Indigenous Nations unified

‘No to pipelines! Yes to sovereignty’

By Workers World Staff

Thousands of Indigenous people from more than 200 Native Nations, as well as non-Native supporters, have swelled the numbers of those blocking construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) at Standing Rock in North Dakota. These protectors of the water seek to thwart the plans of a Texas-based corporation, Energy Transfer Partners, that is attempting to build a pipeline that threatens the clean drinking water of millions and desecrates sacred burial sites of the Oceti Sakowin (the “Great Sioux Nation”).

There are 7,000 to 10,000 people at Standing Rock as we go to press in mid-September – ranging from Native people from throughout the Americas, a Maori delegation from Aotearoa/New Zealand and Kanaka Maoli from Hawaii, Palestinian solidarity groups, Black Lives Matter activists and white environmentalists.

#NoDAPL water protectors are encamped immediately outside the Standing Rock Reservation, on treaty land, and are organized into multiple camps, including the Sacred Stone Camp and the Red Warrior Camp.

The #NoDAPL struggle has become an unprecedented, historic uprising in defense of Indigenous sovereignty and the right to clean water. As people in the camps often say, “Water Is Life. Mni Wiconi.”

Background to the struggle

Originally, DAPL was supposed to go through Bismarck, N.D., but was rerouted to Standing Rock over concerns by Bismarck’s mostly white population of risk to the city’s water supply. Energy Transfer Partners then made plans to build DAPL under the Missouri, Mississippi and Big Sioux rivers in violation of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s federally protected rights.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) objected, and some protectors began to camp in a planned construction area in April. But on July 26, the Obama administration via the Army Corps of Engineers gave a quiet go-ahead to the route, giving SRST only a 48-hour notice that digging was to begin.

Multiple arrests occurred in August as the protectors valiantly blocked a road to keep pipeline workers from offloading heavy equipment and locked down onto construction equipment.

On Sept. 3, the company unexpectedly began excavation at a sacred burial site. Led by people from the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation) and other Indigenous nations, protectors intervened to stop the desecration. The company sent in private security guards who set attack dogs on the people. The security guards were from G4S, a company notorious for brutal prison abuse in the U.S. and Palestine.

The scene recalled the horrific police-dog attacks on Black Civil Rights protesters in the U.S. South. Many Indigenous people also remarked on the fact that Christopher Columbus and his men had used specially bred dogs to attack and eat Arawak, Taino and other Indigenous people more than 500 years ago.

Big business interests pushed back on Sept. 8 when the governor of North Dakota, a major pipeline booster, called out the state’s National Guard to “protect” the oil corporations and banks against the thousands of Indigenous people and their supporters protecting their

Continued on page 3

RESISTANCE TO PRISON SLAVERY, INSIDE AND OUT

+ Attica remembered
+ The Paris Commune of Black Liberation
+ Sept. 9 prisoner support actions
+ Hep C protests

Inspired by Kaepernick

Teachers locked out

DPRK, Haiti, Laos, Moldova, Obama in Asia
The Workers World Party election campaign expresses its total support for imprisoned Michigan activist, the Rev. Edward Pinkney.

On Dec. 15, 2014, Rev. Pinkney began serving a 2.5- to 10-year sentence after being railroaded by the court system in Berrien County, Mich. Rev. Pinkney was charged with altering dates on a recall petition against then mayor of Benton Harbor. His trial was a mockery of justice.

The all-white jury was told by the white judge and white prosecutor, “You don’t need evidence to convict Pinkney.” No evidence was presented to tie him to the crime. Except for the fact that he was the leader of the recall campaign and had a long history of activism and peaceful protest in the African-American community.

Rev. Pinkney has had the support of the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild. Both of these groups recognize the danger his conviction holds for any and all progressive activists whose history of struggle could be used against them as the sole “evidence” for having committed a crime.

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled against Rev. Pinkney on July 26, 2016. The court found that “his radio show,” “his recall efforts in the local community,” “his speaking engagements across the country” and “his search for justice and equality in general” showed that defendant had a motive to alter the dates on the petition papers, thus providing evidence of the identification of the perpetrator.

The court went further in stating that even if Rev. Pinkney was the one who altered the dates on the petition — as several witnesses had testified — he could be convicted of aiding and abetting another person who might have done so because Pinkney was “leader of the recall campaign.” While the case is being appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court, Rev. Pinkney will serve at least another nine months — his minimum sentence — before being eligible for release.

Workers World Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly pledge to continue to raise the plight of Rev. Edward Pinkney across the country in our campaign. Workers World newspaper has extensively covered the entire career of Rev. Pinkney. (See workers.org and search for “Pinkney.”)

Candidate Moorehead attended and addressed the December 2015 Emergency Conference to Save Rev. Edward Pinkney following the prisoner’s transfer to the remote Marquette Prison and threats on his life by guards at that prison in Michigan.

Candidate Moorehead has spoken at many campaign meetings about this important case and has been directly in touch with Dorothy Pinkney, the spouse of this political prisoner.

Supporters are urged to write to Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, West Shoreline Correctional Facility, 2500 S. Sheridan Dr., Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. Donations toward efforts to free Rev. Pinkney can be made at bhhbanc.org.

Workers’ World Party candidates — Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have marched against the Republicans in Cleveland and the Democratic Party machine in Philadelphia. They have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM.

An important solidarity delegation led by vice-presidential candidate Lamont Lilly traveled to Standing Rock in North Dakota. Funds are urgently needed to cover the delegation’s expenses. Please give generously. Visit our website at workers.org/wwp/campaign-news/ for weekly updates on our work.

