Supporters worldwide demand
FREE MUMIA NOW!

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

More than 100 activists assembled outside the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia on Aug. 30 to demand the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Ja-
mal, an innocent man who has been held captive by the U.S. carceral state for 37 years. While demonstrators rallied on the streets below, other supporters packed the courtroom to demonstrate that the people will never tire of demanding jus-
tice for Mumia.

Lawyers representing Abu-Jamal re-
quested a new discovery period to un-
cover documents that will demonstrate that Mumia’s post-conviction appeals were unjustly blocked by racist and cor-
rupt Philadelphia Supreme Court Justice and former Philadelphia District Attor-
ney Ronald Tucker. Judge Leon Tucker granted the motion for a 60-day contin-
uation; now, lawyers will again go before Judge Tucker on Oct. 29 to demand the right to appeal Mumia’s conviction.

The International Concerned Family
and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and
members of the MOVE Organization were
joined by Workers World Party mem-
bers from Philadelphia, New York and
Durham, N.C., as well as activists from as
far away as France and Senegal. Among
the crowd were figures like Keith Cook,
district director of the North Carolina
NAACP State Conference and Abu-Jamal’s
brother; Mireille Fanon-Mendès-France,
founder of the Frantz Fanon Foundation
and daughter of revolutionary philoso-
pher Frantz Fanon; human rights activist
Roger Wareham of the December 12th
Movement; Claude Guillaumaud-Pujol
of the Paris-based organization Libérons
Mumia; and Rachel Wolkenstein, activist
for REAL Justice; Pam Africa, the MOVE
organization’s minister of confrontation;
Marc Lamont Hill, CNN contributor and
owner of Uncle Bobbie’s Coffee &
Books in Philadelphia; former Drex-
el professor George Ciccariello-Ma-
her; and poet and organizer Sister
Empress Phile Chionesu, a longtime ally of Mumia and MOVE and direc-
tor of the Million Woman March. A
full video of the press conference can
be found at tinyurl.com/ybchsvh.

Pledges of renewed solidarity with
Mumia poured in from around the
world in the days leading up to the
Aug. 30 hearing. German Bundestag
(federal parliament) member Zak-
lin Nastic wrote a letter directly to
Mumia, pledging that “International-
al Solidarity is not merely a hollow
phrase; it is practical, emphatic, and
brought to life by the enduring sup-
port of local support movements.”

The Swedish Dockworkers Union
issued a statement demanding
Mumia’s freedom on behalf of nearly
2 million workers globally, from the
International Dockworkers Council,
the Japanese Doro-Chiba railway
workers union; the National Union
of Metalworkers of South Africa, the
largest union in South Africa; and
the 1.4-million-strong British and
Irish general workers union, Unite.

Philly DAs conspire against Mumia

DA Castille is a bloodthirsty proponent
of the death penalty and has spent his ca-
reer trying to implement policies to fast-
track executions, particularly for people
accused of killing cops.

As a Supreme Court justice, Castille
denied the appeals of men like Jermaine
Williams, whom Castille prosecuted as
DA and whose execution he authorized.
Years later, Castille had left the DAs of-
eo and been elected state justice when
Williams’ appeal reached the court. Wil-
liams’ lawyers demanded Castille recuse
himself, but he refused.

This conduct was too extraordinarily
unjust even for the bourgeois capitalist
legal system. In the 2016 case Williams
Continued on page 6

Make every day
LABOR DAY

EDITORIAL 10

Hotel workers, Sept. 4

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Assassination in Donetsk 11

August 31, 2018

Workers.org 212.627.2994
and genuine philanthropist who called this city home.

President Donald Trump was blasted for his claim that Franklin “worked for me on numerous occasions.”

The acclaimed professor Michael Eric Dyson hammered back: “You foolish fascist! She ain’t worked for you. She worked above you. She worked beyond you.”

There were a number of stellar musical performances at the funeral. Stevie Wonder, another Detroit native who retains strong ties to the city, celebrated the song with his song “As.” With the words “I’ll be loving you always,” he spoke to Detroit’s enduring affection for the Queen.

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

Workers Party World

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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Workers World’s Detroit branch has been woven into the fabric of community life here. In the past two weeks, numerous stories have been shared of how the artist generated money for Detroit and talents with Detroit care, time, she walked into a music store and bought instruments for music students in Detroit Public Schools. She then sat down at the piano and played and sang for the people in the store.

When catering her legendary parties, Franklin would order extra food and have it delivered to homeless shelters. When she saw a news story about a family’s hardships, she would anonymously arrange for a check to be sent. For decades, Aretha Franklin has been a voice for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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Workers World
Barricades surrounded the stump of Silent Sam and other monuments on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on the night of Aug. 30. Silent Sam, a symbol of white supremacy that had stood at the entrance of campus since 1913, had been righteously toppled by students and the community on Aug. 20. Silent Sam and other monuments were gathered for what was billed as a “dance party and speakout.” This was the third student-led protest against racism in 10 days.

As crowds of mostly students began to approach the site, a halftime dozen white supremacists began to arrive as well. The white supremacists were quickly swarmed by the media, who attempted to give the bigots a platform. These efforts were met swiftly by counterprotesters who successfully drowned them out. Chanting “Na- zis go home!” the protesters shifted the media’s attention to the night’s message: Cops and Klan were not welcome.

Anon Cole, the young man who first began shouting down the white supremacists, said: “When I saw the media interviewing these white supremacists, I was appalled. Why would they give exposure to this garbage? I had to tell them and ensure they stop.”

Almost 300 protesters had gathered for the event. There was music, dancing and free ice cream mixed in with chants of “Black Lives Matter!” and “Cops and Klan go hand-in-hand!”

By Meghan Watts

Chapel Hill, N.C.

However, when the white supremacists appeared, the atmosphere shifted to a decidedly more focused and passionate defense of the campus and its students. The pre-positioning of the barricades and industrial floodlights around the empty pedestal for racism became clear.

The rights were followed by protest- ers, who chanted and shouted down both the cops and the Klan. Then, without warning or provocation, a police officer discharged a pepper spray projectile at the students, members of the media and others in the crowd.

As the first countries of protestors dwindled, cops took the opportunity to arrest three people. Two were charged with af- fray (breach of the peace), and one was charged with resisting an officer. UNC CH Chancellor Carol Folt released a statement Aug. 31 that the UNC system’s board of governors had approved identifying “a safe, legal and alternative process of action. In the meantime, students and community members will continue to de- fend their campus against white supremacists by challenging the university’s repression against students and activists.”

Watts is a student at UNC Chapel Hill.

By Zachary Richardson

Durham, N.C.

Energized by the fall of the Silent Sam statue in neighboring Chapel Hill, N.C., just days before, activists and community members representing a wide spectrum of progressive interests gathered on Aug. 25. Nearly 500 people marched from the Hayti Heritage Center in Durham, N.C., for “How to Topple a Statue, How to Tear Down a Wall,” a conference and celebration marking one year since one of Durham’s own Confederate monuments was brought to the ground.

Planned by the group Defend Durham, the conference brought together anti-rac- ist organizers, religious leaders, student activists and anti-capitalist advocates from groups like Stop Killing Us, Comité de Acción Popular, Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere (FIRE), Charlotte- ttes Standing Up For Racial Justice, Duke University’s Graduate Student Union, Durham’s NAACP, Socialist and Liberation, The Green Party and others to assess the state of the move- ment one year after horrific right-wing violence at the Charlottesville rally. Prominent freedom fighters locally and nationally to intensify the struggle against racism — both explicitly and implicitly.

