



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

Indigenous Nations unified

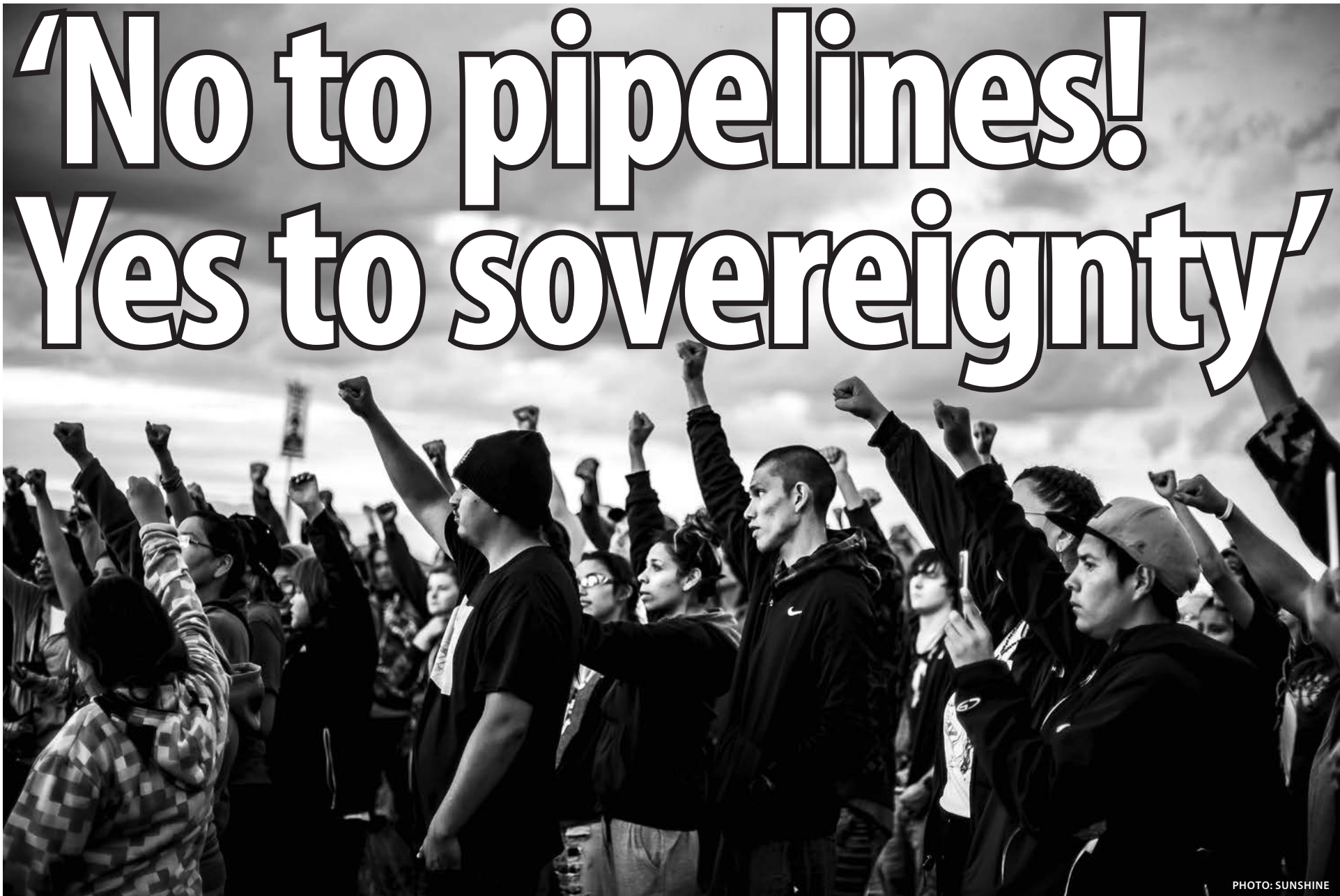


PHOTO: SUNSHINE

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

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RESISTANCE TO PRISON SLAVERY, INSIDE AND OUT

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WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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Statement of WWP candidates

Free Rev. Edward Pinkney!

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 the 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 legal 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 protest 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 recall petitions, thus providing evidence of the identification of the perpetrator.”

The court went further in stating that even if Rev.

Pinkney was not the one who altered the dates on the petitions — 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 Lilly 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 October 2015.

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 bhbanco.org. □

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DONATE! DONATE! DONATE!

The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign needs your donation now

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.

In the remaining weeks before the Nov. 8 election, we have a

chance to reach millions more with ads, online voting, ballot access work and additional travel around the country.

