

Hurricane Harvey disaster

Capitalist crime scene

By Deirdre Griswold

Aug. 29 — The coasts of Texas and Louisiana have become an ongoing crime scene. The crime is against the millions of people living along the Gulf of Mexico as well as their property — and it is a crime against nature itself.

And who are the criminals? Some are the same politicians who, like Donald Trump, jump before the cameras to assure the public that everything possible is being done to protect them, when in fact the forces of government are doing the barest minimum.

Others shy away from publicity — like the multibillionaire oil and gas magnates who have amassed huge fortunes over the decades promoting the very technologies that have warmed the planet and made such disasters inevitable.

They undermined mass transit in order to promote the car culture. Once the drastic effects of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere became known, what did they do? As one science publication wrote in 2015: “Exxon knew about climate change almost 40 years ago — A new investigation shows the oil company understood the science before it became a public issue and spent millions to promote disinformation.” (Scientific American, Oct. 26, 2015)

In plain words, they lied to the people. And the people are those who suffer the consequences, not the very rich who can jet to wherever pleases their luxurious lifestyle.

Texas, oil and Gov. Abbott

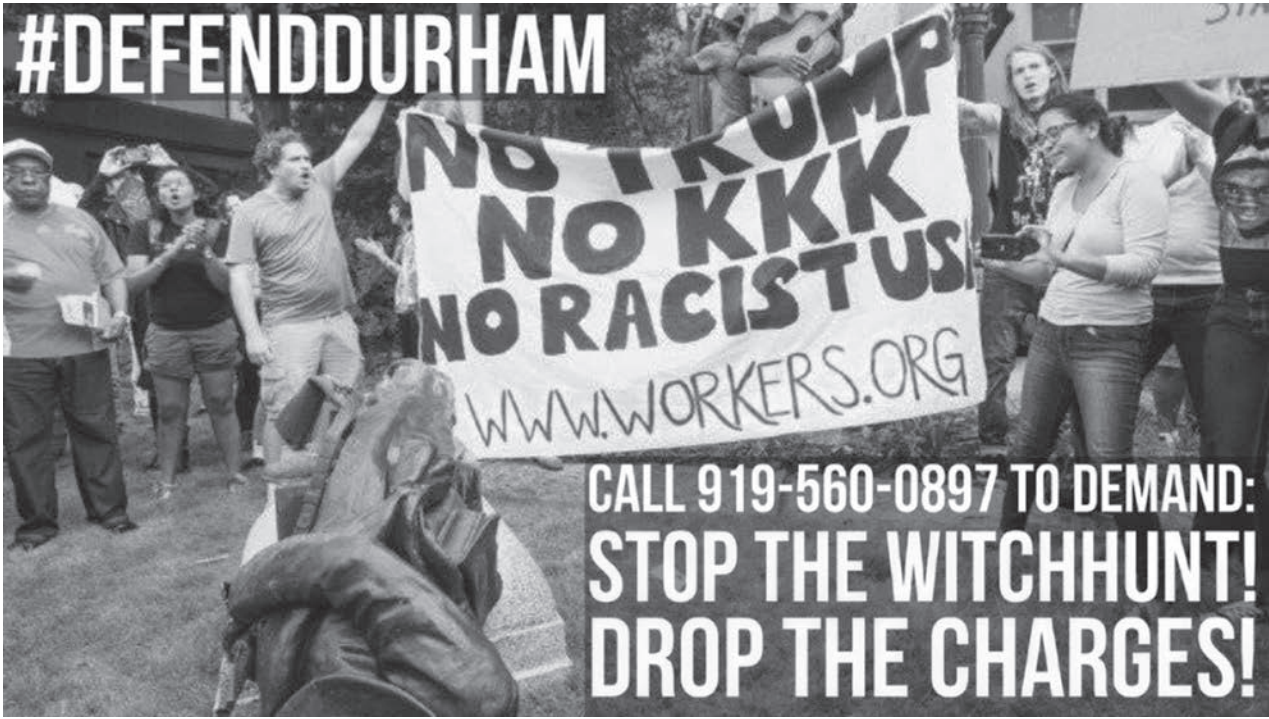
The human toll of this continuing tragedy will not be known until the waters subside, if ever. Unprecedented rains keep falling, turning an area the size of South Carolina into a vast, muddy lake. Yet already Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is telling the people that this “is one of the largest disasters America has ever faced” and there will be “a new normal for this entire region.”

And who is Abbott? Just two months ago, he signed a resolution sponsored by the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers that urged the federal government to reverse “some of the harmful regulations that have stunted the growth of our industry.”

The resolution applauds “the more than 20 lawsuits that Texas has filed in conjunction with many other oil and gas producing states against federal over-regulation that prioritizes minor environmental gains over major productive losses.”

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Thousands drive out fascists

By Terri Kay
San Francisco Bay Area

Well over 20,000 people showed up in the San Francisco Bay Area on Aug. 26 and 27 to let right-wing white supremacists and neo-Nazis know they are not welcome here.

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PHOTO: RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

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WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

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AFL-CIO’s Trumka leaves Trump council – He never should have joined!

By Martha Grevatt

In January, just a few weeks into the new administration, AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka committed class treason when he joined Trump’s Manufacturing Advisory Council. He and AFL-CIO deputy staff member Thea Lee were the token labor representatives on the council, which included CEOs of 3M, Campbell Soup, Johnson & Johnson and other major corporations.

On Aug. 15, Trumka and Lee finally resigned from the council, citing Trump’s comments equally blaming both anti-fascists and white supremacist terrorists for the fatal violence in Charlottesville. “We must resign on behalf of America’s working people, who reject all notions of legitimacy of these bigoted groups,” said Trumka. (cnbc.com) His departure from the council only came after a number of big-business CEOs had resigned.

By Aug. 17, the president had dissolved the Manufacturing Council, as well as the Strategy and Policy Forum, in the wake of mass desertions by CEOs, including JP-Morgan Chase’s Jamie Dimon, General Electric’s Jeff Immelt and other capitalist luminaries. These key representatives of the ruling class, who have always used racism and bigotry to divide the working class, filled their resignation statements with phony platitudes about their commitment to diversity and lack of tolerance for bigotry.

Did they just discover the extreme bigotry of the 45th president of the United States? Were they asleep during the whole election campaign, when Trump whipped up

mass hatred and violence against Muslims, Latinx immigrants, African Americans, women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities and others? It took the murder of a white anti-fascist activist, followed by the most repugnant response imaginable from the head of the capitalist state, for these filthy rich hypocrites to distance themselves from the racist-in-chief.

The bigger question for labor is, of course, the conduct of Trumka. How could he justify taking a seat on this hideous council, knowing all about Trump’s bigoted rhetoric and the presence of open white supremacists in the cabinet?

The collapse of the two economic councils has to be seen in the context of the growing mass movement against white supremacy and bigotry. The CEOs and their labor flunkies were feeling the pressure of this powerful movement when they made the decision to resign.

Trumka’s exit from the Trump council is a move in the right direction, even if pitifully inadequate and long overdue.

What needs to happen is for the AFL-CIO to make a complete break with class collaborationist policies. The AFL-CIO’s relationship with Trump — and that of the Teamsters, Building Trades and others — is the most extreme manifestation of collaboration with the capitalist U.S. ruling class.

But that break will not come from the top bureaucrats. The rank and file must revive labor’s proud legacy of militant, class-conscious and anti-racist unionism. □

WORKERS WORLD *this week*

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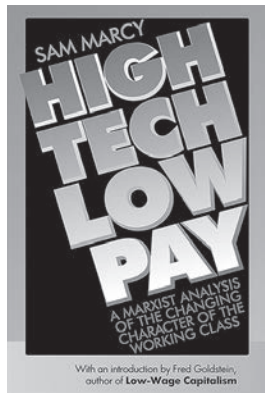
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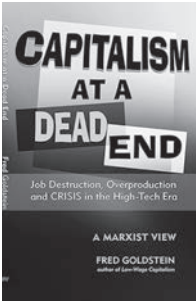
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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social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

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

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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Baltimore bus workers and riders protest transit plan

By **Basma Gregg**
Baltimore

On Aug. 23, a group of 70 protesters marched in solidarity with the Amalgamated Transit Union and the People's Union for Bus Riders, a group initiated by the People's Power Assembly, in Baltimore. They were protesting the recent changes made to the city's public transportation system by Gov. Larry Hogan.

Joining together with local groups and organizations, members of the community marched to the governor's office to make their demands known, and to show that the people of Baltimore do not want the BaltimoreLink system.

When asked about the inconveniences brought on by the BaltimoreLink, the president of ATU Local 1300, David Mc-

Clure, stated: "It's unfortunate that people are suffering ... and he [Hogan] just threw it upon people. People are actually losing their jobs. He's basically thrown the MTA into chaos."

McClure went on to say: "You have elderly people who have to walk several blocks just to attain a service that used to be right in front of their door. I think it's unfair."

The majority of the community shares McClure's views about the negative impact the Link system has had on the peo-



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Michelle Fulmore speaks at Baltimore protest of bus plan, Aug. 23.

buses to go where we have to go. It's not right."

Another community member, Michelle Fulmore, said that she depends on an enormous amount of medication in order to cope with her asthma and leg pain,

ple of Baltimore.

Barbara Rock, a resident of Baltimore City, relies on public transportation to transport her from one destination to another. Rock stated: "It's really hard for us seniors to walk and deal with these buses. We have to catch two or three

among other health conditions. When asked what inconveniences the new bus system has caused her, she answered: "Heatstroke and more medication. I had to get another cane because the one I had, the leg wouldn't hold up on it."

Upon arriving at Hogan's office, the protesters were stopped by six police officers, who were blocking them from delivering their list of demands to the governor. Although they were met with opposition, the demonstrators were not disheartened. They stood outside the office building, raising their demands and vocalizing their thoughts about the unjust changes.

Even after the protest came to an end, members of the community still said strongly that the BaltimoreLink system will be brought down. □



PHOTO: TWULOCAL100.ORG

Darryl Goodwin

By **Tony Murphy and Sara Catalinotto**
New York

A Black transit worker in New York City has died from stress-related health conditions after he was falsely arrested while on the job, and after harsh and unjust punishment by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. His death has sparked unity among union members worldwide, community activists and transit justice advocates.

In May, African-American, 27-year MTA veteran Darryl Goodwin, a member of Transport Workers Union Local 100, was working at a busy, noise-bombarded subway station booth, assisting a passenger, when New York Police Department Lt. Richard Khalaf yelled for Goodwin to press the button to unlock the station gate.

When Goodwin didn't immediately drop what he was doing, the cop approached and escalated his yelling. Next, Goodwin was handcuffed and charged with obstructing governmental justice, assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest. Transit bosses hit him with an immediate unpaid suspension that lasted six weeks.

To bolster the outrageously false

charges, the arresting officer fed a bogus story to the media that this worker had refused to assist the police in their pursuit of a shoplifter, omitting the fact that police have other means to get themselves into any subway.

Station agents in TWU Local 100 supported Goodwin in court on June 29. Activists with the NYC Workers Defense Committee (WDC) knew it was important to try to stop this attack on a worker, so they organized community activists to help pack the court for the next hearing.