“I’m glad that our action has made people open their eyes and interrogate the seemingly natural order of everyday life,” said Takiyah Thompson, a Workers’ World member who became a national figure the day after her speech at the virulently militaristic response from campus and the local police when describing the struggle of students to remove white supremacist symbols from campus. To date, sixteen anti-racist organizers face charges stemming from the protests on campus.

Students and the community await the ultimate outcome of the state’s action. In the meantime, students and community members will continue to de- fend their campus against white supremacists by challenging the university’s repression against students and activists.

While praising the many individual acts of resistance that have garnered at- tention in this period — from a mother hearing about Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s abuses and driving to the border in protest, to others collecting fre- quent flier miles to donate in the service of refugees and migrants — Gutierrez noted that these acts weren’t enough on their own. It is “the task of the left,” she said, “the task of the working-class movement to take this moment in history, this conscious- ness in support of im/migrants, and take it further. … You can’t be passionate for immigration reform or father and still support U.S. policies that create the most violent destabilizations [in those coun- tries]. You just can’t do that.”

Most panelists echoed something of a universal theme: that all of these struggles were connected, and that any successes in realizing a more just world come from the people themselves.

“The hashtag that started going out after [Aug. 14 when the Durham statue came down] was #doitlikedurham,” said Workers World Party’s Elena Everett. “I don’t think any of the activists came up with that. It really was Durham that took that statue down. Each of us are actors on a larger historical stage, but we wouldn’t have been able to have it done, we wouldn’t have been able to sit here before you if it wasn’t the will of the people.” The question then, she said, was how to raise consciousness that “this movement, this community is tear- ing down white supremacy from Durham to Charlottesville to the White House to South Africa to all over the world; that we’re interconnected.”

Thompson, who reminded the audi- ence that the conference was taking place during Black August and a nationwide prisoners strike, reiterated that point: “We have to tear down the wall in a physical sense, but also in an ideological sense.”

North Carolina

Students resist Klan on campus

Conference strategizes tearing down statues, walls

By Meghan Watts

Chapel Hill, N.C.

Anti-racist protesters gather Aug. 30 on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Lessons of an early socialist experiment

This Part 2 of the series “What Is Socialism?” consists of an abridged version of the first half of Sam Marcy’s 1992 pamphlet entitled “Socialism: Utopian or Scientific?” In it, Marcy describes an attempt by a Welsh manufacturer in the early 19th century to found some utopian socialist colonies by establishing a model town in the U.S. based on communist principles. He analyzes its many achievements but also what eventually overwhelmed this bold experiment. The complete pamphlet can be read at workers.org/marcy/xt/samsox/index.htm.

Not far from the Wabash River in southwest Indiana is a little town called New Harmony. Population of about a thousand hasn’t varied much for decades. It has been seen for many years as a cultural center in a largely agrarian region. Its museum, its library, its olde-time library, and its annual folk festival attract many thousands of tourists annually.

The town of New Harmony has considerable significance from a historical point of view. It was a milestone in the evolution of socialist thought and has retained some features of socialist reform that have practical political significance today, even if only in intellectual circles.

What makes New Harmony stand out? More than 150 years ago, when it was still a frontier town, an attempt was made to recapture the ideal society in England that there were many similar ventures at that time, but this one is notable because it was organized and inspired by one of the truly great figures of the 19th century, a Welshman named Robert Owen.

Robert Owen stands out like a giant because he did spend his considerable fortune in the cause of improving the lives of the workers. He established a number of communist societies in Scotland and in the United States and devoted the better part of his life to tirelessly defending the interests of the working class.

Robert Owen: early communist

In his book “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” Frederick Engels describes how Owen’s work began at a time when the conditions of the working class in the large manufacturing towns of Brit- ain had become frightful.

“The industrial revolution most of his class saw only chaos and confusion, and the opportunity of fighting in these troubled waters and making large fortunes quickly. He saw in it the opportunity of putting into practice his utopian theory, and so bringing order out of chaos.”

“...He had already tried it with success, as superintendent of more than 500 men in a Manchester factory. From 1800 to 1829, he directed the great cotton mill at New Lanark, in Scotland, as managing partner, along the same lines, but with greater freedom of action and with a success that made him a European reputation.”

“A population, originally consisting of the most diverse and, for the most part, very demoralized elements, a population that gradually grew to 2,500, he turned into a model colony, in which drummers, soldiers, policemen, magistrates, lawyers, poor laws, charity were unknown. And all this simply by placing the people in the conditions worthy of human beings, and especially by carefully bringing up the rising generation.”

How different this was from the underfed, ill-cared-for social services of today, which help drag down the spirit of the people!

“...It was under way, as later history showed. Many of the cooperative ventures with their systematic planning needed to build his egalitarian society. Indeed, these cooperative ventures with their more limited resources are among the first to be swept away, as later history showed. Many of the cooperative enterprises, built up by years of hard work and self-sacrifice, fell victims to the crises that the capitalist mode of production inevitably brings.

Owen started his first cooperative venture in 1820. In 1825, when he tried to develop New Harmony as an island of cooperation in a world torn by class antagonisms, the first worldwide capitalist economic crisis was under way.

Even the capitalist crisis of 1825, while short-lived, was universal in character. It vitally affected New Harmony because no community can stand alone in the midst for thirty years. Every social movement, every political tendency. Neither the philosophers nor the theoreticians of utopian idealism [during Owen’s time] could foresee the devastating class character of the crisis that was emerging under total domination by the bourgeoisie.

Not until Marx and Engels arrived on the scene was it possible to analyze the dynamics of the capitalist sys- tem. ... The raging class struggle made any attempt at social equality and abolition of the horrors of capitalism impossible. Socialism can only come as the product of the vast struggle of all parts of the working class itself in irreconcilable conflict with the bourgeoisie.

Above all, Owen could not in his day foresee the emerging anarchy of capitalist production. The destruction of the first paroxysm of the capitalist crisis would not allow even a tiny oasis to carry out the systematic planning needed to build his egalitarian society. Indeed, these cooperative ventures with their more limited resources are among the first to be swept away, as later history showed. Many of the cooperative enterprises, built up by years of hard work and self-sacrifice, fell victims to the crises that the capitalist mode of production inevitably brings.

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The roots of communism go much further back, how- ever. They lie deep in the primary stage of the develop- ment of human society. Primary communism was the first form of social existence of the human species.

Lewis Henry Morgan’s writings on the communal life of the Iroquois in North America confirmed what the socialist movement in Europe had deduced about ear- lier societies elsewhere before written history: that there was a universal period when property was communal, there was no state, and the products of human labor were shared equitably. These conclusions have since been fortified by the study of Native peoples all over the Americas, Asia and Africa.

Primary communism based on food gathering and hunting succumbed to private ownership because it lacked the necessary concentration and development of the means of production. But private property, while more productive, also brought subjugation and degra- dation, first of women.

The discovery of the early communist societies refut- ed the notion that the progress of human society has been from primitive communism to communism as the bourgeoisie: that a planned society is utopian, that class society is inevitable. ... The newly-created, gigantic productive forces, hitherto used only to enrich individuals and to enslave the masses, offered to Owen the foundations for a reconstruction of society; they were destitute, as common property of all, to be worked for the common good of all.

The advance in the direction of communism was the turning point of Owen’s life. As long as he was simply a philanthropist, he was rewarded with nothing but wealth, applause, honor and glory. But when he came out with his communist theories, that was quite another story...