**Statement of WWP candidates**

**Free Rev. Edward Pinkney!**

The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign needs your donation now to keep up the pressure for the immediate release of Rev. Pinkney. Funds are urgently needed to cover the delegation’s expenses. Please give generously. Visit our website at workers.org/wwp/campaign-news/ for weekly updates on our work.

**DONATE! DONATE! DONATE!**

Hate capitalism! Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This organized capitalistic system is supported by all the outmoded capitalist Means of production. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your jobs. If you’re old, you know they’re stealing your pension.

The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning imperialist wars. 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In response to hearing racial language from his team- mates right before their 49ers game, 16-year-old Rodney Ax-
son and two of his teammates decided to spontaneously take
a knee in Brunswick, Ohio. White team-
mates called Axxon “n—er” to his face and
he has been threatened with lynch-
ing.

Mike Opong, a player for the Doherty Memorial High School, was
suspected for taking a knee before his game in Nor-
chester, Mass., on Sept. 9. After Op-
pong received massive support, the sus-
pension was rescinded.

In Camden, N.J., at the initiative of their coach, the entire Woodrow Wil-
son High School football team and other coaches took a knee during the
anthem. Preston Brown, the Black head coach
stated, “All my life I felt like I stood for the
national anthem as a formality. It never meant
much to me. … Because of current events that happen like the last
couple of years, things I experienced in college being an
American student athlete in the South (at Tulane), I felt I was
an appropriate time to do that.”

One football player from Indiana State University and one from the University of
Tulsa knelt during the national anthem at
games their teams were playing on Sept. 10.

On Sept. 7, three West Virginia Univer-
sity Institute of Technology volleyball
players fell to their knees during the playing of the
national anthem before a game. The
players, all Black women, said they were
kneeling in solidarity with Kaepernick.

A Black woman in the U.S. Navy post-
ed a Facebook video of herself kneeling during the playing of the anthem at
the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., and
now faces “administrative” actions.

Keeping her name anonymous, she said her actions were in solidarity
with Kaepernick and that she was protest-
ing “the imperialist war-frenzy and jingoistic
reactionary response of the war in
Afghanistan and the eventual
collapse of the injustice system.”

By Monica Moorehead

Sept. 13 — The political rebellion that
Colin Kaepernick, an African-American
American Football League quarterback
with the San Francisco 49ers, began with
the playing of the U.S. national anthem on
Aug. 25 during a preseason game, is
spreading like wildfire with no end in
sight. Since that day, his No. 7 jersey
has been one of the top sellers.

His individual act of rebellion — some
now calling it a national issue — responded
to the escalating epidemic of police violence
and other injustices against Black people and other people of
color. By his action, Kaepernick has
epressed his outrage, like millions of
others, about the police murders of
Black men and women like Alton Ster-
ling, George Floyd and Philando Castile,
with no kind of real justice in sight.

Kaepernick characterized Sterling’s
murder as one of many taking place all
over the country. His words and actions are a reflection of the Black Lives
uprising.

On Sept. 2, teammate Eric Reid kno-
ken next to Kaepernick for the 49ers last
pre-season game in San Diego. Brandon
Marshall from the Denver Broncos, took
a knee before his game on Sept. 8 and
lost two of his endorsements as
retribution.

September 11 was the official Sunday opening for the 2016-2017 NFL season.
That day also marked the 15th anni-
versary of the bombing of the two
World Trade Center towers, which ushered in
an era of terrorist attacks and war against
civil liberties, especially targeting
Muslims, South Asians and Arabs. This
bombing also occurred right after the
9/11 Commission’s
did not mandate an end to work at the
project, but it has not chosen that course. It
pull all the permits and cancel this proj-
tweakinternational.org/}

Colin Kaepernick

“Standing Rock Sioux Tribe”

Moorehead is the Workers World Party
candidate for president of the United
States.

On his Twitter page, Kaepernick
responded to the escalating epidemic
of others, about the police murders of
Black and I’m supporting Colin as far as
what he’s doing as far as raising aware-
ness of the injustice system.” (New York Daily
News, Sept. 10)

While these arrests are taking place,
none of the security guards has been
called in to address the situation. The
ruling against the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

But within minutes, a joint statement
was issued by the Departments of the Interior,
and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
temporarily halting construc-
tion bordering Lake Oahe on the Mis-
souri River while more environmental
studies are conducted.

The government also promised to meet with national tribal
leaders and reconsider issues of tribal
consent to these sorts of projects.

Native-led resistance to DAPL has con-
tinued, unbroken by attack dogs, hired
guards, state troops, National Guard
and a simple sit-down during the playing
of the national anthem at the games
where arrests are also taking place.

On the other hand, this reprieve was
a victory, because the Obama adminis-
tration was forced to intervene entirely
due to the immense strength and resolve
of Indigenous people in the #NoDAPL
movement and the powerful support
from so many non-Native people.

Perhaps the U.S. government thought
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Class struggle sharpens as LIU locks out its faculty

By G. Dunkel
New York

This writer worked in the City University of New York's computer center for 24 years. Before that, he taught full and part time at various institutions.

A few hours after their union's contract expired on Aug. 31, all 400 members of the Long Island University Faculty Federation, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, had their pay and health benefits stopped, their email accounts frozen and were told to stay out of the campus. The administration had locked them out.

Many experts in labor history assert that it is the first lockout in higher education, but if the LIU administration wins, it certainly won't be the last.

As a college degree has become a requirement for more jobs, colleges have turned to more low-paid, temporary faculty, called adjuncts, to expand instruction. In general, adjuncts have no job security.

College teaching is becoming a high-skilled, low-paid job.

