The following statement was released by Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead and Vice Presidential Candidate Lamont Lilly on Sept. 3.

Representatives of some 300 Indigenous nations and their supporters have since Aug. 18 blocked the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, meant to be built under the Missouri, Mississippi and Big Sioux rivers in violation of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s federally protected rights. Despite violent police-orchestrated terror, including the use of dogs, the heroic resistance led by Indigenous people has only grown stronger, sparking national and international support.

A series of solidarity events under the banner of “#NoDAPL Global Weeks of Action” began on Sept. 3 and will continue through Sept. 17. See nodaplsolidarity.org.

We are in full solidarity with the magnificent struggle of thousands of Indigenous and non-Native people who are at Standing Rock, in what is now known as North Dakota, protecting the land and water against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. They are protecting the Missouri River and the drinking water of millions against the brazen efforts of corporations and corrupt politicians to push through an unnecessary pipeline on the Standing Rock Sioux Nation’s treaty land and despite Standing Rock’s lack of consent.

Indigenous Nations throughout the Americas have been on the frontlines of environmental devastation for decades. It is long past time for everyone to respect Indigenous leadership, listen to Indigenous voices and stand with Indigenous peoples in their many struggles.

We respect and honor the sovereignty and right to self-determination of Standing Rock and all Native Nations. We fully recognize the necessity of their right to refuse consent for any development or exploitation of land and water in their territories, from Oak Flat, Ariz., to Mauna Kea, Hawaii. We are painfully conscious of the ongoing poverty and genocide experienced by Indigenous people both on and off reservations.

Protecting the water and insisting that water is a human right are issues key to our future. While many people now know about the drinking water crisis in Flint, Mich., we also note that more than a tenth of Native homes in the U.S. do not have clean drinking water. In addition to the water crisis in some colonies like Puerto Rico, we are aware that it also exists in Black and farming communities, while thousands of poor people live in cities that are aggressively shutting off water due to exorbitant fees.

We acknowledge that all people in the U.S. today are living on Indigenous land. #NoDAPL and hundreds of other ongoing Indigenous struggles are as close to our hearts as the monumental struggles of Black people to defend their lives. Our solidarity with Native struggles is not newly born. Members of Workers World Party have supported freedom for Leonard Peltier, Wounded Knee in 1973, the 1990 Longest Walk, Big Mountain, the 1990 Flint, Mich., 2016. Standing Rock, N.D., 2016.

Great red sea fills Caracas’ Bolivar Avenue, supporting President Nicolás Maduro and for peace in Venezuela, Sept. 1.
After conflicting ruling Mumia supporters regroup

By Henry Hagnis

The field of legal and political battle has taken on even more sophisticated dimensions in the last few days, as Mumia Abu Jamal’s defenders devise and carry out new strategies that will help “keep open” a breach found in a recent decision by Judge Robert D. Mariani. On Sept. 1, the judge dismissed on a technicality part of Mumia’s lawsuit to receive medication from the Philadelphia Department of Corrections to treat his hepatitis C. At the same time, Mariani cited the DOC for having violated Mumia’s constitutional rights, the Eighth Amendment in particular, under the department’s own hepatitis C treatment protocol. The provisions apply to Mumia and the 6,000-plus prisoners held captive inside the clutches of the state who are infected with hepatitis C.

While disappointing, Mumia’s advocates see new room for legal tactics designed to effectively annul the judicial treatment from the DOC, but in Mumia’s ultimate release from prison, too. Attorney Rachel Wolkenstein lays out a withering critique of the decades-long railroad-mending that Mumia has been subjected to under false pretense:

A new legal action filed by Mumia Abu-Jamal in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas on August 7, 2016, provides a path in the courts to overturn Mumia's conviction and win his freedom. The legal underpinning is the court’s precedent-setting United States Supreme Court decision Williams v. Pennsylvania, 136 S.C. 1989 (2016), which holds that it is a violation of due process right to an impartial tribunal free of judicial bias if a judge participating in a criminal appeal had a ‘significant personal involvement as a prosecutor in a critical decision’ in a defendant’s case.

“Ronald D. Castille was a senior Assistant District Attorney during Mumia’s 1982 trial and the Philadelphia District Attorney during Mumia’s direct appeal of conviction and death sentence. Ronald D. Castille was a Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court during the entire period of Mumia’s appeals of his post-conviction proceedings from 1995-2008. Castille’s role as both prosecutor and judge in Mumia’s case, in light of the Williams decision, opens the door to a court decision vacating (overturning and dismissing) all Pennsylvania Supreme Court denials of Mumia’s post-conviction petition. If this new legal action succeeds, Mumia will get ‘do-overs’ to the legal challenges he made to the racist frame-up convictions, for which he has now spent close to 35 years in prison, almost thirty in solitary confinement on death row” (wolkenstein.net)

Upon reflecting on the judge’s decision, both Mumia and lawyer Bob Boyce were optimistic. Mumia saw it and “a good beginning that a federal judge recognizes that what the commonwealth is doing, and has been doing for years, is not only unjust, but not right, unconstitutional.” (Democracy Now)

Bob Boyce, one of Mumia’s attorneys in this lawsuit, saw that an opening had been created in the decision that and that, while the technicality issue didn’t sit well with him and self and attorney Bert Grote, the situation provided room for rebuttal, which they will pursue.