Banished from official society... he turned directly to the working class and continued working in their midst for thirty years. Every social movement, every real advance in England on behalf of the workers links itself on to the name of Robert Owen. He forced through in 1839, after five years’ fighting, the first law limiting the hours of labor of women and children in factories. He was president of the first congress at which all the trade unions of England united in a single great trade association.

New Harmony

From 1824 to 1827, New Harmony [in Indiana], now a small and friendly town with its factories and iron enterprises, built up by years of hard work and self-sacrifice, had become one of the most commu- nistic and inventive reformers of the day, as well as wom- en and men of the natural sciences. In addition, many jobless people found their way there, inspired by public lectures Owen gave in many Eastern cities.

The principles of the community were explained as follows: “Within the community all work was to be equal. One was to receive that which was necessary to him. The teachers’ work was to be on the same footing with the laborer; the farmer the equal of all. Were to perform to the best of their ability and receive the same compensation.” (“The New Harmony Story” by Don Blair)

In its few short years of existence, the community soc- iety at New Harmony broke new ground. It introduced into the United States the first kindergarten, the first public library, the first civic dramatic club, and it was the seat of the first geological survey.

The progressive achievements of this little utopian colony inevitably became the basis for important de- mands taken up later by the working-class movement.

The bosses are still fighting tooth and nail against such benefits and cutting them back wherever they can. To the extent that they are today more generally available to the workers, it is owing to bitter class battles across the country. How interesting that what were at that time considered utopian have now become very practical and are becoming more and more necessary.

Long after it ceased to be a communist colony, New Harmony was a social and cultural oasis. It was to be- come a center of both the abolitionist and the women’s movements.

Why it disintegrated

Why did it disintegrate? The common explanation is that they failed to reward “personal initia-

tive.” In it, Marcy describes an attempt by a Welsh manufacturer in the early 19th century to found some utopian socialist colonies by establishing a model town in the U.S. based on communist principles. He analyzes its many achievements but also what eventually overwhelmed this bold experiment. The complete pamphlet can be read at workers.org/marcy/xt/samsox/index.htm.
EPA aids Big Coal, imperils human health and planet

By Kathy Durkin

The Trump administration handed Big Coal a bonanza when the Environmental Protection Agency proposed rolling back pollution controls on coal-burning electrical power plants on Aug. 20. Andrew Wheeler, former coal industry lobbyist and acting EPA administrator, signed the plan to the cheers of Big Coal and boos from environmentalists and public health advocates. Wheeler has been dubbed “a member of the coal industry’s Hall of Fame.”

The current U.S. president pledged to rejuvenate the coal industry throughout his election campaign. He promised mine owners that he would help them increase profits and get rid of pesky pollution controls. In his first day in office, he showed his adherence to the promise by terminating a ban on coal companies dumping waste into bodies of water.

Now, with Trump’s blessing, comes the EPA’s new policy, misnamed the Affordable Clean Energy plan. This so-called “environmental” policy is a sham that will actually increase coal-plant emissions of carbon dioxide, a major cause of global warming. Coal-fired power plants use coal combustion to generate electricity. This process is dangerous; it produces extremely toxic chemical reactions which release toxic airborne pollutants and heavy metals into the atmosphere. The Union of Concerned Scientists lists these pollutants, which cause cancer, heart and lung disease and neurological disorders, at tinyurl.com/ydckummk. U.S. coal power plants emitted more than 197,000 tons of soot and other airborne particles in 2014; these impair children’s lung development and cause lung disease, particularly among miners.

Coal is no longer a necessity, as there is no energy shortage because of other alternatives. The Trump administration is trying to sabotage moves to renewable energy. The White House is fiercely challenging California’s mandate that all electricity should come from carbon-free sources by 2045. Hawaii plans to do the same, while other states are moving in that direction.

Human health sacrificed for profits

By the EPA’s own admissions about its plan, the release of more carbon pollution could cause an additional 1,400 premature deaths and 15,000 more cases of bronchial disease a year. The agency’s figures show that by 2050 there could be 96,000 more severe cases of asthma, said CBS News on Aug. 21. The same day Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, stated, “The Trump plan means millions of tons more air pollution endangering our children’s health, lives and future.”

Smoke from coal plants endangers human health. Burning coal causes other chemical reactions which release toxic airborne pollutants and heavy metals into the atmosphere. The Union of Concerned Scientists lists these pollutants, which cause cancer, heart and lung disease and neurological disorders, at tinyurl.com/ydckummk. U.S. coal power plants emitted more than 197,000 tons of soot and other airborne particles in 2014; these impair children’s lung development and cause lung disease, particularly among miners. Since many coal-fired plants are located near low-income African-American, Latinx and Indigenous communities, their residents will be more severely affected by these illnesses, something that is not a concern to administration racists.

The methods involved in mining coal are also dangerous and deadly to workers and nearby communities. With mountaintop mining, a common form of surface mining, explosives open the mines and automated machinery mines the coal. The mining and processing spews dust made of ultra-fine particles composed of carcinogenic metals. This dust covers the landscape and houses, and clogs waterways. This coal extraction method has been used on more than 300 Appalachian mountains.

Michael Hendryx of Indiana University says air pollution from this type of mining is associated with additional deaths a year from heart and lung disease in neighboring low-income Appalachian communities. Birth defects also increase. (Yale Environment 360, Nov. 21)

A year ago, Trump’s appointees to the Interior Department halted a National Academies of Sciences engineering study of mountaintop mining’s public health risks. It appears this was a deliberate action to keep nearby communities uninformed about the real, local dangers of this type of mining. (NY Times, Aug. 21, 2017)

Miners: more lung disease, fewer jobs

Today’s coal companies are using faster-moving machines that emit more dust from silica-laced rock surrounding the coal. Airborne silica dust causes lung disease, particularly among miners. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has weakened mining safety regulations, reducing the amount of air monitoring for miners and many more serious, even fatal, workplace injuries.

Every day miners inhale this intensified coal dust, and many will ultimately suffer from respiratory illnesses, especially...
There are rumors from prisoners of strike participation at 11 North Carolina facilities, with confirmation of organizers being put in segregation at least two prisons. (Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee)

South Carolina – Prisoners are reported to be striking in Broad River, Lee, McCormick, Turberville, Kershaw andLieber correctional institutions. The actions include widespread workstrikes, with only a few prisoners reporting to their jobs and commissary boycotts. (Jailhouse Lawyers Speak)

Twin Towers Jail, located in downtown Los Angeles spoke at the event, connecting that we hear their demands. Let the folks behind bars hear our solidarity that conjures notions of modernized liberation. (JLS)

Florida – Five Florida facilities are evidently seeing strike activity: Charlotte Correctional reports 40 refusing work and 100 boycotting commissary. Dade Correctional prisoners say 30 to 40 on strike. Franklin Correctional reports 30 to 60. Holmes Correctional reports 70. Appalachee Correctional reports an unknown number. (ILS)

Texas – In solidarity with the national strike, two prisoners in a ‘hot’ prison messaged they are on hunger strike in segregation, as is Robert Uvalle in Mi-Lon, Anderson County, who has been in solitary for most of his 25 years inside. (IWOC)

Indiana – Prisoners in the segregation unit at Wabash Valley Correctional Institution began a hunger strike Aug. 27, demanding adequate food and an end to cold temperatures in the unit. (IWOC)

Washington state – Approximately 30 prisoners at Northwest Detention Center were sent to segregation on Aug. 30 after they, and eventually at least 30 others, demanded an end to a new requirement that they stand up as the warden enters each pod. NWDC is a private immigration prison located in Tacoma. A staff member said that NWDC went on hunger strike in solidarity with the National Prison Strike; about 60 people continue to hunger strike into a second week. (NWDC Resistance)

Prisoner support picket in Los Angeles.