LIU, which is the new brand name of Long Island University, said it locked the union members out to preempt a strike. The union leadership, to the contrary, indicated at a mass picket on the first day of classes, Sept. 7, that the union was prepared to work without a contract. They pointed to their colleagues at the Professional Staff Congress, representing the faculty and staff at the City University of New York, who worked for seven years without a contract.

The union members had overwhelmingly rejected the contract proposed by the LIU administration on Sept. 6. The proposal left intact the substantial disparity of salaries between LIU Brooklyn and LIU Post, a satellite campus in eastern Nassau County. It had also cut the already low adjunct pay by 20 to 30 percent.

The LIU administration has been preparing for this aggressive lockout. All summer, its human relations office has been hiring replacement teachers, what union members describe as "scabs." Generally, university and college subject department programs, which have the skills to evaluate teacher qualifications, make these decisions to hire. Human Relations, which usually fills out the paperwork, this time actively sought the scabs.

While LIU was claiming that every class was staffed by a qualified teacher, students at the Sept. 7 demonstration and since have pointed to obvious deficiencies. The union has documented these deficiencies in letters it has sent to college administrators.

"G4S is involved in human rights abuses," Mohammad Allan, to end his hunger strike before his detention was reinstated each Friday outside the company's New York office at 19 West 44th St. in Manhattan. He is the youngest Palestinian political prisoner, imprisoned for protesting the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and demanding freedom.

"The BNC was dismayed but not surprised to learn that the multinational security corporation G4S has been contracted to provide security services for the construction on your land by Enbridge of the pipeline. What does Israel's internment of 7,000 Palestinians in prisons, Malik al-Qadi and brothers Mohammed and Mahmud al-Balloul, launched hunger strikes on July 16, July 7 and July 4, respectively, to protest their "administrative detention" orders and demand freedom.

"Israel courts recently 'suspended' their detentions, a ruse used in 2015 to convince another 'administrative detainee,'" Muhammad Allan, to end his hunger strike before his detention was reinstated as soon as he could leave the hospital. Al-Qadi and the al-Balloulis refuse to end their strikes without agreements for their release.

Each is held under guard in Israel's Wefsilin hospital, where Mahmoud reportedly has "severe chest pains," while al-Qadi has "fallen into a coma." (maan-news.com)

On Sept. 16, the Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network will dedicate a weekly protest of G4S, held at 4 p.m. each Friday outside the company's New York office at 19 West 44th St. in Manhattan, to the Standing Rock defenders and Palestinian hunger strikers, with the demand, "G4S out of Standing Rock and Palestine!" (facebook.com)

Other actions worldwide in support of each, as well as action alerts and news updates, are posted online at nodaplsolidarity.org and samidoun.net.

Catron is a member of Al-Adwa New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

Class struggle sharpens as LIU locks out its faculty

Notorious Israeli prison profiteer deployed at Standing Rock

By Joe Catron

What does Israel's internment of 7,000 Palestinians in prisons, including 700 "administrative detainees" held without charge or trial, have in common with the Dakota Access pipeline company "had no employees present during pipeline construction on your land by Enbridge or because they are not masculine or feminine enough in dress or demeanor?" each Friday outside the company's New York office at 19 West 44th St. in Manhattan, to the Standing Rock defenders and Palestinian hunger strikers, with the demand, "G4S out of Standing Rock and Palestine!" (facebook.com)

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Bay Area cops face sexual exploitation charges

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Over 500 protesters militantly opposed Urban Shield, a four-day weapons expo for law enforcement, on Sept. 9. The exhibition, mounted at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, draws police forces from around the U.S. Protesters chained themselves together and locked down three different entry gates to the event. Twenty-three protesters were arrested, cited and released. The action was organized by the Stop Urban Shield Coalition.

The protests were focused against the increasing militarization of police forces in the U.S. and globally.

According to the organizers: “Urban Shield is an annual SWAT team policing training and weapons expo that brings together local, regional, and international police-military units — including those from the Apartheid State of Israel — to collaborate on new forms of surveillance, state repression, and state violence. It consists of extremely militarized policing trainings and war games that only seek to expand the power of law enforcement over our communities. As we continue to face and witness increased militarization and the violence of policing, we must resist programs like Urban Shield, and demand the resources that build our self-determination.”

Coalition member organizations include the Arab Resource and Organizing Committee, Critical Resistance, BAYAN USA, Xicana Moratorium, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the Anti-Police-Terror Project, the Haiti Action Committee and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement.

City Council attempt to stifle BDS backfires

By Joe Catron
New York

Shouts of “Zionism is racism” and “Free Palestine!” rang through New York City Hall on Sept. 8 as guards expelled dozens of activists for repeatedly interrupting a racist, anti-Palestinian hearing staged by the City Council’s Committee on Contracts.

The disruption, which brought proceedings to a near halt for over an hour, followed a press conference the City Hall steps in protest of a resolution “condemning all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the global movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the people of Israel.”

If the measure’s 34 co-sponsors hoped it would show the city’s support for the Zionist state of Israel and its policies against Palestinians, they could not have misjudged more. Instead, the resolution brought together Palestinian and solidarity activists, along with civil liberties advocates, religious agencies, university departments and other supporters of free speech, in a show of force the Council may not soon forget.

“Outside City Hall after disruption of anti-Palestinian hearing.”

“What New Yorkers should be very concerned about is not only that their representatives are organizing an effort to impinge on their constituents’ right to free speech, free thought and association, but that they’re doing so at the behest of a government currently being investigated for genocide, war crimes and apartheid,” said Lamin Deen, a human rights attorney and member of Al-Awda New York.