On the political front the following actions are planned: On Wednesday, Sept. 7, actions led by Pam Africa, Suzanne Ross, Johanna Fernandez, and other organizations and groups are planned in Philadelphia.

On Monday, Sept. 12, Pan Afri
care, Mireille Fanon, Suzanne Ross and others will update activists at the Solidarity Center in New York City about the road ahead and the findings of a special United Nations commission that carefully exam
ined the social and political condi
tions of people of African descent in the U.S.

While the forces supporting Mumia continue along the victorious path of struggle, it helps to re
member the observations by com
rade Amilcar Cabral: “Tell no lies, claim no easy victo
ries. A luta continua.”

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

workers.org/wwp

workers’ alliance protests homeless evictions

Puerto Rico: Protest disrupts PROMESA conference

Zika spreads in U.S., is prevented in Cuba

Racism Israel takes more Palestinian land

U.S.-NATO find pretext in Crimea for anti-Russian actions

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Trump goes to Mexico, returns deriding immigrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump traveled to Mexico City on August 31, at the invitation of Mexico’s President Enrique Peña Nieto, both Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton had been invited. Only Trump accepted and went through.

The purpose of Trump’s trip was not clear, but most pundits agreed that it was an attempt by the Trump campaign to try to position the nominee as “presidential” and “stately” as possible. In reality, the meeting became nothing more than a photo op.

But upon Trump’s return to the U.S., where was his first stop? None other than Phoenix, where he spoke the same night on the Arizona state fairgrounds in Phoenix.

Arizona has become ground zero for the anti-immigrant campaign that has swept the U.S. since 2006. It was in Arizona where racist, Nazi-like rhetoric and actions against migrants began. And prevailed.

Not only were immigrants and other prisoners treated viciously and dehumanized by infamous Sheriff Joe Arpaio, but a horrible anti-Latino climate exists in Arizona. This follows the shutdown of Mexican-American studies in universities and even banning books written by Latinxos. Arpaio is a right-wing law enforcement official in the mold of racist, brutal sheriffs like Joe Koon, who baffled Civil Rights demonstrators in Alabama in the mid-1960s.

Arpaio not only endorsed Trump for president, he was a featured speaker at the Republican National Convention.

Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric was so violent last week that some of his “Hispanic” supporters abandoned him right afterwards. Yes, Trump has support from conservative and colonized Mexicans, many who are owners of businesses or are from the conservative evangelical community.

President Trump’s plan was his chilling announcement that he would deport 2 million workers in the first hour of his presidency. Immigrant activists immediately issued an alert against this dangerous rhetoric.

Trump still demands a wall be built on the Mexico-U.S. border. He continues to shout out at his rallies “WHO WILL PAY FOR IT,” with the audience screaming in response, “Mexico, Mexico!”

Trump galvanizes racists

All indications are that the un-popularity of Hillary Clinton, the powers that be from Washington and Wall Street prefer her as the best candidate to carry out their wars abroad and repression and exploitation at home.

And the anti-immigrant policies that are being carried out today are being done under a Democratic President. Bill Clinton and Barack Obama deported more immigrants than any other U.S. president to date.

Even if Donald Trump loses the election, he has succeeded in opening up divisions in the working class and has galvanized racists and white supremacists. He has tasted the power of a demagogue and has been correctly compared to Hitler and Mussolini.

Someone like that, as well as his incit- ed supporters, are not likely to just dis- appear on Nov. 9. Trump and his ilk are likely to continue with their fascist and racist propaganda that will be directed again against migrants. They will be free to target the Black community, which during the election season Trump has tried to use against the undocumented.

From Oct. 7 to 10, the School of the Americas Watch has called for a conver- gence on the U.S.-Mexico border. SOAW has held demonstrations annually for decades at the school that trains Latin American military officers now at Fort Benning, Ga., to protect the U.S. military role in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This year, in a very progressive act, SOAW is calling for the convergence at the U.S.-Mexico border as a protest of the militarization of the border and in soli- darity with migrants.

The Border Convergence will take place in Nogales, Ariz., and will hold an action on the Mexico side in Sonora. (soaw.org)

Workers World Party Presidential Campaign plans to attend the conver- gence and send representatives. It urges the progressive and working-class move- ment to support this important action as it is a concrete way in this election year to counter Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric.

The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign needs your donation now

Workers World Party (WWP) recently ran a special appeal for funding to support presidential candidate Monica Moorehead and vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly. The appeal, which ran in the July 6 issue of Workers World, was named “A War on Immigrants.”

In the appeal, WWP organizers explained in every way how current immigration and refugee policy is a racist attack on working people.

Workers World Party 2016 General FundANCIAL REPORT

In the remaining weeks before the Nov. 8 election, we have the chance to reach millions more with ads, online voting, direct mail, board of director presence and a campaign bus.

Write to Monaco Moorehead and Lamont Lilly:

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011

To make a contribution to the WWP presidential campaign, please donate online. There are several ways to give:

1) DONATE!
2) CLICK HERE
3) Download and print this form
4) Mail to: Workers World Party
147 W. 24th St. 
2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011

Please make your check payable to: Workers World Party 
FWP presidential campaign.

Contributions are urgently needed, no matter how small or large. Please make a generous donation today at workers.org/donate!

Monica Moorehead is WWP’s 2016 presidential candidate. She is a veteran of the American labor movement as a nurse, teacher and organizer.

Lamont Lilly is WWP’s vice presidential candidate. He is a prominent activist and organizer and a UWU leader.