It is easy to see how the media is ignoring the Move 9, a statement of solidarity which should be read to themselves in capital cases if asked to hear an appeal to a conviction that they themselves had prosecuted. Mumin's lawyers are gathering similar evidence of Castillo's judicial and prosecutorial misconduct in his case. The search began when the court granted Castillo more than a year ago, but DA Larry Krasner has delayed the turnover of files who would end the death penalty in Pennsylvania. Krasner is not always at odds with any other prosecutor. Upon his election in 2017, he actually appointed Castillo to his transition team — after the disgraced former justice had already been found by the U.S. Supreme Court to have unjustly sent him to death row; and it was people power that rescued him from death row.
By Reece Evans
Oakland, Calif.

A rally to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal was held Aug. 28 at Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland, two days before a major court hearing considered Mumia’s case in Philadelphia on Aug. 30. Abu-Jamal is a political activist, journalist and internationally celebrated Black writer imprisoned in Pennsylvania for over 36 years of a death row and now under a life sentence.

The rally brought attention to the fact that evidence shows now, as it always has, that Mumia Abu-Jamal is innocent. The evidence highlighted at the Aug. 30 hearing also exposed the true nature of the “injustice system” as corrupt.

That hearing pivoted on the fact that former Philadelphia District Attorney Ronald Castille, who was key in prosecuting and convicting Mumia to death row, went on to sit on the Pennsylvania state Supreme Court and to rule on Mumia’s later legal appeals, without recusing himself for conflict of interest.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that it is unconstitutional for a judge to decide an appeal in a case where they had previously been involved at a hands-on level as a prosecutor.

On Aug. 28, the rally called for the freedom of not only Mumia Abu-Jamal, but all political prisoners. Speakers demanded the release of other prisoners falsely accused and targeted by the racist injustice system, including Leonard Pelletier, Mumia Shakur, Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown) and Kevin Cooper.

By Reece Evans
Oakland, Calif.

The rally also called for solidarity with the nationwide prison strike that began Aug. 21 and continues to Sept. 9.

In addition to MC Ras Ceylon, speakers at the event included Cat Brooks, co-founder of the Anti Police-Terror Project and Oakland mayoral candidate; Gerald Smith, former Black Panther; Cephus X (“Uncle Bobby”) Johnson, uncle of Oscar Grant; and representatives from various organizations including the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oakland Teachers for Mumia and Workers World Party.

Labor unions for Mumia

Labor union resolutions and letters of support to “Free Mumia Abu-Jamal” were mentioned at the rally. These included an international Longshore and Warehouse Union resolution representing all 25 West Coast ports, and a letter from the Swedish Dockworkers Union. The latter called for an end to Mumia’s unjust imprisonment and to end to the racist oppression within and outside of prison that is carried out by a reign of police and neo-fascist terror.

Also mentioned from the San Francisco Labor Council resolution sums up the “legal” crime perpetrated to keep Mumia in prison.

“Whereas, the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office has obstructed and covered up the evidence of Castille’s personal vendetta against Mumia, and stalled and denied the existence of memos and files showing that involvement. ... Therefore be it resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council demand full disclosure of all police and prosecutorial files relating to Mumia’s case by the [current] Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office with all deliberate speed, and moreover demand the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been imprisoned for 36 years for a crime he did not commit.

Long-standing and militant union support for Mumia was documented in a press release from the Free Mumia Coalition: “The Federal Order of Police has unsuccessfully sought Mumia’s execution for decades. In 1999, longshore workers from the IWIU Local 10 shut down the ports and led a rally of twenty-five thousand in San Francisco to stop Mumia’s execution. From prison, Mumia, a former Black Panther, has written nine books and recorded over 3,000 commentaries on KPFA, Prison Radio and other outlets, which inspire and educate millions around the globe who identify with his struggles for justice and equality for all of humanity.”


Action alert for Mumia!

It is urgent that we act now to bring attention to this injustice and secure freedom for Mumia. Call Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner at 215-681-8000 and tell him that former DA Ron Castille violated Mumia’s constitutional rights and that Krasner must not obstruct Mumia’s legal petition.

The power of the people was responsible in 2011 for getting Mumia off death row. By the power of the people we can get free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners! 

South Carolina prisoners

Jailed in a modern day plantation’

Conducted after an April 15 rebellion at Lee Correctional Institution, a South Carolina maximum security prison, this excerpted interview is Part 5 of a series. (Earlier segments are available at workers.org.) Lee was the deadliest prison uprising since the Lucasville Uprising on April 11-21, 1993. (See “Lucasville prison uprising 25th anniversary,” at workers.org) Jared Ware spoke with individuals inside Lee, one of whom identified as a member of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a group of imprisoned human rights advocates who called for the National Prison Strike from Aug. 21 to Sept. 9. Demands and support actions are at incarceratedworkers.org.

D: Yes, it’s the environment. It’s the whole... S: It’s the prison. I think. D: Yeah. It’s the whole place. S: Yeah. It’s the whole place. D: I think it’s a crusade against Black people. S: Yeah, it’s a crusade against Black people.

D: Jared, Lee Correctional Facility [in Bishopville, S.C.] was named after the county. Lee County that was named after Robert E. Lee, a Confederate general and a former slave owner, and a facility that is in his name. The county was first named Lee County in the 1890s after Reconstruction had ended. [Later Correctional opens in 1993.] What does it mean to prisoners that make that connection?

S: Prisoners who were probably from the Bishopville area who may have had that information through the educational system, or conscious prisoners who read and research things — those prisoners might be aware of that. But for the vast majority of prisoners, that don’t have any significance to them.

D: I would have to second that. I don’t think prisoners for the most part have any awareness of that. To be honest with you, I don’t think prisoners know that. Very much reading as I have done, as much cultural reading as I have done, I was very ignorant of that up until very recently, up until the last several weeks. ... We all know a prison is nothing more than a modern day plantation. So we understand that fact, really it’s quite fitting.

But still, it would seem you wouldn’t want to name one of your state institutions, ... It seems like someone would raise their hand and say, “No.”

This is the type of mindset we’re dealing with in the state of South Carolina today. ... [South Carolina is] in the top six or seven states as far as racist disparities [that] relates to sentencing and imprisonment rates in the nation. I think [Black people are only] like 20 to 29 in the state of South Carolina, and that’s less than the average in the nation. South Carolina and over 60-something percent of the prison population.

A recent study not too long ago told us that Black people specifically were being automatically oversentenced by judges. It said if you were Black, you were 50 times more likely to be sentenced to a maximum sentence rather than a minimum sentence, as much more likely to be sentenced to longer sentences, based on your race. Everybody knows the color of the state of South Carolina when you say Black is white. [Black people are] 50 times more likely to have a hispanic last name. This is an indicator of the nature of the beast that we are dealing with.

Even when South Carolina was going through Reconstruction, all of the Blacks that were a part of the Reconstruction phase were eventually thrown out of power, because there was a compromise between the North and the South. We have to always remember that. That’s when we get back to 1865, back to the 13th Amendment, that constitutional amendment and the compromise [to continue slavery in prison] that was reached across the table.

The power dynamics in the South has never changed. And I think we’re seeing the rottenness of it in today’s times. ... Yeah, one of my comrades was recently released from prison over the last year or so. He was housed at Lee County at one point and he was a coordinator on the compound. He was able to organize over 150 members every week to come together positively, sit down and have discussions. ... Whenever there would be any type of alteration, they would try to talk over things first, and most often if they couldn’t, then they would handle it like men and knuckle it up. But there wasn’t so much knives, and people getting killed or stabbed up. All of that was called down by the inside.

