STOCK MARKET CRASH
Symptom of capitalist decay

By Deirdre Griswold

Aug. 25 — If anything dramatically shows the irrationality of the capitalist economic system, it is a financial market crash. This happens after a period of euphoria in the markets has driven prices to all-time highs and huge sums of money have been changing hands — in these days, usually electronically.

Then comes the day of reckoning. What had seemed solid wealth the day before suddenly turns into red ink. This is what happened beginning in the third week of August to markets around the world.

At such times, only those with deep pockets can stay in the “game” and hold on to their investments, hoping for a renewed surge upward. If the billionaires are able to buy when prices have plunged and others are bankrupt, they stand to make a real “killing” on the market — if it goes back up at some point.

By Monday, Aug. 24, some estimates put the losses worldwide at a total of $10 trillion. That’s a thousand, times another thousand, times another thousand, times a thousand again, times 10. $10,000,000,000,000,000 — just to put things in perspective.

How can $10 trillion of wealth be “lost”? Or did it ever really exist?

Presumably, this $10 trillion figure vaguely represents the value of real commodities — coal, steel, vehicles, food, shelter, aircraft carriers, gasoline — that would have been produced for sale at some future time, if the process of capitalist production and accumulation had continued on an upward course.

That so much can be “lost” so quickly shows the precarious nature of capitalism. It illustrates in the starkest way how the profit system runs counter to any rational planning of human economic activity in this high-tech era — when the gulf between rich and poor, between social classes and between whole countries, only widens even as productivity leaps ahead.

The blame game

As this is being written, the media and many economic pundits are trying to talk up the market, emphasizing its partial rebound from record lows just yesterday. No one in the media wants to present gloom and doom, knowing they could be held responsible for causing a panic and another plunge downward.

Anyway, the blame gamers have already picked their target. Almost all the propaganda organs of the imperialist ruling classes have fingered who is responsible: China. China’s stock market, after a big rise in prices based on hopes of future economic expansion equal to its phenomenal growth of the last decade, took a dive starting in the middle of June, according to the Shanghai Composite Index.

There was general agreement then that Chinese stocks, especially in real estate, were overpriced, and the decline was considered a “correction.” But now the U.S. financial writers are beginning to describe the continued fall of Chinese stocks as a “plague” that has somehow infected Western markets. The assumption here is that the underlying economic conditions in the Western imperialist countries were healthy before this Chinese pathogen infiltrated markets across the globe.

Give us a break.

What’s healthy about workers’ wages in the U.S. buying less today than they did in 1967? What’s healthy about workers’ wages in the U.S. buying less today than they did in 1967? What’s healthy about workers’ wages in the U.S. buying less today than they did in 1967? What’s healthy about workers’ wages in the U.S. buying less today than they did in 1967?

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‘Labor Day’ unmasked
Build Workers World!

Did you know that the federal holiday “Labor Day,” celebrated the first Monday in September, was founded in 1887? The reason it’s in September and not May 1, which is celebrated today by 86 countries as International Workers Day, has nothing to do with honoring the role of labor in building this country. It has everything to do with the capitalist government refusing recognition to the role of socialists and other radical organizers in the labor movement.

The American Federation of Labor, ever fearful of alienating the ruling class, was enlisted to suggest in 1887 that the holiday be in September to take attention away from May Day — and the fight of working people in Chicago for the 8-hour day, which had led to a police riot on May 4, 1886, known as the Haymarket Massacre.

Police were trying to disperse protesters when a bomb was thrown, the cops responded by killing four workers plus seven of their own. That led to a round-up of leading labor organizers, most of whom were well-known socialists or anarchists who had not even been at the scene. Four of them were executed by the state in 1887.

So there is nothing honorable, worthy or celebratory behind “Labor Day.” In fact, its roots are deeply imbedded in the most vile kind of capitalist lies, police terror and fear of working people’s rights — most of all the workers’ righteous demands for a socialist revolution, which were clearly expressed at Haymarket.

That’s the kind of information you’ve come to expect from Workers World: hard-hitting, anti-racist, anti-sexist and pro-working-class. But Workers World can’t do it without your support. Please join the Workers World Supporter Program and make a regular donation, no matter how modest. Go to workers.org/donate or send checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011, with your name and address; write “For WWP.” We appreciate your help in growing the revolutionary media in the U.S.

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

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 56 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-extract some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination.

Fighting oppression is a work-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialism’s wars and aggressions, and to all forms of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a work-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

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Workers World: What does Selma connect to your struggle today as a bus driver?

Georgia Scott: This is the same struggle as it is in Selma. Schools were limited — all black, all white. The education system did not work for people of color. We didn’t have the books, the tools we needed. We needed change. We weren’t allowed to go because of our color, like in the movies, in restaurants. There were neighborhood rules we couldn’t go into. The purpose of the movement was to give us the same rights as all the other people.

I didn’t really understand a lot of what was happening, but I saw the segregated schools, the segregated parts of town. I didn’t understand Selma was as big as it was, and I was born there!

Right now in Boston our children can go to school where they need to go to meet their needs. I did not have that opportunity growing up. Veolia cutting back on the buses, that will limit our children, their ability growing up. Veolia was cutting back on the buses.

WW: How do monitors and drivers help keep the children safe?

GS: The children get to know me, tell me if there is something going on at school or home. If there’s a fight on the bus, I’m the one who stops the fight. I am the one who will protect the child. It’s me. I’m the one who will protect the child. That’s the most important piece of our work, the monitors and the drivers.

We are the safety zone for the children.

WW: Why is this union a social justice union — fighting also for other people, marching with people for Palestine, for LGBTQ rights and so forth?

GS: I think we are all born with the will to resist. For me it comes with being born and raised in Alabama. My mother was on that bridge too, and I learned from her.

I also think for this union it goes back to the 1950 busing struggle [against segregation] when the drivers were transporting our children into South Boston where they weren’t wanted. The drivers that came on board had the mentality of standing firm and being strong, knowing that the things going on were wrong.

This union is based on listening, going out into the community, listening to the parents, building on that, and needing to struggle.

WW: Some in the union are from Cape Verde and for liberation from Portuguese colonization, and many in this majority Haitian union are part of the struggle against imperialism in Haiti with Fanm Lilaz.

GS: Our strength could also be we are a mixed group of people, from all walks of life. We had different struggles. For me being in the union, I’ve learned how to fight.

GS: The hours we are paid for are the hours listed as the time it takes to drive a route — the flat rate.