Here’s the schedule for Monica’s Midwest tour:

Sept. 9 in Lansing, Mich.
Sept. 10 in Detroit
Sept. 12 in Dearborn, Mich.
Sept. 14 in Chicago
Sept. 16 in Minneapolis
Sept. 17 in Moline, Ill.

All events are free and open to the public. For weekly updates, visit workers.org/news/campaign-news/
Portland riders fight unfair bus fare

By Sage Antonia Collins
Portland, Ore.

Bus Riders Unite of Portland, Ore., is fighting for Low Income Fare Equity, demanding an equitable bus fare for low-income riders. On Aug. 31, workers gathered in front of TriMet’s administrative office. TriMet is the public agency responsible for mass transit in the Portland area.

The demonstrators presented a 32-page report detailing how TriMet can meet the LIFER demand. They delivered the report directly into the hands of the TriMet board of directors with chants of “Bus Riders Unite! Transit is a human right!” Several speakers from BRU — people of color, people with disabilities, women — lined up to convey their mission and relate their struggles. They stressed that a bus fare is too high for low-income Portland households.

BRU is “a grassroots initiative that collectively organizes low-income people and people of color for public transit justice in the Portland metropolitan area.” It is a part of OPAL [Organizing People/Activating Leaders] Environmental Justice Oregon, whose mission is “building power for Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in our communities.”

The same day as the rally, OPAL echoed the voices of the demonstration in its website post, saying, “People who depend on TriMet are being priced out of the service area by rising housing costs, stagnant wages and record-high eviction rates. We must keep our region economically diverse and inclusive, or we risk making segregation worse.”

BRU’s militant, multiracial activism has won several victories, including the right to testify at TriMet board meetings and implementation of a community-elected Transit Equity Advisory Committee.

Workers’ Alliance protests homeless evictions

By Mike Kuhlenbeck
Des Moines, Iowa

The Des Moines Workers’ Alliance protested the city’s eviction of homeless camps by “evicting” the city officials responsible on Aug. 29.

Community Development Director Phil Delfafio and Deputly Zoning Enforcement Officer SuAnn Donavan are “responsible for the evictions” in several locations around the city, according to a DMWA public statement.

DMWA members posted an “eviction notice” on the door of Delfafio’s home on the day the camps were to be cleared. The group says there is “a strong correlation between the location of evictions and the City’s development deals with wealthy private interests.”

DMWA was founded by Sophia Mattson, Connor Murphy, Jack Petsche and Patrick Stall earlier this year, to build “working class power to defend against bosses, landlords and political elites.” Since then DMWA has expanded to general members and dozens of others engaged in their organizing.

According to the official aims of the DMWA, “We demand an end to the division of common people based on race, gender, sexuality or other categories. Common people have common interests, which can and should be worked on collectively.”

DMWA Communications Officer Connor Murphy told WW, “At the moment, we plan on continuing to put pressure on the city to end homeless evictions and create a real solution to Des Moines’ housing crisis.”

Promoting one such demonstration at the Parks and Recreation building in downtown Des Moines, Murphy said, “There are more than enough vacant houses in Des Moines — abandoned, foreclosed on, or forgotten — than people without homes. We refuse to live in a city that brutalizes its homeless citizens while buildings sit empty.”

The DMWA is also “building prison networks inside and outside and hopes to find ways to put pressure on the prison system through direct means.”

For more information, visit www.dmworkers.org

Film Review:
‘Accidental Activists’ fight for same-sex marriage, adoption rights

By Martha Grevatt

During their long struggle for justice — which culminated in the 2013 Supreme Court decision giving same-sex couples the right to marry — Michigan nurses Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer described themselves as “accidental activists.”

That phrase became the title of a film released earlier this year chronicling their four-year legal battle.

“Accidental Activists,” which premiered at the Detroit Free Press Film Festival in April and screened again in Detroit on Aug. 30, opens with a re-enactment of a near-collision involving a semitrailer truck and Rowe and DeBoer’s vehicle.

The narrowly averted accident forced the couple to take a bold step — suing for joint adoption rights.

Accidental Activists
WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

DeBoer and Rowe took a bold step — suing for joint adoption rights.

Filmmaker Mandi Wright, who covered the case for the Free Press from start to finish, takes us into the Rowe/DeBoer family home. We become part of an emotional roller coaster ride, with each legal advance bringing tears of joy and each setback delaying their dream of a family.

Less than a year into the battle, the two and their legal team were unexpectedly faced with a monumental decision. Federal Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that because the denial of joint adoption was based on...
Police vs. workers and oppressed

By Sam Marcy

This article is slightly edited and updated from its first appearance in the Jan. 29, 1971, issue of Workers World newspaper. The writer was a founding member and chairperson of Workers World Party.

[Some say] that there are good cops and bad cops, just like there are good capitalists and bad capitalists. The real problem, however, is that there is objectively speaking not a shred of class identity between workers and the police. The fundamental interests retain in the form of profitably opposed to those of the police and are absolutely irreconcilable with them.

Producers or parasites?

A worker is, above all, a producer. The police officer is a parasite who lives off production of the producer workers. No truer words could be said. All the material wealth which is now in the possession of the capitalist class was produced by the working class. When a worker goes out on strike she [or he] is merely trying to retrieve a portion of the wealth which she [or he] laboriously produced.

The worker gets back in the form of wages only a portion of what she [or he] produces. The rest is what the capitalist class calls “profit.”

