DO IT LIKE DURHAM!
Activists mobilize, support each other

By Leilani Dowell
Durham, N.C.

Sept. 4 — As community members, activists and allies gear up for actions to continue their fight against white supremacy here on Sept. 12 — and as national and international solidarity grows with them — fascist individuals and forces of the state have collided in an attempt to instill terror against them.

Rather than retreat, those struggling for justice and liberation are uniting, supporting each other and continuing to mobilize.

A national call to action has been issued for the week of Sept. 11 through Sept. 17, with organizations and individuals coming to Durham from around the country for Sept. 12 and planning local actions throughout the week. Sept. 12 is the one-month anniversary of the resistance to white supremacist forces in Charlottesville, Va., where Heather Heyer was murdered by a fascist who plowed into protesters with his car. It is also a court date for some of the arrestees in Durham. Activists will converge on the courthouse on the morning of Sept. 12 to show their solidarity with the arrestees, then march in a “victory parade.” The next court date for the others arrested is Oct. 11.

To date, 14 Durham activists have been arrested in relation to two events: the toppling of a Confederate statue in front of the old Durham county courthouse on Aug. 14, and a rally to oppose a planned Ku Klux Klan march on Aug. 18. Despite outcry by members of the City Council and community members who lined up to be arrested in solidarity on Aug. 16, these 14 have been slapped with charges ranging from misdemeanors to felony offenses, including charges of incitement to riot and carrying open weapons “to the terror of the people.” Of course, no Klan members, neo-Nazis or the police — who routinely use weapons and racism to terrorize and incite violence — have been charged with any of these offenses.

Protesters see the attacks by the state against them as a form of direct retaliation by Durham County Sheriff Mike Andrews, who has insisted on the felony charges and has come under attack in recent years for his policies. Conditions at the Durham county jail, under Andrews’ auspices, are so horrific that at least five imprisoned people have died there as a result, including 17-year-old Uniece “Niecey” Fennell in March. In Andrews’ most recent outrage, prisoners have been restricted to video-only visits with their loved ones. The Durham sheriff’s office has also colluded with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Beyond Durham, at least two students have been arrested who were engaged in an occupation in front of a “Silent Sam” statue at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The statue was erected in 1913 to pay tribute to UNC alumni who joined the Confederate army during the U.S. Civil War. In addition, a young African-American man was arrested in Graham, N.C.

Continued on page 7
Pensacola rallies against white supremacy

By Devin Cole Pensacola, Fla.

Roughly 30 to 40 white supremacists from the Pensacola/Escambia County area converged in Robert E. Lee Square in downtown Pensacola, Fla., on Aug. 26. They were there to protest the proposed removal of a Confederate statue that sits atop a large obelisk overlooking downtown. They held many signs defending their bigoted, racist views, marching around the statue for four to five hours.

At five o’clock, they had not moved. However, at 9 a.m., over 130 counterprotesters also converged on Lee Square to demand the statue be removed and to run the white supremacists off. This counterprotest, led by communists and other leftists, was met with outright hatred and at times for the right-wing reactionaries. They were quickly dispersed by a police officer who gassed them with “peacekeeping teargas.”

At one point, a white supremacist, who was later revealed to be in the military, was apprehended and charged with battery after he attempted to attack a Black Muslim girl standing by the statue. A second white supremacist was arrested on Aug. 28 after a warrant was issued charging him with battery against a counterprotester.

Two white supremacists were arrested for re-segregation of schools, with 18 white supremacists remaining, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.

This was a victory for anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-Con federate counterprotesters who had already gone over to confront a right-wing rally. By the end of his harangue, only 16 white supremacists remained, while the number of counterprotesters still topped 100.
By Jerry Goldberg

A demonstration at the Wayne County treasurer’s office on Aug. 31 and a subsequent action at the treasurer’s office on Sept. 5 demanded that Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree suspend the auction of 3,100 homes, including 1,400 occupied homes, scheduled to begin Sept. 5 and to extend into October.

The committee will give time for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to seek federal approval for a plan to amend the Step Forward program, which administers the use of the federal Hardest Hit funds in Michigan. At a meeting between the head of MSHDA, the MSHDA administrator of the Helping Hardest Hit program, and representatives of the Coalition to Stop Unconstitutional Tax Foreclosures on Aug. 30, the MSHDA agreed to hold a public hearing and draft an amendment to the Step Forward rules. The amendment would allow for Hardest Hit funds to be used for the city of Detroit or Wayne County to pay delinquent property tax bills if these entities exercise their right of first refusal on the 1,400 occupied homes facing auction, and then evict, starting next week. Under Michigan law, either Wayne County or the city of Detroit can exercise their right of first refusal to pull occupied homes out of the auction. The MSHDA said they would submit this proposal for approval by the Treasury. This was a major concession against anti-foreclosure activists led by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, who have been fighting for use of the funds to save homes — as intended under the program.

At the meeting with the MSHDA, it was revealed that only 193 Wayne County families, of the thousands who have faced tax foreclosure this year, had received benefits from the Hardest Hit fund. This is a result of the Step Forward regulations being out of step with the reality of people facing the loss of their homes in Wayne County, and especially in Detroit. It also came out that there is currently only $1 million in unspent Hardest Hit funds available to keep families from losing their homes. In contrast, only $82 million is needed to pay the delinquent bills of the 1,400 families scheduled to see the homes they occupy auctioned off. The agreement by the MSHDA to pursue using Hardest Hit funds to pay the delinquent taxes offers a practical way forward to save 1,400 more families from being thrown into the street. This plan would actually bring money into the treasuries of Wayne County and Detroit, who only stand to recover pennies on what are owed in delinquent taxes through the auction.

Once the delinquent taxes are paid, the occupants will have the opportunity to pursue poverty tax exemptions to which they are entitled and have their home assessments reset to the true market value, in conformity with the Michigan Constitution. For more information on this struggle and the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, visit moratoriummi.org or facebook.com/MoratoriumNowCoalition.

---

By Gloria Verdieu

Over 60 people filled the Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center to attend the successful event commemorating Black August on San Diego on Aug. 30. When the call for this event was first issued by email from the San Diego International Action Center, questions arose such as “What is Black August?” and “Why August?”

Included in the message was a 1993 essay by Mumia Abu-Jamal entitled “Black August.” A month in both historic and contemporary African American history, is a month of meaning.” Mumia lists historic events and movements that unfolded in August and their participants, beginning with brothers George and Jonathan Jackson. Individually and as the African American community responded to the call for event organizers. Some were members of organizations, but most people joined in order to participate in an educational event for the community.” The San Diego Black August Planning Committee was formed, and its members spent several weeks discussing many of the individuals and movements in Black history whose stories are connected with the month of August. The first challenge was to identify a date that would spark an interest in Black August that centered on the truth about individuals and events in African-American history.

The committee met weekly, developing a program that was informative, educational, and entertaining — and that highlighted Black movements and historical events that occurred in August. They chose George Jackson, Harriet Tubman, Huey Newton, the Move 9 and Emmett Till. Next, they selected a dynamic panel to speak on the meaning of Black August and the significance of commemorating it today.

The panelists selected were John Park-er, Worker Power; and the community organizers: Leila Ariz, co-director of media relations for the iamWe Prison Advocacy Network; and Dr. Suzanne Forbes-Vierling, clinical psychologist, educator and artist.

---

By Mia X

Behind the Wall, a prisoner rights program of Direct Action for Rights and Equality, along with Workers World Party and Communist Party members, gathered to commemorate and build upon the legacies of George Jackson, Black August and the longstanding solidarity with Indigenous nations on Aug. 31.