The flat rate, before Veolia put in the telematics system, was computed by the computer of people who knew the specific routes on the road. They knew how long it really took to drive that particular route.

Arbitration ruled against the use of GPS for the creation and re-evaluation of flat rates, but the company is still illegally using it every day.

Now that the company is using GPS to compute the flat rate, the time they allow on routes is shorter and impossible. It doesn’t allow for fire trucks, accidents, emergencies on the bus. Or enough time to stop, get the child across, take a seat, get a seat belt on. They allow half a minute for that.

We have to be able to take care of whatever is going on, and be paid for that. For instance, last year it was so cold, there was no heat on the bus. I told dispatch I was not going to go until I was warmed up for the children.

Right now in Boston our children can go to school where they need to go to meet their needs. I did not have that opportunity growing up. Veolia was cutting back on the buses.

WW: How is Veolia/Transdev changing the way it computes your pay?

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Women union members at Workers World meeting say, “Victory to the school bus drivers!”

Georgia Scott is second from right, back row.

ice inside my bus. I told dispatch I was not going to go until I was warmed up for the children.

But management said to me “Oh no, just go, put the kids on, and go” — in a bus with ice inside!

I said no! I’m saying no to a lot of things this company is ordering.

WW: I heard Veolia/Transdev tried to make the drivers reapply for their jobs when the company took over.

GS: Most of us, 95 percent, did not do the new hire application — one of the first things the company asked for. We said we would not do it. We knew what the company is new. If anyone should do a new application, it should be the company — and if they had applied to us, they would not have gotten the job!

WW: Why do workers need a union?

GS: My brother is still in Selma. He’s 57 years old, worked at a hospital in the kitchen, he worked day and night. He developed arthritis, and the doctor put him on medical leave. The company fired him. They wanted to get the job.

They’ve got the money. We’ve got the people.

One person standing alone has no power. All of us together, that’s our strength. I know the importance of the union.

This is not just about Boston. It’s going on in the rest of the county, and it’s a global issue.

So I’m going to fight for the union!

For more information, go to workers.org and search for “Boston school bus drivers.”

To support USW Local 8751, go to youcaring.com/rehirethe4.
Federal gov’t: ‘College athletes don’t deserve rights

By Scott Williams

Nearly a year and a half after the regional director of the National Labor Relations Board declared that Northwestern University football players have the right to unionize, the national board reversed that decision.

Citing the need for “stability in labor relations,” the NLRB claimed that it was denied the jurisdiction to determine whether college players should have the right to collective bargaining. This effectively denies all players the basic right of workers to settle disputes with their employer on issues such as pay, scholarships, benefits, health care and working conditions.

The NLRB argument goes like this: Northwestern University is one of 27 private colleges out of 125 Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) football-playing schools that is in transition last March by the NLRB, which explicitly stated that students were employees, was only for private colleges. College football players for public universities in North Carolina or Wisconsin, for example, are unable to have a union contract because the NCAA defines college football players as the right to bargain collectively.

Therefore, the federal government does not need to resolve this complex situation. The NLRB stated that “student-athletes” more rights that might encourage a challenge to the “right-to-work” (for less) laws of many states. Instead of taking a bold stance for workers’ rights, the board refused to claim its own authority.

The board failed to take up the primary question of whether so-called student-athletes were, in fact, workers, with the same rights as any other university employees. In the sickening ruling, the NLRB stated that Northwestern football players “bear little resemblance to graduate students assistant students or student janitors and cafeteria workers whose employee status the board has considered in other cases.” (The Atlantic, Aug. 17)

‘Student-athletes’ are workers

Northwestern football players, like student-athletes across the country, face 50-hour-a-week practices. They have little or no control over their academic schedules. Former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter testified to the NLRB that he was pushed to pursue a less rigorous degree in psychology rather than studying to become a doctor because of academic scheduling conflicts with daily football practices.

The University of North Carolina, which is known for its excellent women’s and men’s basketball teams, was recently found to have enrolled thousands of student-athletes in fake classes over 18 years in order to make these students eligible to play.

While academic rigor suffers, sports programs have become a major cash cow for universities. The 50 most profitable college football programs had revenues of $762 million in 2012. (Newsweek, Aug. 22) While other college sports programs may be less profitable for universities, it is clear that universities have the ability to provide basic pay, health care and other protections for their student-athletes.

The NCAA’s unwillingness to treat student-athletes as workers is a particularly shameful example of how higher education institutions in the United States have been focused on reproducing exploitation and oppression, rather than being institutions of social uplift. In a time of fiscal crisis, universities across the country have spent billions on new facilities, academic buildings and student centers, all of which pad the coffers of banks and developers.

The University of California system, for example, paid out over $8.9 billion for new projects in 2012, yet at the same time had to cut budgets by over $2.6 billion, requiring tuition hikes, laying off employees and hiring more temporary, low-wage adjuncts. (Washington Monthly, March 20, 2012)

Total national student debt continues to climb above $1.3 trillion, as more costs of education are shifted onto the backs of students. Now more than ever, a student-worker movement is needed to combat this growing exploitation on university campuses.

The vast majority of students and student-athletes are workers in training. That doesn’t shield them from the fate of other workers. Christian Taylor, a 19-year-old Black man and Division II college football player at Angelo State in Texas, was killed by a white cop in Arlington, Texas, earlier in August. Jonathan Ferrell, a former college football player who was working two retail jobs to survive, was killed by Charlotte, N.C., police in September 2013 while asking for help after a car accident.

Some 98 percent of college athletes never play a professional sport. Many are left with health crises caused by their work as athletes. According to Newsweek, studies have found that for every one concussion reported by college football players, they have suffered six suspected concussions and 21 hits to the head.

The National Football League Players Association, the union of NFL players, successfully sued the league for over $1 billion in damages related to concussions. Yet for the most part the crisis of health conditions for football players continues.

NLRB: Capitalist institution

Why did the leadership of the NLRB unanimously deny Northwestern players the right to unionize? As long as the exploitation of labor exists, workers will be uniting against the bosses. The struggle for college-athletes’ rights has a tremendous potential to ignite broader sections of the population into solidarity with the athletes. The NLRB knows this. Hence the NLRB chose “stability” over affirming the basic human rights of these players.

The NLRB’s callous exclusion of college-athletes from the same protections and rights as other university employees exemplifies the class politics of the NLRB on all levels. The only rights this institution has ever conferred are rights that workers have asserted through labor and political struggle. The NLRB never waited for the capitalist government to give us rights. We must take what is rightfully ours.