The gross national income of the U.S. last year reached [an astronomical sum]. It was all produced by workers: Black, Brown, white, men and women and even children. The struggles of all the workers, whether in the factory or on street corners are, are merely to retrieve a larger portion of this wealth which they produced for the bosses and which the bosses keep for themselves.

Cops contribute nothing to social wealth

What have the cops contributed to the production of this unprecedented amount of wealth? Nothing at all. In fact, their principal function is to guard the wealth for the capitalists, protect their monopolist profits from the demands of the workers. ... That’s the very essence of a cop: to crack the heads of strikers and the streets. And the results speak clearly against the Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano[s] communities.

A cop is a mercenary hired by the capitalist class through their agent (the city government) to keep the mass of the workers and the oppressed in complete subjection. The police are the forces of violence and violence at their disposal whenever the masses rise up in rebellion against the unsalable conditions imposed by the master class.

The police are the most parasitical social grouping in society. When they work — if they work — the only thing that they are engaged in is police work. It’s the capitalist system itself. To put the police to work is to put the underworld figures and enterprises such as the police into a new class of society. ... When they work it’s on behalf of society. Their services are needed by the people. ... wages in check. These workers have been co-opted by the government that is to say, they are in the service of the industrialists as strike-breaking agencies in the country.

In the Black and Brown communities, the police play the role of a foreign occupation army and practice a form of rule inspired by the high esteem and affection in which these communities hold the police, they have coined the word “pig” as synonym for cop — this word has passed into the universal language of the oppressed. ... In those communions which constitute the capitalist state are always in conflict with each other on how to divide among themselves the precious portions of the city, state and federal treasuries. ... Their services are needed by the people, the workers. The working class government “take the handcuffs off the policeman”...

One way for a Marxist to judge whether a particular society is in the process of becoming socialist or capitalist is whether it performs socially necessary and useful work is to ask whether such groups would be needed in a socialist system af for all of all class rule. The police will not be needed. With the abolition and disappearance of all vestiges of class privilege, the need for a coercive special force, even a workers’ militia, begins to disappear. But the state will not be needed. With the abolition and disappearance of all vestiges of class privilege, the need for a coercive special force, even a workers’ militia, becomes superfluous.

Unlike workers, when police go out on strike (or engage in job negotiations), they are not trying to retrieve money withheld from them for useful work done on behalf of society. Their services are solely and exclusively needed by the petty bourgeoisie of the class society. The police are the parasitical society.

There is a whole new set of circumstances that make it possible for them to function in the service of the working class and in particular use the most brutal violence against the Black, Chicano[s] and Puerto Rican people.

The police work is parasitical and therefore really a parasitical activity. The current wave of police insurgency comes after a considerable period when they have been engaged in actual civil war against the Black and Brown communities. The working class has felt itself more and more indebted to the police precisely because of this. Having thereby freed the police from a capital role in the recent period, the police are now demanding extra privileges and remuneration for their stormtrooper role in those communities and on the college campuses as well as in the present strike struggles throughout the whole country.

The police have also become more vociferous in denouncing the so-called lenient juries and demanding that the government “take the handcuffs off the policeman” in his celebrated book, “The Civil War in France.”

“In fact, for the first time since the days of February 1848,“ he marks, “the streets of Paris were safe and without police of any kind.”

Is there a capitalist government anywhere in the world that can make such a boast even for one day? Is there any large city anywhere in the capitalist world which is free even for a single day or even just one day without any police of any kind as was the case with the Paris Commune? Merely to ask the question is to answer it. To put an end to crime it is first of all necessary to put an end to the thoroughly criminal rule of the bourgeois state. It is their very existence which breeds not only crime and corruption but virulent racism, imperialist war and genocide.

To institute the working class with a revolutionary attitude toward the police is at the same time ideological preparation for the overthrow of the capitalist class.
In the spirit of Attica uprising
Solidarity with Sept. 9 prisoner strike

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

A 23-member Fulton County grand jury unanimously voted on Aug. 5 to in-
dict Atlanta police officer James R. Burns on multiple charges including felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and violation of oath of office in the shooting death of 22-year-old Deravis Caine Rogers.

On the night of June 22, Burns re-
sponded to a call for backup at a northeast Atlanta apartment complex from an offi-
cer involved in the foot chase of a suspect in a car break-in. According to witnesses, Rogers had calmly gotten into his car and was beginning to drive away when Burns jumped out of his patrol car, gun drawn, and fired a single shot into the passing vehicle. Rogers, a warehouse worker who had just started his own clothing line, was hit in the head and died at the scene.

Burns, a 34-year-old expert marksman and former high-risk security coordinator for nongovernmental organizations in Pak-

A 29-year-old man was charged with rape and sexual abuse story in May, ran a

In steady solidarity and undying commitment to liberation.
Workers World Party and the Moorehead/Lil-
2016 campaign

By Ollie Smith

Bay Area

A teenage victim, raped and sexually abused by Bay Area police officers from Oakland and several other police forces since she was a minor, has been victimized by police agencies once more. Celeste Guap is the key witness in yet uncharged cases against at least eight Bay Area officers.

Despite that fact, the Richmond Police Depart-
ment arranged to send Guap to a rehabilitation center in Florida. This department has officers involved in the wide-scale predatory policing scandal. Speculating, "When it comes to the victim for only three days, the victim has been charged with assault and battery and is in the Martin County jail, held under $300,000 bail.