According to the Malcolm X Grass-roots Movement, “Black August originated in the concentration camps (pris ons) of California in 1979 and its roots come from the history of resistance by Black/New African/African brothers in those prisons.” (magma.org) In the spirit of Black August, organizations are encouraged to have political, cultural and educational events of commemoration and observance, and not celebrations or parties. Black August was designed and brought to our communities to educate, agitate and activate the spirit of revolution, resistance and rebellion in our people.

A banner stated “Not One More Lynching” and featuring political prisoners Shaka Sankofa and Mumia Abu-Jamal was draped across the podium. A multi-national collective of prisoners, led by Brother John Prince, provided the call and response as Sister Moni Solaa and Brother Marco McWilliams engaged the community in the powerful tradition of liberation, calling the names of our fallen revolutionaries. This writer shared excerpts of a letter that political prisoner Leonard [Leonard] was still a little short of breath, but said he is looking forward to seeing his grandson next weekend, and I will be visiting him the following week, as well as speaking at an event in Gainesville on Sept. 12. I will keep you all updated as he will be able to call and give us reports on his progress of recovery. This incident in Leonard’s health struggle has shown us how quickly things can happen and how important it is that we do everything possible to get Leonard out of prison and home to Turtle Mountain. Please continue to fund his legal struggle as it will take our lawyer and all of us to make this happen! Donate at whoseleonardpeltier.info.

Send a letter to Leonard Peltier 89977-132, USP Coleman 1, P.O. Box 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

Thank you for all your support, Paulette

Leonard Peltier has triple-bypass surgery

The following edited email was sent by the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee on Sept. 2.

Good morning friends and family,

I just talked to Leonard, and unknown to us, he was just first refusal from the prison, and this is his message to all his supporters and friends.

“Good morning, everyone. OK. I know everyone did not know about this, but it’s been a rough ride for me, but I’m one step back from passing away.”

“I was taken to an outside hospital in Lenbs, Fla., for what I was told was a routine heart stress test. And it turned out that they found clogged arteries, three of them! They decided to operate right away, and I just returned from triple-bypass heart surgery. My chest was opened and they took arteries from my leg, exchanged them in the blocked ar- teries. I had to be given a liter of blood. Now I am back at the prison and getting around in my wheelchair. They said this would help my shortness of breath and the pressure in my chest.”

---

By Kalil Price

Khal Price, local actor, author, storytell-er and musician, was the voice of Mumia during the educational events of commemoration of George Jackson, Malcolm X, Assata Shakur, the MOVE 9 and Abu-Jamal deepened the revolutionary fervor and connectedness of our movement against fascism and white supremacy. Brother TwoHawk of the Pokanoket Tribe delivered an urgent call to action to get our own destiny, supporting the Black Panthers and prisoners. Discord against Brown University. The event also featured a mini-exhibit it that included archival Workers World coverage of George Jackson and the Prisoners Solidarity Committee at Attica between 1970 and 1971. A video promoting the event is available at youtube.be/p/9pHjM6Y6hj.

---

For more information on this struggle and the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, visit moratoriummi.org or facebook.com/MoratoriumNowCoalition.
Will labor purchase of Sun-Times make it working-class?  

By Jeff Sorel  
Chicago  

Aug. 31 — In July, an investment group led by the Chicago Federation of Labor and businessperson Edwin Einisdrath announced that the group had acquired the Chicago Sun-Times. The Sun-Times is one of the two remaining daily newspapers in the country’s third-largest media market.

According to CFL President Jorge Ramirez, who was named Sun-Times chairman, the buyers constitute “a historic coalition of workers and like-minded investors” who will “preserve independent media entities in Chicago” and amplify “the diversity of voices and perspectives of Chicago stories.” (tinyurl.com/ycgk3rku)

The CFL is made up of more than 300 affiliated unions in the city and Cook County, representing roughly 500,000 members. Does the CFL’s new ownership role mean that the Sun-Times will now become the independent media voice that the working class so badly needs? History suggests that the answer is no.

Prior venture into radio

This is not the first time that the CFL has ventured into media ownership. The CFL founded radio station WCFL in 1926. Calling itself the “Voice of Labor,” WCFL was the only labor-owned station in the country for most of its half-century on the air.

It began as a noncommercial, listener-supported station, providing airtime to union and progressive groups throughout the Midwest and featuring labor and public affairs programming.

Programs in 1926, for example, focused on the struggles of locked-out British miners; a textile strike in Passaic, N.J.; and prospects for organizing white-collar employees. WCFL also put an anti-racism spin on its other programming, including quiz and variety shows and popular entertainment programs.

But by trying to operate as a workers’ island in a capitalist ocean, WCFL was beset by difficulties. Federal policy favoring large commercial stations over noncommercial or listener-supported stations resulted in restrictions on WCFL’s hours and power. Big broadcasters adopted “ethics” codes that barred airing of such “controversial” issues as labor struggles.

The most powerful station in the Midwest, for example, Cincinnati’s WLW (owned by a wealthy manufacturer), issued an order that “no reference to strikes is to be made on any news broadcasts over this station.” WCFL also met with resistance from the conservative American Federation of Labor. To the AFL, WCFLs attempt to voice labor’s independent interests threatened the AFL’s “business union” elevation of union-management cooperation over class struggle. Rather than give the working class its own voice, the AFL preferred to purchase placid spots on established commercial outlets that would curry the bosses’ favor by portraying unions as respectable and patriotic.

Moreover, running a radio station was costly. Unions themselves could not make up the shortfalls, especially given the challenges of the Great Depression, and bank loans came with intrusive conditions.

By the end of the 1930s, financial and external pressures had morphed WCFL into a more typical commercial station dependent on advertising. Discussion of labor struggles was anathema to commercial advertisers, which forced WCFL to drop much of its initial focus and convert to standard entertainment programming.

It continued to provide some time for labor announcements and labor analyses of Placement events and other union activities, but even these had to give way to the demands of profit, and the station ultimately became a Top-40 rock music vehicle in the 1960s and 1970s. After this writer moved to Chicago in 1970, he often listened to WCFL with no idea of the significance of its call letters or that it was anything other than the voice of rock-and-roll.

The Mutual Broadcasting System bought WCFL in 1978. MBS was a radio-network affiliate of Amway (which was founded in part by the ultraracist DeVos family) that sought to promote right-wing and anti-union ideology over the airwaves. The call letters WCFL did not fit that agenda and were later dropped.

Workers need their own voice

With this history in mind, we cannot expect a Sun-Times partly owned by the CFL to serve as a tribune for an independent working-class perspective. Placement of a labor official instead of a rapacious tycoon as chairperson cannot undo the capitalist relations that govern big media in this society. Small media outlets, however progressive, must confront the daily economic and political constraints of capitalist society. The Sun-Times remains a privately owned enterprise whose business is profit. At the Sun-Times and other businesses, chasing profits means squeezing more work hours from employees for lower pay and fewer benefits, a management agenda not conducive to a pro-labor editorial slant.

And any profits must rest on sales of big blocks of commercial time to anti-labor companies like Walmart and Target, which will not allow the Sun-Times to advance a pro-labor agenda.

Moreover, the Sun-Times begins this new page in its history deep in debt. Although the CFL and its partners purchased the paper for only a symbolic dollar, they also assumed the paper’s substantial debts, borrowed an additional $11 million to cover anticipated initial losses and pledged to invest borrowed millions in operations. The need to service this debt will restrict the creative outreaching and leverage over broadcast content and undermining any attempt to align news coverage and editorial policy with working-class interests.