But we can’t do this without your support!

We are a working-class party and our only source of income is from people like you. Help us get out the voice for revolutionary socialism to counter the Clinton war machine and Trump’s racist, anti-people offensives.

Contributions are urgently needed, no matter how small or large. Please make a generous donation today at workers.org/wwp/donate/. Mail checks to Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011.

Paid for by the Workers World Party Presidential Campaign Committee.



Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 57 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions. □

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Vol. 58, No. 37 • Sept. 22, 2016

Closing date: Sept. 13, 2016

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011.

Inspired by Kaepernick

Others protest injustice, on and off the field

By Monica Moorehead

Sept. 13 — The political rebellion that Colin Kaepernick, an African-American National Football League quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers, began with a simple sit-down during the playing of the U.S. national anthem on Aug. 25 during a preseason game, is spreading like a slow-burning 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 call it a one-person insurrection — responded to the escalating epidemic of police violence and other injustices against Black people and other people of color. On his Twitter page, Kaepernick has expressed his outrage, like millions of others, about the police murders of Black men and women like Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and Sandra Bland, with no kind of real justice in sight.

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

On Sept. 2, teammate Eric Reid knelt 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 retaliation.

September 11 was the official Sunday opening for the 2016-2017 NFL season. That day also marked the 15th anniversary of the bombing of the two World Trade Center towers, which ushered in an unprecedented U.S. government war against civil liberties, especially targeting Muslims, South Asians and Arabs. This bombing offered an excuse for the U.S. government and its military to escalate the war in Afghanistan and the eventual mass destruction of Iraq’s sovereignty. Every NFL stadium had military troops covering football fields, warplanes flew

over the stadiums and even bald eagles were unleashed during 9/11 ceremonies.

This kind of war-frenzy and jingoistic display is meant to intimidate any protest against the U.S. flag and the anthem, no matter the motivation. Players who follow in Kaepernick’s footsteps risk being labeled as anti-military and unpatriotic, which diverts attention from the main issue of expressing outrage about racist repression and wanting to find solutions.

But not all NFL players let the 9/11 frenzy stop them from showing solidarity with Kaepernick in protesting during the playing of the anthem. Martellus Bennett and Devin McCourty from the New England Patriots and Marcus Peters from the Kansas City football team raised their fists. Jurrell Casey, Wesley Woodyard and Jason McCourty from the Tennessee Titans performed the same gesture. This harkens back to the heroic protest by Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Olympics during their awards ceremony.

Peters said, “I’m Black. I love being Black and I’m supporting Colin as far as what he’s doing as far as raising awareness of the injustice system.” (New York Daily News, Sept. 12)

Four members of the Miami Dolphins — Jelani Jenkins, Arian Foster, Michael Thomas and Kenny Stills — knelt before their game on Sept. 11.

Younger generation of Kaepernicks

High school and college football players are proudly showing themselves to be young Kaepernicks. They are as young as 11 and 12 years old. In Beaumont, Texas, the entire Beaumont Bulls football team and their coaches took a knee in solidarity with Kaepernick on Sept. 10.

These youth, a majority Black, started receiving death threats and racist epithets. That these reactionary responses can damage the psyche of Black young people for many years reinforces Kaepernick’s views on systemic racism.



Above, Beaumont Bulls team and coaches take a knee.



Eric Reid and Colin Kaepernick at Sept. 12 game.

In response to hearing racist language from his teammates right before a Sept. 2 game, 16-year-old Rodney Axson and two of his teammates decided to spontaneously take a knee in Brunswick, Ohio. White teammates called Axson “n—er” to his face and he has been threatened with lynching.

Mike Oppong, a player for the Doherty Memorial High School, was suspended for taking a knee before his game in Worcester, Mass., on Sept. 9. After Oppong received massive support, the suspension was rescinded.

In Camden, N.J., at the initiative of their coach, the entire Woodrow Wilson 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 recent events that happened the last couple of years, things I experienced in college being an African-American student athlete in the South (at Tulane), I felt it was an appropriate time to do that.” (highschoolsports.nj.com, Sept. 10)

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 University 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 posted 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’s and that she was protesting among other things the third stanza of the Star-Spangled Banner. This stanza glorifies the massacre of the Colonial Marines, Black troops who fought on the British side during the War of 1812 in order to win and keep their freedom. Francis Scott Key, who wrote the lyrics to the anthem, was a slaveowner.