The rage that burns within each of us in the plantation fields, to go on strike and demand that Kamala Harris, attorney general for California, take over the investigation into the case.

The East Bay Express, which broke the rape and sexual abuse story in May, ran a

and for all this new form of chattel slavery and legalized human traf

kistan, Haiti and Somalia, claimed Rogers was trying to kill him with his car.

In media interviews, a grand jury mem-
ber declared that the police dash cam-
ner vide video and two eyewitness accounts that "he clearly lied." (Atlanta Journal-
Constitution)

Burns was fired July 1 by Atlanta po-
lice Chief George Turner, following an internal investigation. Announcing his decision, Turner wrote that Burns’ use of deadly force was “unnecessary and unrea-
sional.” Saying that Burns had no intelli-
gence about any alleged suspect, Turner stated in the termination letter, “The driv-
er of the vehicle posed no threat to you.

A follow-up police investigation deter-
mined that no car had been broken into at the Buckhead complex.

Rogers’ parents and family members participated in a 24-hour vigil outside the Fulton County Courthouse on Aug. 2, along with hundreds of activists from numerous organizations, including: Moorehead/Lil-

The federal pris-
son system forces tens of thousands of inmates to work in intolerable con-
ditions for 23 cents an hour and often pay at all in state facilities. This creates tremendous downward pressure on all workers’ wages, which include low-

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

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The political rebellion of Colin Kaepernick

By Monica Moorehead

Much has happened since Colin Kaepernick, the 28-year-old San Francisco 49ers quarterback, made national and international news when he was spotted sitting during the playing of the U.S. national anthem at a National Football League pre-season game on Aug. 26. Although he took the tactic of quietly sitting in protest of police brutality and the general oppression of Black and other people of color, the result created a loud firestorm of both support and criticism.

What Kaepernick has done since Aug. 26, when he sat during the anthem in the first pre-season game, is nothing short of a heroic political act of resistance. His stance has tarnished even more the façade of the U.S. being “the greatest democracy” on the face of the Earth. He boldly stated on Aug. 27 that “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color. ... There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.” (See Aug. 30 WW article, tinyurl.com/SDQkOGP) 

Police re-victimize teenager in cop sexual abuse scandal

would call the police on someone going through withdrawal from a highly addictive drug, and few would call the police onListing item 3. Announce a full investigation by an outside with the support of other police officers involved in the original actions. The TBOC made a simultaneous Aug 9, visit to the offices of Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon and Contra Costa District Attorney Mark Peterson, demanding investigation and redress for the outrageous police brutality.

In a press release, the TBOC commented, in part: “In the three months since the public learned of the Bay Area-wide sexual exploitation and human rights violations, there has been no police enforcement, no charges have been brought against any officers or staff involved in the crimes, and no accountability for departmenal policy violations. Why aren’t our District Attorneys dedicating the same efforts to condemnation and public health emergencies they are,” the TBOC said. “Everyone needs to find the courage to get involved. Every single person in every layer of society: And when each person finds their voice and engages with the discomfort, grasping it with their own lived experience, they become a healer of the ailing social body.”

Groundswell of solidarity

On Sept. 2, before the start of the last pre-season game for the 49ers versus the Chargers in San Diego, a heavily militarized city, Kaepernick was joined by another Black teammate, Eric Reid, in kneeling down while the national anthem was played. “I just wanted to show my support for him and the cause that he is trying to bring awareness to,” Reid stated.

The political rebellion of Colin Kaepernick

By Terri Kay

San Francisco

A group of more than 300 doctors, nurses, staff and medical students at the University of California San Francisco issued a statement in support of Colin Kaepernick on Aug. 31.

California Coalition

By Monica Moorehead

The entire statement is available at tinyurl.com/DoNoHarmKaepernick.

UCSF medical staff support Kaepernick

UCSF doctors and medical personnel in support of the Frisco 5 hunger strikers in May.

The open letter to Kaepernick, penned by Do No Harm member Rupa Marya, M.D. stated: “You are doing your part. And for this, we thank you and express our deepest respect. We welcome an opportunity to meet with you at UCSF in our coalition. We would like to welcome you into our ranks as a healer with a mission to end police violence and racism.”

Many of these same people were involved in White Coats for Black Lives last May to “ensure the people who went on hunger strike in SF to protest police killings — the Frisco 5 — were safe and cared for during their peaceful manifestation of outrage and grief.”

The entire statement is available at tinyurl.com/DoNoHarmKaepernick.
The other Venezuelan demonstration

By Cheryl LaBash

The international corporate media reported on a pro-government demonstration in Caracas, Venezuela, on Sept. 1. But there were two demonstrations that day. The one not covered in the U.S. was huge and in support of the temporary government of President Nicolás Maduro.

Red-clad supporters packed Avenida Bolívar, the capital’s main commercial street, as far as the eye could see. They were responding to the call for a “Great Occupation” issued by Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) to defend peace in Venezuela.

A New York Times article on Sept. 2 did not even mention #LaCalleEsChavista, meaning “the street supports the Chávez program.”

Instead, the media widely reported on a “pro-Rousseff” march in Caracas’ Los Guatimos-Chivita electoral coalition called Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (MUD), which was limited to the more affluent suburb of Miranda. MUD had projected that a million people would come to the capital on Sept. 1 to “take Caracas” and overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution.