When the presiding judge in a Manhattan courtroom on Aug. 10 called the name of Darryl Goodwin, 60 people stood up. The crowd included relatives of Goodwin and of Guinean immigrant and cab driver Mohammed Bah, fatally shot by the New York Police Department during a reported mental health crisis in 2012. Also standing in solidarity were members of the Universal Zulu Nation, Parents to Improve School Transportation, the People's Power Assemblies and Workers World Party, as well as a multinational delegation of transit workers wearing blue uniforms or union shirts.

Those physically present also had moral support from the World Federation of Trade Unions, representing 92 million workers, which sent a solidarity statement from its Athens, Greece, office.

Goodwin himself was too ill to attend,

foreshadowing the tragedy that was to come. The judge, with the office of the Manhattan District Attorney behind him, rejected a motion to dismiss charges. A jury trial was set to begin in six weeks.

Afterwards, TWU Local 100 tweeted a photo of union members and community supporters rallying side-by-side with the caption, "TWU crowd outside the courthouse urging prosecutors to drop charges against [station agent] Darryl Goodwin."

But by Aug. 16, the union was announcing sadly that Goodwin had passed away. Their statement cites his friend, TWU Vice President for Stations Derrick Echevarria, who said: "We believe this unwarranted arrest had an underlying effect on his demise. Darryl was stressed out and working a lot of overtime to recover the wages he lost." (tinyurl.com/y9473kco)

The TWU statement also notes that, in May, arresting officer Lt. Khalaf and his cop cronies made hateful comments on Khalaf's Facebook page, lashing out at the Black Lives Matter movement.

NYC WDC had created a fundraising campaign to help Goodwin with his legal expenses and missed pay. Those donations, including \$100 from a London Tube



WW PHOTO: SARA CATALINOTTO

TWU Stations VP Echevarria, center, with Workers Defense Committee members at Goodwin funeral.

driver, have now been given to his sibling. (The fund at tinyurl.com/yctc9nga ends Aug. 30.)

The group also posted an online petition that gathered 50 signers a day at first, and 500 in one day after Goodwin's death was publicized. Comments from signers included: "I think police have too much power and they enjoy misusing it to exploit innocent working people every day. Something has got to give!" and (referring to Goodwin's employer) "It's a crime that Transit let the police harass this man to death."

At the large and loving funeral service on Aug. 21, TWU's Echevarria repeated: "We are all Darryl Goodwin. Any one of us could have been in that situation." Goodwin's union and family intend to clear him of the charges posthumously.

Readers are urged to share tinyurl.com/yc9kq95u and to check the Facebook of the NYC Workers Defense Committee for future acts of solidarity. □

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But what you may not be aware of is that our purpose goes beyond passive reporting. Our Marxist-Leninist vision of an equitable, just world based on socialist planning and plenty for all peoples spurs us to advocate for change.

That's why we're devoting so much coverage to the rising mobilization against white supremacy that exploded in Charlottesville and is now sweeping the country. The thousands who flooded Boston in defense of Black Lives Matter and against virulent racism are a really welcome development, especially given the city's

racist history. And bringing down the statue in Durham, N.C., is having a domino effect, with statues being immediately removed in many other cities, as they were in Baltimore and Los Angeles.

But the action in Durham has special meaning to WW because it was our comrades who planned and executed that dramatic, watershed action. It's an example of having our fingers on the anti-racist pulse, just as we have on so many anti-imperialist struggles, over the past 58 years. Most recently we've championed the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela and defended the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's right to self-defense.

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Convicted racist Arizona sheriff pardoned

By Paul Teitelbaum
Tucson

Once again Donald Trump has embraced white supremacy and condoned racist police terror. On Aug. 25, he pardoned notorious Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who was convicted of criminal contempt this past July for defying a court order to cease his anti-immigrant persecution.

Arpaio was sheriff of Maricopa County, which includes the Phoenix metropolitan area, from 1993 until 2016. During those twenty-plus years he directed and oversaw a reign of terror targeting the Latinx community, in particular immigrants. His Tent City prison, where temperatures would reach 125 degrees inside the tents during summer, was a concentration camp where detainees awaiting trial were consistently humiliated, served spoiled food and denied medical attention.

In 2008, a federal judge ruled that the

conditions at all of Arpaio's jails violated the U.S. Constitution.

Arpaio's "immigration sweeps" would target entire neighborhoods and towns with invading cops who would stop, harass and detain residents at will. In 2008, Arpaio was met with resistance from the entire town of Guadalupe, Ariz., and forced to retreat. Guadalupe is a small town in Maricopa County whose population is mostly of the Indigenous Yaqui nation.

In 2009, when Nazis marched in Phoenix with the protection of the Phoenix Police Department and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Arpaio was caught on tape giving information on the anti-Nazi protesters to the Nazi leaders. (tinyurl.com/y7danuee)

An investigation of Arpaio by the U.S. Department of Justice was the result of years of pressure by popular organizations and people in the streets. Massive demonstrations of tens of thousands were repeatedly held in Phoenix, with

other rallies occurring at the various jails and detention centers, and at the Wells Fargo building downtown, where Arpaio was given an office.

Trump's outrageous pardon of this criminal has been denounced by activists and mainstream politicians alike, with some calling Arpaio the Bull Connor of this century, referencing the Birmingham, Ala., sheriff who brutalized Black Civil Rights Movement protesters in the 1960s.

Carlos Garcia, executive director of Puente, a community organization and major force in the anti-Arpaio struggle, stated: "What Donald Trump did was not just pardon Arpaio, but tie himself to

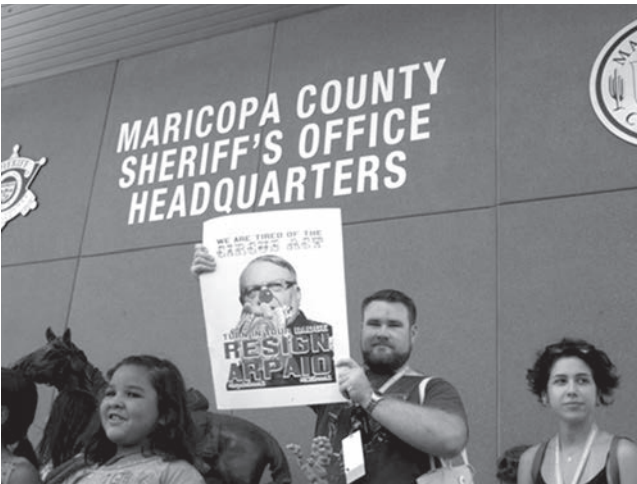


PHOTO: MIRIAM WASSER

A July 17, 2015, protest against Sheriff Joe Arpaio, in Phoenix, Ariz., one moment in years of mass organizing against his anti-immigrant, racist actions.

the history of white supremacy. ... We will use this anger to take out Donald Trump in the same way we took out Arpaio." (tinyurl.com/yd79uhhz) □

Another attack on Indigenous lands Trump poised to open Bears Ears to corporate plunder

By Erin Mezgar

In another attack on Indigenous rights and the environment, President Donald Trump is expected to announce his decision to shrink Bears Ears National Monument. This can qualify as the biggest corrupt giveaway of resources to Big Oil since the Teapot Dome scandal during the Warren Harding administration in 1921.

In a landscape dotted with stunning red rock formations, delicate arches, piñon-juniper forests and deep canyons sits a place rich in history and culture. Situated in the Four Corners region of San Juan County, Utah, Bears Ears — named for its twin buttes — is a place for connections, healing and illuminating life through Native American traditions and knowledge.

In December 2016, a centuries-long battle for Indigenous sovereignty culminated when a coalition of the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni and Ute Indian Tribes were able to designate over 1.3 million acres of Bears Ears for protection within a national monument. This was an important moment for the stakeholders involved. It was the first national monument created at the behest of Native people.

Until this point, the U.S. government had a century-long reputation of forcing Native people off of their lands in order to preserve "wilderness." The coalition stated that it was a moment in history where Native voices were "finally heard and our cultural and spiritual heritage was respected."

Trump's theft rivals Teapot Dome

The designation meant that 100,000+ archeological sites would be managed by the Native nations and protected from oil and gas drilling, mining, grave robbing and vandalism. This victory, however, lasted just nine months.

Trump is expected to announce his decision to shrink Bears Ears by up to 88 percent to open the land up for uranium, oil, gas and potash mining. Several other monuments were "pardoned" from Trump's review for their recreational use, geological uniqueness, biological diversity, and for containing and honoring relics of human history. Despite Bears Ears meeting that criteria — and in defiance



PHOTO: BRUCE HUCKO

Bears Ears wall paintings.

of the millions of public comments submitted in favor of the monument — the Trump administration is expected to push forward its corporate agenda.

After President Warren G. Harding transferred supervision of the naval oil-reserve lands from the Navy to the Department of the Interior in 1921, Interior Secretary Albert Fall secretly granted the Mammoth Oil Company exclusive rights to the Teapot Dome reserves in Wyoming on April 7, 1922, in return for a massive bribe. The Bears Ears giveaway to Big Oil is in the same league as this major scandal of the 1920s.

Trump would have the public believe that his recent defense of Confederate monuments means he is concerned with the preservation of history. But, much like white supremacists' erecting of Confederate monuments during the 1950s to counter the growing fight for civil rights, the reduction of Bears Ears is Trump's way of "sticking it" to people of color as they strive to exercise their right to self-determination.

Just three months into his presidency, Trump made it a priority to reduce Bears Ears. His appointee, Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, opened a 60-day comment period on all national monuments, but limited comments on Bears Ears to just 15 days.

Zinke met only with thieves

Instead of meeting with tribal leaders, Zinke met and toured the site in helicopters with Utah government officials and others who adamantly oppose the monument. The local communities of mostly white residents near Bears Ears Monument have a record of massive theft of

priceless Native artifacts despite the existing laws protecting these items. They are stolen and sold to wealthy collectors. (archaeologicalconservancy.org, June 8, 2016)

In a July statement, members of the

Bears Ears Tribal Coalition said, "The radical idea of breaking up Bears Ears National Monument would be a slap in the face to the members of our Tribes and an affront to [Native] people all across the country," adding that "the monument cannot be diminished without imperiling the objects, structures, and other objects of historic and scientific interest protected by monument designation."

According to a study done prior to the

site's designation, there are no "unimportant areas" in the monument — Bears Ears is so rich in cultural resources, one cannot go more than one-eighth of a mile without encountering the next site or "object." In other words, a reduction in size would mean putting sacred spaces and objects at risk.

The latest announcement is part of a series of decisions that serve to undermine tribal sovereignty. Just days after taking office in January, Trump signed executive actions to advance approval of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines in Dene, Creek, Blackfoot, Nakota, Dakota, Lakota, Omaha, Ho-chunk and Panka territories. Both pipelines are already leaking onto ancestral Native lands.

The Tribal Coalition is not waiting for an announcement, they are mobilizing and have vowed to continue the fight for use and management of their ancestral lands.