Others found it particularly noxious, at a time of rising anti-Muslim violence, for Committee on Contracts Chair Helen Rosenthal to invite speakers from Zionist groups like the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Lawfare Project, whose “testimony” trafficked in grotesque bigotry against Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims.

“We support free speech, and this resolution abrogates that and promotes Islamophobia, which is at an all-time high,” said Bangladesh-American Community Center President, Mohammad N. Majumder.

After the hearing, New York City Students for Justice in Palestine, one of the groups involved in the disruption, wrote in a statement: “These speakers relied on transparent colonial and racist rhetoric, drawing out Islamicophobic notions of Muslims and Arabs as savages, diametrically opposed to the civilized, modernized State of Israel. We do not normalize with oppressors and their representations. We do not dialogue with oppressors and their representatives. We will combat Zionism without compromise on all its fronts until victory and liberation for the Palestinian people.”

As groups opposed to the resolution further hearings, many ask supporters of Palestine to call Rosenthal (212-788-6975), Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (212-788-7210) and their own council member (311) to protest the bill and urge that it be stopped. New York City-area boycott, divest and sanctions (BDS) activists are also mobilizing. “We stand with the Jewish National Fund, which manages 93 percent of the land in Israel, including 80 percent owned by the state’s ‘solely for the Jewish people,’ following the ethnic cleansing of its Palestinian citizens.”

A demonstration will take place against the JNF’s national conference in the New York Hilton Midtown, at 1335 Avenue of the Americas, beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18.

Catron is a member of Al-Awda New York: The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.
Prisoners' strike sparks solidarity actions

By Mattie Stardust

On Sept. 9, the 49th anniversary of the heroin seizure by inmates at San Quentin, California, some 45 Holman inmates refused to prepare breakfast and work in the license tag office. By midnight 45 Holman inmates refused to prepare breakfast and work in the license tag office. Holman laid on their racks eerie silence as the men at Holman symbolized the deep feeling of frustration and anger that had engulfed the institution.

In Holman, the Black Belt Coalition, and the League of Revolutionary Black La
democracy, the Black Guerrilla Family in prison. He was the co-founder, along with W.L. Nolen, of the Black Guerrilla Family in prison. He was the co-founder, along with W.L. Nolen, of the Black Guerrilla Family in prison.

Six years ago during a Black August forum at this office I noted that: “Jackson became politicized in prison like so many other African-American men from Mal-colm X to Eldridge Cleaver. Jackson was the co-founder, along with W.L. Nolen, of the Black Guerrilla Family in prison. He would later join the Black Panther Party and was appointed field marshal.

In 1970, Jackson wrote of the slave system and its antecedents in the United States. He revealed the form of slavery that changed from chattel to econom-

Jackson continued: Ever since that time, our principal enemy must be isolat-
ed and identified as capitalism. The slave was and is the factory owner, the busi-
nessman of capitalist America, the man responsible for employment, wages, pric-
es, control of the nation's institutions and culture. It was the capitalist infrastruc-
ture of Europe and the U.S. which was re-

able capitalism and imperialism. It will require a scientific analysis of the prob-

mors of over 40 people — including several guards who had held hostage by the inmates — the movement continues for prisoners' rights, to close down the prison and to pursue the abo-

oration and release for over two years.

Since the early 1970s, the rate of incarcer-
ation in the U.S. has grown by over 500 percent. Disproportionately, African and Latinx people are imprisoned in the hellholes and dungeons of the capitalist system. There are an estimated 2.2 mil-
lion African and Latinx people are imprisoned in the hellholes and dungeons of the capitalist system. There are an estimated 2.2 mil-
million who are still in prison.

It was the capitalist infrastructure that launched the world wars, created the global economy, and drives the world toward the total liberation of the African people and the destruction of the imperialist system.

A small solidarity protest outside Hol-
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It was the capitalist infrastructure that launched the world wars, created the global economy, and drives the world toward the total liberation of the African people and the destruction of the imperialist system.
The story of Attica, Sept. 9, 1971, is the story of how prisons can be incubators of revolutionaries — like George Jackson, assassinated two and a half weeks earlier at San Quentin State Prison.

Attica has been described as the biggest deployment of state violence since the crushing of the Native uprising at Wounded Knee — 81 years before.

The significance of the Attica uprising as a prison rebellion transcends prison. Attica was a high-water mark in the Black Liberation Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. It was almost the Black Liberation Movement's Paris Commune, of 100 years before, in France in 1871.

Attica was spontaneous, but to the extent that it was led, it was organized by revolutionaries — high-profile individulas who considered themselves Marxists, Maoists, Black liberationists. They organized committees for food, for negotiations. They put together 28 demands in a few hours!

Their demands addressed every aspect of the prison system: health, food, an end to solitary confinement, legal rights, the right to family visitation, the right to get political material in the mail. Particularly noteworthy on relation to yesterday's national prison strike, is that almost one-third of their demands addressed prisoner labor rights.

This is from their statement: "We demand an end to prison labor exploitation. ... Prisoners who refuse to work are punished cruelly, and are often sent to solitary confinement." Their demands included: Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisons should be made to conform to New York state labor laws, including wages and workers' compensation for accidents. Prisoners should have access to vocational training, union pay scales, union membership.

Workers World Party played an important role at Attica. The Party had a tremendous reputation with prisoners, through both Young Agis, and Socialists, and the Prisoners' Solidarity Committee, and was known in all state prisons. We did work, ranging from solidarity with political prisoners and legal help to providing buses to take prisoners' families for visits to upstate prisons. We were also known for our political program: "Prisons are concentration camps for the poor! Tear them down!" Our reputation was such that the Attica negotiating committee asked that a member of the Party, Tom Soto, be an observer during negotiations with the state.