Regardless of who owns it, the Chicago Sun-Times operates in an industry wrenched by economic, technological and social change. Nominal labor ownership cannot override the economic realities stemming from technological advances that make news instantaneously and freely available on multiple platforms.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the past 15 years, more than half of news industry jobs have disappeared. A Pew Research Center report shows that newspaper circulation has seen 28 straight years of declines. The average American worker official to run the Sun-Times is related to this crisis in the news industry. In his great work, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” Lenin noted, “It is not just the ‘informative’ and ‘soft jobs ... on the editorial staffs of ‘reputable’, legally published newspapers’ are ‘bait by which the imperialist bourgeois attracts and retains collabora- 

Looking to labor federations like the CFL to rescue capitalist enterprises in crisis is a profoundly mistaken strategy. Unsurprisingly, the content of the Sun-Times has not noticeably improved since the CFL-led purchase. At most, it laments a boom in right-wing propaganda and rants about its debates with the Republican Party. But the workers are not represented in those debates, which are primarily over how to most effectively run the U.S. empire and exploit the workers and oppressed.

The workers and oppressed need their own voice to airing class struggle and social change. Nominal labor ownership cannot overcome the economic realities stemming from technological advances that make news instantaneously and freely available on multiple platforms.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the past 15 years, more than half of news industry jobs have disappeared. A Pew Research Center report shows that newspaper circulation has seen 28 straight years of declines. The average American worker official to run the Sun-Times is related to this crisis in the news industry. In his great work, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” Lenin noted, “It is not just the ‘informative’ and ‘soft jobs ... on the editorial staffs of ‘reputable’, legally published newspapers’ are ‘bait by which the imperialist bourgeois attracts and retains collabora- 

Looking to labor federations like the CFL to rescue capitalist enterprises in crisis is a profoundly mistaken strategy. Unsurprisingly, the content of the Sun-Times has not noticeably improved since the CFL-led purchase. At most, it laments a boom in right-wing propaganda and rants about its debates with the Republican Party. But the workers are not represented in those debates, which are primarily over how to most effectively run the U.S. empire and exploit the workers and oppressed.

The workers and oppressed need their own voice to airing class struggle and social change. Nominal labor ownership cannot overcome the economic realities stemming from technological advances that make news instantaneously and freely available on multiple platforms.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the past 15 years, more than half of news industry jobs have disappeared. A Pew Research Center report shows that newspaper circulation has seen 28 straight years of declines. The average American worker official to run the Sun-Times is related to this crisis in the news industry. In his great work, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” Lenin noted, “It is not just the ‘informative’ and ‘soft jobs ... on the editorial staffs of ‘reputable’, legally published newspapers’ are ‘bait by which the imperialist bourgeois attracts and retains collabora- 

Looking to labor federations like the CFL to rescue capitalist enterprises in crisis is a profoundly mistaken strategy. Unsurprisingly, the content of the Sun-Times has not noticeably improved since the CFL-led purchase. At most, it laments a boom in right-wing propaganda and rants about its debates with the Republican Party. But the workers are not represented in those debates, which are primarily over how to most effectively run the U.S. empire and exploit the workers and oppressed.

The workers and oppressed need their own voice to airing class struggle and social change. Nominal labor ownership cannot overcome the economic realities stemming from technological advances that make news instantaneously and freely available on multiple platforms.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the past 15 years, more than half of news industry jobs have disappeared. A Pew Research Center report shows that newspaper circulation has seen 28 straight years of declines. The average American worker official to run the Sun-Times is related to this crisis in the news industry. In his great work, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” Lenin noted, “It is not just the ‘informative’ and ‘soft jobs ... on the editorial staffs of ‘reputable’, legally published newspapers’ are ‘bait by which the imperialist bourgeois attracts and retains collab
Trust plans to invest $500 million over five years in affordable survivors and rebuild after the floodwaters subside. In addition major support on Sept. 1 from the national organization to help time and know-how. carpenters, electricians, plumbers and others with trade skills in deployed its first delegation to Houston on Aug. 31. Unionized unionization, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the American United Auto Workers, the International Longshoremen’s Association, coming from many national unions, including the Teamsters, the environmental and other disasters. After vast wildfires in 2016, it was opened to the public for donations. Calls to donate to TWRF are from many national unions, including the Teamsters, the Environmental and other disasters. After vast wildfires in 2016, it was opened to the public for donations. Calls to donate to TWRF are coming from many national unions, including the Teamsters, the United Auto Workers, the International Longshoremen’s Association, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the American Federation of Teachers. Visit texasaflcio.org/donate.

The Registered Nurse Response Network, a national group of volunteer nurses affiliated with National Nurses United, deployed its first delegation to Houston on Aug. 31. Unionized carpenters, electricians, plumbers and others with trade skills in the area and from across the country are also volunteering their time and know-how.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler announced major support on Sept. 1 from the national organization to help survivors and rebuild after the floodwaters subside. In addition to an immediate donation of $100,000 to TWRF, the AFL-CIO pledged to raise $5 million in matching funds. Its Housing Investment Trust plans to invest $500 million over five years in affordable housing in the area. (afcio.org, Sept. 1)

Seattle’s Uber, Lyft drivers fight for union

For-hire drivers in Seattle are battling for their rights, trying to improve their working conditions for the benefit of themselves and their families, while Wall Street-backed Uber and Lyft companies put up roadblocks.

In 2015, Seattle drivers formed the ABDA (App-Based Drivers Association) and helped pass a law that started the engine on unionizing with Teamsters Local 17. Currently, this multi- tional, multigendered workforce gains no benefit from Seattle’s $15 per hour minimum wage, nor from paid sick day or safety ordinances. But Uber management and its cousins in the National Right to Work Fund used an injunction against the law. They argued it would violate the National Labor Relations Act as driv- ers are “independent contractors” who have no rights under the NLRA. A district court judge ruled in favor of the union by drop- ping the injunction on Aug. 24. But after Uber appealed, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals countered on Aug. 30 with a second injunction supporting the bosses. (The Stranger, Aug. 2017)

Despite the second ruling, a Local 17 statement was optimis- tic: “For-hire drivers should have the same right to self-determi- nation shared by millions of working people across the country.” Implementation of the Seattle minimum-wage law set a far-reaching precedent for thousands of workers currently misclassified as “independent contractors,” such as truck drivers at Los Angeles ports and janitors in the Twin Cities hired by contractors to clean big-box stores. ¡La lucha continúa!

Painters union rallies behind immigrant workers

One of the most racist arms of the state, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is wreaking havoc in people’s lives even when they simply show up to work. That happened on May 3, when two immigrant workers from Mexico, Hugo Mejía and Rodrigo Núñez, were assigned construction jobs at an Air Force base in Fairfield, Calif. Base security demanded to see their papers. When the workers showed them valid Social Security num- bers, security called ICE, which detained them. Unfortunately, Núñez, a member of the Painter’s union (UBC), was deported in early August, leaving behind U.S.-born children.

In early June, the Painters union (IUPAT) launched a national campaign to defend Mejía, who has been a member of Local 83 of District Council 16 in the Bay Area for four years. The union and community allies have held national-call-in days to the ICE region to pressure the agency to release Mejía. The union was successful in getting 19,000 signatures on a petition delivered to the San Francisco field office. Other IUPAT locals took up the struggle. In Providence, R.I., Local 175 teamed up with Jobs with Justice and the worker center to hold weekly demonstrations in front of the federal building.

In a statement, the IUPAT president wrote, “We will not allow the showing of up to work to be criminalized.” A member of the Painters Strategic Organizing Division stated: “If we want to be any type of a union, ... we have to organize immigrant work- ers.” (Labor Notes, Aug. 23)

Join the struggle to free Hugo! Sign an IUPAT petition on freehub.com. And call ICE Regional Director David Jennings at 415-844-5932.

March defend immigrant ‘Dreamers’

Just across the street from Trump Interna- tional Hotel at Columbus Circle in New York City a powerful cry arose from 3,000 people as they gathered for the March to Defend DACA on Aug. 30. They yelled: “Say it loud! Say it clear! Refugees are welcome here!” Demonstrators showed their outrage at the White House’s proposal to eliminate the De- fended Action for Childhood Arrivals program — despite the support of two-thirds of the U.S. population. DACA protects the “Dreamers,” immigrants younger than 30 who were brought to the U.S. as children. Some 800,000 young people participate in the DACA program, which allows them to live, work and attend school in the U.S. If the pro- gram is overturned, they face deportation.

Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, a major organizer of this protest, explained, “Donald Trump needs to take a strong stand now to protect DACA rather than con- tinue to sympathize with white supremacists like [former Arizona Sheriff] Joe Arpaio.” (Daily News, Aug. 31)

Supportive individuals and groups joined the rally, including four members of the Service Employees Union, Local 32B1, UNITE HERE, Local 100; and the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York. Immigrant rights, community, and other anti-racist and progressive organizations attended, as well as students and teachers from nearby John Jay College.

This large, multinational demonstration went on for hours, followed by a march to Trump Tower, another large Manhattan building with the big-in-chief’s name emblazoned on it in huge letters. The protest showed the growing strength of pro-immigrant forces in this city who chanted, “Say it loud! Say it clear! DACA kids are welcome here!” See “Defend DACA and #March for DACA.”

Rally says: ‘Stand with Amanda!’

By Workers World New York Bureau

Over 150 people attended a rally in solidarity with Amanda Morales Guerra in New York City on Aug. 28. Although she has lived in the U.S. for 13 years, Morales is fighting deportation to Guatemala — despite the support of two-thirds of the U.S. population. DACA protects the “Dreamers,” immigrants younger than 30 who were brought to the U.S. as children. Some 800,000 young people participate in the DACA program, which allows them to live, work and attend school in the U.S. If the pro- gram is overturned, they face deportation.

Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, a major organizer of this protest, explained, “Donald Trump needs to take a strong stand now to protect DACA rather than con- tinue to sympathize with white supremacists like [former Arizona Sheriff] Joe Arpaio.” (Daily News, Aug. 31)

Supportive individuals and groups joined the rally, including four members of the Service Employees Union, Local 32B1, UNITE HERE, Local 100; and the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York. Immigrant rights, community, and other anti-racist and progressive organizations attended, as well as students and teachers from nearby John Jay College.

This large, multinational demonstration went on for hours, followed by a march to Trump Tower, another large Manhattan building with the big-in-chief’s name emblazoned on it in huge letters. The protest showed the growing strength of pro-immigrant forces in this city who chanted, “Say it loud! Say it clear! DACA kids are welcome here!” See “Defend DACA and #March for DACA.”

Rally says: ‘Stand with Amanda!’

By Workers World New York Bureau

Over 150 people attended a rally in solidarity with Amanda Morales Guerra in New York City on Aug. 28. Although she has lived in the U.S. for 13 years, Morales is fighting deportation to Guatemala — despite the support of two-thirds of the U.S. population. DACA protects the “Dreamers,” immigrants younger than 30 who were brought to the U.S. as children. Some 800,000 young people participate in the DACA program, which allows them to live, work and attend school in the U.S. If the pro-gram is overturned, they face deportation.

Steven Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, a major organizer of this protest, explained, “Donald Trump needs to take a strong stand now to protect DACA rather than con- tinue to sympathize with white supremacists like [former Arizona Sheriff] Joe Arpaio.” (Daily News, Aug. 31)

Supportive individuals and groups joined the rally, including four members of the Service Employees Union, Local 32B1, UNITE HERE, Local 100; and the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York. Immigrant rights, community, and other anti-racist and progressive organizations attended, as well as students and teachers from nearby John Jay College.

This large, multinational demonstration went on for hours, followed by a march to Trump Tower, another large Manhattan building with the big-in-chief’s name emblazoned on it in huge letters. The protest showed the growing strength of pro-immigrant forces in this city who chanted, “Say it loud! Say it clear! DACA kids are welcome here!” See “Defend DACA and #March for DACA.”

Report and photo by Anne Pruden
The events surrounding Charlottesville, Va., have a resonance far beyond the border of the U.S. and the Black revolt against white supremacy that began as a strictly local affair, they quickly became a nationwide anti-racist and anti-fascist struggle with revolutionary overtones. As we at protests rolling throughout the country, the first thing we must remember is that this is not an isolated phenomenon. Nor is it about the Civil War. As we look at protests rolling through the U.S., we see that organized and disciplined collectives, by resisting the marginality we feel. The great Black freedom fighter Malcolm X (also Elijah Muhammad), but he learned “American history” in the very expression of his life. As a state pris- oner of war, he learned to write and read, and that he was called “Satan,” his learning of the past few weeks has had a leading role in the demonstra- tions. Morris is not about the Civil War. It is about the present. It is about how this country will define itself, how it sees itself, that is willing to organically question the myth is the only gimmick they can use to spread the myth of Soros’ omnipotence or, in the most delusional cases, to pro- mote the marginality we feel. The tense climate in the country follow- ing the terrorist attack was exacerbated when Trump, whose ties with the far right are well-known, made a disgusting attempt to downplay the gravity of the incident, describing it as a clash between opposing extremist positions based on ideology, and condemning violence on both sides. In the meantime, the bulk of the corporate me- dia, instead of acting as a megaphone for the hypocritical appeals of the two parties of power to cease violence. As the state insti- tutions struggled to repair Trump’s serious error — several times he came back him- self and reiterated his story in the impos- sible effort to maintain a balance between his wish to contain the restive growth of his supporters, evaluate the events of the last few years. Nor is it about the Civil War. In this climate of growing popular support for a nationwide anti-racist and anti-fascist struggle with revolutionary overtones, as we write, protests are still ongoing. The Tramp presidency signaled a great leap backwards. It was the expression of a mood profuse with the future of change, of transformation. So, they hold it as a crisis phase of capitalism and, therefore, to deal with the increasing inadequacy of both the mass response and, above all, of the elements that would like to claim the role of the vanguard in our country. The great Black freedom fighter Malcolm X (also Elijah Muhammad), but he learned “American history” in the very expression of his life. As a state pris- oner of war, he learned to write and read, and that he was called “Satan,” his learning of the past few weeks has had a leading role in the demonstra- tions. Morris is not about the Civil War. It is about the present. It is about how this country will define itself, how it sees itself, that is willing to organically question the myth is the only gimmick they can use to spread the myth of Soros’ omnipotence or, in the most delusional cases, to pro- mote the marginality we feel. The tense climate in the country follow- ing the terrorist attack was exacerbated when Trump, whose ties with the far right are well-known, made a disgusting attempt to downplay the gravity of the incident, describing it as a clash between opposing extremist positions based on ideology, and condemning violence on both sides. In the meantime, the bulk of the corporate me- dia, instead of acting as a megaphone for the hypocritical appeals of the two parties of power to cease violence. As the state insti- tutions struggled to repair Trump’s serious error — several times he came back him- self and reiterated his story in the impos- sible effort to maintain a balance between his wish to contain the restive growth of his supporters, evaluate the events of the last few years. Nor is it about the Civil War. In this climate of growing popular support for a nationwide anti-racist and anti-fascist struggle with revolutionary overtones, as we write, protests are still ongoing. The Tramp presidency signaled a great leap backwards. It was the expression of a mood profuse with the future of change, of transformation. So, they hold it as a crisis phase of capitalism and, therefore, to deal with the increasing inadequacy of both the mass response and, above all, of the elements that would like to claim the role of the vanguard in our country.
Sept. 1-17: Topple white supremacy!

Come to Durham Sept. 12!
Host local actions!

As part of a national alliance of regional, national and local organizations, pulling together a national call for a coordinated week of actions to topple white supremacy and oppose state repression, see page 1. Sept. 13 through Sept. 17, in the wake of events in Durham, N.C., and Charlottesville, Va.