Other sources include bearssearscoalition.org and a doi.gov Aug. 24 press release. □

A rally was held on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus on Aug. 27 to show solidarity in the face of fascism and white supremacy. Columbus United Against Hate called the action.

Over one hundred socialists, communists and other central Ohio activists, including members of Anti-Racist Action, CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations), Democratic Socialists of America, the Green Party, the International Socialist Organization, Planned Parenthood, Socialist Alternative, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) and Workers World Party, gathered in front of the Thompson Library. Representatives of several socialist, environmental and anti-racist organiza-



tions, as well as unaffiliated communists, spoke, urging the community to unite against the rising tide of fascism and white supremacy. Following the speeches, activists marched to the Ohio Union, where a Black Lives Matter banner was unfurled.

—Report and photo by Josh Link

People’s resistance occupies Charlottesville City Council

By Myia X

“We are face to face with History and quite simply we must not be afraid.” These words were spoken by Comandante Che Guevara in 1961. Now, from Charlottesville, Va., to Durham, N.C., to Boston, the masses are rising to confront, expose and resist the upsurge of the neo-fascists, Ku Klux Klan and the various arms of the state and its apparatus. Freedom fighters traveled on Aug. 11 and 12 to Charlottesville from across the U.S. to combat white supremacist hate masked in the legal cloak of the First Amendment “right to free speech.” The ensuing violent attacks and murder by white supremacists were seen across the globe and revealed a fact that we in Workers World Party have long known: The Klan, the police and the courts work hand in hand. In the aftermath of death, trauma and brutality, Mayor Mike Signer and the Charlottesville Council members convened a hearing Aug. 21 to discuss their

administration’s response to the racist, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic ultraright on Aug. 11 and 12. However, they quickly found out that it would not be “business as usual” and were faced with the fact that resistance was still in the air. Over 100 community residents occupied the council chambers and chanted in unison, “Shame!” and “Shut it down!” Moments later, the police moved in to remove the protesters, who continued to demand to be heard, even as some were arrested. Then, from the upper decks of the hall, a banner was unfurled with the powerful and glaring message: “Blood On Your Hands.” The blood, death and injuries are also on the hands of Trump and in the divisive, coded, racist rhetoric that the Trump administration addressed to its base. An Aug. 21 New York Times article quoted Tracy Saxon, who was part of the people’s occupation: “I’m outraged! I watched my people get beat and murdered. They let Nazis here have freedom

of speech, and they protect them? And we can’t have freedom of speech?” Another attendee, Paul Hurdle, said of the ultraright violence he experienced: “I am not the same person I was that day.” As the mayor and council members cowered and then momentarily departed, the freedom fighters seized the meeting until authorities guaranteed the release of some who had been detained and charged with disorderly conduct, and also allowed them to voice their concerns. Some in attendance went further and called for the mayor’s resignation and informed council members they can expect to be removed from office in the next election. The hateful acts and words broadcast across screens and airwaves on Aug. 11 and 12 evoked memories of earlier Klan murders of African Americans: tortured Emmett Till and his open casket funeral, the four little school girls bombed in Birmingham, and the many days and nights



Anti-racist people’s movement says Charlottesville City Council has “Blood on your hands” for allowing neo-Nazi rampage and murder on Aug. 11-12.

of terror still faced by oppressed peoples in communities living under the shadow of the prison-industrial complex. In his eulogy for the four school girls, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murders.” Racism, bigotry and violence are deeply rooted in the founding and continued practices of the U.S., domestically and around the world. This is the system we seek to dismantle and abolish. We carry forward the clarion call of Mother Assata Shakur: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win.” And as we heal, march and struggle: “We must remember to love and support each other.” □

New York City rally supports Colin Kaepernick

By Monica Moorehead
New York

Aug. 23 -- A multinational crowd of at least 2,000 people, mainly African Americans, rallied here in front of the National Football League’s headquarters at 53rd Street and Park Avenue today to express their solidarity with Colin Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback. The support action comes as Kaepernick’s anti-racism protest spreads among NFL players. At the rally, speakers called for a boycott of NFL games by season ticket holders and TV viewers until Kaepernick is signed by a team. The NAACP has demanded a meeting with the NFL hierarchy, which represents the interests of the billionaire owners, on behalf of Kaepernick. Many held signs saying “#IamwithKap.” Kaepernick, who is Black, sent shock waves throughout the NFL, other sports leagues and U.S. society as a whole, when he kneeled during the playing of

the national anthem during the 2016 football season. He took a knee to protest racist police brutality, starting soon after the murders of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philando Castile outside St. Paul, Minn. Since Kaepernick opted out of his contract with the 49ers, no other NFL team has signed him so far. Many of his supporters believe that the all-white and all-billionaire NFL owners are collectively punishing Kaepernick for his heroic political stance against racism, which continues to resonate with the public and with fellow football players during the 2017 preseason games. Kaepernick’s supporters say that this “blackbaling” tactic is an attempt to discourage other players from expanding Kaepernick’s protest against racist injustice. If this is the owners’ plan, it clearly isn’t working. Support for this anti-racist protest has now spread beyond just the Black players, especially in reaction to the Aug. 12 white supremacist deadly vi-



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

olence in Charlottesville, Va. Black NFL players such as Eric Reid, Michael Bennett and Malcolm Jenkins continue to protest against the anthem, with support from white players such as

Justin Britt and Chris Long. Just recently, Seth Devalve became the first white player to kneel during the national anthem along with 11 of his African-American Cleveland Browns teammates. □

Why Rizzo’s statue must come down



WW PHOTO: SCOTT WILLIAMS

Philadelphia, Aug. 21. Protesters demand statue of racist mayor and police commissioner be removed.

By Scott Williams
Philadelphia

On August 21, spurred by white supremacists’ call for an action to defend the statue of former Philadelphia police commissioner and mayor, Frank Rizzo, over 250 people converged on the statue, joining with the growing movement across the country to remove Confederate and other white supremacist statues. Philly for REAL Justice had organized a demonstration. Speakers from REAL Justice, Workers World Party and Philly Socialists, as well as Pam Africa of MOVE and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, exposed Rizzo’s role. Rizzo remains infamous for his record of dividing the working class with the poisons of racism and fascism. A precursor to Donald Trump’s authoritarian, male-chauvinist persona, Rizzo embodied white supremacist thuggery. Rizzo famously bragged in the 1960s of his grow-

ing police force of 9,000 cops as strong enough to “invade Cuba and win.” Like Trump, Rizzo ruled in a time of capitalist decay. In 1951, Philadelphia had over 2 million residents and over 355,000 manufacturing jobs. By 1990, Philadelphia had lost over 400,000 residents and had only 85,000 manufacturing jobs. Technology eliminated millions of jobs across the USA and more were exported by globalization. Being “tough on crime” became politically useful as a way to deal with the economy’s unemployed victims, many of whom were Black. Rizzo, a Democrat, was the icon of that racist, anti-worker movement, whose goal was more exploitation of the working class, including mass incarceration of the Black community and more police oppression.

Rizzo: Attack dog of capitalism

One of Rizzo’s most public roles as police commissioner (1968-1971) and mayor

A STATEMENT FROM THE DURHAM BRANCH OF WORKERS WORLD PARTY:

By Durham Workers World Party bureau

Aug. 27 — “No Trump! No KKK! No fascist USA!” chanted the militant crowd that gathered on Monday, Aug.14, just before toppling a Confederate statue in front of the old Durham County Courthouse in Durham, N.C. Next, on Friday, Aug. 18, the people of Durham rose up in a mini rebellion to stop the Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan from hosting a public rally. In response, cities, counties and institutions across the country have moved to expeditiously remove Confederate statues; many have been displayed for 100 or more years. This was a result of mass struggle. Direct action gets the goods.

Prior to the Durham demonstration, thousands gathered in Charlottesville, Va., on Saturday, Aug. 12, to protest the “Unite the Right” rally. American Vanguard member James Fields Jr. intentionally plowed his car into a crowd of protesters, killing Heather Heyer and badly injuring 19 others. The hundreds of activists arrested during the J20 protests at Trump’s Inauguration face charges that carry more jail time than this Nazi who killed Heather Heyer.

The nine people so far arrested in the toppling of Durham’s Confederate monument each face two felonies and three misdemeanors. Meanwhile, fascists who beat a young Black man, Deandre Harris, in a Charlottesville parking lot (and were caught in the act on videotape) also committed other heinous acts in that city, but face no charges whatsoever.

This has occurred nearly three years since the rebellions in Ferguson, Mo., and across the country in response to a white police officer murdering Black youth Mike Brown in cold blood, and then leaving his body lying in the street for hours to roast in the summer heat. That murder sparked the Black Lives Matter movement that has rocked the foundations of U.S. white supremacy.

The Durham branch of Workers World Party responded to the need for direct action, especially after several of our comrades returned from Charlottesville, many still in shock from the traumatic events. We put out a call for militant action to our close comrades in Black Youth Project 100, Durham Beyond Policing, Southerners on New Ground, Industrial Workers of the World and local Antifa.

We salute the courage of our comrade, Takiyah Thompson, who climbed to the top of the statue as other comrades held the ladder for her. When the rope around the statue fell into the crowd, the people there responded to the failures of politicians to take any meaningful action to remove these monuments to racism. They took matters into their own hands! In a righteous and bold expression of people’s power, the statue was toppled, and history was made.

It is crucial at this time of the rise of neo-Confederate forces that our movement not just retreat to defensive measures. The far-right is emboldened by Trump and an entire administration that supports and protects white supremacy, and is also desperate because of the rotten conditions resulting from capitalism at a dead end.

We had to have a bold answer to the white supremacists killing an anti-racist protester. Without this bold action — which has now spawned many more offensive actions — there was a serious risk of white supremacist and paramilitary right-wing organizations continuing to snowball and recruit. We had to stop them in their tracks, and not allow them one inch or one moment to breath without their feeling the power of the people reclaiming our righteous course of history.

Resisting genocide and reclaiming public space for the working class

Confederate monuments were erected across the U.S. South directly after the post-Civil War period of Reconstruction, an unfinished revolution where Black people fought for their freedom. When the federal government betrayed Black people and pulled out its armed support for their freedom, the white slave-owning landowners did everything in their power to recapture Black people and hold them in bondage again. This was the period of enforcement of the Black Codes. During this period, the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist organizations were utilized as paramilitary shock troops. The Confederate statues were erected to re-establish white power and

August 14



On the to



were a public expression of white supremacist ideology.

The Confederate monument was placed outside of the Durham County Courthouse in 1924 during the Jim Crow era, long after the Civil War and at a time of massive growth of the KKK. It was a deliberate attempt to intimidate Black people and remind them that their relationship to power had changed very little since “Emancipation.” It was also a clear expression of the purpose of the courts and the prisons: to continue the institution of slavery. As Marxists, we understand the evolution of the repressive institutions of slavery into the prison-industrial complex in today’s stage of capitalism.