Ultimately the repression came. Nelson Rockefeller, the oil billionaire then governor, gave the orders to crush the uprising. He had a reputation as an Eastern liberal, but he was actually a ruling-class opportunist. The state killed more than 30 prisoners and 10 hostages. The bourgeois propaganda was that the prisoners had killed the hostages, with the media giving all sorts of lying details. But it later came out that all who died, died of bullet wounds — and the prisoners had no guns. Surviving prisoners were tortured, with-out their wounds being treated.

The ruling class made their point: "There is a price to pay" if there is a prison uprising.

But the uprising opened up the question of prisoners' rights and liberation. From then on, the cutoff, isolation of prisoners became a much bigger issue in our movement, as well as the issue of prisoners as workers.

This brings us to yesterday's strike, on Sept. 9. The prison population was up to 50,000 in 1971. Now it is six to seven times that, and there is the prison-industrial complex. More than 1 million of those prisoners work within the prisons. They do construction and cleaning labor, they do clothing manufacture, or they work for McDonalds, ATT or Walmart. Many, many corporations are using prison labor.

The prisoners are a detachment of the working class, working under prison slave-like conditions for pennies a day. A worker's day's straight salary and minimum wages were among the many demands, as well as abolition of prisons.

It is noteworthy that foremost among the demands helping to build the prisoners' union, that the prisoners do not have rights as workers.

The prisoner industrial complex is a good reminder to unionists, members of the International Workers of the World, who are also working with low-wage workers. As revolutionaries we have many different approaches and methods to the problem of how to end prison slavery, some employing the need to adopt revolutionary methods in the labor struggle. Revolutionaries aid in the organization of the working class so that workers can better their conditions.

However, revolutionaries never forget that our ultimate goal is not merely improving the conditions under which workers' labor is exploited, but rather the abolition of exploitive institutions, the abolition of all wage slavery and capitalism.

The strike raises larger issues. For instance, in 1977 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the 45-year-old case of the Assata Shakur's defense, the Petition of the 4th and 6th prisoner union's, that the prisoners do not have rights as workers.

But when has the case of "no rights" ever stopped us from organizing workers? Fighting for legal rights is part of organizing! We fight for workers organizing in the right-to-work states in the South, for undocumented workers who don't have bourgeois rights as workers.

One problem for some unions is that they have cops and prison guards in these unions. That makes it harder for the union to take anti-racist and solidarity positions. They should get rid of the pris-on guards and organize the prisoners!

The working class is changing. Now a big section is temporary and unorganized, alienated from the Black Lives Matter movement. It is part of the working class in motion, and is demanding a stop to killing Black and Brown workers and demanding jobs and employment.

Our Party has to take the lead in acquainting who is at the forefront of the working-class organizing. If you have a Marxist view of the working class, our class is far from disappearing — it is expanding! End prison slave labor.
Whose nukes are the realthreat?  

By Deirdre Griswold

Echoing the language of the Washington political establishment and the vast tanks of the billionaire ruling class, the U.S. corporate media repeat endlessly that the leaders of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea must be “irrational,” “crazy” and other pejorative adjectives because that country has developed a small arsenal of nuclear weapons. Let’s look at it from another direction.

A quarter century after the end of the Cold War, the Pentagon continues to stockpile more than 7,000 nuclear warheads. The U.S., unlike almost every other nuclear power, including the DPRK, has refused to pledge that it will refrain from nuclear war, which is an oxymoron. But it also may surprise some people to know that the U.S. has signed but never refused to pledge that it will refrain from nuclear warheads.

The northern part of Korea was, how ever, invaded, and was ravaged for three years by the U.S. and its client coalition of countries under U.S. control. In that war, the U.S. Air Force bombed every single building over one story in North Korea. It launched the war with nuclear annihilation. Millions of people were killed in the war. But the DPRK didn’t give in. Since then, there have been scores of war “games” staged by the Pentagon on the very bor der of the DPRK. The U.S. has deployed tens of thousands of soldiers as well as nuclear-capable planes and submarines in its re gion. But irrationality really attacks us.

Since British forces burned Washing ton in 1814, no country has ever invaded the U.S. hands off!

Pyongyang, north Korea, after an air raid by U.S. planes in 1950.

The arrogance and hypocrisy of the U.S.’s role in Haiti is also clear in Merten’s remark. Think about the reaction in the corporate media in the U.S. if, say, Haiti declared it would accept the results of a U.S. election only if millions of disenfran chised Black U.S. citizens were allowed to vote.

The Provisional Electoral Council has announced that it has cobbled together financing from a number of different government sources and from members of the Haitian diaspora, that is, Haitians living in other countries. Nearly 11 million Haitians live inside Haiti, a million in the U.S. and more in Canada, France and the Dominican Republic.

Electioneering began the last week of Au gust. Dr. Maryse Narcisse, the candidate of Fanmi Lavalas (FL), and former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide held a large march on Aug. 29 in Pétionville, a well-off suburb of Port-au-Prince, the capital.

The crowd chanted, “Long live Aris tide! Your father is back! As well as “We’re not here for play! We’re here for dignity! We’re here voluntarily!” The crowd made it clear that they disputed a public opinion poll putting Narcisse in fourth place. It’s only the result that made Narcisse say, “The country is sick in every area, at the political, economic and social levels. We need all the sons and daughters of the nation to be able to cure the disease from which it is suffering. For this, I open my arms to gather all the nation’s children to provide sustainable solutions to the nation’s many problems.”