We are asking folks to come to Durham on Sept. 12, when activists allegedly toppled a Confederate statue on Aug. 14 will appear in court — and to organize local actions in their cities to protest monuments and institutions of white supremacy, including prisons and the brutal police. The goal is to spark hundreds of actions — and find hundreds of new organizers.

National Call to Action to Smash White Supremacy!

In the wake of the violent attacks in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12, organized neo-Nazis, white supremacists and the Ku Klux Klan, with complicity by the police, we are calling for organizations and individuals to join this call to smash white supremacy.

Take action between Monday, Sept. 11, and Sunday, Sept. 17, in solidarity with Charlottesville and Durham, in your own community, with activities such as rallies, marches, direct action, press conferences, teach-ins and other manifestations of resistance.

Activities across the country have shown that now — more than ever — is the time to take bold and courageous action. We must act now to counter the rise and emboldening by the Trump administration of white supremacists in our communities, states and around the country.

Tuesday, Sept. 12, is the one-month anniversary of the murder of anti-racist protestor Heather Heyer in Charlottesville. It also marks a day of righteous resistance to white supremacists in that city.

Sept. 12 is also the court date for the courageous young people in Durham, N.C., who allegedly toppled a Confederate monument in their city on Aug. 14. Organizers are mobilizing in defense of these arrestees and the Durham community. Will you join them by coming to Durham on Sept. 12 and/or planning a solidarity action in your city?

Durham’s Sheriff Mike Andrews has been attempting to intimidate the anti-racist movement by targeting activists who allegedly toppled the Confederate statue and others involved in planning a proposed Ku Klux Klan rally on Aug. 18.

Andrews has been strongly opposed by activists for allowing horrible conditions to exist at the Durham County Jail, where at least five people have died, and where, in the most recent outrage, prisoners are only allowed visits from their loved ones via video. They also decry his department’s collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The struggle against white supremacy in all its forms is just! The events in Charlottesville, followed by the Durham action that took down a Confederate monument, are part of a growing movement to combat the most heinous and racist sections of the far-right, which have been emboldened by Trump.

In response, cities of the country have pre-emptively taken down Confederate monuments — not because their political overlords want to “do the right thing” — but because they fear the strength of a united, multinational movement and outright rebellion.

Yet Trump’s bellicose attacks on our movement have continued. His egregious pardoning of archracist former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio opens for the Durham sheriff’s wish to fight against anti-racist activists and for far-right attacks.

The days of action from Sept. 11 through Sept. 17, both in Durham and around the country, will continue the march forward to tear down white supremacy.

Join us! Sign on here! iacent.org/supportSept11-17Durhamweekofaction/
List your local action.facebook.com/events/267032350459968/twitter.com/unitaritysolidarity

Do it like Durham!

By Steve Gillis
Financial Secretary, USW Local 8751

Members of United Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston school bus drivers union, gave a raucous, pre-school, fight-back orientation to the Veolia/Transdev corporation at the Roxbury bus yard on Aug. 31, when Takiah “Tear ‘Em Down” Thompson from Durham, N.C., showed up to a sheroe’s welcome.

Drivers had heard that Thompson — the North Carolina Central University student and Workers World Party leader — on Aug. 14, climbed a ladder to topple a mass produced, Jim-Crow-era Confederate statue — would be in town, and coming to Durham. They made her welcome. When she came to the front, the crowd erupted in a celebratory dance to “So-Vivin’.

Chair Garry Murchison’s blasting of the song “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now”

Many drivers who grew up in Southern states knew Thompson’s name before she arrived, as they had been closely following the action, news of which has swept the country. Some remarked about how as children they had witnessed themself taking down Confederate statues in their hometowns during the Civil Rights Movement, and that they had always wanted to tear them down.

Many drivers who grew up in Haiti also participated in similar actions, tearing down symbols of the brutal French slavery and U.S. dictatorship and replacing them with liberation fighters like Toussaint L’Ouverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines and John Brown. Everybody wanted their picture taken with Thompson.

Angie Cardosa, a union stalwart and proud member maintained Thompson with a red-velvet sheet cake smothered in glorious cream cheese frost- ing on which she had inscribed, “Thank you Takiah Thompson. Thank you! Thank you!”

Drivers presented Thompson with Local 8751 honor placards that read, “Build Monuments to Freedom Fighters! Tear Down White Supremacy!” and “Drop the Charges Durham, N.C., Free- dom Fighters!”

As part of the national days of action, Sept. 11 through Sept. 17, USW Local 8751 will be calling the witch-hunting Durham County Sheriff Mike Andrews off the hook to demand he drop the bogus charges; propagating resolutions in the labor movement and sending material aid for our sheroes’ and heroes’ legal defense.

Drivers also participated in similar actions, tearing down symbols of the brutal French slavery and U.S. dictatorship and replacing them with liberation fighters like Toussaint L’Ouverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines and John Brown. Everybody wanted their picture taken with Thompson.

The world is witnessing righteous resistance against fascist and white supremacist mobilizations across the United States: in Charlottesville, Va.; Berkeley, Calif.; Durham, N.C.; Boston and many other cities.

As the left unites to fight back against emboldened racist and fascist elements, the time is now to press the movement against white supremacy.

An emerging tactic that has been employed in Charlottesville, Durham and New York City is the use of antiquated “anti-masking” laws to criminalize left forces at protests.

Anti-masking laws were created during the Civil Rights era to prevent the Ku Klux Klan from donning their hoods in order to terrorize communities in anonymity. These laws, which were rarely enforced during the Civil Rights era, did nothing to prevent the KKK and other white supremacists from concealing their identities and unleashing violence across the U.S.

Today, the state has leveraged these laws to target and criminalize protestors, while continuing to allow white supremacists to hide their identities and torment whole communities.

On Aug. 12, members and friends of Workers World Party stood side by side with masked and unmasked leftists in Charlottesville as we confronted armed white supremacists. In preparation for our mobilization, we briefed everyone on the anti-masking law in Virginia, which has made masking a felony offense since 1990.

We warned that during an an- ti-Klan mobilization in Charlottesville, many anti-racist activists were charged with a felony for masking after being assaulted by the police with noxious tear gas and pepper spray.

We also carried items to cover ourselves in the event of similar state repression.

As many of us utilized masks that day after being tear gassed by white supremacists, police and army reserves.

None of the white supremacists were arrested for refusing to mask or hoods while terrorizing Charlottesville.

In North Carolina, where masking has been a criminal offense since 1953, the state has targeted protestors at peaceful demonstrations by identifying people who were supposedly masked and arrest- ing them on site and through video surveil lance.

We must expose the state as a chauvinist of white supremacy, as evidenced through its selective enforcement of an ti-masking laws. As the state ramps up its efforts to quash the left’s united fightback against fascism and racism, we must also support those who are arrested for violating anti-masking laws while resisting white supremacy.
Working-class rescue, gov’t neglect
By Gloria Rubac

September 4 — The flood waters have not receded in parts of southwest Houston. Cities near the Louisiana border are still flooded. Things are eating up, but it’s certain that water won’t be for a long time.

As I write on Labor Day, I am reminded of Martin Luther King’s quote, “All labor that uplifts human dignity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

I’ve seen a young selfless undocumented man who was helping rescue people. No one asked for his papers then. He drowned yesterday, and tears for someone I didn’t know came flooding down. His labor was appreciated by many, except for the president, the governor and the right-wing, anti-immigrant crusaders.

Folks walk down my street with lawn movers, trying to make a dollar. I’m getting Facebook messages and phone calls about donating and/or distributing cleaning supplies, water, food, diapers, wipes and formula. The needs are massive. Many need wet carpet and sheet-rock ripped out.

I just spoke to Shaka Sankofa’s elderly mother, Elnora Graham — Sankofa was an innocent man executed by Texas in 2000. She was relieved that someone was an innocent man executed by Texas — her mother, Elnora Graham — Sankofa.