Durham’s Confederate monument was dedicated “to the boys who wore the grey.” Comrade Takiyah Thompson commented, “The boys who wore the grey are the boys who wear blue today.” In the U.S. South, the police have their origins in slave patrols sent out to recapture freed Africans. This legacy is deeply embedded in the police today. In fact, many police departments actively recruit from white supremacist organizations and collaborate with them in secrecy. This was documented as having occurred during the 1979 Greensboro Massacre.

We understand that Confederate monuments are symbolic structures that represent and reinforce less visible structures of white supremacy and capitalism. They are open expressions of the true nature and intention of incarceration and disenfranchisement that target Black workers.

The existence of these Confederate and white supremacist monuments are open declarations that capitalist institutions are inherently invested in the exploitation and bondage of Black people. This is clearly evidenced by the ways these institutions invest in protecting these monuments and repress those who damage them. Confederate monuments not only symbolize systems of white supremacy, they are essential tools of cultural warfare utilized by the ruling class.

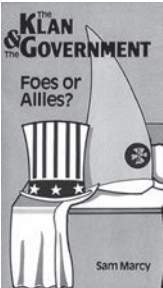
North Carolina’s legacy of genocide and sterilization of women of color: Why the threat of white supremacist violence cannot go unchallenged

As members of the Durham community and residents of North Carolina, we know that the concept and fact of genocide did not end at the Nazi Holocaust of World War II. Genocide exists in our communal memory far more recently. Up until 2003, North Carolina was the national capital of eugenics practice, which forcibly sterilized working-class women, especially Black women, but also Indigenous and other women of color, and disabled and poor women.

THE KLAN & GOVERNMENT: Foes or Allies?

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

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



As Nazis, the KKK, and other white supremacist organizations continue broadcasting their racist and anti-Semitic poison, and continue to advocate for eugenics and genocide publicly, they enjoy the support and protection of not only the ruling class and the state, but also liberals.

Time and again, liberals and moderates have elevated the abstract concept of “freedom of speech” both to defend the supposed rights of Nazis to organize and to attack those who oppose them. In concrete terms, this values speech over the lives of Black, Brown and other working-class people.

It is more important than ever to crush the symbols that legitimize these murderous institutions.

We must continue our struggle until all symbols of white supremacy have been destroyed. Just as Durham’s Confederate statue easily crumpled and folded in on itself as it crashed to the ground, so can the systems of white supremacy and the capitalism that it represents, when confronted by organized worker power. When we organize and support one another in direct action, the systems set up by the ruling class don’t stand a chance.

Gentrification, colonialism and the people’s right to public space

The placement of this and other Confederate monuments in the South was and still is a deliberate and malicious show of white supremacist force on the part of the racist ruling class. Durham’s Confederate monument claims public space — close to North Carolina’s “Black Wall Street” no less — in the same ways that out-of-town wealthy white hipsters claim more space downtown for themselves, displacing oppressed nationalities and working-class people.

The city purposely constructs public benches and then prevents those whose land and homes have been snatched up from sleeping on them. As more expensive breweries, hotels, condo complexes and restaurants claim public



WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/ Mundo Obrero Newspaper www.workers.org/books

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

Anthology from WW newspaper edited by Monica Moorehead.
Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes
Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy
Black Youth: Repression & Resistance Leilani Dowell
The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead
Domestic Workers United Demand a Bill of Rights Imani Henry
Black & Brown Unity Saladin Muhammad
Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal
Alabama’s Black Belt Consuela Lee
The 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker
Available at major online book sellers.



August 18



Toppling of Confederate statue

space in downtown Durham, Black people are increasingly pushed out of our spaces and policed. By taking militant direct action to remove the statue, we took a step towards reclaiming public space for people of color and the working class.

On Friday, Aug. 18, when over 1,000 people flooded the streets of Durham to chase the Klan away, police in riot gear did not show up until late afternoon, when they were setting up downtown to get ready for Third Friday Artwalks, a largely white-attended event.

Klan and government go hand in hand

Sam Marcy, founding chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote in an important theoretical book, “The Klan and Government: Foes or Allies?”: “The far more important problem is the reciprocal relations between the capitalist government and the Klan. More often than not, the former is made to appear rather hostile to the Klan. The public impression conveyed is that the government is forced under the law (the First or ‘Free Speech’ Amendment to the Constitution) to defend and secure the Klan’s rights.

“In reality, however, the capitalist government has covertly encouraged and promoted the Klan over many decades. It is often completely overlooked in current discussions and in the press and media reports that the durability of the Klan rests on solid long-term bonds to the state, and that the two share a common political ideology, for the most part. When the ruling class had the opportunity to wipe out the Klan more than a century ago, it failed to do so. The Northern industrialists and bankers were more interested in reaching a compromise with the ex-slaveowners than with the newly freed slaves.

“The U.S. government capitulated to the Southern planters and ex-slaveowners after the period of Reconstruction when it withdrew federal troops from the South without establishing an independent citizens’ militia composed of the Black people and poor whites. It also left them politically defenseless and deprived the Black population of economic power by failing to grant the newly emancipated people the land which they had tilled for centuries.

“The violence against Black people which had begun on a minimal scale during Reconstruction began to take a tremendous toll after the U.S. government finally withdrew its troops. It was in this period that lynchings, the most barbarous form of counterrevolutionary terror, became the hallmark of the reactionary attempt to keep the Black people in semi-bondage. As many as 5,000 lynchings took place between the 1880s and 1951.

“Nothing so much emphasizes the need for an independent citizens’ militia as what happened immediately after the withdrawal of the federal troops. It is to be noted that only in the 1950s and 1960s, when the question of self-defense was raised in a serious way, did Black communities become freer from the unrestrained terror of the earlier period.

“Self-defense actually began during the so-called Tulsa riots of 1921. This attack on the Black community in Oklahoma for the first time in many years found an unexpected response in the form of what we would now call self-defense.” (This book can be read online at www.workers.org/marcy/klan/.)

Support self-determination and the right of oppressed people to militant direct action and self-defense!

Workers World Party has a proud history of supporting the right of oppressed people, particularly Black people in the South, to defend themselves against the state and white supremacist forces. WWP historically supported the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, along with the Brown Berets and other organizations of the oppressed.

Mae Mallory, a Black militant activist for self-defense, sent letters from prison in 1962, requesting support. In response, WWP formed the Monroe Defense Committee, to build national support for armed Black militants in Monroe, N.C., including Robert F. Williams and Mabel Williams. They were building community self-defense in the tradition of the Deacons for Defense who established chapters in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in 1964-1965. The Williams had formed armed barricades in their house to defend themselves from racists. They eventually had to flee to Cuba, then later moved to China.

In this period, it is important to note that it was comrade Takiyah Thompson — a young, queer, Black woman — who took militant direct action that helped to bring this statue down. As communists, we believe that self-determination must be supported in practice, not just in theory. This means supporting the leadership of women of color, people of color and gender nonconforming people. It includes organizing in their defense when their leadership ignites violent state and vigilante repression. The leadership of the most oppressed is paramount. It is the critical and central component of maximizing solidarity and unity — both in the immediate tasks that our movement faces, and on the long road to building a socialist revolution.

The events of the last few weeks in Charlottesville and Durham underscore what we face in the new political period. There are several lessons that can be drawn here. The sections of the ruling class which elevated Trump to the presidency have emboldened the most racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Jewish, misogynist, male-supremacist, murderous scum in this decaying capitalist society. At the same time, the broad progressive movement that defends workers, oppressed Black, Latinx and Native communities, women, LGBTQ people and immigrants, has also grown rapidly — and it has demonstrated a new willingness to wage a militant fight-back against these forces.

Organizations of oppressed people, along with the growing Antifa formation, have elevated the issues of self-defense and the need to take bold action to fight the fascists and racists. The Charlottesville police, who allowed Nazis to attack the multinational demonstration, like the cops in Greensboro who colluded with Nazis in carrying out the 1979 Greensboro Massacre, proved once again that they and other repressive forces of the state are squarely on the side of the white supremacists and against the people. It is incumbent upon our movement to be united, self-reliant and combative.

The battlefield against these fascist and racist forces in the U.S. is but one front among many others across the globe. U.S. imperialism is waging a bloody war against

all those fighting for liberation and self-determination. In Venezuela, the Bolivarian Revolution, a movement of Black, Indigenous, and other working-class people, is facing heavy attack from far-right and fascist forces that receive political and economic support from the U.S. government.

The threat of war against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has recently escalated. The reason? They dared to defy the U.S. and other global powers, and have developed technology and weapons as a bulwark against the most advanced killing machine this planet has ever known. The peoples of Syria and Palestine and elsewhere around the globe have continued to wage a valiant struggle for self-determination and to get imperialism’s boot off their neck. Victory in any of these and other struggles is a victory for the entire working class.

TIMELINE OF DURHAM DEVELOPMENTS:

August 14: Takiyah Thompson and other Freedom Fighters tore down Confederate statue in Durham.

August 15: Following a press conference, Thompson was arrested and charged with two felonies and three misdemeanors. The Durham County Sheriff’s office began conducting raids of local organizers’ homes.

August 16: Loan Tran and Dante Strobino were arrested and charged while in court supporting Thompson. Peter Gilbert was arrested at his workplace. White supremacists appeared in the court’s parking decks, stalking the crowd.

August 17: “Arrest Me, Too” solidarity event was held in front of the Durham County Courthouse. Nearly 100 people volunteered to turn themselves in, saying, “If they are guilty of fighting white supremacy, I am guilty too.” The sheriff refused to arrest the masses of people, but took those with warrants: Elena Everett, Raul Jimenez and Zan Caldwell. Later that day, Taylor Cook turned herself in for arrest.

August 18: A “#DefendDurham: Pack the Court” event was held in support of the four additional Freedom Fighters who had been arrested and charged.

August 18: Reports of a KKK rally were heard in Durham. A mini uprising of nearly 2,000 people, many of them community members, flooded the streets to #DefendDurham. The courthouse, banks, schools and other businesses closed for the day. A small handful of KKK members retreated into the courthouse. Riot cops showed force and arrested one demonstrator. #DefendDurham formed at a meeting of many left and progressive organizations in unity, vowing to defend and support one another.

Looking Ahead: September 12 — Court date in Durham for all organizers

WE DEMAND:

1. That the Durham County Commissioners, Durham Sheriff’s office and District Attorney’s office drop all the charges and stop investigating anti-racist activists involved with the Aug. 14 action.
2. That the city of Charlottesville drop all charges against anti-racist protesters from Aug. 12.
3. That North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper expedite the removal of all Confederate statues across the state.
4. That the Durham County Commissioners and City Council members attend public forums to allow the community to speak out on their concerns about public Confederate displays.
5. Abolish the police, prisons, ICE and the Pentagon! Tear down all institutions of white supremacy! Black Lives Matter!

Funds are urgently needed!
Donate at www.patreon.com/wwp



August 17



Supporters walked into the sheriff’s office and said: ‘Targeting racial justice organizers? Arrest me, too!’

East Harlem residents say ‘Remove the racist Sims’ statue!’

By Dolores Cox
New York

The struggle is growing for the removal of racist Dr. James Marion Sims’ statue from New York City’s Central Park. Sims, known as the “father of gynecology,” made alleged medical advances through his cruel practice of performing unethical, gynecological surgical techniques on enslaved Black women without anesthesia, antiseptics or their consent. In his quest for fame, he manipulated the institution of slavery to perform his brutal experiments.