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The other major candidates are former Sen. Moïse Jean-Charles, of Dessalines’ Children (PD); a split-off from FL; Jude Célinest of the Alternative League for Progress and Haitian Emancipation (LA PEHE); and Jovenel Moïse of the Martelly’s Haitian Bala ed-Headed Party (PTHK).

The irre sistible momentum of Haiti’s nonstop mass movement — with tens of thousands in the streets almost daily for many months — has forced annulment of the fraudulent 2015 elections. The new election date is Oct. 9, 2016. But the U.S. Embassy and its allies are still scheming to cancel or delay the elections.

In January, 68 grassroots organizations issued a Call for Solidarity from Haiti’s popular movement (“We will not obey”). In response, friends of Haiti are having public events in many cities on Sept. 28, the anniversary of the first U.S.-backed military coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Organizers call it the 7th International Day in Solidarity with Haiti; the earlier six international days took place in 107 cities in 29 countries on five continents beginning in 2005. The following is a Call to Action issued by the Haiti Action Committee.

CALL TO ACTION

Join us in raising these just demands of the Haitian people:

1) Free and fair elections!
2) No U.S., U.N. or OAS interference in the elections! [They were involved in the fraud last time!] Respect Haiti’s sovereignty!
3) A political campaign against the poor majority and the Lavalas popular movement! End the brutal U.S./U.N. foreign military occupation! Reparations for victims of the 2004 coup and occupation, including political prisoners and those suffering from the U.N.-inflicted cholera epidemic and massacres!
4) Rebuilding Haiti the way the Haitian 99% want it built! — Paying a living wage in the factories instead of sweat shop wages … Restoring farming self-sufficiency so Haiti can feed itself again … Real Haitian control of mineral resources and aid funds … Jobs, schools, housing, clean water and health care for the people! … In short, the program of Aristide’s La valas movement and the native radical candidate, Dr. Maryse Narcisse.

Let us know what events you’re planning! Write to: Haiti Action Committee, c/o worker.org, 2350 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110; or email: workers.org -

Sen. in by Dave Welch, a delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council, who was a member of a U.S. human rights and labor delegation to Haiti during the October 2015 election campaign.
By Chris Fry

“We flew in real low, in front of that bastard's house, and I threw the head so it bounced right on his porch and into his front door.” (Anthony A. “Tony” Poe) Poshen, quoted in Asia Times, July 8, 2003)

Tony Poe was a CIA operative who was part of U.S. imperialism’s “secret war” in Laos in the 1960s and 1970s. Not only did he hurl severed heads of Pathet Lao liberation fighters out of aircraft, he also placed his hands on spikes to spread terror.

Poe paid a dollar for every severed ear that his mercenaries collected. He placed them in plastic bags and sent them to the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos’s capital. For his efforts, Poe twice received the CIA Star — the agency’s highest award.

On a visit to Laos this Sept. 6, President Barack Obama finally acknowledged — but didn’t apologize for — the U.S. “secret war” against that country. Villages and entire valleys were obliterated,” Obama said. “Countless civilians were killed. That conflict was another reminder that, whatever the cause, whatever our intentions, wars inflict a wrenching toll, especially on innocent women and children.” (nytimes.com, Sep. 6)

270 million bombs over nine years

The “cause” that Obama failed to specify was Washington’s brutal and ultimately futile attempt to stop the liberation struggles in Vietnam, Cambodia, and the small nation of Laos, with its population of just 6 million people. In March 1965, after massive numbers of U.S. troops were sent to Vietnam, the Pentagon unleashed a devastating bombing campaign on Laos. Some 270 million bombs were dropped on Laos over a nine-year period, and all of them were directed at tiny villages — a load of bombs every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day, for nine years. (ngac.usaf.gov, Sept. 6)

Thousands were killed, whole villages were destroyed, hundreds of thousands of Lao people were driven from their homes, and the country was left desperately poor.

A third of the U.S. bombs didn’t explode, including some 80 million small cluster bombs. Since the war ended, over 200,000 people have been killed by these bombs, 40 percent of them children, who are attracted by the bombs’ toy-like shape. While the Laotian people have spent decades trying to collect and disarm the bombs, experts estimate that less than 1 percent of the land has been cleared.

On his visit, Obama offered the paltry sum of $30 million per year for three years to help Laos clear the land of U.S. bombs. Experts say that’s a fraction of what is necessary to eliminate this deadly threat. The U.S. spent $8 billion in Vietnam, but only 800 bombs dropped on Laos, every day, for nine years. In 2014, the Pentagon received $600 billion to acquire new weapons that will grenade bomb the globe for years.

The U.S. imperialist government’s gesture is not a genuine effort to remove the unexploded bombs from Laos. It is “window dressing” designed to help promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership program, so that workers in Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, and other Asian countries can be intensively exploited by U.S. corporations while the Pentagon keeps control of the Pacific Rim.

The Laotian people see right through this scam. Restaurant owner Dalaseng Dang told a reporter that he is unable to forgive. “The only way the U.S. can make amends is to clear this country, build roads, schools and hospitals,” he said. “Their bombs are still killing our people every day.” (theguardian.com, Jan. 31, 2015)

Why did Obama visit Asia?

By Stephen Millies

Barack Obama didn’t go to China and Laos just to say hello. The president’s trip was part of the Pentagon’s “Asian pivot.”

The U.S. Navy’s Seventh Fleet continues to throttle the Pacific Ocean like it was Lake Michigan. Since 2000, 30,000 more U.S. troops have been sent to Japan while 9,000 more GIs are being stationed in Hawaii. (Wall Street Journal, Sept. 7)

The Pentagon is trying to install its provocative THAAD missile system in both U.S.-occupied south Korea and Japan. THAAD is a so-called anti-missile system.