She went on to say on her page, “I don’t disrespect the men and women who serve — who I serve among. It’s just, until this country shows that they’ve got my back as a Black woman, that they’ve got my people’s back — not even just my people but all people of color — I just can’t. And I won’t.” (navytimes.com, Sept. 8)

Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid, once again, knelt down together during the anthem before the 49ers played the St. Louis Rams on Sept. 12.

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

No to pipelines! Yes to sovereignty!

Continued from page 1

own land and water. These courageous defenders and water protectors were smeared repeatedly by North Dakota authorities and described as “agitators” by the commanding general of the NDNG.

On Sept. 9, a federal district judge refused to block the DAPL permit, ruling against the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. But within minutes, a joint statement was issued by the Departments of the Interior, of Justice, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, temporarily halting construction bordering Lake Oahe on the Missouri 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 continued, unbroken by attack dogs, hired goons, state troopers, National Guard and other forces of repression. International outrage at the dog attacks led to a breakthrough in corporate media coverage, which had largely been ignoring what was happening.

Police arrest protectors

On Sept. 13, police in riot gear arrested 22 protectors and medics, as well as some independent journalists, as the protectors were trying to block construction by non-violent direct action in one of the many areas where pipeline work is taking place.

While these arrests are taking place, none of the security guards has been charged with the assaults against protectors at the construction site.

The federal government could simply pull all the permits and cancel this project, but it has not chosen that course. It did not mandate an end to work at the multiple sites that the protectors are defending. For now, the federal government has only delayed some work, while the company is building in many areas, including in other states such as Iowa, where arrests are also taking place.

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

Perhaps the U.S. government thought that, by issuing a temporary halt, people would believe everything was fine and just go home. To the contrary, thousands more people have poured into the camps, because it is clear that continued vigilance is required.

Unprecedented unity of Native and non-Native people

Dallas Goldtooth from the Indigenous Environmental Network and a veteran organizer of the Keystone XL fight, commented to Yes magazine about the his-

toric support from Indigenous Nations at Standing Rock: “I don’t think there has ever been as large a mobilization and a unified, unilateral Indian Country support like this. We’ve had chairmen, traditional chiefs, chairwomen, the leaders of the leaders of Indian Country, who have come to this camp.

“Also, we’ve had a lot of non-Native allies that are 100 percent supportive of the fight and struggle here because they see the connections.... [B]ecause the messaging is that water is life, so many people can connect with that. Whether you’re Native or non-Native, whether you’re from Chicago or Detroit or New Orleans or up in the Bakken, we all understand the importance of protecting the water. That brings us together.”

The struggle is not over. Our support continues to be crucial. We need to continue to support the Water Protectors and the encampments. We must demand all charges be dropped against those who were arrested. We must insist on the removal of the National Guard and other police and private security guard harassment. We must defend the sovereignty of Native Nations. We must support ongoing struggles against pipelines and fracking.

The WWP delegation to Standing Rock,

which included Vice-Pres. candidate Lamont Lilly, Sara Flounders, Imani Henry, Cody Kradz and Taryn Fivek, contributed to this article as well as Mahtowin Munro and Minnie Bruce Pratt based on web reports.

Ways you can help

CALL Gov. Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota and tell him you are outraged at the actions of the state against peaceful Indigenous peoples. Phone: (701) 328-2200.

CALL the White House, tell President Obama to honor his commitment to the people of Standing Rock and STOP the Dakota Access Pipeline now: (202) 456-1111.

SIGN THE PETITION to the White House to stop DAPL: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/.../stop-construction-dakota...>

CALL or EMAIL executives of Energy Transfer Partners, which is building the pipeline: Vicki Granado, Media Relations, (214) 599-8785, Vicki.Granado@energytransfer.com; Lee Hanse, Executive Vice President, (210) 403-6455

DONATE \$\$ Sacred Stone Camp gofundme account: <https://www.gofundme.com/sacredstonecamp> Red Warrior Camp gofundme account: <http://oweakuinternational.org/>

Directly to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: http://standingrock.org/.../standing-rock-sioux-tribe—dakot...

FIND A SUPPORT ACTION near you and more information online. <https://nodaplsolidarity.org/>

#HonorTheTreaties #NoBakken #SacredStoneCamp #STOPDAPL #MniWiconi #SacredWater #NoDAPL #RespectOurWater #IndigenousRising #LoveWaterNotOil

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 departments and 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



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Teachers and students at mass protest of lockout, Sept. 7.

14 accrediting agencies. (LIUFF.net)

Students have portrayed their very expensive education as totally disorganized and have walked out and held sit-ins at various offices. They want their real teachers back.

In a letter sent to students, the LIU administration claimed that every dollar that would go to faculty raises would be a dollar taken from student scholarships. Speakers at the Sept. 7 rally called this letter a blatant lie.