The national movement to get rid of Confederate monuments following recent white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, Va., led local activists to renew their push to take Sims’ statue down.

Black Youth Project 100 held a protest Aug. 19 in front of the monument, located at 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue in East Harlem, to demand its removal. Other organizations have demonstrated, too. Boldly, someone spray-painted “racist” on the statue on Aug. 26.

NYC City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who has been involved in this campaign since 2011, called for the statue to come down at an Aug. 21 press conference, calling Sims’ “despicable acts ... repugnant and reprehensible.” (Daily News, Aug. 21)

East Harlem residents have campaigned for years to get this affront to their community taken down. A recent poll of that community showed an overwhelming number support the statue’s removal.

Medical experimentation = torture

Also addressing this issue post-Charlottesville was Steve Benjamin, African-American mayor of Columbia, S.C., who said that Sims’ offensive statute on their Statehouse grounds “should come down. ... [He] tortured slave women and children for years as he developed his treatments

for gynecology.” (MSNBC, Aug. 15)

“Slaveowner” Sims carried out these surgeries in the U.S. South from 1845 to 1849 with no training in gynecology. In Alabama, he performed hundreds of surgeries on enslaved women that he “owned” or “borrowed.” He experimented many times on 12 enslaved women, an astounding 30 times on one of them. Many women died.

Plantation owners took enslaved women to Sims for treatment so they could continue working and would produce more children to add to the enslaved population. Enslaved people had no personal rights and were the property of their “owners” who held possession of their lives, bodies and labor. Sims also experimented on enslaved Black men.

Sims’ copious notes revealed slaveowner language, sprinkled with racial slurs and vivid depictions of Black women’s bodies. Later, after “successful” experimentation, he used the same surgical procedures on white women in New York, but used anesthesia for them.

A common, outrageous racist belief then was that Black people were insensitive to pain — and thus didn’t need anesthesia during surgery. This sheds light on the historically violent oppression of Blacks in the U.S., and was a horrifying testament to the brutality of slavery and its relationship to U.S. medicine. It highlights the intersection of race and medicine.

Harriet Washington writes about this extensively and Sims’ crimes, in her groundbreaking book, “Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present.” (Doubleday, 2007)

Neonatal tetanus in newborns, acquired through infection of the unhealed umbilical cord, often cut with a nonsterile instrument, afflicted many enslaved children. It is now known to result from

the impoverished conditions of enslaved peoples’ living quarters.

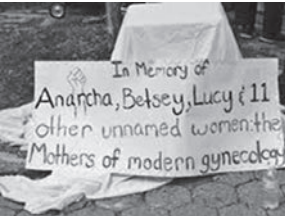
But the archracist Sims attributed neonatal tetanus to enslaved Africans’ “inferiority.” So this “medical monster” performed horrific surgeries on enslaved women’s babies without anesthesia. All of these babies died. He blamed the fatalities on “the ignorance” of their mothers and midwives, while his crimes caused these deaths.

Even as he was committing these crimes, Sims founded the Woman’s Hospital of New York in 1855, where he performed operations on indigent women who then had lengthy hospital stays and underwent repeated procedures. Despite his record of killing women and children and inflicting pain, he was named president of the American Medical Association in 1875 and then president of the Gynecological Society in 1879.

Take down Sims’ statue!

The 13-foot statue of Sims was installed at its present location in 1934 — in East Harlem’s historically African-American and Puerto Rican neighborhood. In an insult to oppressed women, the wording below it reads: “Surgeon and Philanthropist, Founder of the Woman’s Hospital State of New York. In recognition of his services in the cause of science and mankind.” Wording on the base adds: “His brilliant achievement carried the fame of American surgery throughout the entire world.”

The current struggle is over whether the city should keep, remove or relocate the statue. The East Harlem Preservation organization began its campaign in 2007 in solidarity with efforts by activist Viola Plummer, member of the December 12th Movement, to call attention to Sims’ cruel experiments. That year, NYC Councilmember Charles Barron petitioned the NYC Parks and Recreation Department



Sims performed hundreds of surgeries on enslaved women without anesthesia, antiseptics or their consent.

to remove the statue. Proposals have been raised to instead honor the women Sims tortured.

The EHP reports that then-East Harlem Councilmember Mark-Viverito appealed to the Parks Department in 2011 to remove the statute because it is a “constant reminder of the historic cruelty endured by women of color” — and in a community comprised mainly of people of color.

The Parks Department refused to honor these requests, claiming “the city does not remove ‘art’ for content.” In 2016, Community Board 11 called for the statue’s removal. That year, at a speakout at Sims’ statue “community members honored their ancestors and condemned the memorial to assaults on Black and Latina female bodies,” said the EHP. In February, EHP addressed this issue in a cable TV panel discussion, which included author Harriet Washington. The organization is working to gain more endorsements to pressure the Parks Department to remove this racist’s monument.

EHP declares that “Sims is not our hero” and maintains that the statue’s presence is an insult to the “neighborhood’s majority Black and Puerto Rican residents — two groups that have been subjected to medical experiments without permission or regard for their wellbeing.” Moreover, there are many heroic “Black and Puerto Rican women and men who have made great medical and scientific contributions” to the community. Our children, says the EHP, should learn about them — and know their lives matter.

Sims’ statues, like Confederate monuments, memorialize white supremacist slaveowners and murderers. They perpetuate the view that this “medical monster” was the “father of gynecology,” a benevolent man of science, rather than a sadistic racist whose inventions were brutally enabled by slavery. □



PHOTO: RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

Continued from page 1

Two rallies had been announced by fascist groups, one called by Patriot Prayer to be held in San Francisco’s Crissy Field, a national park. The other, titled “Say No to Marxism,” was called for Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park in Berkeley. Both were canceled by their organizers less than 24 hours beforehand, as people from all over the Bay Area organized to prevent the fascists from having any platform here.

In San Francisco, the turning point came when International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 passed a resolution opposing white supremacy and fascism, and some of its rank-and-file members organized a rally at Crissy Field. ILWU Local 10 has a large Black membership and a long history of taking action to oppose police terror, war, and apartheid in South Africa. Until then, the counter-rallies being called were at points far away from the planned Patriot Prayer rally.

Joey Gibson, the Patriot Prayer organizer, was probably planning on protection from Trump’s Department of the Interior, which controls Crissy Field. The feds had in fact set up a perimeter around

Crissy Field, announcing they were going to bus in the Patriot Prayer rally-goers on one end of the park, and then set up a checkpoint at the other end.

After Gibson announced cancellation of the rally, he stated Patriot Prayer would instead have a press conference at Alamo Square, a residential district of San Francisco. Anti-fascist forces quickly changed their plans and gathered several thousand strong at the square, which had already been entirely closed off by police.

The anti-fascist crowd faced off with police for more than an hour trying to get to the square. Finally breaking through, they held a triumphant rally emceed by Benjamin Bac Sierra, a leader in the anti police-terror struggle in San Francisco. A contingent of electrical workers from the IBEW and the painters’ local marched in, chanting, “Up with the workers, down with the fascists.”

They then marched 2.5 miles to San Francisco’s Mission District. During the long and spirited march, more and more people joined in. These included thousands who had gathered at San Francisco’s Civic Center and more who marched from the Castro District.

The fascists were doing sporadic “pop-ups,” including a couple dozen at Crissy Field. They finally held their press conference in the city of Pacifica, south of San Francisco. Meanwhile, small groups

of fascists were seen in the Haight area, trolling for people to harass.

Large coalition backs action

The next day in Berkeley, thousands turned out again to oppose the white supremacists. For months the city had been the target of neo-Nazis, who seem to feel that if they can establish a platform in this notoriously liberal town, they can move freely anywhere in the country. The Berkeley police set up checkpoints going into the park where the rally was to be held and at Bay Area Rapid Transit station exits. They were trying to stop people from entering with masks, signs on sticks, helmets and weapons.

Anti-white-supremacist forces gathered at Hearst and California streets and marched to the park, with a contingent of about 200 Antifa forces moving to the front to provide security. The march swelled to several thousand.

The police, heavily armed with riot gear, initially had the entire park cordoned off. Several times they pointed their weapons toward the large crowd. Overwhelmed, they finally marched off, but only after arresting about a dozen people on such charges as wearing a mask. There were several skirmishes in which Antifa and others spotted fascists in the crowd and routed them out.

A large coalition of organizations, including the Anti Police-Terror Project,

Community Ready Corps, Showing Up for Racial Justice Bay Area, Antifa, Bay Resistance, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, Interfaith for Black Lives, National Lawyers Guild SF, Haiti Action Committee, Workers World Party and many more pulled together to let the white supremacists know they would not be allowed here in the Bay Area.

Thousands of others gathered near the University of California campus in a “Rally Against Hate.” Ministers and clergy also marched from the First Congregational Church.

The media is again attacking Antifa, which was defending everyone from the fascist threat, and blaming its members for creating the violence.

At an Aug. 28 press conference, Tur-Ha Ak, from the Anti Police-Terror Project and the Community Ready Corps, said that rather than focusing on Antifa, the media needs to highlight how the Bay Area stood up to white supremacy. Lara Kiswani from AROC explained that we were defending our communities. Pastor Michael McBride stated that we need to look to history and elders to understand white supremacy. Sara Kershner of NLGSF said it would defend those defending our communities.

Meanwhile, the power of the people was certainly on display in the Bay Area this week as unity and struggle beat back the fascist threat. □

Puerto Rican unions fight back against colonization, privatization

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

A colony is used by its masters as they see fit, to satisfy the master’s needs. At a time of capitalist decay, what is the role that the United States has for Puerto Rico? Throughout its history, since the violent U.S. invasion of the Boricua archipelago in 1898, that role has evolved. The U.S. has gone from sugar and tobacco agricultural exploitation — destroying at the same time food self-sufficiency for the people in order to foment dependency and a ready market for U.S. produce — to the pharmaceutical and technological manufacturing and oil product refineries that have resulted in ghost towns and polluted land when industry leaves for higher profits somewhere else in the world.

And let’s not forget the Pentagon’s use of Puerto Rico as a military outpost in the Caribbean to test criminal weapons and practice invasions against neighboring countries. Add also the almost unlimited pool of low-wage workers and professionals of all specialties available to work in the U.S., as well as recruiting soldiers for the imperialist military.

Now, in 2017, the U.S. aims to completely dismantle whatever structure Puerto Rico has established to benefit its population, particularly the public systems of energy and education, and workers’ rights and representation, among many other necessary agencies and programs.

All this is being done to maximize profits, as the U.S. ruling class wants to impose a new model of colonial domination. As Puerto Rican nationalist Albizu

Campus stated many years ago: “The U.S. wants the cage but not the birds.”

The forced migration of Boricuas to the U.S. due to the lack of economic opportunities in their home is emptying Puerto Rico of its native population, and substituting mostly white, wealthy U.S. businessmen as residents. Revenue-producing privatized national agencies sold at ludicrously low prices and the Puerto Rican population working as servants are just a glimpse of the near future. That is, unless this takeover is confronted by the people.