Joe Johnson, a fighter for workers and the oppressed

By Deirdre Griswold

Picture this: You have fallen in your own home and can’t get up. You live alone and the telephone is at one end of a long hall. You are lying at the other end.

Joe Johnson of Chippewa Falls, Wisc., a longtime subscriber to Workers World, first came to our editorial board’s attention when he sent a letter in 2007 describing how he had spent five days—in fact, the entire six days—of his life lying down the floor until he could call for help.

It was the thought of Workers World and the struggles of the oppressed everywhere that kept him going, he wrote.

Johnson died on Aug. 5 at the age of 84. He had been living for several years in a modest room at the Wisconsin Health and Regional Vent Center dealing with serious health problems. It was cancer that finally brought him down.

But up to the very last days of his life, this veteran of many struggles—exauded revolutionary optimism, energy and love. He sent us all his letters “the spirit of Crazy Horse! We shall win!”

In his many letters to the paper and conversations with comrades from Workers World Party who visited him, Joe exuded a fighting spirit and a broad knowledge of history—especially of the class struggle in the U.S. since the 1930s and the heroic battles of oppressed peoples for freedom and sovereignty.

Joe was born in Chicago in 1930. When still young, he met the leaders of the great Minneapolis general strike of 1934—revolutionary socialists who had helped build the Teamsters union. In the 1950s he resisted the draft during the U.S. war against People’s Korea and spent time in federal prison for his anti-war stand. He also worked in Canada periodically from the 1950s on. In later years, he promoted progressive knowledge and concepts through bookstores he acquired in the Chippewa Falls area.

Joe Johnson made his mark on history and will long be remembered with great affection.
Military whistleblower gets massive support

By Kathy Durkin

Supporters of imprisoned whistleblower Chelsea Manning held banners and delivered petitions containing 100,000 signatures to the U.S. Army’s congressional liaison office in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 18. They called on a secret panel at Kansas’ Fort Leavenworth military prison, which was meeting that day, not to sentence this courageous anti-war fighter to “indefinite solitary confinement,” as officials had threatened to do for alleged violations of regulations.

The military panel found Manning guilty on all four charges. However, the mass support for Manning had an impact, as officials decided to restrict Manning’s access to the gym, library and the outdoors for 21 days, rather than carry out their original threatened punishment of solitary confinement. Manning’s attorneys were barred from attending the hearing, despite her request that it be open to the public, particularly to her legal representatives.

But this punishment isn’t without repercussions for Manning in the future. As she explained by phone after the hearing to members of her support committee: “Now these convictions will follow me through to any parole and clemency hearings forever. I was expecting to be in minimum security custody in February, but now years [are] added.” (chelseamanning.org)

At the same blog, Manning’s attorney, Nancy Hollander, responded to the military panel’s ruling, saying, “As Chelsea’s lawyer, I am horrified and angry about these convictions. This was a star chamber where Chelsea had to defend herself in secret. These convictions will not silence her. She will only be stronger, and we will fight that much harder in her appeal. These convictions will not silence her. She will only be stronger, and we will fight that much harder in her appeal. These convictions will not silence her. She will only be stronger, and we will fight that much harder in her appeal. These convictions will not silence her. She will only be stronger, and we will fight that much harder in her appeal. These convictions...”

In their continuing harassment campaign against Manning, prison authorities had already treated her with ludicrous infractions, including having a tube of toothpaste past its expiration date—which was sold to her by the prison.

guard.” Manning had asked to speak to her attorney while being reprimanded about an incident in the mess hall, for which she was found guilty of disorderly conduct.

Prison officials targeted Manning for having “unauthorized reading material,” which included the “U.S. Senate Report on Torture”; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender publications and articles; an issue of Vanity Fair portraying Chelsea Jenner on the cover; and a copy of Cosmopolitan containing an interview with Manning. Yet all of these materials had been delivered through the prison’s mail system.

When Manning requested access to the prison library prior to the hearing to help prepare for her defense, prison officials said no.

The ‘war diaries’

The military confinement of Army Pvt. Manning began five years ago. In a May 27 Guardian article, Manning reflects on her imprisonment and her decision in 2010 to release “the war diaries,” classified documents that revealed, as she put it, the “horrible outlook” on the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the “war on terrorism” and the “exploitation of developing countries.” Manning’s intention was to reveal the truth about these wars to the peoples of the world.

For these acts, a military judge sentenced Manning on Aug. 21, 2013, to a 35-year term for violating the Espionage Act of 1917. This extremely brutal punishment has been denounced by scores of human rights, civil liberties, anti-war and legal organizations and activists.

The day after the sentence was pronounced, “I finally announced my intent to change my name [from Bradley to Chelsea] and transition to living as a woman, a personal high point for me, despite my other circumstances,” says Manning.

Because of Manning’s principled actions, courage and integrity — as an opponent of imperialist war and as a trans person — the military has never let up on its campaign of harassment, looking for any excuse to persecute her.

Manning says what sustains her is the support from her family, friends and millions of people around the world. In that vein, she thanked her supporters for their love and support on Twitter, the day of the hearing: “Fort Leavenworth and the protest in Washington. Free Chelsea Manning!”

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Low-Wage Capitalism

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

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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

Capitalism at a Dead End

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

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

Available at all major online booksellers.
Charleston Days of Grace

Thousands to mobilize vs. racism, police violence and for workers rights

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Organizing is accelerating for the “Days of Grace, Love’s Work Is Justice” events to be held in Charleston, S.C., over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 and 5. The event commemorates the nine Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church parishioners killed on June 17 by a white racist, as well as Walter Scott, killed by the police in North Charleston in early April.

It will pay a special tribute to Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the state senator and church minister who was one of those gunned down by Dylann Roof, a white supremacist. Roof had been photographed with Confederate flags and wearing the insignia of the former racist apartheid and settler colonial regimes in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and the Republic of South Africa.

Roof had sat among the attendees of a bible study for one hour on June 17 before he stood up and said he had to kill bible study for one hour on June 17 be photographed with Confederate flags and those gunned down by Dylann Roof, a and church minister who was one of Walter Scott, killed by the police in June 17 by a white racist, as well commemorative events to be held in Charleston, S.C., over Labor Day weekend for the gathering.

The Labor Day events are being coordinated by the International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1422, which has engaged in numerous labor actions over recent years.