On Aug. 31, Jeanette Charles reported that MUD leaders had issued a statement saying that “opposition legislator Freddy Guevara was referring to the short-term goal of ousting the Bolivarian government.”

The government has offered some of the inflation-fueled price hikes by decreasing a 50 percent pay increase for workers and issuing debit cards with cash assistance for the poorest Venezuelans. But the inflation also negatively impacts better-off Venezuelans, who drive the opposition.

In July the Venezuelan government took over a factory producing diapers and other personal hygiene products at the request of 971 workers who had occupied the plant after transnational corporation Procter & Gamble shut down the factory and laid off 1,200, farms, companies and other private businesses have been taken over by the Bolivarian government.

While enough of the poor voted PT for Rousseff to win a second term — she received 54 million votes — the PT never had majority support in Brazil. The PT was comparatively weak. Confronted with a united bourgeois class determined to ignore democracy and bring down Rousseff’s government, the PSUV vice president would become the Bolivarian government. (Wall Street Journal, July 11)

MUD won a parliamentary majority in the December 2015 election. This parliamentary attack mirrors the campaign against Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who was ousted on Aug. 31, a day before the mobilizations in Caracas. MUD has now collected enough valid signatures to trigger a vote to recall President Maduro, but its campaign was held too late to force a new presidential election. Instead, if Maduro were to be recalled, the PSUV vice president would become president until the next election in 2018.

Brazil's Rousseff ousted by coup

By John Catalinotto

The first step of the interim Temer regime was to appoint a cabinet composed solely of European-origin men closely connected with the ruling rich. This disenchanted the majority, consisting of women, people of African origins and Indígena peoples. It also signaled an open attack on the working mass of Brazil’s indigenous peoples. It also signaled an open attack on the working mass of Brazil’s poor.

On Aug. 31, Jeanette Charles reported that signing the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights, Civil Rights and Social Justice Act. The bill was authored by New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, a virulent opponent of the Cuban Revolution.

The act was implemented on March 9, 2015, when Obama declared “a national emergency” that US posed by the situation in Venezuela.” (whitehouse.gov) This “national emergency” was renewed for a year this March 3.

Secretary-General Luis Almagro León of the Organization of American States directly intervened in the 2015 Venezuelan parliamentary elections.

The OAS, bankrolled in Washington, D.C., has campaigned openly on the side of pro-capitalist MUD, hiding its counterrevolutionary intent behind the flag of “democracy.”

MUD coalition members have long been funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development and the National Endowment for Democracy. Marína Corina Machado headed the nongovernmental organization called Stimate, which received NED funding.

Machado, a former opposition lawmaker, signed the decree to dissolve all state institutions during the failed 2002 coup against Chavez.

It is clear that the opposition wants to disavow all the social programs that have existed under the Bolivarian government, whether by parliamentary means or violence.
Transmission of Zika is escalating in Florida. As of Aug. 30, the number of locally contracted Zika cases jumped to 46, including 13 new cases in Broward County. Some 16,513 cases of Zika are now confirmed in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

President Barack Obama requested $1.1 billion to fight Zika and chikungunya viruses, live around and breed in the southern coastal states. Once infected with Zika, people could spread the disease for up to six months in semen and blood, with microcephaly and brain damage. Some 16,513 cases of Zika are now confirmed in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

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It is difficult to control Zika’s spread once transmission begins. Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which carry Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses, live around and feed exclusively on humans. The rapidly reproducing mosquitoes thrive all year in the southern coastal states. When bitten after being infected, people who are sickly because of Zika, quickly spread the disease. Because only 20 percent of infected individuals show symptoms, many of them unknowingly spread Zika when they travel.

Health care officials estimate $2 billion is needed to control and track Zika-carrying mosquitoes and disease outbreaks, vaccinate people, test and monitor pregnant women and babies.

Now Zika funding comes from some local governments and federal money for research projects for other diseases. On Aug. 11, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced it apportioned $80 million to develop a vaccine. This money is being diverted from research projects for other diseases.

Some governors have spent state funds for mosquito abatement, while Congress is sorely needed funds. President Obama again appealed to Congress to allot funds to fight Zika on Aug. 27. “A fraction of the funding won’t get the job done. You can’t solve a fraction of a disease.” (whitehouse.gov)

Florida Governor Rick Scott created a task force to fight Zika and he promised to fight the virus with a “war room”. Congress is absent. The money is there. Funds could be taken from the bloated Pentagon budget of more than $860 billion a year for weapons and war. Or from the $1 trillion allocated for a 30-year “nu- clear modernization” program.

Researchers detect more effects of Zika

In Brazil, Zika has been linked to over 1,800 cases of microcephaly, a type of fetal brain damage. In the U.S., 1,200 pregnant women have Zika; seven infected women have lost pregnancies. Sixteen babies have been born with Zika-related birth defects.

Recent brain scans of Zika-infected babies show that seemingly unaffected brains can develop damage even after birth. (RSNA Radiology, Aug. 23) The virus isn’t just causing brain damage, but is also affecting normal joint and limb development and stillbirths.

Zika can spread through sexual ac-

tivity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises the vigil-

ant use of condoms with pregnant part-

ners. Expect reports of the virus to live for up to six months in semen and can also infect a fetus without infecting the pregnant woman.

The CDC reports that caring for a child with microcephaly could cost $10 million over a lifetime. These children may never walk, talk or feed themselves; and their lifetime is expected to be brief.