In Puerto Rico, the gap is widening between two opposing worlds: the capitalists, represented by the corrupt Puerto Rican colonial government, with U.S. direct interests and the federal Fiscal Control Board on that side, and the oppressed people thrown into increasing poverty and desperation on the other.

Puerto Rican labor unions in motion

There is a saying in Spanish: “No hay mal que dure cien años, ni cuerpo que lo resista.” — “There is no illness that lasts for a 100 years, nor a body that could resist it.” The attacks against the working people in Puerto Rico are devastating. But in spite of the massive big business media campaign of disinformation reporting the government’s deleterious actions as positive for the country, there is an attempt by unions, progressive organizations and progressive people’s media to bring information out about the current situation. Public gatherings in town



PHOTO: THE NEW DAY

plazas, assemblies, teach-ins and other events are increasingly being held.

The union movement has called for a march and rally on Aug. 30 against the extreme anti-worker measures imposed by the Fiscal Control Board and the Puerto Rican government. These range from the destruction of the pension system and the so-called labor flexibility law to the reduction of workdays that will effectively cut the income of public workers about 20 percent.

The marchers will gather at different places in the capital of San Juan to proceed through the Golden Mile where most financial and banking institutions are located and where the FCB has its office. UTIER, the energy industry workers’ union, has called for a 24-hour strike starting the night before. Other unions are also calling for a work stoppage, in an effort toward unity in action of the labor movement, something so desperately needed at this moment.

This mobilization underscores the grave threat by the imperialists against the Puerto Rican working class. No sector is immune to this attack, but the energy sector, so crucial not only for the people’s quality of life, but also for the country’s economic development, is particularly being targeted now.

For many years, UTIER exposed the need for maintenance of the island’s electrical infrastructure, but management has never paid any attention. According to the union leadership, management’s



plan has been to let the infrastructure slowly deteriorate and fail, causing repeated electrical outages that make people desperate and demand any solution. In a study, it was reported that between 2010 and 2017, there was a 402 percent increase in electricity interruptions.

Management’s solution: privatization

However, the only solution presented by management — the PR government — is privatization, dismissing the many and more affordable proposals presented by UTIER over the years.

Colonized Puerto Rico is in a \$73 billion debt crisis, defaulting on its payment for illegitimate municipal bonds, with no possibility of declaring bankruptcy in order to restructure its “obligations.” A year ago the U.S. Congress imposed a collection agency, the Fiscal Control Board, under the PROMESA Law to ensure that the government pays the bondholders no matter what. Every government agency that had issued bonds has its own part of the debt. The Puerto Rican Electric Power Authority itself has a \$9 billion debt.

To deal with its debt, PREPA subcontracted Lisa Donahue from the U.S. firm AlixPartners in 2014 as the main restructuring officer and consultant for some operational aspects of the agency. After \$45 million in her salary down the drain, increases in people’s electric bills and disastrous operational decisions leading to power outages, Donahue resigned in February — after she and her firm were being investigated.

Now the FCB, through its recently hired Revitalization Coordinator Noel Zamot, announced that seven privatizing projects have been presented in a newly created website for developers or investors to review. All seven are in the electricity sector.

If there was any doubt of the FCB’s aims to privatize the infrastructure, the following Aug. 24 quote from El Nuevo Día, should erase it: “For the Board, the implementation of Title V of PROMESA is of high priority, since the section that, among other things, promotes the privatization of electric energy on the island would be the counterweight to the recession effects of the fiscal plan.”

Soon after this announcement, PREPA management stated that the Palo Seco Plant on the north coast was in disastrous condition and will be closed. They also announced that repairs for this plant, crucial to electricity generation for the island, will be contracted out to private companies.

Immediately, the leadership of UTIER took action, requesting an emergency meeting with the administration. As a result, management backed off and withdrew the threat of a private company contract, showing the effects of the union’s decades of militant mobilizations on behalf of the working people of Puerto Rico.

However, the threat of privatization will continue. UTIER continues to mobilize in the streets, and has also filed a suit against the FCB. On Aug. 17, Laura Taylor Swain, the federal judge for the current special bankruptcy process for the Puerto Rican government under Title II of Promesa, accepted the suit that questions the constitutionality of how members for the FCB are chosen. The suit is based on the separation of powers in the U.S. Constitution. The process is pending the response of the U.S. government, expected in 30 to 60 days. □

Why Rizzo’s statue must come down

Continued from page 5

of Philadelphia (1972-1980) was to destroy progressive political movements. “Rizzo the Raider” led a violent crusade as police commissioner, becoming notable as a violent captain by crushing a November 1967 high school student protest.

Some 3,500 students and allies had gathered at the School Board to demand a Black studies program in Philadelphia Public Schools. Rizzo unleashed the violent cops into the crowd, beating Black youth, school board officials and ministers.

In 1966, Rizzo led raids on the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, whom he claimed had “hoards of dynamite, guns and ammunition.” This proved to be false. In 1967, he would raid the offices and arrest leaders of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) and later the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) based on false accusations of terrorism.

Rizzo even said, “The Black Panthers should be strung up.” He attempted to annihilate the radical left, especially the Black Panthers. In 1970, Rizzo led a raid on multiple Panther offices just a week before the major Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention met. Rizzo’s cops carried out a full public strip search of Panther members, which would be published on the front page of the next day’s Philadelphia Daily News.

Rizzo had a tumultuous relationship with bourgeois and alternative media. Mumia Abu-Jamal, a prominent journalist and now political prisoner, consistently criticized Rizzo’s racist policies on public radio and in the press. To counter Mumia, Rizzo developed a police file on

Mumia -- over 800 pages long -- of information gathered via wiretaps and other counterintelligence practices.

Police spying on government critics became even more common. Rizzo’s police created a list of 18,000 activists to keep intelligence on, most of whom were Black radicals like Mumia. This racist harassment and anti-Mumia sentiment would remain the cause of Mumia’s incarceration to this day.

Rizzo’s war on MOVE

Of course, one cannot mention Rizzo without mentioning his war against the Black Liberation organization MOVE. Rizzo brutalized MOVE, most notably in the 1978 showdown which raided the MOVE compound, leading to the arrest of the MOVE 9, who remain in prison to this day.

Although not in office in 1985, Rizzo can still be seen as guilty of helping to create the conditions of the MOVE bombing in May of that year. Philadelphia police dropped a bomb on the MOVE home, killing 11 members, including five children.

Because bourgeois legality doesn’t consider racism a crime, Rizzo’s connection to corruption, not his racism, led to his downfall from the favor of the ruling class. Rizzo’s police were later found guilty of widespread extortion, racketeering, bribe-taking, illegal gambling and theft of over \$400,000 worth of cocaine from drug sellers.

How the movement grew

For over a year, activists in the organization Philly for REAL Justice have been organizing the #RizzoDown Campaign to remove Rizzo’s statue from Center

City Philadelphia. This has been an active campaign of leafleting, petitioning, demonstrations and informational events to build awareness of Rizzo’s crimes.

Following the confrontation in Charlottesville, Va., and the toppling of a Confederate statue in Durham, N.C., activists have taken further steps to remove Rizzo. On Aug. 17, someone spray painted “Black Power” on the statue and wrote “Black Community Control of the Police” on the ground.

Diop Olugbala, leader of the Black Community Control of the Police campaign, was arrested, charged with painting the statue.

Impelled by the popular movement, progressive politicians called for the statue’s removal. City Council member Helen Gym subsequently tweeted, “All around the country, we’re fighting to remove the monuments to slavery & racism. Philly, we have work to do. Take the Rizzo statue down.”

On Aug. 18, someone threw paint on a major mural in south Philadelphia depicting Rizzo. One person was arrested for this.

Mayor Jim Kenney has planned to call for a public art commission to determine whether or not the statue should be removed. The question remains, how will this 2,000 pound bronze statue come down -- by people’s power or government board? Either way, the movement against white supremacy will continue.

Sources for this article included “From Workshop to Waste Magnet: Environmental Inequality in the Philadelphia Region,” by Diane Sicotte, 2016, and “Protectors of Privilege” by Frank Donner, 1992, University of California Press.

WORKERS WORLD

WW omits its usual editorial this week to make room for coverage of the Houston catastrophe.

Hurricane Harvey disaster: Capitalist crime scene

Continued from page 1

“Minor environmental gains.” How ironic and telling that Hurricane Harvey, which has now dumped up to four feet of rain on parts of Texas and Louisiana since Aug. 25, is hitting the very states where the oil companies control the political structure lock, stock and barrel.

The billionaire owners of these companies should be behind bars — in the very jails that are now under water in Houston and other cities.

Scientists cannot say a particular storm is caused by global warming. There have always been hurricanes and floods. But they emphatically confirm that the increase in severe weather events now being experienced around the globe is caused by warmer temperatures.

Did nobody see this coming? What about this article from the Washington Post, which appeared on March 21 of this year:

“Water temperatures at the surface of the Gulf of Mexico and near South Florida are on fire. They spurred a historically warm winter from Houston to Miami. ... In the Gulf, the average sea surface temperature never fell below 73 degrees over the winter for the first time on record, reported Eric Berger of Ars Technica. Galveston, Texas, has tied or broken an astonishing 33 record highs since Nov.

1, while neighboring Houston had its warmest winter on record.”

The article predicted “intense thunderstorms” would follow. Indeed they have, and much more.

A dying social system

The cataclysm of global warming is a live-or-die test of the capitalist system, which puts profits for the ruling class before everything else. And there is no question that this social system is in critical condition. The proliferation of wars and “natural” disasters around the world attests to this fact.

Moreover, the seemingly unstoppable widening of the gap between rich and poor has reached the point in the U.S. where the richest 1/100th of 1 percent now account for almost all the gains in income.

Thousands of ordinary people — not the 0.01% — have volunteered their time and boats to help the people of the Gulf Coast escape the rising waters. It is commendable, but it also shows what is lacking: an organized, massive response to a disaster situation that requires planning and the allocation of great resources. That hasn't happened.

Is it a problem of resources? Hardly. Beginning in 2016, the U.S. government announced it would allocate a trillion dollars — \$1,000,000,000,000! — over the next 30 years to “modernizing”

the U.S. nuclear arsenal. It's one of the projects begun under President Barack Obama that Trump has had no difficulty embracing. The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability called it the “Trillion Dollar Trainwreck,” adding, “This plan directly benefits the private corporations that are invested in the maintenance and production of nuclear weapons.”

What this country really needs is not more nuclear weapons in order to impose imperialist terms on the rest of the world, but an all-out plan to combat global warming. That's already responsible for so many deaths from hurricanes, heat waves, torrential rains, flooding, mud slides — and it is only intensifying.

The answer of the Trump administration? Pull out of the Paris Accords, which were weak to begin with, and deny that climate change even exists. The country that boasts of “leading the world” is the biggest drag on human progress.

The U.S. economy has way, way overgrown this profit-motivated capitalist system. The ownership and control of the vast means of production by a handful of billionaires are completely incompatible with a globalized economy in which the labor of hundreds of millions of workers contributes to the making and distribution of every product. Capitalism is a reactionary, self-destructive anachronism that must be shattered.