Support from other education unions has been quick to come. The AFT and the New York State United Teachers, which is a federation of all the education unions

from pre-K to university in New York state, expressed firm support. The Carpenters union, whose members at LIU don't have a contract, and the Professional Staff Congress both sent major delegations to the Sept. 7 picket line.

English professor Deborah Mutnick, a member of the union executive committee, told the Sept. 4 Nation magazine: "I do feel personally like we're fighting for something much bigger than this contract. What's happening in higher education, what kind of country are we going to become? There is no public anymore, there is no educational context for this, it's all about money." □

Fighting for a rainbow of rights

By Workers World Staff
Roanoke, Va.

A rainbow spectrum of individuals and organizations joined together for the 27th Roanoke Pride celebration Sept. 10-11 in Virginia. Pride festivities took place at Elmwood Park in downtown Roanoke.

The events both celebrated the LGBTQ community and its advances, and served as a platform for continued organizing.

On Sept. 10, the annual Pride parade stepped off, with participants advocating for full equality and justice across a wide range of issues, including LGBTQ worker's rights, marriage equality and transgender liberation. The parade honored both the Stonewall Rebellion combatants



WW PHOTO

and the Pulse nightclub martyrs.

Appeals for continued struggle included justice for Kionte Spencer, a Black

youth killed by Roanoke County cops in February 2016. LGBTQ youth are a central part of organizing Roanoke Pride

and advancing the struggle.

According to Equality Virginia, an LGBTQ rights organization: "In Virginia, there is no statewide law to protect people from discrimination on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and expression in the private or public workplace.

"A person can legally be fired or refused employment by any employer in Virginia (large or small) on the basis of that person's real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. This means that a person can be fired because someone thinks that they are gay or lesbian or because they are not masculine or feminine enough in dress or demeanor." □

Notorious Israeli prison profiteer deployed at Standing Rock

By Joe Catron

What does Israel's internment of 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners, including 700 "administrative detainees" held without charge or trial, have in common with the Dakota Access pipeline company's brutal repression of Native land and water defenders at Standing Rock?

Aside from the support of the U.S. government and an underlying logic of settler colonialism, each benefits from the involvement of British-Danish conglomerate G4S, the world's largest security company and its second-biggest private employer.

Only three days after private forces contracted by Dakota Access LLC had viciously attacked Indigenous demonstrators with dogs and pepper spray on Sept. 3, G4S confirmed it had deployed "unarmed patrol services" to guard the

project. (telesurtv.net)

G4S communications director Monica Lewman-Garcia later claimed the company "had no employees present during the incident on Sept. 3," but refused to identify the locations or roles of its personnel, or to say if they had supported the attackers. (alternet.org)

"The BNC was dismayed but not surprised to learn that the multinational security corporation G4S has been contracted to provide security services for the pipeline construction on your land by Energy Transfer Partners," the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee wrote in a statement to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe on Sept. 9.

"G4S is involved in human rights abuses around the world including in Palestine, where the company provides services to illegal Israeli colonies, to military

checkpoints, and to prisons that are infamous for using torture and inhumane treatment against Palestinian prisoners, including children." (bdsmovement.net)

Three of the Palestinians held in these prisons, Malik al-Qadi and brothers Mohammed and Mahmoud al-Balboul, launched hunger strikes on July 16, July 7 and July 4, respectively, to protest their "administrative detention" orders and demand freedom.

Israeli 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-Balbouls refuse to end their strikes without agreements for their release.

Each is held under guard in Israel's

Wolfson 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-Awda New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

Bay Area cops to face sexual exploitation charges

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Seven Bay Area current and former cops will be charged for their roles in an outrageous sexual exploitation scandal, publicly exposed in May. Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley finally announced her intent to charge the police on Sept. 9.

Five of the cops are from the notorious Oakland Police Department. A charge of felony oral copulation with a minor will be filed against Oakland Officer Giovanni LoVerde, as well as Ricardo Perez, a former Contra Costa sheriff’s deputy. Perez, who resigned in June, also faces two misdemeanor counts of engaging in a lewd act in a public place.

The four other Oakland officers to be charged include Officer Brian Buntton with a felony charge of obstruction of justice and a misdemeanor charge of engaging in prostitution. Officer Terryl Smith, who resigned in May, faces four misdemeanor counts of conducting unauthorized searches of a criminal justice data and computer system. Sgt. LeRoy Johnson, retired, will be charged with a misdemeanor for failing to report the abuse. Officer Warit Uttapa faces a misdemeanor charge of conducting an unau-



“OPD guilty of human trafficking & statutory rape.”

thorized search of a criminal justice data and computer system.