A statement posted on the ILA website reads: “Guns inflicted the fatal wounds of April and June, but the politics of racism and discord have long inflicted grave wounds on the State’s poor and most vulnerable people. The Labor Day, people of faith and conscience will come together in Charleston to remember our fallen friends and to reflect on the racism and hatred that lay at the root of their deaths, as well as the violence that tears away at the fabric of our communities.”

In addition to being a center in the struggle against racism, Charleston has been a focal point for a burgeoning movement led by African Americans. Since the days of slavery, the African American population in South Carolina has had its labor exploited by the ruling class and has resisted injustice. African-American workers are seeking to link the escalation in police and vigilante violence against the community with the need to rejuvenate the movement for jobs and living wages. Following the Mother Emanuel massacre, thousands demonstrated, as part of a protracted struggle, to remove the Confederate flag from the State Capitol building in Columbia, demanding that this symbol of slavery and racism be taken down.

According to Leonard Riley Jr., vice president of ILA Local 1422, “There is a feeling that the people of good will need to be heard in this moment. The removal of the Confederate flag was a hopeful sign that the state is ready to move forward. But we need to back that up with policies that make this a better state to live in for everyone.” (Charleston Post & Courier, Aug. 21)

Riley also noted, “Nearly 70 organizations have joined the call for a march and strategy conference ... to help build a more fair, tolerant and peaceful South Carolina.” These endorsing and sponsoring groups include churches, student organizations, social clubs and civil rights activists.

Thousands of people from the local area and from around the U.S. are expected to travel to Charleston over this Labor Day weekend for the gathering.

On Sept. 4, a demonstration and rally will be held in downtown Charleston. The action is scheduled to start at Wragg Square and march to Mother Emanuel and finally end in Marion Square.

Thousands of people from the local area and from around the U.S. are expected to travel to Charleston over this Labor Day weekend for the gathering.

Jailhouse death still unexplained

By Susan Schnur
Cleveland

Ralkina Jones was found dead in a Cleveland Heights jail cell on July 26. Only 37 years old, this African-American woman was a mother and friend to many people. She has been involved out of the Cleveland Heights Law Department, suspicion grows that gross neglect and official indifference may have been important factors leading to her death.

Jones was very worried about the administration of her prescription medications by the jail. She had been seen on a camera telling police that she “(does) not want to die in your cell.” (Daily Mirror, Aug. 12)

Later footage released to the media shows a gap of six hours before she was found dead in her cell. There are also large slices of footage missing from the period before the jail guard body was found. (Cleveland.com, Aug. 22)

Documents released to the media on Aug. 13 show discrepancies in how Jones was given her prescription medications. The medications log sheet shows that she took her medicine two times in 24 hours, while the jail log shows she was given her prescription medications in 24 hours. Dr. Jeannie Lee, an associate pharmacology professor from the University of Arizona, reviewed the logs for NBC News and said there was potential for an adverse drug interaction.

According to the “Standards for Jails in Ohio, Full Service & Minimum Security Jails, Courts and Community Jail Oversight,” updated May 2014, any “health-trained personnel” can dispense prescription medication to people in Ohio jails. These personnel are defined as “members of the jail staff that are trained in limited aspects of health care, including correctional officers and other personnel approved by the jail physician.”

The jail’s medical protocol and licensed home aide cannot even touch an aspirin to give to a client, but a jail guard trained in “limited aspects of health care” can handle any multiple interactions with absolutely no knowledge of their potentially deadly interactions. As of Aug. 12, no one has published what had been released by the Cuyahoga County medical examiner. The family of Ralkina Jones has been very frustrated by the lack of information given them by the Cuyahoga County Health District.

“We’ve got to fight and stay on it because everything’s not right about this situation,” said Fredrick Johnson, Jones’ cousin. (daysofgrace-charleston.org)

Focus on police violence

Walter Scott was gunned down April 4, the 47th anniversary of the martyrdom of Martin Luther King Jr., by white police officer Michael Slager after a traffic stop in North Charleston. Angry over this racist killing, organizers rallied the community against law-enforcement violence directed against the people.

“We have to heal and we have to do better,” Riley added. “That’s the challenge we have, which is that the mantra of this call to action.”

Scott was stopped supposedly for a traffic violation and was shot repeatedly in the back by Sager. A Dominican work-er walking through the area videotaped the killing on his cell phone, capturing a horrendous crime which is all too common on U.S. streets.

Due to the video documentation of the killing and the mass demonstrations taking place throughout the country surrounding police misconduct, the officer was arrested and charged with murder. It remains to be seen if he will actually be convicted, and if so, whether it will amount to anything.

Anti-racist activities under state scrutiny

This Labor Day event comes amid an escalation in demonstrations and rebellion against police violence and economic inequality.

There were definitely happening and definite acts of racist violence and economic exploitation directed towards African Americans. The two largest rebellions over the last year have taken place in the southern states of Missouri — in Ferguson and St. Louis — and Maryland in Baltimore.

The ruling class forces and law-enforcement agencies are reacting to the rising militancy and intolerance for racism among African Americans and workers. Consequently, efforts are well underway to prevent the growing struggle to end police violence against the people.

The Charleston City Paper also reported, “Recently released emails from North Charleston city employees show that the actions of protest groups including Black Lives Matter Charleston were being monitored by the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the American Red Cross, both of which sent emails to city staff informing them about upcoming organized events and the arrival of Ferguson, Mo., residents at a hotel in Summerville. D’Baha says he does not know if the newcomers at the meetings were working for a law enforcement agency, but the effect of their presence was palpable.”

Due to the current atmosphere prevali-in the south, the Charleston and other S.C. U.S.-law enforcement agencies are clearly being coordinated on a national level to contain the protest.

Unrest broke out recently in the city of St. Louis after the police killed an 18-year-old African American. A heavy police presence and its use of tear gas against peaceful protesters, combined with the burning of police and the burning of an abandoned building and a vehicle. In nearby Ferguson, topic first annou-enment that the shooting of Michael Brown ignited further demonstrations and civil unrest.

Until the federal government address-es the police brutality and killings direct-ed against African Americans and other oppressed people, these demonstrations and rebellions will likely grow and be come more militant and politically di-rec-ted against the state and the corporate ruling interests.
Carlos Riley not guilty!  
Jury rejects cop story

By Dante Strobino  
Durham, N.C.

It’s been a long, two-and-a-half-year fight to free Carlos Riley Jr. from Durham County jails in North Carolina. However, on Aug. 14, after weeks of family members and supporters packing the county courthouse, a big step was taken towards justice in his case.