These dangerous war measures are aimed at both the People’s Republic of China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which continues to defy U.S. military in Europe.

The massive unexploded ordnance in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia contains millions of metal fragments that explode over a wide area when detonated.

Cluster bomb: A spinning canister sprays 200,000 to 500,000 small pellets, with half of these pellets embed themselves in the ground.

Trade agreements and the TPP

Obama traveled first to the G-20 Leaders’ Summit in Hangzhou, China, to sell the TPP and the TPP is basically an annex of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Alliance, the TPP would allow drug patents to be extended by at least five years.

This prevents affordable generic versions of pharmaceuticals, in other words, low-cost medicines that are essential for millions of people with HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and other diseases.

The TPP is an annex of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Alliance, which the U.S. recommended the people “must be eradicated.” (legaciesofwar.org, Sept. 5)

Neither Trump nor Clinton points out that his predecessor, President Obama, was the only maker of anti-tuberculosis drugs.

The TPP is an annex of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Alliance, which the U.S. recommended the people “must be eradicated.” (legaciesofwar.org, Sept. 5)

This makes the TPP a global scam. Restaurant owner Dalaseng Dang told a reporter that he is unable to forgive. “The only way the U.S. can make amends is to clear this country, build roads, schools and hospitals,” he said. “Their bombs are still killing our people every day.” (theguardian.com, Jan. 31, 2015)

Unexploded bombs in Laos.
Prescription for the planet

A nice day comes along the sky is blue, the temperature is moderate, it’s tempting to stop thinking about global warming. This fool’s paradise soon gives way to reality.

Global warming is not just about the exploitation of nature. It’s about capitalism. It’s about the exploitation of people. It is the classic example of all about the extra oppression of people of color and colonialism-imperialism. It’s about an imporable proliferation of multibillionaires.

It’s about the advertising industry which screams Buy! Buy! Buy! to stimulate growth. It’s about the market abhorring thrift and rewarding hectic growth. It’s about capitalist bought-and-paid-for legislatures allocating money to broccoli, the conquest and pennies to a sustainable future.

In just two centuries, the tempestuous, uncontrolled growth of capitalism has transformed the globe. Its insatiable need for raw materials, markets and cheap labor has spanned the world; its wars and hundreds of smaller ones. Now another horrible downside of this global transformation is threatening both us humans and our entire environment.

Is there a way out? What sounded like good news was announced along with President Barack Obama’s visit to China. The two countries will ratify the Paris climate agreement. But read the small print.

China’s leaders and legislature had already endorsed the agreement and have set in motion environmental measures that go beyond the Paris accord. An article in the March 1, 2016, issue of New Scientist, a British publication, reported:

“China is surging ahead in switching to renewables and away from coal in what its officials say will allow it to surpass its 2020 commitment.”

“The country’s solar and wind energy capacity soared last year by 74 and 34 percent respectively compared with 2014, according to figures issued by China’s National Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

“Meanwhile, its consumption of coal – the dirtiest of the fossil fuels - dropped by 3.7 percent, with imports down by a substantial 30 percent.”

“The figures back up claims last month in Hong Kong by Xie Zhenhua, China’s lead negotiator at the U.N. climate talks in Paris last December, that the country will ‘far surpass’ its 2020 target to reduce carbon emissions per unit of national wealth (GDP) by 40 to 45 percent by 2030.”

China surpassed the U.S. in greenhouse gas emissions in 2006, at the height of its industrial growth. But it has also surpassed the U.S. in CO2 emissions, making it a major polluter.

But attacks on women’s ability to control their reproductive lives, lack of health care, the elevation of so-called fetal rights over health and the worse outcomes for Black parents, is obliquely to racism in the delivery of health care and the worse outcomes for Black people in virtually every measure of health.

As in many measures of health inequality, Black women suffer the highest maternal mortality rates. In 2011 and 2012, Black maternal mortality rates were 3.4 times higher in Texas as births but 28.8 percent of pregnancy-related deaths. Rates of severe, but not dead, complications were also highest among Black women.

About 10 percent of 4 million annual U.S. births occur in Texas. The U.S. maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births in 2014, higher than in any other industrialized nation. The U.S. is the only developed country to experience increasing maternal death rates during the 21st century.

Historically, maternal deaths have been due to hemorrhage, pregnancy-related hypertensive disorders known as pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and infection. These occur during pregnancy, in childbirth and in the year after birth.

The Texas study found the major causes of maternal deaths have shifted to cardiac events, drug overdoses and hypertension - either chronic or pregnancy-related. Nearly 60 percent of maternal deaths occurred six weeks or more after delivery, revealing that pregnant women still at risk for the first year after pregnancy has ended.

Although Texas has refused to expand Medicaid, mothers would still pay more than half of all pregnancies in the state. This coverage ends 60 days after delivery.

Drug problems, depression and self-medication

The Texas task force recommended in its 2014 report that recognizing “fetal personhood” starting with fertilization.

Depression and other mental health issues, often undiagnosed, can lead women to self-medicate with pain killers, anti-anxiety pills, alcohol and illegal drugs.

The Texas task force recommended in its 2014 report that recognizing “fetal personhood” starting with fertilization.

The level of maternal deaths from overdoses is consistent with other recent findings, according to a Washington Post article, “Why death rates for white women are soaring” (March 5, 2015) A study from the Urban Institute showed that white women, ages 15 to 54, were the only group to see death rates climb substantially between 1995 and 2011. The authors attributed half the rise to drug overdoses with “the highest concentration of rising female death rates clustering in states that recognize “fetal personhood” starting with fertilization.