Finally, Officer Dan C. Black of the Livermore Police Department, who resigned recently, faces two misdemeanor charges of engaging in prostitution, and two misdemeanors of engaging in a lewd act in a public place.

But none of these police have actually been charged yet. This is because the key witness and the major victim of the sexual exploitation, Celeste Guap, is now in a Florida jail, possibly as a result of witness tampering by the cops. Guap was a minor

when the abuse started. (See workers.org/2016/09/08.)

The DA’s office identified other possible crimes by the police that occurred in other Bay Area jurisdictions. According to O’Malley, Oakland Officers Smith and Uttapa had sex with Guap in Contra Costa County. Two other officers committed crimes in San Francisco, as did a federal police officer located in San Joaquin County, who attempted to serve as Guap’s pimp. (East Bay Times, Sept. 9)

Five cops from Richmond, Calif., are under investigation, but they fall under the jurisdiction of Contra Costa DA Mark Peterson, who has yet to make a statement about any investigation or criminal charges. San Francisco DA George Gascon said that when the San Francisco Police Department’s investigation is complete, he will review it for possible charges. The San Joaquin DA’s office says it has a pending case against a federal officer. (East Bay Times)

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf has announced plans to discipline twelve Oakland officers for their actions in the sexual exploitation case. Four will be fired, seven will be suspended without pay, with one to receive only counseling and training. Oakland’s findings against the four to be fired include attempted sexual assault; engaging in lewd conduct in public; assisting in the crime of prostitution; assisting in evading arrest for the crime of prostitution; accessing police databases for personal gain; lying to investigators; failing to report allegations of a minor having sex with officers; and bringing disrepute to the police department.

The names of the twelve officers were not revealed. They are protected under a California “Police Officers’ Bill of Rights” statute. This is the same law that allows police identified in one jurisdiction as abusive, physically violent, “trigger-happy” or found to engage in other dangerous behaviors, to pick up and move to another jurisdiction’s police department, without that record following them.

The cops are protected. But the victim, Celeste Guap, has had her photo and name posted throughout mainstream media since news of the scandal broke in May. Even with the announcement that the cops will be charged, the media are still posting pictures of Guap. The East Bay Express has been the exception to this, and after some research, found and posted some of the officers’ photos. The name “Celeste Guap” used in this article is not the teenager’s name, but a pseudonym. (East Bay Express 9/9) □

Urban Shield Shut down police militarization!

By Terri Kay
Pleasanton, Calif.

Over 500 protesters militantly opposed Urban Shield, a four-day weapons exposition for law enforcement, on Sept. 9. The exposition, 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



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY
Protesters lock down police-military expo in California.

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 on the City Hall steps protesting 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 racist policies against Palestinians, they could not have miscalculated 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.



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS
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 Lamis Deek, 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 fête 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 Bangladeshi-American Community Council president Mohammed N. Mujumder.

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 Islamophobic notions of Muslims and Arabs as savages, diametrically opposed to the civilized, modernized State of Israel. We do not normalize with oppressors and their representatives. 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 await 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 against the Jewish National Fund, which manages 93 percent of the land in Israel, including 80 percent owned by the state, “solely for the Jewish people,” following the ethnic cleansing of its Palestinian inhabitants.

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 Sunday, Sept. 18.

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



THE 1971 ATTICA REBELLION:

George Jackson & the revolutionary prison movement of 2016

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

In looking at the heroic seizure of Attica Prison on Sept. 9, 1971, we must acknowledge the real purpose of the prison system in the United States. The millions who remain incarcerated, paroled and supervised by the so-called correctional institutions are there not for the purpose of rehabilitation. Prisons are a mechanism to facilitate the continuing national oppression, superexploitation and social containment of peoples of African and Latin American descent, who are considered the most dangerous subjects of the U.S. capitalist and imperialist system.

Those who took over Attica Prison recognized that their existence inside the walls was part and parcel of a broader system of racism, which extended back to the days of the Atlantic slave trade in North America and the entire Western Hemisphere. These men who rebelled during those fateful five days did so in response to the overall struggle for national liberation being waged on the outside.

By 1971, the African-American movement against racism, national oppression and capitalist exploitation had reached an apex. For the previous 16 years, the African people had developed tactics from the collective boycott to the sit-in, mass demonstrations, bloc voting, self-organization, urban rebellion and the armed revolutionary seizure of power.