Jurors found Riley, who had been accused of shooting a Durham police officer, not guilty of all state charges, except for “common law robbery.” Riley is appealing the case.

On Dec. 18, 2012, Riley had been sitting in his car on the side of the road after dropping his girlfriend off at work. Deputy Durham police officer Kelly Stewart approached Riley in an unmarked car and began to harass him. Riley struggled in self-defense against an unannotated stop and being attacked by the cop. Stewart then pulled his gun out and, yelling threatening language, shot himself in the leg.

The Durham Police Department and other officials attempted to keep this from getting out. They accused Riley of fighting with and shooting the officer, and then stealing his gun. But documents presented in court showed otherwise, including “a shot fired by officer” written on an official DPD Gunshot Residue Analysis form less than two hours after the incident.

Riley was facing 460 months—38 years—of state prison time, but he refused a plea deal and chose to fight for justice before a jury. “I am happy that he stood strong to not take a plea that was offered to him,” Carlos Sr., the father of Riley, told Workers World. He continued, “He was offered a plea to walk free, but he refused because he wanted to fight for not only himself but other Black men that have been faced with the same situation of police brutality.”

District Attorney Roger Echols, working closely with the Durham Police Department, attempted to cover the department’s tracks by smearing Riley with criminal charges—just as cops and the media do in almost every case where innocent people are either killed by cops or defend their lives. The DA claimed that Riley shot Stewart with Stewart’s gun. The DA and police tried to keep several pieces of crucial evidence—that proved Stewart had shot himself, despite his testimony that he did not shoot his gun—out of court.

However, family members and community supporters packed the court for the nearly three weeks of trial, sitting in the room and keeping pressure on the judge and jury, while defense attorney Alex Charns brought out some of the racist tactics of the police. Charns cited figures showing that in the year before Stewart was shot, his traffic stops involved Black people 77 percent of the time. Charns also delivered subpoenas to Police Chief Jose Lopez, which were denied.

Before the trial started, prosecutors had requested an off-the-record sidebar discussion with the judge and attorney Charns, during which they requested the judge remove Charns from the case. Charns then asked that the discussion be put on public record and the judge refused the prosecution’s request.

In the lead-up to a previously resolved federal trial that took place in 2013, three separate public defenders who had been appointed to Riley’s case all backed out under political pressure. There had been demands of demonstrations demanding freedom for Riley. Several community organizations, including Liberty and Justice for Carlos Riley Jr., SpiritHouse, the Inside-Outside Alliance, the Durham Solidarity Center and many others joined together to challenge the city, county and federal governments to drop the charges.

Many of the rallies took place outside the new, state-of-the-art correctional facility in downtown Durham, where Riley was held. On one occasion, the street in front was shut down for 30 minutes by protesters, impacting visitors to the fancy Durham Performing Arts Center across the street. The center draws in millions of dollars of revenue for the city every year.

During the lead-up to his federal trial, Riley—who was only 21 years old at the time — was under extreme pressure. Facing several decades in federal prison, he had agreed to a guilty plea on one charge in exchange for dropping the remaining charges at the federal level. This result was in a maximum sentence of 10 years, which he is now serving.

The information uncovered as part of this most recent state trial was being withheld by the DPD during the federal trial—illustrating one of the terrible problems that have led to an incredibly unjust system of mass incarceration. Ninety-seven percent of federal convictions are the result of guilty pleas that force people to serve prison sentences without ever getting a trial.

Riley, like millions of other Black, Brown and working-class prisoners in jail, won’t be free until a massive move in this country can topple this entire system once and for all and replace it with a system run by the masses.

Justice for Rekia Boyd!

By Danielle Katz and Andy Katz

Hundreds packed and ultimately shut down a Chicago Police Board hearing Aug. 20 as they delivered over 10,000 petitions demanding the termination of Detective Dante Servin.

In March 2012, Servin fired shots into a group of unarmed Black people, killing 22-year-old Rekia Boyd. In April 2015, Servin was acquitted of manslaughter charges related to this killing.

Before the demonstrators shut down the meeting with chants of “Say her name” and “Will you fire Dante Servin?” Boyle’s brother, Martine Sutton, addressed the hearing: “For three years my family has been disrespected. I’ve been harassed and I’ve stood tall. All I’m asking is that this officer gets fired. He killed my sister in cold blood.”

Outside police headquarters, hundreds more demonstrated in support of those inside the hearing. Holding banners and signs that read, “Say her name,” “Unapologetically Black” and “Fire Dante Servin,” those gathered spoke out against police murders and brutality. “This board is not valid,” said one Black Youth Project 100 member to the crowd. “No one is going to bring their grievances in front of this board.”

“Justice does not live here, it lives in the hearts of all of us out here in the streets. Rekia should be here with us.”
On Saturday morning, Aug. 22, the organization “We are all Dominicans” held a protest at the Dominican Rep. Public Consulate in New York City’s Times Square to demand “No deportations, here or there!” Some Dominicans and progressive North Americans from New York and other worker unions, participated in the protest.

In 2013, a Dominican court moved to strip citizenship from hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent, covering those born in the Dominican Republic as far back as 1929. Since then, the government has instituted a system to deport so-called “illegals” at a fast rate. Racists and anti-immigrant groups have been inciting and violence, and have been encouraging more people to self-deport.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians who went to the DR more recently to do low-paid cane cutting and construction work have been affected. “We are all Dominicans” has been active in the Dominican community in the United States in raising the issue of racism and its political purpose is to obtain dominance without using war technology. It is a path of pacific un-conventional warfare, that describes the dramatic conditions in order to force the other country to submit and to expropriate its economic and cultural character, carried out by a powerful country in unequal conditions in order to force the other country to submit and to expropriate its economic and cultural character, carried out by a powerful country in unequal conditions, by separating its internal elements and the media that serve the interests of the oligarchs.

This description fits the specific cases involving the incessant attacks against the FARC, the Autonomy of the Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Ecuador, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and more recently against the Federal Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Ecuador, where similar destabilization scripts have been repeated, put into effect through financing, training, manipulation and other strategies of UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, like those that have already been carried out in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen and others, in order to undermine the sovereignty and seize natural resources belonging to the people. It is a kind of communism, that I call 21st century, one of the principal U.S. documents of the doctrine on unconventional war- fare for the Special Forces Operations of the United States, that describes how unconventional warfare is interference in a country, and its political purpose is to obtain dominance without using war technology. It is a path of pacific un-conventional warfare, that describes the dramatic conditions in order to force the other country to submit and to expropriate its economic and cultural character, carried out by a powerful country in unequal conditions, by separating its internal elements and the media that serve the interests of the oligarchs.