Socialized ownership of the means of production is necessary if we as a species are to take control of our destiny. We have the knowledge and the means to plan for an infinitely better world. What we need is a movement independent of the corrupt political machinery that has imposed the rule of the very few on the many.

Central to this movement — and this is not theoretical; it is happening as we speak — is the uprising of the most oppressed. Young people especially — so many of them Black, Brown, Indigenous, women, LGBTQ gender nonconforming, people with disabilities, immigrants — are shaking the pillars of white supremacy, racism and patriarchy and tearing down its symbols and statues.

They are the forward edge of the working class in this country. And that is the class that potentially has the power to bring down capitalism and replace it with a system based on social ownership and control of the productive forces. Socialism.

For so many millions, the red-baiting that was the mainstay of the capitalist political establishment for a century or more has lost its potency. The disaster on the Gulf Coast will accelerate the sea change that is shaping a powerful new social movement — not for reform of this stinking corpse of a system, but for revolution. □

Workers World editor’s eyewitness report On toxic chemicals, biased coverage and prisons

By Gloria Rubac
Rubac is a Contributing Editor to Workers World who lives in Houston.

Aug. 28 — I grew up in Oklahoma’s “tornado alley.” I’ve lived on the Texas Gulf Coast for almost 50 years. I survived Tropical Storm Allison in 2001, which caused what was then called “unprecedented historic flooding.” Lost my house to Hurricane Ike in 2008, and still see blue FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] tarps on roofs in the Fifth Ward’s African-American community.

But nothing has prepared me for Harvey. I hear the facts on TV: 9 trillion gallons of water dumped on Houston; 56,000 911 calls in 15 hours; 12 people dead from drowning.

But I think, does this mean anything to the family stuck on top of their apartment complex trying to be rescued with their three kids and two dogs? What about the pregnant young woman whose due date just passed but whose car flooded out? What about the 9,000 prisoners in downtown Houston, locked up in one of the largest county jail complexes in the country?

Texas accounts for about a quarter of the country’s oil refining capacity, with 27 refineries. Texas also leads the country in the number of high-risk chemical plants that store and use highly hazardous chemicals with the potential to injure or kill thousands of workers and community residents.

One of the country’s largest conglomeration of oil, gas and chemical refineries is on the east side of Houston. The toxic air has intensified during the storm.

Juan Parras, an environmental campaigner in east Houston with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services,

said he was worried that severe flooding or a storm surge could cause leaks or dislodge chemical tanks. This happened today. There’s an emergency siren going off in La Porte now. A shelter-in-place order was issued after a pipe leak occurred at a chemical plant in the city.

The Aug. 28 Houston Chronicle writes, “La Porte firefighters and a Harris County hazmat team have contained a chemical spill Monday after a pipeline ruptured on the northeast side of La Porte in the petrochemical district about 20 miles east of downtown Houston.” But no mention of the cancer-causing chemicals being released on the mainly Latinx neighbors of these plants.

Bryan Parras, an organizer of the “Beyond Dirty Fuels” campaign with the Sierra Club in Houston, spoke on “Democracy Now!” this morning about the dangers of refineries near Houston.

“My concern is where I live on the east side, because of the many, many petrochemical facilities, storage tanks, and other hazardous sites that line that same bayou for 30 or 40 miles. In normal rain events, these facilities, which are decades old, have situations where they have to shut down to prevent and avoid these catastrophic explosions and events. ...

“So Friday, ... at Texas Petrochemical, I believe, there was a flare event. And later that night, there were for hours really, really strong chemical odors from East Houston all the way to even the downtown area. This was discussed and talked about on social media, and not talked about, not discussed on the news here in Houston.

“We did hear later that all of the refineries went into voluntary shutdown mode. When that happens, they often have to go through the process of burning

off these excess chemicals. But it is a dirty burn ... that adds thousands of pounds of cancer-causing chemicals to the air.”

Media don’t cover Black and Brown neighborhoods, prisons

The media coverage is extensive and intense on Harvey. Yet my African-American friends on Facebook are wondering why their neighborhoods are not being looked at. Cynthia said, “Anyone seen any media coverage of 3rd Ward, 5th Ward, Sunnyside, Settegast, Acres Homes or any other areas media doesn’t seem to be concerned with? OR MAYBE I’M BEING EMOTIONAL AND EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT IN THOSE AREAS?! MAYBE?”

Perri replied: “No, everything is not alright. CNN went to Dickinson, saw the lake in front of the elders’ medical center, but no pictures of 288 and 59, where the homeless were under the viaduct.”

We all see the tragedy on TV of this hurricane. But I haven’t heard one word about the incredible mental anguish, the emotional toll, fear, anxiety, stress that even on a good day plague people of color, the poor, the workers barely able to eke out money for rent and food, the LGBTQ community, the disabled, the prisoners, the undocumented.

So now with flooding terrorizing Houston and its 6.5 million people, these mental conditions are exacerbated. Not only will people need help rebuilding homes or finding places they can afford to rent, fixing cars, getting clothes to replace what they’ve lost, buying personal hygiene items, they will need treatment for their mental health issues from all this water. I wonder if this will happen. Will FEMA provide this?

If the Texas prison population were a

city, it would be the 20th largest in our state, according to the Dallas Morning News. Texas locks up a lot of people. Near Houston, both north and south, there are dozens of prisons. And there is flooding.

On Friday, activists spoke with friends at prisons just 45 minutes south of Houston and found out water was beginning to enter the prisons. We made a few phone calls and realized that officials were lying when they told us there was no flooding there. We got a phone campaign going, and the next day the prisons began evacuation.

A prisoner friend on Saturday told me he had a minute to call and to thank everyone who had demanded evacuations for prisoners. I could hear the guard yelling at him to get off the phone. He said they were chaining prisoners up and putting them on buses at that moment. Guards wouldn’t tell them where they were going, but they were finally getting out. My friend said the bottom tier at the Ramsey Unit had water on the floor.

There’s 9,000 people in our Harris County Jail. Not one word on TV. Not one word in the press. Where are they? Did they get evacuated?

According to the National Institute of Corrections, there are almost 164,000 state prisoners in Texas and another 66,000 in county jails. The vast majority are in the area that’s flooding right now. Yet no evacuation plans are being made public, families are not being notified, and the media aren’t asking about or reporting on these prisoners.

I got word and photos showing that it is flooding in Livingston, 70 miles north of Houston where the Polunsky Unit and its death row are located. I spoke to staff

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BULLETIN: More Durham arrests — Call the sheriff!

By Ben Carroll and LeiLani Dowell
Durham, N.C.

Aug. 29 — Over the past two weeks, 13 anti-racist activists have been arrested and slapped with outrageous felony and misdemeanor charges for their protest of white supremacy in the Durham community. The first charges were in relation to toppling the Confederate statue in front of the Durham courthouse on Aug. 14, and the second charges were for protesting in response to a planned Ku Klux Klan rally on Aug. 18. Most recently, three activists, issued warrants on Aug. 28, turned themselves in; two others were arrested the day before.

On an hour's notice, some 40 people came to the Durham jail on Aug. 28 to support those turning themselves in. As the activists were led away to be processed, they chanted, "We see you; we love you." This morning, the three appeared for their first court appearances and were given court dates of Sept. 12 and Oct. 11.

Members of the Durham community see these arrests as a form of retaliation against the movement at large. Sheriff Mike Andrews recently attempted to prosecute activists with the Inside-Outside Alliance on charges for protesting. Andrews' attempt failed, and he was exposed for his exaggerated attempts to target demonstrators.

Andrews runs the Durham County Jail. This institution disproportionately cages Black and Brown people and is committed to the preservation and perpetuation of white supremacy.

Under Andrews' tenure, at least five people — Matthew McCain, Dennis McMurray, Niecey Fennell, Terry Lee and Raphael Bennett — have died in the jail due to the criminal conditions there. Andrews has gone out of his way to cover up these deaths. He has made patently false statements about the jail's conditions, while frustrating attempts by the community and elected officials to audit the jail's operation.

According to the IOA Facebook page,

"[T]his jail is trying to isolate our community members even more by reducing their in-person visitation slots by half in the last few years and, now, introducing 'video' visitation to take up the slack." (tinyurl.com/ycpu8myd) The IOA has held weekly protests at the jail for more than a year.

Andrews has also lied about the Durham County Sheriff's collaboration with U.S. Immigration, Customs and Enforcement.

Anti-racist activists are asking supporters to call Sheriff Andrews' office at 919-560-0897 to demand that it end the witch hunt on activists protesting white supremacy and drop the charges against those already arrested. □

U.S. billionaires sanction Venezuela

By Deirdre Griswold

After some 8 million Venezuelan people exercised their right to vote for a Constituent Assembly on July 30, the U.S. government responded by declaring the harshest economic sanctions yet against the South American country.

Yes, that's right — just because the Venezuelan people voted in a way displeasing to the U.S. empire, Washington exercised its "right" to try to starve them into submission.

This from a government that got into office through an election last year that cost \$6.8 billion, according to the Center for Re-

sponsive Politics. In other words, the price tag to buy the U.S. elections which resulted in Trump becoming president — including all money spent by candidates, political parties and independent interest groups — was \$6.8 billion. It ensured that those elected would repay their sponsors many times over by cutting taxes on the wealthy, allowing polluting companies to get away with it, and slashing social services and many other gifts to the super-rich.

It was a different kind of election that just took place in Venezuela. The candidates didn't have big money behind them. The 545 people elected to the Constituent Assembly include 364 chosen on a region-

al basis and 181 whose seats are allocated to represent different social groupings: 79 from workers' associations, 28 retirees, 24 communal council members, 24 students, eight farmers, eight fishers, five with disabilities and five from business.

The members of the Constituent Assembly are charged with drawing up a new Constitution for the country. U.S. big business is fearful that this will further empower the workers, farmers and youth who have been the mainstay of the Bolivarian Revolution, begun under President Hugo Chávez and continued since his death by President Nicolás Maduro, a former bus driver and union leader.

of Simón Bolívar, who fought to liberate Latin America from Spanish colonialism.

But while Venezuela before Chávez was controlled by a well-heeled bourgeois class, it had, despite its oil wealth, a majority of terribly poor people, so impoverished and hungry that in 1989 tens of thousands rioted over high food prices in what came to be called the Caracazo — the uprising.

It was that uprising that caused Chávez, then a soldier in the Venezuelan Army, to lead an attempted coup against the corrupt government. He was jailed but became so popular that after his release he was elected president.

The U.S. imperialists are using food as a weapon in their efforts to return Venezuela to the neo-colonial status that the majority of its people once endured. While President Trump threatens the Bolivarian government with military intervention, his collaborators, the bourgeoisie inside Venezuela, having earlier tried but failed to shut down the oil industry, are now sabotaging food distribution.

The new U.S. sanctions have cut off Venezuela's access to funds at a time when the decline in world oil prices has deeply affected the country, which gets 95 percent of its export earnings from oil.