There’s a lot on TV about Red Cross aid, but there are also people who have no paid staff, no funding, but are doing heroic work in the most oppressed communities. The National Black United Front here regularly does “Feed the Hood” events. So when they asked, donations came flooding in from around the country, including two full 18-wheelers from Dallas. Along with Black Lives Matter, RBG Unity and the JOHARA Initiative have worked for four days straight in the heat, humidity and mud to clean homes, feed people and leave them with water and supplies.

The Nation of Islam was in northeast Houston giving out water and supplies. Local rap artists Paul Wall, Slim Thug and 2-Do joined them, attracting a crowd. The Brown Berets de TejAztlan are collecting donations to distribute in neighborhoods overlooked by mainstream agencies. (tinyurl.com/HarveyFej2A)

Environmental racism at petrochemical plants

On Houston’s east side, where all the oil and chemical refineries are located, up to 1,000 tons of pollutants are now in our air, soil and water. In Crosby, the Arkema chemical plant burned off the remaining trailers of decomposing chemicals that were supposed to be kept under refrigeration. Once their electricity flooded and the tanks exploded, the air was killed last week.

Residents in a mile-and-a-half radius of Arkema, who had been evacuated, finally got to go home to find the destruction. The French-owned plant wasn’t providing any details. Exxon and Shell refineries are attempting production again. Since the hurricane, gas prices have jumped almost 50 cents a gallon here.

The Sept. 2 Guardian reports: “A cough, a headache and a scratchy throat are particularly harmful substances... have been emitted by more than 60 petroleum industry plants operated by ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron and other businesses since the hurricane.”

In the same article, Bryan Parras, who lives in the East End area of Houston, was quoted: “It feels like someone has a hand on the crest of your nose and is pushing down.”

I visited Nonon Williams, whom I visited yesterday, and he told me that people were sleeping on a gym floor with ants, roaches and snakes crawling on them.

“There is water, brown and oily and the rumor is that it has saltpeter in it,” Williams told me. “Officials say it is OK to drink. We need to be allowed to go to commissary and buy clean water, buy bleach and cleaning products for the por-ta potties because they are disgusting. We may get to commissary tomorrow but can only spend $30. The food here is unrecognizable and we want to buy food. We need toothbrushes and stamps, too.”

Williams asked people on the outside to call Warden Rocky Moore at 936-548-3735 and Reg. Director, 936-437-1770, and tell them prisoners need clean water and the ability to buy what they need from the commissary.

At the federal prisons in Beaumont, 90 miles east of Houston, conditions are worse. Rachel, the spouse of a man imprisoned there, told me, “They are only giving us water a day, two sandwiches a day since last Sunday. Hurricane Harvey: Working-class rescue, gov’t neglect
By Gloria Rubac

Northeast Houston on Sept. 1. Many homes were flooded with water and dozens of community organizations went door-to-door giving out supplies and cleaning up.

The [prisoners] are using the restroom in bags because the water in their toilets is what they are drinking. People are fainting because of dehydration and heat. Prisoners are losing weight. It’s heartbreaking. It’s freaking hot in there. These are GROWN ASS MEN, not animals. They haven’t taken showers since last Sunday. My husband is so dehydrated his eyelids were sticking to his eyes. His tongue was sticking to the top of his mouth.” This is the federal prison system where one of the Cuban Five, Ramon Labanino, spent several years. Political prisoner Ramsey Muñiz is in this prison.

Defend immigrants!

The Houston metropolitan area is home to more than 600,000 undocumented people. The fear of deportation has prevented untold numbers of them from seeking help or going to centers during the flood. People are registered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and the Obama administration urged President Donald Trump to end DACA.

Houston ranks just behind Dallas and Atlanta in the number of deportations since Trump took office. Even Republican leaders are urging Trump to rethink deportations and ending DACA. They are concerned about their profits, of course, not the suffering of millions.

The one joy I’ve seen since Harvey is that working-class folks have done a massive job of rescuing people, without money or recognition. It’s the little neighborhood churches and community organizations; it’s places like S.H.A.P.E. (Self-Help for African People through Education) Community Center that are raising funds and helping people navigate the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We need to invite immigrant and Black people are now aiding immigrants living in their cars. FIEL has invited people to its offices on Sept. 5 to hear Trump’s announcement when they are young. “We will make plans to follow our dreams.”

Hurricanes, floods and capitalism
By Tony Murphy

In “Capital,” Karl Marx described capitalism as a system that is designed entirely around the exploitation of labor — but its true character is hidden.

Unlike previous social systems like slavery and serfdom, where the use and abuse of slaves or serfs to produce wealth was evident to everyone, capitalism’s exploitation is hidden underneath a bunch of ideas that workers and bosses are equal, independent agents, and part of a democratic system that guarantees complete freedom for all.

For capitalism to survive as a system of exploitation, it needs to constantly hide the true character of all phenomena. No matter what’s at stake, what’s important, what any given struggle is really about — the dominant, ruling-class interpretation of events has the effect of obscuring reality.

There is a very public struggle for truth over whether Hurricane Harvey was pre- ventable or unavoidable. In this struggle the opposing sides are, on the one hand, scientists and environmental activists who try to warn the public about both global warming and how Houston’s sprawl prevented the ground’s absorb- ing the flood water, and those who are climate-change deniers and politicians who deliberately ignored the warnings of scientists for reasons of expediency, ignorance, planning or greed.

This debate is crucial. Climate change is affecting millions. The experience of the global environmental movement in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, whose populations are right now suffering massively — 1,200 killed and millions left homeless — under the worst-record-breaking monsoon made worse by climate change.

But even this struggle over how disasters happen, with excellent points from the scientific climate-change crowd (the “500-year flood” has happened three times in the last three years), obscures the true nature of what is unfolding in Houston, the Gulf Coast and South Asia: a massive societal breakdown because of a global social system that prioritizes the right to exploit people for profit over human rights.

U.S. capitalist reaction vs. Cuba’s socialist preparation

Largely left out of the discussion is that the emission of greenhouse gases is caused by capitalism. Also ignored is the crime that, unlike the wealthy 1%, the vast majority of this society are left to their own devices in extreme-weather crises caused by the system.

This becomes more strikingly apparent when you compare the massive preparations made by the socialist Cuban government for and with its people whenever a hurricane hits. The loss of life there is overwhelmingly less than in capitalist countries.

This fact is readily admitted by rescue and humanitarian agencies like the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, the United Nations, the Lutheran World Federation, the American Red Cross, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Salvation Army. More people are likely to be killed by a hurricane in the U.S. as in Cuba, admitted the Center for International Policy in 2013. But at that time there were no amazing results to Cuba’s social system.

The first thing that sets Cuba apart from capitalist countries is that the response to hurricanes take place well before they hit. Every sector of society is involved, and annual trainings start with people when they are young. “We will make plans to follow our dreams.”

Continued on the next page

Continued on the next page
Floods devastate South Asian countries

By G. Dunkel

The wet monsoons, which hit South and Southeast Asia between April and September, normally bring some flooding. This year’s monsoon brought devastating floods. At least 1,200 people died and 200,000 homes were destroyed. The worst of the country has seen in a decade.

According to the U.N., the flooding in Bangladesh, where 150,000 people have died and 1.5 million homes destroyed, is the worst country has seen in a decade.

In Bangladesh, “[M]ore than 600,000 hectares (nearly 1,500,000 acres) of farm land have been partially damaged and in excess of 10,000 hectares (nearly 25,000 acres) have been completely washed away,” the Independent reported Aug. 29. Besides flood damage, Bangladesh is facing another major immediate problem. The U.N. stated Sept. 4 that 57,000 mostly Rohingya refugees are already living in Bangladesh, which is having trouble even providing minimal food aid for them.