Prisoners’ strike sparks solidarity actions

The Texas prison task force called for promoting “equity in the access to and quality of services provided to all patients,” referring to the death rates in the delivery of health care and the worse outcomes for Black people in virtually every measure of health.

It will take a powerful struggle to ensure that Texas women have life-long access to effective and respectful health care.

The author is a retired women’s health care provider.
**MOLDOVA**

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**I'm not afraid**

Movements against oligarchy finds new life

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**PORTLAND, ORE.** By Greg Butterfield

Hundreds of activists gathered at Chapman Square across from the Justice Center, a detention facility, where they chanted in solidarity with striking prisoners. Speakers called for national and international action and solidarity. The march wove through Greektown, including Workers World Party.

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**PHILADELPHIA**

In this city— notorious for locking millions in solitary confinement— several activists held a massive demonstration outside the Juvenile Justice Center. With drums, noisemakers, and a Manchester Intersect Action, activists loudly showed their solidarity with prisoners, including youth and those subjected to slave labor. Banners reading “Burn down the plantation!” and “Mumia: We got you!” were visible throughout the demonstration. Despite a heavy police presence, no one was arrested.

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**ROCHESTER AND ATTICA, N.Y.**

The Buffalo Anti-Racism Coalition tied this wave of prison activism to the heroic Sept. 9, 1971, Attica Rebellion by hosting a documentary viewing and discussion event.

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**WASHINGTON**

Demonstrators rallied outside Ta -

FRCOM PHONE LYNNELEY

An autumn's worth of schoolhouse meatballs, which profits from superexploitation of prison labor.

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**DETROIT**

A “noise demonstration” in front of the new Wayne County jail's construction site began outside the jail. Demonstrators marched to the jail for several minutes. A protest song was sung, and the march continued.

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**ROCHESTER AND ATTICA, N.Y.**

Dozens of militant prisoners gathered outside the Hall of Justice to support the historic, nationwide, imprisoned workers' strike. The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee organized the rally. Several community organizations attended, including Workers World Party.

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In this city— notorious for locking millions in solitary confinement— several activists held a massive demonstration outside the Juvenile Justice Center. With drums, noisemakers, and a Manchester Intersect Action, activists loudly showed their solidarity with prisoners, including youth and those subjected to slave labor. Banners reading “Burn down the plantation!” and “Mumia: We got you!” were visible throughout the demonstration. Despite a heavy police presence, no one was arrested.

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**DETROIT**

A “noise demonstration” in front of the new Wayne County jail's construction site began outside the jail. Demonstrators marched to the jail for several minutes. A protest song was sung, and the march continued.

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**ROCHESTER AND ATTICA, N.Y.**

Dozens of militant prisoners gathered outside the Hall of Justice to support the historic, nationwide, imprisoned workers' strike. The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee organized the rally. Several community organizations attended, including Workers World Party.

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Por Teresa Gutiérrez

Trump va a México, regresa inmigrantes ridiculizando

La siguiente declaración fue publicada por la candidata a la presidencia Monica Moorehead y el candidato a la senaduría, Lamont Lilly por Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero, el 3 de septiembre.

Los representantes de unas 300 naciones, pueblos y organizaciones, han llamado desde el 18 de agosto bloqueando la construcción de la Tubería de Acceso Dakota, destinado a ser construido bajo los ríos Missouri, Mississippi y Big Sioux, en violación de los derechos protegi- dos a nivel federal de la tribu Sioux de Standing Rock. A pesar de terror violento orquestado por la policía, incluyendo el uso de perros, la heroica resistencia di- rigida por los indígenas se ha fortalecido, lo que generó el apoyo nacional e internacio- nal.

Unas series de eventos de solidaridad bajo la bandera de #NoDAPL, Semana de Acción de Acción Global por el Agua y Naciones Unidas, continúan hasta el 27 de septiembre. Ver nodapl-solidarity.org.

Estamos en pleno movimiento con la magnífica lucha de miles de personas in- dígenas y no indígenas que se encuentran en la Standing Rock, en lo que ahora se conoce como Dakota del Norte, la protec- ción de la tierra y el agua en contra de la construcción de la Tubería de Acceso Da- kota. Están protegiendo el río Missouri y el lujoso río de millones contra los es- fuerzos descarados de las corporaciones y los políticos corruptos para empujar una tubería innecesaria en tierra en con- tra del tratado Nación Sioux y a pesar de la falta de consentimiento de la Standing Rock.

Reconocemos a todas las naciones de las Améri- cas han estado a la vez de la devastación del medio ambiente durante décadas. Y ha pasado mucho tiempo para muchos para que el río de Sioux, que es fundamental para la vida, para que comience a ser un río de nación Sioux y a pesar de la falta de consentimiento de la Standing Rock.

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México el 31 de agosto por invitación de la candidata a la presidencia. Trump va a México y, continuará hasta el 17 de septiembre, o la explotación de la tierra y el agua en contra de la construcción de la Tubería de Acceso Da- kota. Están protegiendo el río Missouri y el lujoso río de millones contra los es- fuerzos descarados de las corporaciones y los políticos corruptos para empujar una tubería innecesaria en tierra en con- tra del tratado Nación Sioux y a pesar de la falta de consentimiento de la Standing Rock.

La convergencia de la frontera se lle- vará a cabo en Nogales, Arizona, y se lle- vará a cabo una acción en el lago de Méxi- co Sonora, (Sonora, México) la caída de la frontera. La campaña presidencial Moorehead/ Lilly planea asistir a la convergencia y estará presentando a sus inmigrantes pro- testar por la militarización de la fron- tera y solidaridad con los migran- tes.

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