In nine Latin American countries, re-

quests for abortions have increased sig-

ificantly since Zika viruses were reported last November, and even doubled in Bra-

zil. Access to abortion is restricted in all these countries. (Live Science, June 22)

This brain damage often shows up later in pregnancy, yet 43 U.S. states ban late abortions, some as early as 20 weeks post-fertilization. (Guttmacher Institute) Many Gulf states where Zika will hit the hardest have the strictest restrictions on abortions and often the least access to public health information. Florida bans abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy. Texas’ dra-

conian regulations have severely reduced the number of clinics providing abor-

tions.

Zika spreads in U.S., is prevented in Cuba

By Lyn Neely

In Cuba, two new cases of locally ac-

quired Zika were announced on Aug. 2.

But the government has prevented a viral outbreak. Although local health workers said Zika was reported last March, and it has kept travel-related cases down to 30.

Cuba began fighting Zika before it ar-

rived. The country has a socialized health care system that puts people’s needs first, and a solidarity with the demonstration. Although the organ-

izers did not cancel the conference, they had to eliminate several panels. Some candidates in the upcoming No-

vember elections for governor of Puerto Rico decided to cancel attendance at the conference. Earlier, the candidates of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, Maria de Lourdes Santiago, of the Working Workers’ Party of Puerto Rico, Rafael Ber-

ard, and of the Select Global Workers, refused invitations to attend the conference and made statements of sol-

arity with the demonstration.

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The First Conference on PROMESA - the New Puerto Rico Oversight, Manage-

ment and Economic Stabilization Act passed July 30 by the U.S. Congress - was not the success its organizers expected. The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce organized the Aug. 31 event at the luxu-

ious Hotel Condado Plaza in San Juan to “educate” the business class on the conse-

quences of the “PROMESA.”

Numerous social, youth and labor or-

ganizations called for a demonstration against the PROMESA law; its dictator-

al Fiscal Control Board and the Aug. 31 conference. Such was the movement’s militancy that it made the conference fail. This triumphant outcome set a tone and sent a clear and resounding message from the Puerto Rican resistance about the consequences of the “PROMESA.”

There was no debate on the outcomes of the Communist Party of Brazil: “The scenario we face in the next six months is daunting, and will impel the labor and social movements into passionate strug-

gles.” Antunes expects Brazilians to “en-

ter a period of social confrontation, of union and social demonstrations.” (ver-
melho.org.br, Sept. 4)

In his article Antunes quotes João Pe-

dro Estelita, a leader of the mass Landless Movement of farm workers and landless peasants. Stedile was called an “extreme popular mobilization under the theme, “Temer out!”

“it’s the greatest of all the battles,” Stedile said. “We want to struggle for changes in the political system of the country, with reforms of the political sys-

tem and the taxation system of the new powers that can only be carried out by a constituent national assembly. All these battles demand mass struggles and great popular mobilizations.

We expect many struggles as we move forward,” adds Stedile. The coup-makers will receive “only the scorn they deserve as they wind up in the trash bin history has reserved for them.”

How Cuba prevents a Zika outbreak

In Cuba, two new cases of locally ac-

quired Zika were announced on Aug. 4.

This triumphant outcome set a tone and sent a clear and resounding message from the Puerto Rican resistance about the consequences of the “PROMESA.”

The rightists continue to reject any democratic process, includ-

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ing to stop the ouster.
The National Labor Relations Board ruled on Aug. 23 that teaching and research assistants at private universities of higher education have the right to organize unions and collectively bargain with the universities that both employ and educate them. The ruling was on a petition filed by graduate student unions affiliated with the United Auto Workers at both Columbia University and The New School in New York.

In effect, the government has finally recognized these workers as workers. This is not only a victory for the teaching and research assistants who have struggled hard to win the right to organize, but a confirmation that the working class is broader than often acknowledged. Many people still think of students and teachers at colleges as somehow elite and separate from the working class.

But on a national average, 50 percent of college instructors, including TAs and RAs, are part-time, low-wage workers. At Columbia, TAs are required to teach for some part of their graduate studies. They are paid $1,800 per semester, per class, to prepare and teach classes and discussion sections, read and grade assignments, hold office hours, and run labs for undergraduates. Colleges depend heavily on TA and RA labor to fulfill instruction commitments where women and people of color are concentrated, like education, health care and food service. But a lot of white men work in these jobs too, and very few of those workers like Donald Trump.

In fact, they reflect the U.S. working class as a whole, which has become increasingly multinational, increasingly female, with more LGBTQ people out at the workplace. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, of the almost 149 million people employed in the U.S. at this time, nearly half — 46.8 percent — are women, while 11.7 percent are Black, 5.8 percent are Asian and 16.4 percent are Latinx.

The most active, militant section of the labor movement has been in those occupations where women and people of color are concentrated, like education, health care and food service. But a lot of white men work in these jobs too, and very few of those workers like Donald Trump. This is the dynamic edge of the multicultural, multigender working class in this country. It is moving to the left, not just on issues of gender and race, but on the Trump movement, if it can be dignified as such, is a reaction to this progressive trend. It is led by a billionaire and may rap in angry, booted shoes who are looking for a rich avatar. But it offers nothing to the working class.

The rising struggle being mounted in the courts and in the streets by low-wage workers — like exploited teaching and research assistants — is what will bring working-class victory.

