrónico WWP2016@workers.org.

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