[Then] the STG (Security Threat Group) supervisor from headquarters got with the warden at that time, and they called [my friend] to a conference to explain how is it that you could have Crips, Bloods, Muslims, etc., in the same room every week and never any violence going on?” The [STG] told [the warden] that [the prisoners] were “up to something.” And what did they do to [my comrade coordinating the program]? They shipped him to another institution. In another short story, [then the administration at Lee] moved these guys around, pilled all these guys up on one yard, waited for one thing to happen. But we have paid for our mistakes. Showing some humanity. That’s what we want society to do — show some humanity.

D: One last note I wanted to add. The ground is vibrating right now for a national strike Aug. 21 [to Sept. 9] throughout the nation. South Carolina is an example of what’s actually occurring throughout the nation. ... People died here [at Lee Correctional] so they might want to get back in this [strike] right here, and highlight it by making a statement from the inside.

So we ask folks to support it on the outside ... really support these actions. Let the people know that wherever prisoners may decide to have a strike or a sit-in that the public is mindful, and are watching for any type of retaliatory actions that might take place without the process of this resistance that may be taking place across this nation.
Anti-fascists in Chemnitz

‘Heart, not hate’

By John Catalinotto

On Sept. 1, a traditional day for anti-war demonstrations across Germany, more than 4,000 anti-fascists, including both civilians and anti-fascist forces, confronted a roughly equal number of anti-immigrant and other racist and openly Nazi groups from the streets of Chemnitz. The fascists displayed their mobilization as a “funeral march.”

The anti-fascists, marching under the slogan “Stop the marches!” set out to stop the march of the reactionaries at various street crossings in this industrial city, located in the state of Saxony in southeastern Germany. A large contingent of state and national police separatist the demonstrations.

Five days earlier the fascists, with the full support of racist, xenophobic, national chauvinist forces that Trump has conjured up and consolidated into a reactionary base. This base is not going to go away, whatever happens to Trump. The workers and the oppressed will still have to deal with this reactionary mass. What will be needed in the future is to defeat Trumpism, not just at the polls but on the ground.

Meanwhile, arrest warrants were issued for student demonstrators. This incident illustrates how deeply embedded pro-Confederate sympathy is on the campuses.

While the political defeat of Trump is important, it will not be fundamental because it will not deal with the racist, xenophobic, nationalist, xenophobic, national chauvinist forces that Trump has conjured up and consolidated into a reactionary base. This base is not going to go away, whatever happens to Trump. The workers and the oppressed will still have to deal with this reactionary mass. What will be needed in the future is to defeat Trumpism, not just at the polls but on the ground.

The fascists fed on the false news story spread in the corporate media — that a murder victim had been killed while defending German women from an assault by asylum-seekers. Nothing was done in the media nor by the Christian Democratic leaders of Saxony to counter this evil slander. The fascists were mostly people from Arab and African countries.

The fascists素质 on the following evening a reported 8,000 racists occupied the center of the city and hunted down anyone they suspected of being an immigrant. There were Nazi salutes with “Heil Heils,” which are outlawed in Germany, and chants of “We’ll get you all.”

The German bourgeois publication Der Spiegel reported that “The police in Saxony likewise hit the headlines with predictable regularity: when they, for example, prevent journalists from doing their jobs or fail to mobilize enough officers, thus forcing them to stand by passively as right-wing extremists rampages through the streets.” (Der Spiegel, Aug. 31)

Chemnitz was formerly called Karl-Marx-Stadt during the period of the GDR. It is the third-largest city in the southeastern state of Saxony with a population of 250,000.

Danzigization in socialist East Germany

After the Red Army occupied eastern Germany in 1945, the Communist Party was merged with the Social Democratic Party to become the Socialist Unity Party. In 1949 the GDR was established following the establishment of West Germany, the German Democratic Republic before the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 and capitalism was restored as West Germany, the Federal Republic.

In the capitalist West, high Nazi officials retained their pensions and got official jobs. “A total of 25 cabinet ministers, one president and one chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany — as postwar Germany is officially known — had been members of Nazi organizations.” (Der Spiegel, March 6, 2002) This line of thought was forced into the public by the Left Party.

The GDR, under socialist leadership, took a different path. The newly elected government was undoubtedly very difficult to construct a state and a society with a population that had lived under Hitler for 12 years. Nevertheless, the task was accomplished.

For example, Bruno Bruni de la Motte, no socialist himself, wrote in the London Review, March 8, 2007: “I was born and grew up in the German Democratic Republic...
NAFTA was bad for workers; U.S. belligerence is worse

By G. Dunkel

The North American Free Trade Agreement has helped the U.S. imperialist ruling class expand its dominion over the working class in Latin America. It has also brought benefit to both the imperialist neighboring neighbor to the north, Canada, and its neighbor to the south, Mexico — which is clearly tied to Central and Latin America. At the same time it has enriched the owners at the expense of workers and farmers in all three countries. Negotiated by the then U.S. President, George H.W. Bush administration and signed into law by Bill Clinton in December 1993, NAFTA has brought tremendous benefits to big U.S. corporations that can maneuver to move production to wherever it is cheapest. This is why auto production is booming in Mexico, where workers report the average wage auto is around $2.50 — not the $8-10 an hour U.S. companies claim but that only a small handful of highly skilled workers receive. (AP, Sept. 25).

In 2017, the Mexican automotive industry employed some 840,000 workers both directly and as assembly of vehicles and for the production of auto parts.

Consider this statistic from the U.S. Department of Commerce: U.S. trade in goods and services with Canada and Mexico rose from $337 billion in 1993 to $81.1 trillion in 2015. This tripling of the dollar value of trade implies an even greater increase in profits.

Jerry Dias, president of Canada’s largest private-sector trade union, Unifor, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in August that “NAFTA was bad for Canadian workers, (U.S.) American workers, and especially Mexican workers.”

Unifor has been very active in trying to build ties with the Mexican union movement and has invited Mexican trade union leaders to Canada, its leaders have gone to Mexico, and it has raised Mexican issues in a number of demonstrations throughout North Dakota. Unifor represents most of the 88,000 workers in the Canadian auto assembly industry and the 120,000 workers making auto parts.

NAFTA crushes Mexican farmers

NAFTA devastated Mexican farmers. CBS News estimated in 2006 that a two million Mexican farmers had lost their livelihood due to imports of highly subsidized U.S. corn, beans and rice. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that 900,000 small Mexican corn farmers were forced off their farms to look for work elsewhere because U.S. agribusiness could undersell their corn.

This flood of displaced farmers into Mexico’s labor market contributed to the drop in real wages and to rising unemployment rates during the first 10 years of NAFTA. Displaced farmers who couldn’t find jobs in Mexico were forced to migrate to the United States.

Trump’s assertion that NAFTA is the “worst agreement ever” for U.S. business or workers is simply his own demagogy. He claims that by importing less and exporting more, ordinary U.S. people will gain. Some see Trump’s stance as a bargaining ploy for the U.S. to get more from Canada and Mexico and pay less. This approach does nothing to benefit U.S. workers.

Mexico’s outgoing president, Enrique Peña Nieto, wanted to sign quickly before he leaves office. Under his successor, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, takes office. It would be a last success for Peña Nieto and remove a major problem from the new administration. But the main reason why Mexico gave in was Trump’s threat to impose tariffs on all automobile imports, not just impose a quota. This would undermine and destroy the employment of nearly 900,000 people. It would also affect the U.S. The nonprofit, apples-for-dollars, that Mexican manufacturers include in the products they make for export.