Pennsylvania inmate fights toxic prisons

By Bryant Arroyo

This is the lightly edited text of a speech given at the Right to Life Prisons, 2000 Peace Palace, held June 3 in Denton/Fort Worth, Texas. Arroyo’s remarks were recorded for the occasion of the Right to Life of Radi o.

Hello there, environmentalists, ecologists, biologists, blue-gold/rain forest protectors, movers/shakers, GMO opponents, Green Party representatives, and social/environmental activists gathered here today. I want to thank you for your presence and your willingness to join all of the “environmental regulators” at this unprecedented conference.

The environment includes everything around an individual: the air one breathes, the water we drink and the place in which we live. As such, the environment serves as a protective factor and promotes one’s overall physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Here is where we are here to deliberate-Continued on page 9
Defend Antifa!

Last week, the media was full of headlines airing arguments intended to sweeten the masses against a new spectre haunting the United States. Not Trump, nor the failed state that sows death and spreads sickness in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Not the prospect of nuclear war. No, the masses are now supposed to fear “antifa” militants and their “violence.”

Communists and anarchists have proudly worn the mantle of antifa (short for anti-fascists) since the very beginning of fascism, when it was the first line of defense of people in the fight against fascism in Europe, and multinational communist fighters have long battled the Klan’s fascist terror in the South. Anarchists in Europe and the U.S. have long been on the frontline against militarized cops and their Nazi running dogs at protests and through direct action.

These are the antifa militants that the Washington Post encourages us to fear. The Post quoted a man in Durham who brought down a racist statue symbolizing oppression, and they want us to fear the brave heroes who defended the enslaved, elderly and children’s-allowed-to-walk-peacefully streets of Washington, D.C., on Trump’s inauguration day. They want us to fear the fighters who faced down fascists in Charlotte, Va., and the extreme violence from cops and Klan alike.

Continued from page 6

hope that by preaching they will bring the masses to the side of the cause: their task is to intervene in real conflicts, to give them a political expression and on that basis build a new and more advanced consciousness, with the awareness of the political sensitivity of masses in motion does not entirely correspond to the most advanced political goals. This is what the true communists in the U.S. have been doing for a long time, and there is no doubt that the events of these days also bring with them the impressive momentum of the unlearning work.

To develop a renewed awareness of the strategic imperative for the whole movement for liberation on a global scale, we should see that in the heart of the “imperialist metropole” there exist conflicting and transformative pressures that can be oriented and driven by revolutionary organizations capable of combining a correct strategic approach with tactical skill. Whether in the United States or in Italy, it is only in this way that we can offer real aid to the peoples in revolt in the countries that are already seeking a path for national independence and socialism. We can provide this aid by confronting the dizzying economic, technological and military imbalance the imperialist powers have created for themselves across the developed world. We can and must do this.

In light of this revelation, we have to ask, can anyone see the insanity in this? In effect, the BOP doesn’t mind experimenting with death data in what done to several thousand federal prisoners, federal corrections officials, civilian staff and the rest of the population of the Roxana-site community will be reduced to the status of guinea pigs. In effect — lab rats. In closing, there are two reasons for doing anything: a good reason [and] then there is the real reason. Is there any economic feasibility to waste the taxpayers’ $4.44 million on a federal prison that will eventually promote sickness and cancer, causing diseases to both the federal pris-

Pennsylvania toxic prisons

regret it later when their tax-paying citi- zens’ lives are devastated by an unhealthy environment and their bodies are rav- ished by terminal diseases. In effect, the BOP doesn’t mind experimenting there with the BOP program intact. If he doesn’t do this, and instead main- tains his ties to the most reactionary Re- publican wing of his right super-bigs, he should meet with even greater protests by the masses of people here.

Join the DACA Fights Back: Trump Tower Take-over demonstration on Sept. 5, 11 a.m., at Trump Tower, 755 Fifth Ave., New York City. ■

Continued from page 9

In light of this revelation, we have to ask, can anyone see the insanity in this? In effect, the BOP doesn’t mind experimenting with death data in what done to several thousand federal prisoners, federal corrections officials, civilian staff and the rest of the population of the Rox-

Continued from page 6

WHY COLIN KAPERNICK IS RIGHT

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

The Bigot in Chief is supposed to announce, on Sept. 5, his decision on whether to eliminate the ruling on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arriv- als program. DACA was put in place by President Barack Obama to defend — at least temporarily — the rights of children to stay here who were born elsewhere but grew up in the United States.

There is no doubt that anyone who is not brainwashed by xenophobic propa- ganda, or part of the racist clique with all too much power in this country, defends the right of young immigrants — the “dreamers” — to remain in the United States should they wish to do so.

Since these children, now grown-up workers, really have no home country to go to, since their relatives, friends, schools, jobs and roots are all here, any decision to deport them against their will is not only unjust, it is cruel and unusual punishment for people who have com- mitted no crime.

Most of their parents came here during the 1990s and early 2000s. Many of them were driven off their farms and out of their homelands when “free trade” agree- ments opened up their countries to U.S. agribusiness and other monopolies. They are also innocent of any crime.

The dreamers’ right to remain here is supported by two-thirds of the popula- tion, according to polls. It is supported by labor unions and across the country among their members and by any unions with progressive leadership. That was shown by a pro-DACA demonstration in New York City on Aug. 30, with partici- pation from UNITE HERE Local 100, Service Employees Union 32BJ and the Professional Staff Congress/City University of New York.

DACA is even supported by some big businesses, including agribusiness, which need their labor and strive to keep paying lower wages to a workforce that is less sure of its rights and vulnerable to the bosses’ threats of calling in Immigra- tion and Customs Enforcement authori- ties.

But the working class should avoid being divided. The bosses apparently have from a section of the dreamers — the “dreamers” — to remain in the United States should they wish to do so. President Barack Obama to defend — at least temporarily — the rights of children to stay here who were born elsewhere but grew up in the United States.

There is no doubt that anyone who is not brainwashed by xenophobic propa- ganda, or part of the racist clique with all too much power in this country, defends the right of young immigrants — the “dreamers” — to remain in the United States should they wish to do so. One of the strongest examples we have that this project is being proposed without any thought of the consequences to environ- mental justice, water quality, prisoners’ rights, endangered species and the lack of environmental activism. That’s where the importance of assessing alternatives to incarceration can be linked represented by the historical mem- ory of the struggle in the United States today gives us all a message of enormous value: In spite of the difficulties, in spite of facing all sorts of repressive actions, the communists in the U.S. have been doing for a long time, and there is no doubt that the events of these days also bring with them the impressive momentum of the unlearning work.

To develop a renewed awareness of the strategic imperative for the whole movement for liberation on a global scale, we should see that in the heart of the “imperialist metropole” there exist conflicting and transformative pressures that can be oriented and driven by revolutionary organizations capable of combining a correct strategic approach with tactical skill. Whether in the United States or in Italy, it is only in this way that we can offer real aid to the peoples in revolt in the countries that are already seeking a path for national independence and socialism. We can provide this aid by confronting the dizzying economic, technological and military imbalance the imperialist powers have created for themselves across the developed world. We can and must do this.

In light of this revelation, we have to ask, can anyone see the insanity in this? In effect, the BOP doesn’t mind experimenting with death data in what done to several thousand federal prisoners, federal corrections officials, civilian staff and the rest of the population of the Roxas-site community will be reduced to the status of guinea pigs. In effect — lab rats. In closing, there are two reasons for doing anything: a good reason [and] then there is the real reason. Is there any economic feasibility to waste the taxpayers’ $4.44 million on a federal prison that will eventually promote sickness and cancer, causing diseases to both the federal pris-
The Koreans are not ‘mad’

By Deirdre Griswold

The news media, taking their cue from the internationalist and militarily dependent government of the U.S., are full of alarm, asking, “What do these Koreans want? Why on earth are they so ‘mad’ over bigger and bigger nuclear bombs? They must be mad!”