This tactic has been devised not only as a major form of aggression, but as a strategic tool of U.S. foreign policy. The United States deploys its all might beyond its borders, using a strategy that is not in itself new, but it is now assigning this strategy a new level of priority. Acts of unconventional warfare are those aiming to undermine and degrade the morale and the political, psychological, military and economic strength of the country as well as to trigger events that are catalysts for creating conditions leading to foreign intervention.

The United States play a crucial role in this strategy. In Panama, for example, we have a press that misrepresents the facts, spreads disinformation and distorts the truth in the interest of powerful groups in the country.

In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the struggle of the Panama people, the Kuna and non-intervention in the internal af- fairs of our people. At the same time, we express our repudiation of the attempt to undermine democracy in the countries of Ecuador and Brazil, carried out by sectors of the right wing orchestrated by U.S. imperialism and groups possessing media and economic power at an international level. We support the people and the gov- ernment led by President Rafael Correa in Ecuador and President Dilma Rousseff in Brazil, in their efforts to solve their problems with independence and democracy and the well-being of their peoples. We reject the implementation of “soft coup,” through the use of psychological warfare operations that undermine legitimately constituted governments using the means of communications.

Likewise, the undersigned reaffirm the need to strengthen the continental unity of our peoples and regional integration, to address these threats, in order to de- fend our common resources and the free development of our peoples.

We the undersigned: Network of Intel- lectuals, Artists and Social Movements in Defense of Humanity: Panama chapter

Coordinators: Ana María Pinilla V; Gilma Camargo; Association of Relatives of the Disappeared in Panama; and - Trinidad Ayola; Bold Front for Democracy- RAP; Peoples Party - Moisés Carras- quilla; Citizens’ Pole - Olmedo Beluche; We stand for the people and the gov- ernment - MIREN.
The rightist regime in Kiev, Ukraine, carried out a military shelling of Donetsk city and threatened to start its new military offensive against the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics of the Donbass region.

The anti-war protest, titled “Ukraine’s Independence Day,” was a rejoinder to the linguistic independence day celebrations organized in Ukraine by the junta of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and fascists. This grouping took power with the U.S.-European Union backing in February 2014. The far-right regime has been dependent on Western economic and military support ever since.

On the same date — Aug. 24 — in 1991, pro-capitalist and nationalistic forces in Ukraine had declared “independence” from the Soviet Union. This year, a social media call for a flashmob in central Ukraine had declared “independence” of Taras Shevchenko, an 18th-century nationalistic poet, and a reference to Kiev’s current “terrorist Occupation” in the spring of 2014.

There is no doubt now that Kiev’s army and volunteer neo-fascist battalions are preparing a new offensives on the Donbass. The inhumanic post of sending more troops and weapons to the front — obtained directly or indirectly through the U.S. and other allies — is far more than the anti-fascist militias that defend the Donbass republics have reported a steady buildup of Ukrainian troops for months.

On Aug. 20, Donetsk Deputy Defense Minister Eduard Basurin reported on intelligence received from a high-ranking member of the Ukrainian military who opposes the junta’s latest moves. (Donetsk News Agency)

According to this information — which confirms what the militias have observed on the ground — Ukraine now has, on or near the front line, more than 90,000 troops; 450 tanks; more than 2,500 armored personnel carriers; five mobile rocket launcher complexes; 230 multiple rocket systems; over 1,000 artillery guns and mortars; as well as more than 3,500 anti-tank weapons. (Col. Cassad blog, Aug. 21)

The planned Ukrainian offensive is said to be modeled on the Croatian assault that defeated Serbian forces in Krajina during the Yugoslavian civil war, also master-minded and manipulated by U.S. and German imperialism. It resulted in the deaths of thousands of Serbs and drove the entire Serb population out of Krajina. The DNR, under the protection of the Ghost Brigade and NATO training and arming of the Ukrainian military, while giving the Kiev regime more than twice the number of troops as the Donbass republics.

Since the troops drafted into Kiev’s army are unwilling fighters, the Donbass republics have resoundingly defeated previous Ukrainian offensives.

U.S. policies lead to war, not peace

The military buildup by Ukraine is a direct violation of the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement that it signed in February with Russia, Germany and France. Even after the Donbass republics unilaterally withdrew heavy weaponry from the contact line refused to be brought back.

An intervention by U.S. officials to force Kiev to pass legislation required by the Minsk accords in June led to speculation that Washington might try to tamp down the war. It now appears, however, that there have been another failed effort to cover Pentagon and NATO training and arming of the Ukrainian military, while giving the Kiev regime more than twice to build its offensive forces.

As Workers World reported previously, the war in Donbass is a step in a long-term U.S. effort to undermine the existence of an independent Russian Federation, even though it is now capitalism. This policy, pursued by Republican and Democratic administrations for more than 20 years, may take tactical twists and turns, but there are no signs that Washington and Wall Street plan to fundamentally change course. (See “Ukraine, Donbass and the New Cold War against Russia” in Workers World, July 2015)

What the Obama administration, congressional leaders and the Pentagon have done is to strengthen U.S. control over the Donbas, competing factions of the Kiev regime. These factions are united mainly by their hatred of Russia and the people of Donbass.

Earlier this summer, the Right Sector fascist group repeatedly threatened to overthrow Poroshenko. In late August, this group’s leaders suddenly announced on social media that some of their squads would be integrated into the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) — the Ukrainian political police similar to the FBI.

Right Sector members will be put on the government payroll, issued “official” weapons and the legal cover of the SBU.

The integration of Right Sector into the state apparatus came shortly after state-levels by the U.S. ambassador and other officials defending Poroshenko from the most recent flare-up between the rival factions. (Col. Cassad blog, Aug. 22)

It fits a pattern that has seen neo-Nazi contingents of the Azov Battalion integrated into the Ukrainian military structure and trained by U.S. troops.

These developments to the International Monetary Fund’s declaration that it will continue to bail out Kiev, even in the bankruptcy regime defaults on its loans. Meanwhile, the regime pours millions into the war and imposes ever greater austerity measures and repression on the working people of Ukraine.