The Canadian economy is more capital than Mexico’s. A good example of Canada’s strengths is the tight links between plants in Canada and the U.S., and the industry for over 50 years. A 2004 study showed that 257,000 jobs in Michigan and $83 billion in annual production depend on the crossing between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. Any action on Trump’s part to harm or destroy the Canadian auto industry would have a major impact on this quarter-million jobs.

NAFTA had already hurt the interests of working people in the three countries. Trump’s belligerent approach to trade risks making the lives of Mexican, U.S. and Canadian workers even harder.

EPA aids Big Coal, imperils human health and planet

Continued from page 3

Black Lung disease. More than 70,000 miners have died from this illness since 1968. (Newsweek, Jan. 27) The worst form of the incurable disease now affects more Appalachian coal miners than ever, including newer, younger miners.

David Blakley, epidemiologist with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, has said, “As a percent of all miners, we’re seeing more of it than we’ve ever seen before.” It could affect one in five miners. (npr.org, May 22)

For the number of coal jobs has been drastically reduced because of acceleration in mechanization and technology. Although the current president promised more jobs to desperate miners to get their votes, their words were empty promises. While there were 250,000 such jobs 40 years ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported 51,800 coal mining jobs as of Dec. 31.

Only 1,100 coal jobs were added nation-wide in 2017, while several coal-pro- ducing states have lost mining jobs. Coal companies have shuttered. The huge, mechanized mining sites are increasing production and profits — but with fewer workers. Miners are desperate to obtain these jobs to feed their families.

The U.S. was mining more coal than it needed on the job. No one else will provide them the protections they need to join the union. No one else will provide them the protections they need to join the union.

Unions are crucial in the fight for workers’ protections, especially now as the corporations, with their ally in the White House, seek to roll back their rights and lives. What is needed is worker solidarity and militant action to protect health and safety, demand protections and guarantee the survival and flourishing of communities and the planet.
Syrian army prepares to retake Idlib province

By Karin Leukefeld

Thousands of soldiers, elite units, heavy military equipment — the Syrian army is present in the south and west of Idlib province. The Syrian army is similar to what preceded the liberation of East Aleppo, the eastern suburbs of Ghuta, and the southern and western provinces of Dera'a and Quneitra.

Helicopters circle the province and drop leaflets calling on the combatants to surrender: “The war is about to end” and “Time to stop the bloodshed.” The people of Idlib should agree to reconcile “as our people have done in other parts of Syria.”

Idlib has become a kind of “dumping ground” for all those armed combat groups who oppose a ceasefire and agreements with the government, and who want to capture Damascus and turn Syria into a religious state. Their motto is “God can defeat them.” They are close to al-Qaida or the “Islamic State” (IS) and are considered “terrorist groups.” In the framework of the “fight against terrorism,” Syria and its allies can continue to fight them despite agreements on ceasefires or “de-escalation areas.”

The الأسيرة of the fighting groups in Idlib is described and supported by the Western NATO countries and the Gulf states as “moderate rebels.” This description is similar to that used against Al-Malahim with about 1,700 fighters and Al-Badia with 2,800 fighters, which were smuggled onto the lists of civilians turned out that the names of HTS fighters are rejected by civil society. The 4,000 “terrorist” combat units, Turkey urged the government. (Jaiah Al-Badia with 2,800 fighters)

In May 2018, in order to better control them and separate them from the extemists, the government called “moderate rebels” to form a “National Liberation Front.” So far, however, An-kara has not succeeded in gaining real control of that front. A couple of weeks ago, its leadership called for an ongoing war against Damascus and wants to defend what they call “the red line.” The “terrorist” combat groups are dominated by the successor organization to the Nusra Front, which is now called Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS, Alliance for the Conquest of the Levant). According to its own statements, the HTS has 37,800 fighters and controls Idlib. In a bloody power struggle with former allies, the organization prevailed in 2017. New reactionary groups have emerged at that time (Jihad Al-Badiya with 2,800 fighters and Al-Malihim with about 1,700 fighters). Remaining IS units are located in the southeastern border area between the provinces of Idlib and Hama. Their number is unclear. They are rejected by the other militias.

Shouting “¡Sí se puede!” “Yes, we can!” and “What kind of power? Union power!” the property maintenance workers, door attendants, window cleaners and food service workers flooded the streets. They sat down to block traffic, and at the Sheraton Boston they announced a strike authori- zation vote. The workers are repre- sented by the United Food, Tobacco, and Retail Workers Union.

In Labor Day coast-to-coast militancy, almost a thousand Marriott Hotel work- ers also demonstrated in San Francisco for living wages. Seventy-five workers were arrested. An overall demand was “One job should be enough!” and “End the lockout, contract push- back and repression from houses, work- ers are surging again. Today, the struggle may be for “enough.”

In May 2018, the government announced that it will stop financing the three projects worth $67 million, if available — follow the Sha- ami model. The London-based Global Justice Center is working to end the practice of forced labor and has already identified 201 cases of forced labor in Syria.

Syrian army preparations to retake Idlib province.

U.S. agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency instead of providing shelter for families who lost their homes. At the end of the march the police, shoulder to shoulder and backed by mo- torycles, blocked the entrance to the Marriott Hotel to protect it from the final rally. Marriott is trying to take the Peo- ple’s Beach and encampment adjacent to this hotel, in order to construct a parking lot and destroy hurricane-resis- tant eco-features.

While the amplified voices of leaders of the organizations that united for the action rang out, volunteers forced to park on the roadside dragged their bags across the boulevard and around the rally. Speakers warned that the forces of teachers’ organizations, political parties and social- ist and independence organizations. The final speaker called for moving from pro- test to organizing popular disobedience to the junta and its complicit government.

A leaflet distributed by organizers called for a #13thDesemблиe (day of unemployment) picket at the Fortaleza on Sept. 3, and actions on the anniversary of Hurricane Maria, Sept. 20, and to mark this Labor Day. The El Grito de Lares, the first major revolt against Spanish colonial- ization that began on September 23, 1868. Reactions These writers are in Puerto Rico gather- ing testimony directly from people who are affected by the historic hurricane of colonialism; they are preparing to put the U.S. on trial for 120 years of crimes against Puerto Rico at an International Tribunal on Oct. 27 in New York City. Even in everyday interactions, the anger of ordinary Puerto Rican people smolders just below the surface. A Puerto Rican grocery store manager’s friend expressed when he described how do- mestic businesses are being squeezed out of restaurants to take pictures.

Puerto Rico needs solidarity and rep- arations, not charity. Put the U.S. colo- nial crimes on trial Oct. 27 in New York City. More information and resources are available at PuertoRicoTribunal.org, on Face- book @PuertoRicoTribunal and on Twitter. Make a donation to help bring people from Puerto Rico to testify at gofundme.com/trialpuertorico.

Endorse THE PEOPLE’S TRIBUNAL on U.S. Crimes Against Puerto Rico.

On Oct. 27, 2018, at 9 a.m. in the Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz in New York City, join Rafael Cancel Miranda and other Puerto Rican and international personalities and organizations at the People’s Tribunal on U.S. Crimes Against Puerto Rico.

To request information, email TribunalPuertoRico@gmail.com, to endorse type “Puerto Rico Tribunal” in the subject line. Website: PuertoRicoTribunal.org on Facebook. Funds for Puerto Rico Tribunal Donations are urgently needed. Please send your contribution to Puerto Rico Tribunal, P.O. Box 34249, Philadelphia, PA 19101 Online: gofundme.com/trialpuertorico
Behind Donetsk leader’s assassination

By Greg Butterfield

Alexander Zakharchenko, prime minister of the anti-fascist Donetsk People’s Republic, was assassinated on Aug. 31 when an explosion ripped through the Separ restaurant in the capital city of Donetsk.