One cannot understand the Attica Rebellion without examining the ongoing struggle of the African-American people and its connection to the independence movements of African people throughout the globe.

After the national independence of the Gold Coast (renamed Ghana) in 1957, a model of self-government, social reconstruction and the development of a Pan-African foreign policy would guide the most advanced elements within the oppressed nation.

George Jackson, Jonathan Jackson and the Attica Rebellion

At the same time, we cannot fully grasp the mood of the African-American inmates at Attica without reviewing the theoretical and literary contributions of George L. Jackson. Through his

two books of prison writings, “Soledad Brother” and “Blood in My Eye,” Jackson reveals the social plight of the African American during this period.

Incarcerated in 1960 in connection with the robbery of a filling station for the total amount of \$70, Jackson was given a one-year-to-life sentence. In other words, the system will either keep you imprisoned for life or release you when they think you are fully broken as a human being. His imprisonment paralleled the burgeoning African-American liberation movement of the period.

It was during February of 1960 that the sit-in movement began in full swing. Sit-ins had occurred as early as 1958 in Wichita, Kansas, and Austin, Texas. Nonetheless, it was in Greensboro, N.C., where four students from the local agricultural and technical university would ignite a fire that burned for more than a decade.

Out of these protests emerged the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which prompted the formation of other organizations such as the Revolutionary Action Movement, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, the Black Panther Party, the Republic of New Africa and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, among others.

All of these organizations and their theoretical works had a tremendous impact on the imprisoned population. A former friend of mine who was incarcerated during the late 1960s in Ohio told me during the early 1980s what the atmosphere was like behind bars. He said that the African-American inmates were observing what was happening on the outside with the struggle for Civil Rights, the urban rebellions and the growth of revolutionary organizations. He said they were frustrated by being locked up and the situation grew so tense that it exploded. Although the rebellion was crushed by the guards, he reflected on the fact that it was a “liberating experience.”

Jonathan Jackson, the 17-year-old brother of George, was active in the movement to free the Soledad Brothers. These three activist prisoners — George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette — were charged with the killing of a white prison guard in January 1970. The action was supposedly carried out in retaliation

for the murder of three African-American prisoners including W.L. Nolen, a leader among revolutionary prisoners who was gunned down by a guard shooting from a tower 30 feet above.

The younger Jackson took it upon himself in spontaneous coalition with three inmates, Ruchell Magee, William Christmas and James McClain, to take a judge, prosecutor and three jurors in captivity in a failed bid to free the Soledad Brothers on August 7, 1970, at the Marin County Courthouse. Jonathan, Christmas and McClain were killed, along with the white judge. Ruchell Magee survived but remains imprisoned up until today, having been incarcerated for some 53 years.

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 Malcolm 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: ‘After the Civil War, the form of slavery changed from chattel to economic slavery, and we were thrown onto the labor market to compete at a disadvantage with poor whites.’ (‘Soledad Brother,’ 1971, p. 175)

“Jackson continued: ‘Ever since that time, our principal enemy must be isolated and identified as capitalism. The slaver was and is the factory owner, the businessman of capitalist Amerika, the man responsible for employment, wages, prices, control of the nation’s institutions and culture. It was the capitalist infrastructure of Europe and the U.S. which was responsible for the rape of Africa and Asia.’

“Therefore, Jackson saw clearly that there was a logical progression from the system of chattel slavery to industrial capitalism. He defines the struggle as one of both national oppression and class exploitation, but that the class struggle is the primary struggle.”

This same presentation continued, emphasizing that “Jackson notes ‘Capitalism murdered those 30 million in the Congo. Believe me, the European and Anglo-American capitalism would never have wasted the ball and powder were it

From a talk at a Workers World Party campaign meeting held on Sept. 10 in Detroit. Other speakers included Carlos Topp of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, Joe Mchahwar of Fight Imperialism Stand Together (FIST), Yvonne Jones of the Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association and WWP presidential candidate Monica Moorehead. Debbie Johnson of WWP’s Detroit branch chaired the meeting.

not for the profit principle. The men, all the men who went into Africa and Asia, the fleas who climbed on that elephant’s back with rape on their minds, richly deserve all that they are called. Every one of them deserved to die for their crimes. So do the ones who are still in Vietnam, Angola, and the Union of South Africa (USA!!).”

I later said: “Nonetheless, Jackson emphasizes the need for an objective view of the enemy and the tactics needed to defeat capitalism and imperialism. It will require a scientific analysis of the problems facing the oppressed and a people’s organization to defeat it.