The message to U.S. imperialism wants the war in Donbass to continue at all costs. Washington is determined to use Ukraine to wear down the People’s Republics and Russia and doesn’t care how many people on both sides are killed in the process.

In the meantime, the U.S. government is still in charge of external affairs to fully lay bare the truth about the prevailing situation caused by the enemies’ unbridgeable and surprise aggression.”

The people were organized and prepared in case of war. The DPRK moved troops to the DMZ and reserved other defense units.

It seemed as though real war could be imminent under cover of U.S.-led “war games”.

But this strong response by the DPRK and its young leader, Kim Jong Un, brought results. Within a day a meeting was held at Panmunjom, where a building straddles the DMZ and has been used ever since the 1950s for meetings between the two sides.

As of this writing, the regime in south Korea has agreed to dismantle its offensive and provocative loudspeakers and the crib going to be put to use.

But the U.S.-led war exercises are continuing and the DPRK is maintaining its vigilance.
Migrant crisis in Europe: Who caused it?

Behind the horror stories about the treatment of migrants trying to reach Europe is an imperialist system of exploitation of their countries of origin, the policies exacerbating this exploitation and the imperialist wars that made their homelands unlivable for them and their children.

Recently, these horror stories in the corporate media have focused on how migrant human beings are suffering during their journey through the Balkan peninsula. Most of these recent migrants are from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan in Southwest and Central Asia. The inhumanity of most of these suffering people is not to stay in the Balkan countries that are themselves impoverished colonies of either Western Europe or the United States. The migrants want asylum in Germany or Britain where jobs are still available.

Some who reached Germany wound up besieged by Nazis on the Aug. 20-21 weekend in the small city of Heidenau in Germany. The migrants want asylum in Germany or Britain where jobs are still available.

The event was endorsed by YaFatiMahdi Foundation, the International Mahdi Foundation, the International Action Center, the United National Anti-Terror Coalition, and several masjids and Islamic schools in the New York metro-politan area.

Migrants who make attempts to enter the Western European countries face in their own countries. The European workers’ enemies are not their fellow workers who are forced to migrate, but the imperialists who have systematically undermined post-colonial governments that have been trying to exercise their independence and autonomy ever since at least a century of bondage.

If all this sounds like a mirror image of what is happening regarding migrants to the United States from Mexico and Central America, this is no accident. Imperialism is the enemy of workers and farmers worldwide. There will always be reactionaries politicians — Trump comes to mind, but he’s not alone — who try to blame the migrants trying to reach Europe as well as in the United States.

When ships capsize in the Mediterranean Sea, what drove this crisis to unprecedented heights was NATO’s bombing, invasion and subversion of Libya and Syria, starting in 2011.

By Bill Starr

New York

Demonstrators marched from the United Nations to the Saudi U.N. Mission on Aug. 21 to protest the kingdom’s persecution of Shia Muslims and its refusal to allow the rebuilding of Islamic graves and other sites that have been destroyed.

They demanded the release of imprisoned Shia community leader Ayatollah al-Nimr and an end to the detention and torture of pilgrims visiting the destroyed sites. The march also condemned the Saudi kingdom’s bombing of the people of Yemen and funding of terrorism in Yemen. Saudi airstrikes have killed thousands of Yemenis since March.

The event was endorsed by YaFatiZahr.com, the Shia Association of North America, the United Muslim Foundation of North America, the Al Mahdi Foundation, the International Action Center, the United National Anti-Terror Coalition, and several masjids and Islamic schools in the New York metropolitan area.

Saudi Arabia and Israel are Washington’s two main allies in the Middle East. In the 1980s, with British support, the Saudi family used terror, force and mass-scare to seize control of most of the Arabian peninsula. It persecuted and murdered Muslims who did not accept the puritanical ideology of Wahabism. It used to justify its rule.

In an article in the Workers World of Aug. 15, Deirdre Griswold wrote of the migrants to Europe: “These refugees are fleeing their homelands because of the damage done by horrendous wars unleashed by the imperialists, particularly the U.S. and NATO, [that have caused] destruction — not only of people, their homes, villages and infrastructure — but of the basic social institutions that were built after these nations finally broke free of colonialism.”

The German daily newspaper Junge Welt on Aug. 21 published the article below by André Scheer, with Andre Wokitel in Belgrade, that describes what the refugees face from U.S. allies and client states in Europe after U.S. wars of aggression drive them from their homelands.

If there were an election for France’s head of state today, Marine Le Pen with her neo-fascists [the Front National] would have a good chance of winning the vote. Polls place her with around 30 percent, winning either first or second place, and a victory in the runoff election no longer seems possible. In Sweden, too, the influence of the racists continues. For the first time the “Sweden Party” was the strongest force in a survey published on Aug. 20 by the daily newspaper Metro.

And how do the “democratic” politicians respond to the threat from the right? Once again by adopting neo-fascist and racist slogans themselves.

Thus, the spokesman of the Slovak Ministry of the Interior, Ivan Mezek, speaking to the BBC, declared that Bratislava would accept only Christian refugees in the upcoming years. Muslim immigrants would be rejected. Similar rant comes from Latvia, Estonia and Poland. Hungarian President Janos Ader called the people traveling through his country “besiegers” and spoke of a new “GREAT MIGRATION.”

In Calais on Aug. 20, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve and his British counterpart, Theresa May, signed an agreement to wall off the border between the two countries even more than it is now. They’ll form a joint command center to coordinate the hunt for refugees who are trying to get through the Eurotunnel to the British Isles. Already, high fences, barbed wire and heavily armed police are there to deter people.

The country of Macedonia on Aug. 20 imposed a state of emergency for two regions. Four thousand refugees are

Continued on page 11

By Andras Scheer

A crowd of ten thousand marchers in Belgrade, Serbia, pictured in this picture, march against the expansion of the EU through the Eurotunnel site in Coquelles near Calais.

Fortress Europe kills

Marchers condemn U.S.-backed Saudi oppression

Say No To Sectarian Violence Everywhere

Silence on Oppression is a Crime

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www.Yafatimazahr.com

French gendarmes attack migrants on the Eurotunnel site in Coquelles near Calais.

Muslims in united march against Saudi destruction in Yemen and Syria

Continued on page 11
cations around Ceuta and Melilla, the Mediterranean Sea or on the fortifi-
ations. Refugees are still dying during the journey across misery at its external borders. Refugees to lock out the people fleeing war and European Union countries keep trying.