Zakharchenko’s bodyguard, Yurashev Donsenko, was also killed. Twelve other people were injured in the blast, four of them severely, including Finance Minister Alexander Timofoev. Natalia Volkova, a volunteer from Russia, was shot after fires intentionally set during the explosion burned over 60 percent of her body. (Donetsk News Agency, Sept. 1)

Denis Levin, a communist worker from Ukraine living in political exile in Donetsk, told Workers World that the restaurant was often frequented by families and children.

Twelve people were taken into custody on suspicion of participating in planning and carrying out the bombing. According to DPR authorities, the terrorist attack was carried out by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), through operatives trained by the U.S. and NATO military and intelligence services. (Sputnik News, Aug. 31)

Zakharchenko, a small businessperson and the son of a coal miner, participated in the anti-fascist uprising and militia movement in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, following a right-wing coup in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, in early 2014. The coup was backed to the hilt by the United States, which actively collaborated with local oligarchs and neo-Nazis.

In April 2014, with U.S.-NATO support, the Ukrainian regime opened up a brutal war against the people of Donbass. The war has so far cost more than 10,000 lives, according to the United Nations. That May, popular referenda established Donetsk and Lugansk as independent, sovereign republics.

Zakharchenko became prime minister of the DPR in August 2014. As a respect- ed militia fighter without strong political ties, he was seen as the compromise between the left-leaning and anti-es- tablishment forces that led the Donbass uprising and the more conservative, nationalist and capitalized forces backed by the government of the Russian Federation.

Donbass desperately needed the sup- port of neighboring Russia, then and now, as a buffer from fellow separatists, military intervention and other basic needs by a Western blockade.

Zakharchenko was closely identified with the Minsk accords, a set of agree- ments he signed in early 2015 with the participation of Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine, to end the war and bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict. However, the Western-backed govern- ment in Kiev, led by the Poroshenko junta, has never respected the ac- cords. The Ukrainian side continues to shell residential areas along the line of contact outside the outskirts of the Do- netsk capital.

Despite popular disenchantment with the Minsk accords and the difficulties caused by the war, Zakharchenko remained personally popular as a symbol of the united front against the Ukrainian regime.

Zakharchenko usually wore his militia fatigue, emphasizing the state of siege of the republic, and was frequently seen at the front among the soldiers defending against the Ukrainian Armed Forces and neo-Nazi battalions. In February 2015, he was wounded in action during one of the last battles that successfully turned back a Ukrainian military offensive.

He had a down-to-earth style modeled after the communists, including a sense of daily normalcy back to the war-battered capital.

Zakharchenko’s assassination was condemned by the governments of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Republic. (SANA, Sept. 1) Russian Presi- dent Vladimir Putin offered his personal condolences to the people of Donetsk. (TASS, Aug. 31)

On Sept. 2 tens of thousands of people came to the Donetsk Opera House, where Zakharchenko lay in state, to pay their fi- nal respects. Some 200,000 people lined the streets for his funeral procession. (Novorossia News, Sept. 2)

Why now?

Other assassinations have been car- ried out by the SBU in Donetsk, notably of two popular militia commanders close to Zakharchenko, known by their mili- tary call-signs Givi and Motorela.

There were also earlier attempts on Zakharchenko’s life involving car bombs and sniper attacks.

However, the assassination of the prime minister through a terror attack on a civilian target in central Donetsk is at a whole other level. Such an act could not have been carried out by a politically, economically and militarily dependent regime like Ukraine’s without high-level U.S. approval.

As if to underline the U.S. role in the murder, the following day Ukrainian President Poroshenko stood side by side with NATO head Jens Stothenberg at the Washington funeral of war criminal Sen. John McCain, who was part of the bipar- tisan bloc that helped bring the Ukrainian junta to power during the Barack Obama administration. (Interfax-Ukraine, Sept. 3)

McCain famously shared a platform with Ukrainian fascist Oleh Tyanyshkiv in Kiev before the 2014 coup.

So it’s important to ask: Why was Zakharchenko assassinated now, and in this way?

Of course, an attack like this is meant to sow fear in the residents of Donbass and shake confidence in the leadership of the anti-fascist republic. In this respect it failed, as shown by the defiant mass outpouring for Zakhar- chenko.

But the attack must also be seen in an international con- text.

Zakharchenko’s assassina- tion came as the Syrian Army, with support from its Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah allies, was nearing the end of its campaign to retake one of the last strongholds of the West- ern-backed contra armies in Syria. (See article by Karin Leshekuf on page 10)

Just days before, the Russian military warned that U.S.-backed forces could stage another “false flag” chemical weapons attack in Idlib, of the sort used so frequently to justify prolonged Western intervention in Syria. Syria’s represen- tatives have presented evidence of such a plan to the United Nations. (FARS News Agency, Aug. 29)

Was the assassination of Zakharchenko enough to deter the SBU from an act of retaliation for their exposure of the planned provocation in Idlib?

Throughout the long imperial war to destroy Syria, the U.S. has frequently been used by the West as a looming threat against Damascus’ ally — the threat of a front on Russia’s Western border that could flare up at any moment.

It also comes amid the deepening internal struggle inside the U.S. rul- ing-class political establishment over which direction the Pentagon war ma- chine and CIA is to take: further toward war with Russia, as advocated by Demo- cratic Party and establishment Republi- can Party leaders, or toward other targets, including Iran and China, as pre- ferred by the military.

Anti-imperialists and anti-war activ- ists must not disregard the assassination of the Donetsk leader as a local event of limited significance. Instead they should see it as a warning sign of the need to re- double efforts to reach out to poor and working people here and across the ti-Russia witch hunt, and to mobilize to stop U.S. intervention everywhere!

This is the best tribute we can pay to the anti-fascist Alexander Zakharchenko.

Irish journalists arrested for exposing British imperialism

By Christian Noakes

Police in Ireland’s occupied territory arrested investigative journalists Barry McCafferty and Trevor Birney on Aug. 31 in connection with the documentary “No Stone Unturned,” which they helped make. The film investigates the 1994 Loughinis- land Massacre, in which members of the loyalist terrorist organization Ulster Vol- unteer Force opened fire on a pub, killing six and wounding five. This indiscriminate killing was meant to terrorize Catholics in the occupied six counties.

Glasgow Daily Record referred to as “Northern Ireland,” this portion of Ireland is still occupied by British forces and subject- ed to British law. The 1922 partition between this territory and the rest of Ireland has plagued the country, and it endangers the largely Catholic nationalist- ist community cut off from their brothers and sisters in the Republic.

The documentary, which was released in Ireland, has been been called “anti-British” by the British government. The documentary helped shed further light on the reality of loyalist terrorism and the issue of loyalist paramilitary collabora- tion with the British Armed Forces and its intelligence agencies.

Anti-imperialists and anti-war activ- ists must not disregard the assassination of the Donetsk leader as a local event of limited significance. Instead they should see it as a warning sign of the need to re- double efforts to reach out to poor and working people here and across the ti-Russia witch hunt, and to mobilize to stop U.S. intervention everywhere!

This is the best tribute we can pay to the anti-fascist Alexander Zakharchenko.

The stubbornly inattentive state to maintain British imperialism is at the root of the Troubles — three decades of industrial conflict and political exclusion which the Loughinisland Massacre took place.