President Maduro calls these sanctions "economic war" against Venezuela and vows they will not succeed. The new Constituent Assembly will have its hands full as it pushes back those who would starve the people into submission. □



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Activists with Workers World in Baltimore held a rally in solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Aug. 15. Protesters demanded that the U.S. government cease its war threats against Korea and sign a peace treaty to finally end the Korean War. They also recognized the DPRK's right to sovereignty and self-defense, including having

a nuclear deterrent against a U.S. attack. Despite nonstop racist propaganda of the mainstream media directed against the Korean people and their chosen leadership, many passersby expressed their enthusiasm and support for this demonstration.

— David Card

Eyewitness Harvey On toxic chemicals, biased coverage and prisons

Continued from page 10

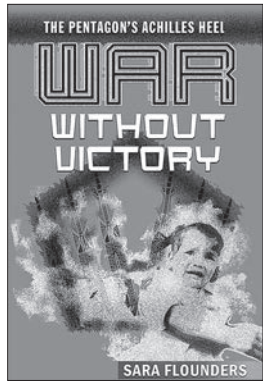
there and was told there are no plans to evacuate, and they, in fact, have taken prisoners evacuated from two units south of Houston. Emotions are high; people are depressed, scared and worried about themselves, family and friends. It's exhausting watching the 24-hour news about the horror.

One thing that stands out from all the continual news coverage is that the people in Houston are a generous bunch.

It's amazing how many have taken

their own boats to rescue people. How folks have helped people they don't know find shelter, diapers, wheelchairs.

Houston's African-American mayor, Sylvester Turner, was asked at a press conference today about the undocumented people being fearful of asking for help. He vehemently said anyone who needs help should ask. If any people are taken in for their immigration status, that should NOT happen. "I will personally represent them in court!" □



WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

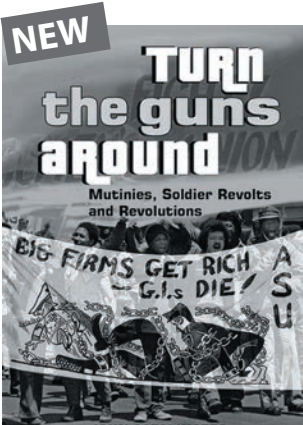
by Sara Flounders

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WW/MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

Sindicatos puertorriqueños luchan contra colonización y privatización

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Una colonia es utilizada por sus amos como ellos lo consideren conveniente para satisfacer las necesidades del amo. En un momento de decadencia capitalista, ¿cuál es el papel que Estados Unidos tiene para Puerto Rico?

A lo largo de su historia, desde la violenta invasión de los Estados Unidos al archipiélago Boricua en 1898, ese papel ha evolucionado. Estados Unidos ha pasado de la explotación agrícola del azúcar y del tabaco - destruyendo al mismo tiempo la autosuficiencia alimentaria del pueblo para fomentar la dependencia y un mercado listo para los productos estadounidenses - a las fábricas farmacéuticas y tecnológicas y refinerías de productos derivados del petróleo que resultó en ciudades fantasmas y tierras contaminadas cuando la industria se marchó en busca de mayores ganancias en otros lugares del mundo.

Y no olvidemos el uso de Puerto Rico por el Pentágono como puesto militar en el Caribe para probar armas criminales y practicar invasiones contra países vecinos. Agregue también el semillero casi ilimitado de trabajadoras/es de bajos salarios y profesionales de todas las especialidades disponibles para trabajar en los Estados Unidos, así como el reclutamiento de soldados para el ejército imperialista.

Ahora, en 2017, los Estados Unidos pretenden dismantelar completamente cualquier estructura que Puerto Rico haya establecido para beneficiar a su población, particularmente los sistemas públicos de energía y educación, y los derechos y representación de las/os trabajadoras/es, entre muchos otros organismos y programas necesarios.

Todo esto se está haciendo para maximizar los beneficios, ya que la clase dirigente estadounidense quiere imponer un nuevo modelo de dominación colonial. Como señaló hace muchos años el nacionalista puertorriqueño Albizu Campus: “Estados Unidos quiere la jaula pero no el pájaro”.

La migración forzada de Boricuas a



los Estados Unidos debido a la falta de oportunidades económicas en su hogar está vaciando a Puerto Rico de su población nativa, sustituyéndola principalmente con blancos y ricos empresarios estadounidenses como residentes. Las agencias nacionales privatizadas productoras de ingresos vendidas a precios ridículamente bajos y la población puertorriqueña trabajando como sirvientes son sólo un atisbo del futuro cercano. Es decir, a menos que esta toma de posesión sea enfrentada por el pueblo.

En Puerto Rico, la brecha se está ampliando entre dos mundos opuestos: los capitalistas, representados por el corrupto gobierno colonial puertorriqueño, con intereses directos de los Estados Unidos y la Junta Federal de Control Fiscal por un lado, y el pueblo oprimido en creciente pobreza y desesperación por el otro.

Sindicatos puertorriqueños en marcha

Hay un refrán en español: “No hay mal que dure cien años, ni cuerpo que lo resista”. Los ataques contra las/os trabajadoras/es en Puerto Rico son devastadores. Pero a pesar de la masiva campaña de desinfor-

mación de los medios de comunicación que informa que las acciones perjudiciales del gobierno son positivas para el país, los sindicatos, las organizaciones progresistas y los medios de comunicación progresistas intentan orientar sobre la situación actual. Reuniones públicas en plazas de la ciudad, asambleas, foros educativos y otros eventos son cada vez más comunes.

El movimiento sindical ha convocado a una marcha y manifestación el 30 de agosto contra las medidas anti-obreras extremas impuestas por la Junta de Control Fiscal y el gobierno de Puerto Rico. Estas van desde la destrucción del sistema de pensiones y la llamada Ley de Flexibilidad Laboral hasta la reducción de los días de trabajo que efectivamente reducirá el ingreso de las/os trabajadoras/es públicos alrededor del 20 por ciento.

Las/os manifestantes se reunirán en diferentes lugares de la capital de San Juan para dirigirse a la Milla de Oro donde se encuentran la mayoría de las instituciones financieras y bancarias y donde la JCF tiene su oficina. La UTIER, sindicato de trabajadoras/es de la industria energética, ha convocado a una huelga de 24 horas desde la noche anterior. Otros sindicatos también están convocando a un paro laboral, en un esfuerzo hacia la unidad en la acción del movimiento obrero, algo tan desesperadamente necesario en este momento.

Esta movilización subraya la gran amenaza de los imperialistas contra la clase obrera puertorriqueña. Ningún sector queda inmune a este ataque, pero el sector de la energía, tan crucial no sólo para la calidad de vida del pueblo, sino también para el desarrollo económico del país, está particularmente amenazado ahora.

Durante muchos años, la UTIER expuso la necesidad del mantenimiento de la infraestructura eléctrica de la isla, pero la administración nunca ha prestado atención. Según el liderazgo sindical, el plan de la gerencia ha sido dejar que la infraestructura se deteriorara lentamente y fallara, causando interrupciones eléctricas repetidas que hacen que la gente desesperada exija cualquier solución. En un estudio, se informó que entre 2010 y 2017, hubo un 402 por ciento de aumento en las interrupciones de electricidad.

Solución de la gerencia: privatización

Sin embargo, la única solución presentada por la dirección -el gobierno de PR- es la privatización, descartando las muchas y más asequibles propuestas presentadas por la UTIER a lo largo de los años.

La colonia de Puerto Rico ha estado en una crisis de deuda de \$73 mil millones, incumpliendo su pago por bonos municipales ilegítimos y no tenía la posibilidad de declararse en quiebra para reestructu-

rar sus “obligaciones”. Para “solucionar” esta gran crisis de deuda, hace un año el Congreso de los Estados Unidos impuso una agencia de cobro, la Junta de Control Fiscal, bajo la Ley PROMESA con el propósito de asegurar que el gobierno pague a los acreedores de bonos sin importar las consecuencias para el pueblo. Cada agencia gubernamental que había emitido bonos tiene su propia parte de la deuda. La Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica de Puerto Rico tiene una deuda de \$9 mil millones.

Para hacer frente a su deuda, la AEE subcontrató a Lisa Donahue de la firma estadounidense AlixPartners en 2014 como principal agente de reestructuración y consultora para algunos aspectos operacionales de la agencia. Después del malgasto de \$45 millones en su sueldo, aumentos en las facturas de electricidad de la gente y decisiones operacionales desastrosas que condujeron a apagones, Donahue renunció en febrero - después de que ella y su firma comenzaran a ser investigadas.

Ahora, la JCF, a través de su recién contratado Coordinador de Revitalización, Noel Zamot, anunció que siete proyectos de privatización han sido presentados en un sitio web recién creado para que los desarrolladores o inversores sometan propuestas. Los siete están en el sector energético.

Si hubiese alguna duda sobre los objetivos de la JCF de privatizar la infraestructura, la siguiente cita del 24 de agosto de El Nuevo Día debería borrarla: “Para la Junta, la implementación del Título V de PROMESA es de alta prioridad, ya que la sección que, entre otras cosas, promueve la privatización de la energía eléctrica en la Isla sería el contrapeso a los efectos de recesión del plan fiscal”.

Poco después de este anuncio, la dirección de la AEE declaró que la planta de Palo Seco en la costa norte estaba en condiciones desastrosas y sería cerrada. También anunciaron que las reparaciones de esta planta, cruciales para la generación de electricidad de la isla, serían contratadas a empresas privadas.

Inmediatamente, el liderazgo de la UTIER tomó medidas, solicitando una reunión de emergencia con la administración. Como resultado, la dirección retrocedió y retiró la amenaza de un contrato a la empresa privada, mostrando los efectos de décadas de movilizaciones militantes del sindicato en beneficio de las/os trabajadoras/es boricuas.

Sin embargo, la amenaza de la privatización continuará. La UTIER sigue movilizándose en las calles, y también ha entablado una demanda contra la JCF. El 17 de agosto, Laura Taylor Swain, jueza federal para el actual proceso especial de bancarrota para el gobierno de Puerto Rico bajo el Título II de Promesa, aceptó la demanda que cuestiona la constitucionalidad de cómo se eligen los miembros de la JCF. La demanda se basa en la separación de poderes en la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. El proceso está pendiente de la respuesta del gobierno de los Estados Unidos, esperada en 30 a 60 días. □

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

La tesis de este libro es que la crisis económica, que se inició en agosto de 2007, marcó un punto de inflexión en la historia del capitalismo. El autor sostiene que el sistema no se recuperará, no volverá al ciclo capitalista normal de auge y caída.

Durante décadas, la clase capitalista ha utilizado la revolución tecnológica digital para aumentar la productividad del trabajo a un ritmo récord. Menos trabajadores producen más bienes y servicios en menos tiempo con salarios más bajos. El resultado es una serie de “recuperaciones sin empleos” que hace que las cosas vayan aún peor.

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.

El continuo estancamiento y el desempleo generalizado provocarán inevitablemente un resurgimiento de la lucha de clases que no se ve en EE.UU. desde la década de 1930; esta vez se dirigirá contra el propio sistema.

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