Local activist organizations in New Jersey staffed an informational table focusing on the struggle to free U.S. Army Private Chelsea Manning! A lot happens here, from classes, forums and shared meals on Saturday nights to the weekly meetings of the Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs on Mondays. On another day volunteers might be stapling signs on sticks for a Black Lives Matter march in Newark for Tashi Kiya and Frank Pinksney. Now, 5920 Second Ave, will be serving the people’s movement in another way. Workers hungry for knowledge — an active program of the class struggle — have a new resource.

The Addington-Dostal-Kiya Memorial Library houses the beloved book collections of those workers like Donald Trump. Not any more. Today, even though new technology has simplified many aspects of these jobs, anyone applying for a medical technician’s job needs a college degree. Nowadays, the median annual salary for a med tech’s job is $38,970.

For more young people, to get the degree to get that job means being unemployable for full-time work for a year or two or more, spending tens, even hundreds of thousands of dollars on education, and going into debt.

So, are young people not workers because they’ve gone to college or because they are in graduate school for an advanced degree?

The rising struggle being mounted in the courts and in the streets by low-wage workers — like exploited teaching and research assistants — is what will bring working-class victory.
U.S.-NATO find pretext in Anti-Chinese protests

By Greg Butterfield

The U.S. and European Union have used the so-called Russian annexation of Crimea as a pretext for NATO’s military buildup in the region and for anti-Rus- sian sanctions.

On Aug. 18, major U.S. media — which had scoffed at Russian reports of the foiled attack in Crimea — publicized Peter Poroshenko’s unsubstantiated claim that a “full-scale Russian invasion” may be in the offing. “The probability of escalation and conflict remains very significant,” the Ukrainian president said in a televised speech to military personnel in the Lgov region of western Ukraine. “We don’t rule out full-scale Russian invasion.” (Chicago Tribune, Aug. 18)

Poroshenko continued, “If the situation escalates in the east and in Crimea we don’t rule out the possibilities we will be forced to introduce martial law and announce a [further] mobilization” (of the Ukraine’s “people’s armies” in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions). “The rest is history.” A European Union statement on July 25-28. Damning emails were leaked to the corporate media. Meanwhile, Ukrainian protests against the regime of President Petro Poroshenko have been challenged by the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. These struggles have met increasing success, forcing Israeli enterprises such as cosmetics company Ahava and home car-

Racist Israel takes more Palestinian land

By Joe Catron

The Israeli government has sharply increased its illegal settlement of the occu-

pied West Bank, approving the construction of over 2,000 housing units since July 1.

They have also driven global firms like French telecommunications giant Orange and waste and envi-

ronment company Veolia out of the Israeli market altogether.

Other efforts continue, including camp-

aigns to push Russian conglomerate Gasp to end its contracts with Israel’s prison system, occupation forces and settlement infrastructure, and to demand to the world soccer federation, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, follow its own policy by ex-

cluding Israel.

Catron is a member of Al-Awda New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coa-

tion and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Net-

work.
Manifestantes impiden éxito conferencia PROMESA

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La conferencia "1st PROME-CA Conference" sobre la Ley PROMESA (Ley federal para la Supervisión, Gerencia y Estabilización Económica de Puerto Rico) que fue aprobada recientemente por el Congreso estadounidense, no resultó ser el éxito que sus organizadores esperaban. La Cámara de Comercio de Puerto Rico había organizado el evento en el hotel Condado Plaza en el área de San Juan para "educar a la clase empresarial sobre los efectos de la "promesa".

Ese miércoles 31 de agosto, un sin-número de organizaciones sociales, jóvenes y sindicales habían convocado a una manifestación en contra de la Ley PROMESA, su dictatorial Junta de Control Fiscal y su conferencia. Fue tal la militancia de la manifestación que en el área del hotel se verificaron episodios de hostilidad, lo que generó que el evento finalmente se cancelara.

Según el artículo, habrían varios pan-eles en los cuales también se analizaría el proceso de "turismo de dolor" de Bermúdez y suplementación de la mano de obra barata a disposición de las empresas transnacionales del capitalismo estadounidense.

Sin embargo, sólo hay un pueblo coreano -o sea la República de Corea (Sur)- como un nómada en la tierra de promesas, donde el negocio y la mercancía tienen mayor poder que los derechos humanos y la vida.

El pueblo de los Estados Unidos se está cansando de pagar por las múltiples guerras en el exterior con su sueldo, su esfuerzo y con los miles de dólares que pagan en sus impuestos. Además, la esperada oposición progresista a la guerra imperialista, hoy se ve confrontada con un nuevo fenómeno: un creciente cansancio de las guerras de las corporaciones estadounidenses.

Desde el comienzo de la guerra de 1950-1953 en la que EUA no logró conquistar el norte, a pesar de la invasión de su país. Si esto ocurriera, las consecuencias serían incalculables. El fin de esta situación crítica debe ser perseguir con todas las armas y estrategias posibles para que el capitalismo, la dictadura imperialista y el estado de guerra sean erradicados.

Durante la conferencia tuvieron que eliminar pan-paños para degradar a quienes el imperio acusaba de "proletarios de todos los países unidos!" ¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países unidos! El pueblo de los Estados Unidos se está cansando de pagar por las múltiples guerras en el exterior con su sueldo, su esfuerzo y con los miles de dólares que pagan en sus impuestos. Además, la esperada oposición progresista a la guerra imperialista, hoy se ve confrontada con un nuevo fenómeno: un creciente cansancio de las guerras de las corporaciones estadounidenses.

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