Survivors and family members of the slain civilians have long suspected connec- tion between the UVF and the Royal Ulster Constabulary — an imperialist police force in the occupied six counties with a long history of collaborating with its counterparts across the Irish border.

Suspicious of collusion were stoked by the arrests of two popular militia commanders close to Zakharchenko, known by their mili- tary call-signs Givi and Motorela.

In 2013 police in Ireland’s occupied territory off and did not question them for anoth- er two months. The suspected shooter, Ronald Hawthorn, was a member of the Prime Minister Alexander Zakharchenko. (center) during the battle of Debaltsevo in Feb. 2015.
Héroes de Honduras: Margarita Murillo, ¡presente!

Por Teresa Gutierrez

Los niños y jóvenes de Honduras un día verán a este período de la historia con gran lamento. La política imperialista de EE.UU. ha resultado no solo en una migración forzada masiva, sino también en décadas de brutal inestabilidad y agitación en su querida patria.

De hecho, el fotoperiodista Tomás Ayuso señala que los jóvenes de Honduras han acumulado una frase de su limitada esperanza: “el derecho a envejecer”, ya que la muerte y la incederumbre se han convertido en las principales opciones para su gran mayoría de los jóvenes. (NPR, 29 de agosto)

Pero estos condicionamientos también han dado lugar a queridos héroes. Una de ellas es Margarita Murillo, una líder campeña revolucionaria que fue asesinada por escudazones de la muerte el 27 de agosto de 2024.

Cuando fue asesinada de la muerte de Margarita, sus hijos y el movimiento de resistencia hondureño en la ciudad de Nueva York conmemoraron su vida el 25 de agosto con filmaciones, discursos, comida y música en el Centro de Acción Internacional.

Debajo de la pancarta, “¡Seguimos exigiendo justicia! ¡Margarita viva!”, consignaron los hijos de esta mujer por sus tres hijos, que ahora residen en Nueva York, y por otros.

Una vida heroica

Margarita tenía 54 años cuando la encontraron acalladas. Tres hombres con pasamontañas, que estaban conectados con escudazones de la muerte de derecha, la mataron mientras trabajaba en los campos en su pueblo El Planón en el norte de Honduras.

Montserrat, una de las hijas de Margarita, le dijo a TeleSur en el 2017: “Fue el momento más difícil de mi vida. Fue el momento en que me di cuenta de que estaría en el mierito de la resistencia hondureña”.

Los hijos de Margarita han solicitado astilos políticos en los EE.UU. y planean continuar su trabajo. Dos de sus hijos ya han logrado astilo.

Su familia y el movimiento describen la vida de Margarita como una vida llena de anhelo de justicia. Se hizo activista a una edad temprana y entendió, basada en la pobreza de su propia familia, que la necesidad no solo de la lucha sino de la liberación total. Margarita relató en una entrevista de radio que su familia había sido tan pobre que a veces se veían obligadas a comer hierba para sobrevivir.

Margarita se vio profundamente influida por la creciente ola de resistencia revolucionaria en América Central. Durante su vida, viajó a El Salvador y a Nicaragua para ayudar al movimiento en esos países: una verdadera internacionalista.

A los 15 años, se unió a la Unión Nacional de Campesinos. A los 15 años, partió en la Marcha del Hombre, que se ha convertido en una marcha anual en Honduras, donde la falta de comida es constante.

Pero Margarita no solo anhelaba el derecho a la alimentación. Ella luchó para que la tierra se le diera a quienes la trabajaban. Participó en ocupaciones de tierras y sobrevivió solo porque escapó cuando muchos de sus camaradas fueron asesinados.

Margarita expirió la represión a una edad muy temprana. Los 16 años, fue violada, torturada y golpeada. Sin embargo, nada detuvo su anhelo de justicia. A medida que crecía, se convirtió en un miembro destacada del FNRP (Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular) de Honduras. Ayudó a establecer la Federación de Mujeres Campesinas y el Centro Nacional de Trabajadores de Campo, así como el Foro del Valle de Sula.

Cuando la presidencia progresiva de Manuel Zelaya fue anulada en el 2009 por un golpe de estado orchestrado por los Estados Unidos, Margarita luchó aún más. Ella no quería simplemente una elección justa, ella quería que el país se liberara totalmente de las corporaciones multinacionales.

A pesar de que sus dos hijos fueron secuestrados y golpeados, Margarita siguió luchando. Samuel, uno de esos hijos, reside en Nueva York y ha obtenido asilo. El Primero de Mayo en Nueva York, Samuel y su familia marcharon con fotos de Margarita.

Montserrat, a pesar de estar retenida en la frontera junto con su hija bebé en las “hierbas”, el centro de detención separa per su frías, sigue siendo optimista. Ella, Samuel y su hija Kenia, hijos de Margarita, continúan inspirando a todos los que conocen. Ellos luchan igual que su madre.

Montserrat dice siempre: “Mi madre era una luchadora. Renunció a su vida por el movimiento de resistencia.”

Al igual que Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores (Lenca) de Honduras, quien también fue asesinada por los escudazones de la muerte, Margarita seguirá viviendo. Viven en las luchas de sus hijos y en todos los jóvenes que luchan hasta la victoria de su patria.

Margarita Murillo, [Presente]

Ocupar ICE SATX, un faro de esperanza

Por Andrew Perretta

San Antonio, 4 de agosto – Ocupar ICE SATX, la ocupación de 24 horas de SATX comenzó oficialmente con una asamblea general el 17 de julio, así como canto y carteles mientras se armaba el campamento. Los ocupantes han realizado mítines y protestas en las inmediaciones de las instalaciones SATX, la ocupación de 24 horas de SATX y representan una muestra centralizada en el centro/sur de Texas.

Durante los últimos 18 días, la ocupación ha continuado con tres o cuatro personas presentes a lo largo del día y aproximadamente el mismo número por la noche durante la última semana. A medida que aumentaba la conciencia y el apoyo, creció en la segunda semana. Los amigos de los ocupantes y los ciudadanos locales interesados se unieron a la petición de “Reanudar a su trabajo!” Esto atraía la atención de los jóvenes locales del TV lo que a su vez causó que el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional redirigiera o cancelara el transporte de autobuses de privaciones en varios días.

Los reclamadores del “Frente Patriota”, aspirantes a los sucesos que son parte del pogrom de inmigración de Estados Unidos, intentaron atacar el campamento el sábado 29 de julio por la mañana. Pero los ocupantes se mantuvieron firmes, sin violencia. No se desencadenaron en reacción, y solo se incurrirían en vandalismo leve y una bandera roja. “Asher”, un ocupante del campamento, declaró: “ICE tiene un gran interés en las operaciones de los grupos nacionalistas blancos. El trabajo de ICE es la realización de los manifestantes de esos grupos”.

La noticia del ataque se extendió a los miembros de la comunidad que luego salieron y mostraron aún más apoyo durante la segunda semana. Los amigos de los ocupantes y los ciudadanos locales interesados de un amplio espectro racial y de clase donaron artículos necesarios: comida, sillas, mantas, juguetes, crayones, pañales y otros artículos para niños.

Alrededor de 50 familias viajaron a las instalaciones de ICE cada mañana de lunes a viernes para tratar de visitar a seres queridos encarcelados y buscar información sobre sus casos de inmigración. Para los niños y padres que visitan a los prisioneros, el campamento ahora tiene suministros muy necesarios, un despen- sa completa y refrigeración improvisada.

Una noche típica en Occupy SATX consiste en cocinar, escuchar música y reflexionar sobre las acciones directas de cada día—un faro de esperanza.