“Jackson goes on to say: ‘We must not allow the emotional aspects of these issues, the scum at the surface, to obstruct our view of the big picture, the whole rotten hunk. It was capitalism that armed the ships, free enterprise that launched them, private ownership of property that fed the troops. Imperialism took up where the slave trade left off.

“It wasn’t until after the slave trade ended that Amerika, England, France, and the Netherlands invaded and settled in on Afro-Asian soil in earnest. As the European industrial revolution took hold, new economic attractions replaced the older ones; chattel slavery was replaced by neo-slavery. Capitalism, “free enterprise,” private ownership of public property armed and launched the ships and fed the troops; it should be clear that it was the profit motive that kept them there.” (‘Soledad Brother,’ p. 176)

George Jackson’s legacy and Attica today

A prison movement continues into the modern period with the advent of hunger strikes and other forms of resistance. This was brought to the attention of the U.S. and the world by the recent events at Pelican Bay and other facilities in Georgia, Ohio and Michigan.

The plight of the Rev. Edward Pinkney is an illustration of the continuing racist character of the legal system. Convicted without evidence, Pinkney was targeted for his outspoken opposition to racism in Berrien County, Mich. He has recently been transferred from the dreaded Marquette Branch Prison in the Upper Peninsula to a facility in Muskegon. We have been waging a campaign for his exoneration and release for over two years.

Since the early 1970s, the rate of incarceration in the U.S. has grown by over 500 percent. Disproportionately, the African and Latinx people are imprisoned in the hellholes and dungeons of the capitalist system. There are an estimated 2.2 million people incarcerated in the U.S., the highest per capita rate of imprisonment in the world by a society that claims to be the citadel of democracy and human rights.

Although the Attica Rebellion was brutally crushed at the aegis of the billionaire and then Republican governor, Nelson Rockefeller, resulting in the deaths of over 40 people — including several guards held hostage by the inmates — the movement continues for prisoners’ rights, to free political prisoners and for the abolition of the system of incarceration.

We can never be free as long as these institutions exist. The abolition of prisons will coincide with the total liberation of the African-American people and the destruction of the world capitalist and imperialist system. This struggle cannot be divorced from the broader movement to eliminate racism and national oppression. □

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Prisoners’ strike sparks solidarity actions

By **Mattie Starrdust**

On Sept. 9, the 45th anniversary of the heroic Attica prison uprising in New York, inmates across the country struck a blow against today’s slave labor in U.S. prisons. Inmates are routinely compelled to toil for as little as 25 cents an hour. In many state facilities, they are not paid anything for their forced labor.

Prisoners mobilizing with the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World organization called on other inmates to strike by withholding their labor — and, in the prisoners’ words, “let the crops rot in the fields.” Additionally, solidarity actions took place the same day in many locations. Below are descriptions of some of them.

ALABAMA

At Holman Prison, 9 miles north of the town of Atmore, where prisoners are active in the Free Alabama Movement, an inside contact reported: “All inmates at Holman Prison refused to report to their prison jobs without incident. With the rising of the sun came an eerie silence as the men at Holman laid on their racks reading or sleeping. Officers are performing all tasks.”

The Alabama Department of Corrections later denied this, saying “only” 45 Holman inmates refused to prepare breakfast and work in the license tag plant. The ADC also denied strike participation at other state prisons. There have



PHOTO: ALICE EVANS

Birmingham, Ala., on Sept. 9.

been multiple work stoppages at Alabama state prisons since 2014. It is the only state prison that carries out executions

A small solidarity protest outside Holman was harassed by police.

In Uniontown, the Black Belt Coalition,
Continued on page 10



From remarks by Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes to a Sept. 10 New York forum honoring the Attica prison uprising.

ATTICA UPRISING

Paris Commune of the Black Liberation struggle

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 — highly political individuals 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 survival in prison: 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, in 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 and segregated. This is a class issue."

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 Youth Against War and Fascism 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 leading comrade, Tom Soto, be an observer during negotiations with the state.

Ultimately the repression came. Nelson Rockefeller, the oil billionaire then the governor, gave the orders to crush the uprising. He had a reputation as an Eastern liberal, but he was actually a ruling-class monster with presidential aspirations, so he ordered in more than 1,000 troops, guards and state troopers from four to five states around, to shoot indiscriminately. 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, without their wounds being treated.

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

But the uprising opened up the question of prisoners' rights and liberation. From then on, the cutoff, isolated 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 perhaps under 500,000 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 clearing land, 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. For yesterday's strike, unionization and minimum wages were among the many demands, as well as abolition of prisons.