The answer to why the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is developing a nuclear defense is not hard to find. In fact, the answer is all around us — throughout the world, in the form of U.S. missile silos, warplanes, warships and submarines.

The U.S. at present maintains a nuclear arsenal of almost 7,000 warheads. A “nuclear modernization program,” initiated under the Obama administration, is continuing under Trump. The Arms Control Association estimates that the total cost of this program over the next 30 years will come to “between $1.25 trillion and $1.46 trillion.”

Mutually Assured Destruction — MAD — is the actual name of the military doctrine that has guided U.S. nuclear weapons development since at least 1945. In fact, U.S. military planners credit the MAD doctrine with preventing a nuclear exchange between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Let’s not forget how the nuclear arms race began. The U.S. started it when, as the world’s only nuclear power, it dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities at the end of World War II, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians. This killed tens of thousands of Koreans who had been defending the Japanese colonial rulers of Korea at that time.

By 1946, the U.S. had stockpiled many more of these fearsome weapons and announced a new war, the Cold War, against the Soviet Union, its former ally in the fight against Hitler’s armies. The implication was that the U.S. could use its nuclear arsenal to ensure a nuclear war on the Soviet Union. But by 1949, the USSR successfully tested its first atomic bomb. The nuclear arms race was on.

The U.S. claimed it had to build thousands of such weapons to prevent a nuclear exchange with the Soviet Union. Even though the USSR ceased to exist in 1991, the U.S. continued to stockpile nukes, and is now expanding that deadly arsenal.

MAD, not ‘madness’

The adoption of the nuclear doctrine of U.S. imperialism — from the political leaders to the generals to the commercial media — are saying that the leaders of the DPRK must be “mad” because they have successfully tested and built nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

But it is MAD, not “madness,” that allows the DPRK’s efforts to prevent a war by maintaining a powerful defense. After all, if the U.S. military, with all its nuclear weapons and bases around the world, can still be guided by the “mutually assured destruction” doctrine, why is it “mad” for a much smaller country to seek nuclear weapons in self-defense?

The threat the DPRK faces from the U.S. is not imagined or delusional. The country was invaded by 5 million U.S. troops from 1950 to 1953 in a horrendous war. For 64 years now, the U.S. has refused to sit down with the DPRK and the U.S. has 38 military bases in South Korea. Every year, the Pentagon conducts military “exercises” in Korea simulating another war and invasion of the north.

Just days before the installation of the current South Korean government, the U.S. just led to a THAAD missile base in the south, against popular opposition and the incoming president. The U.S. calls THAAD a “defense” system, but it is offensive, and would facilitate an attack against the DPRK.

The DPRK knows war well too. It understands the real need to protect itself against another invasion by the U.S.

What drives U.S. MADness?

Separated by two great oceans from any would-be invader, the U.S. has been through two world wars relatively unscathed by comparison to Europe, Asia and North Africa. One would think this should ensure a thriving and comfortable life for the people of this country. Think again.

Even as the U.S. government earmarks over a trillion dollars to upgrading its nuclear arsenal, infrastructure here is crumbling. Global warming is bringing ever-more destructive storms, yet there is no planning to save lives on the tremendous scale now needed. Bridges, trains, subways, levees and dams are in terrible shape.

Where is the $1.46 trillion plan to rebuild the infrastructure that has been neglected — and work at the same time for the tens of millions who can’t find living-wage jobs? U.S. governments — under Republicans and Democrats — have been so wedded to maintaining economic and military domination over the world that they have scuttled any efforts to make major improvements to the infrastructure. This deterioration is only accelerating under Trump, who wants to cut taxes for the rich while throwing billions more to the Pentagon, at the expense of everything else.

Behind all this MADness is the insatiable appetite of imperialism, the last stage of capitalism, in which the system becomes dependent on super-profits sucked out of the world’s people, like a vampire on steroids. Millionaires cannot be content with what they have — they must become billionaires or sink under the fierce competition that continues even in monopoly capitalism.

Why do the U.S. rulers hate the DPRK so? Not because it is a threat to the people here, but because it is social- ist, not capitalist. The DPRK refuses to subject its people to exploitation by U.S. transnational corporations and banks. To the imperialists, that’s enough motivation to risk a horrific war.

The workers and oppressed peoples of the U.S. have nothing to gain, and everything to lose, from this Pentagon MADness.

War crimes in Yemen

Saudi bombs backed by U.S., Britain

By Randi Nord

Editor, GeoPolitics Alert

With international silence and virtu- ally nonexistent media coverage, Saudi Arabia continues carrying out its war crimes in Yemen. The Saudi-led coalition has accelerated its strikes against Yemen on a daily basis, targeting homes, farms, cars and more.

The U.S.-backed Saudi forces bombed a life near the Yemeni capital, killing 60 people on Aug. 23. At least 30 civilians were killed or wounded. An Aug. 25 drone attack on a school killed at least 16 people, including seven children. The Saudi government called the attack, which destroyed two residential buildings, a “terrorist mistake.”

In the southern governorate of Taiz, nearly a dozen air strikes have destroyed civilian infrastructure, including a farm. Air raids and hovering drones have become a nightly occurrence in Yemen’s war. This allows the U.S. to continue its military domination over the world that must become billionaires or sink under the fierce competition that continues even in monopoly capitalism.

Humanitarian disaster

According to a leaked U.N. report, Saudi coalition forces operating with support from the U.S. and Britain have killed 502 children and injured at least 838 more. (foreignpolicy.com, Aug. 16) They have also destroyed nearly 30 schools. Local organizations estimate the number far higher.

The report also recommended adding Saudi Arabia to a list of banned international countries for its chronic human rights violations abroad. Saudi Arabia and its allies have killed thousands of Yemenis since 2015 — with full support from the U.S. government and Western powers. The U.N. Human Rights Office has documented 13,829 ci- vilian casualties, including 5,110 people killed, in the two-year war. Many believe the overall death toll is much higher.

The U.S.-backed country is also experiencing a globally unprecedented epidemic of cholera, which is mainly caused by unsafe drinking water — in Yemen’s case, from widespread bombing of the infrastructure. Some 500,000 are estimated to have become infected, and more than 2,000 have already lost their lives to the disease since April.

For updates, visit geopoliticsalert.com.
Cuando Trump se convirtió en presidente —in-
cuyendo todo el dinero gastado por can-
didatos, partidos políticos y grupos de in-
tereses independentes— fue de $6,800 miliónes, por lo que los elegidos paguen muy bien a sus patrocinadores reduciendo impuestos a los ricos, permi-
tiendo a las empresas contaminantes a pagar con sus pérdidas y primas de salud, a los médicos, a los dentistas, a los abogados, a los periodistas. Pero en 2016, Donald Trump desataron las banderas de la derecha en el país y ganaron las elecciones. En 2020, el candidato demócrata Joe Biden ganó las elecciones con un margen de votos, lo que fue una victoria para los trabajadores y el pueblo en general.

En Honduras, el presidente Juan Orlando Hernández fue reelegido en 2017 con el apoyo de la derecha y la izquierda, lo que causó una gran controversia en el país. En diciembre de 2018, el presidente anunció que Honduras sería el primer país en la región que implementará una ley de identidad digital, lo cual fue criticado por los activistas y las organizaciones de derechos humanos.

En resumen, el siglo XXI se caracterizó por el surgimiento de nuevas tecnologías, el cambio climático, la crisis económica global, la corrupción y el abuso de poder, lo que ha llevado a una gran incertidumbre en el mundo. Las personas deben trabajar juntas para construir un futuro mejor para todos.