The U.S. Department of State opened a conference in Libreville, Gabon, on Aug. 24 to promote trade between Wall Street and Africa. It is ostensibly designed to promote the African Growth and Opportunities Act, in place since 2000 to facilitate trade between Africa and U.S. companies. While the U.S. says that AGOA represents the cornerstone of its economic policy in Africa, in reality it is an import barrier. Congress recently re-authorized the program.

An Aug. 21 State Department press release read: “The theme of this year’s Forum is ‘AGOA at 15: Charting a Course for a Sustainable U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment Partnership.’” It raises the importance of all sectors in promoting trade, expanding inclusive and sustain-
able economic growth, and generating prosperity.” Also, it reported that gov-
erners in Africa have concluded that the “39 African beneficiary countries” would attend.

Gabo, a former French colony, is an oil producer. The government has main-
tained friendly relations with Paris and Washington. Imperialist France has in-
creased its military presence in Gabon, where its forces have been involved against mass demonstrations and insta-

U.S. imperialism’s goals

When President Barack Obama re-
cently visited Kenya, he hosted a trade conference there emphasizing African entrepreneurship. He also delivered a speech at the new African Union center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His admin-
istration is designing a strategy about the decline in the value of trade between Africa and the U.S. The decline in oil and commodities prices exemplifies this phenomenon.

Simultaneously, Wall Street and Washington have emphasized maximiz-
ing profits — which come at the expense of working people and their communi-

can states’ internal and regional affairs. Consequently, AGOA is a tool to exert U.S. imperialism’s political will.

Washington’s role in Africa has been characterized by its military interven-

Foreign investment boon to corporations

Although Africa is designated as a rapidly growing region and a center for foreign direct investment (FDI), struc-
tural issues emanate from capitalism’s continuing dominance. Most Western countries are designed to drive down profit margins of the transnational cor-

Abu Talib; and his uncle, Abu Talib. That day making huge indirect Course for people the world as the Day of Sorrow.

Saudi “puritanism” did not stop the royal despotism from blocking over Arabia’s vast oil reserves to the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO), controlled by a very non-Islamic dynasty, the Rockefeller.

Nor does it stop Saudi royals from

taking over by the house of Saud. But in an agreement engineered by Henry Kissin-
egger, it continues to pay tribute to Wall Street and the military-industrial com-

U.S. transnationals seek greater profits in Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Fortress Europe kills

Continued from page 10
trapped in the border area between the Balkan state and Greece, blocking the railway line to the Macedonian border, to Skopje in Macedonia. Hungary built a 110-mile-long fence on the border with Serbia.

Inhumane conditions already prevailed in Serbia. For about three months, the square in front of the main railway sta-
tion in Belgrade was turned into a make-

December 2008 map of the world, according to the Pentagon.

A continental strategy inde-

pendent of imperialism is the only solution to capitalist dom-
inination of Africa’s economic development. This can only be carried out when African states place the needs of their people above those of the global corpo-

rate banks.

A prerequisite for genuine in-

dependence is the enhancement of indigenous agricultural, edu-
cational, medical and scientific capacity in postcolonial African states. Dependence on the West is a byproduct of the legacy of slavery, colonialism and neocol-


economic construc-

tion in Africa poses an alter-

native to the world capitalist

system. In China, where the

people gained liberation from

imperialism nearly 66 years ago through a profound revolution, tremendous strides have been made through a state-controlled economy. In recent decades Chi-

na has allowed private capital to operate and grow, but the basic infrastructure and the land are owned and under the control of the government, led by the Com-

munist Party.

Revolutionary Cuba has outstriped U.S. imperialism in providing advanced medical services to its people and mi-

nion tree in Latin America, and Africa. This accomplishment has been made despite a nearly 55-year blockade and U.S. attempts to overthrow the socialist government.

With considerably more natural re-

sources and agricultural potential, a so-
cialist Africa could become a beacon for economic growth and set standards forth for the rest of the world.
Declaración en solidaridad con el pueblo ecuatoriano y brasileño

El imperialismo estadounidense inten-ta socavar a cualquiera de los gobiernos de América Latina que de señales de Independencia de los dictados de Washington. Especialmente en las últimos seman-as, los gobiernos de Ecuador y Brasil han estado experimentando manifestaciones dominadas por elementos derechistas y promovidas por la prensa imperialista. La declaración siguiente fue escrita por intelectuales izquierdistas de la región que se oponen a la intervención estadounidense.

Nuestros y nuestras, representantes de los movimientos sociales de Ecuador, como expresión diversa del pueblo pana-meño, expresamos en primer lugar, nues-tro firme respaldo a la declaración del Con-sejo Político de la ALBA-TCP, desarrollada en una reunión extraordinaria realizada en Caracas a los 10 días del mes de agosto. Así mismo, denunciamos los planes del imperialismo, quienes mediante el uso de estrategias de desestabilización acosa y conspira para perturbar a los Gobiernos y al pueblo de la Región, legítimamente electos por sus pueblos.

No es coincidencia que simultáneamente se desarrollen manifestaciones con similares connotaciones en países que han decidido transitar por los caminos de la emancipación. Dichas manifestaciones son alentadas y apoyadas por sectores externos y medios de comunicación que sirven a los intereses de las oligarquías.

Dificiles circunstancias para adelantar las conversaciones se precipitan cuando se advierte que simultáneamente con el despliegue de las agresiones contra la in-surgencia, se incrementan las amenazas, persecuciones, encarcelamientos, asesinatos y todo tipo de hostilidades contra las dirigencia popular, defensores y defensores de derechos humanos y el movi- miento social colombiano en general.

La Delegación de Paz de las FARC-EP ha puesto todo su empeño en el compromiso de agilizar la conversive en La Habana y desenvolver el conflicto en Colombia. Y aunque las FARC-EP han puesto todo su empeño en ello, ha faltado correspondencia y mayor compromiso por parte del Estado.

Restamos que aunque hemos actuado con absoluta transparencia y rigor en los diálogos, hay un claro desequilibrio unilateral de fuegos, las operaciones por tierra han ocasionado muertes, capturas y heridas a guerrilleros y guerrilleras en distintos lugares de Colombia, en la tregua y el buen desenvolvimiento del proceso de paz. La posición de dialogar sin queparen los combates, es una fór-mula condenada al fracaso.

En pronunciamientos anteriores he mos insistido en que debe haber co

Dr. Néstor Páez

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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 el periodo de la disolución de la FARC-EP, desde la década de 1980, esta vez se dirigirá contra el propio sistema.