It is noteworthy that foremost among the forces helping the prisoners are anarchists, members of the International Workers of the World, who are also working with low-wage workers. As revolutionary Marxists we have many differences with anarchists, but we should give credit where credit is due.

The I.W.W. writings on why they are motivated should be read by unionists. These make clear that while they are supporting prisoners to have workers' rights, their ultimate objective is to abolish prison slave labor. This is a good reminder to labor unionists that our ultimate objective should be to end slave labor.

This is a reminder to the labor movement of the necessity 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 for-

get that our ultimate goal is not merely improving the conditions under which workers' labor is exploited, but rather the abolition of exploitation, the abolition of all wage slavery and capitalism.

The strike raises larger issues. For instance, in 1977 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a case brought by a North Carolina prisoners' union, that the prisoners do not have rights as workers.

But when has the claim 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 prison guards and organize the prisoners!

The working class is changing. Now a big section is temporary and unorganized. The Black Lives Matter movement 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 acknowledging who is at the forefront of 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! □

Philadelphia

Mumia supporters protest decision denying hep C meds

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Mariani on Aug. 31 denied a request from Mumia Abu-Jamal, an imprisoned former Black Panther Party member and journalist, for lifesaving medication that could cure his hepatitis C.

In response, dozens of activists from both New York and Philadelphia held rallies at three different locations in the latter city over a five-hour period on Sept. 7. The actions started at the Philadelphia Health Center at South Broad and Lombard streets, because

hep C is a health issue. Pennsylvania Department of Correction officials are refusing to treat 6,000 state prison residents who have it. The disease is now curable through effective, but outrageously priced, medications.

Next, the moving protest marched to Gov. Tom Wolf's office at 200 South Broad St., because the state's highest-ranking official could put a stop to the DOC's inhumane policies on hep C. However, Wolf has refused to meet with state residents concerned about the deteriorating health of Mumia and thousands of other prison inmates.

The march ended outside District Attorney Seth Williams' office across the street from City Hall, because Mumia's appeal against his conviction was denied at the State Supreme Court level, with the help of former DA and State Supreme Court Justice Ron Castille. Castille refused to take



Pam Africa speaks at Sept. 7 protest.

himself off the appeal case in 1998 despite his involvement in Mumia's conviction.

A recent precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court decision, Williams v. Pennsylvania, 136 S.Ct. 1989 (2016), holds that it is a violation of due process rights if a judge participating in a criminal appeal had "a significant personal involvement as a prosecutor in a critical decision" in the defendant's case. Current DA Seth Williams has also repeatedly spoken out against Mumia's freedom.

Mumia has been imprisoned in Pennsylvania since he was convicted of killing a police officer in 1981. He has always maintained his innocence. An international movement prevented him from being executed and in 2011, the political prisoner won his release from death row. He continues to be held in prison in Frackville, Pa.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

Moorehead campaigns in Michigan

By Randi Nord
Detroit

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party's candidate for president, spoke to a packed hall at the Detroit WWP headquarters on Sept. 10.

Joe Mchahwar began the discussion by explaining how the war in Syria is the epicenter of today's global class conflict. He reminded us that as imperialist world powers, led by the U.S., seek to overthrow the Assad government and dominate Syria, we must uphold the Syrian people's right to self-determination without intervention from foreign governments holding only capitalist interests.

Abayomi Azikiwe honored the 45-year anniversary of the Attica prison uprising, recapping the past 60 years of African-American successes and struggles against the racist and sexist global capitalist system. He explained the significance of the 1971 murder in San Quentin Prison of Black Panther Field Marshal George Jackson and presented examples of Jackson's insightful writings.

Moorehead concluded the discussion, explaining that whether Trump or Clinton



wins in the November election, it will not be a win for the working class. A Trump or Clinton victory won't make much of a difference because the ruling capitalist class and police state will continue functioning as they always have been. As long as the racist and sexist capitalist system is still at play, people of color, women and the LGBTQ community will remain oppressed and marginalized. She reminded us that the only way to dismantle the oppressive system is by awakening others to their own class consciousness and the power of solidarity with all oppressed peoples.

The day before, Moorehead and a group of Michigan supporters went to Lansing, the state capital, and submitted paperwork for Moorehead and her running mate, Lamont Lilly, to be official write-in candidates in Michigan. The application included a list of electors representing every congressional district in the state. □

Whose nukes are the real threat?

By Deirdre Griswold

Echoing the language of the Washington political establishment and the think 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 first use of those weapons, even though the consequences of a nuclear war are unthinkable to the average person. (Not to the war planners, however. They are paid to think about how to get the most out of a nuclear war, which is an oxymoron.)

It also may surprise some people to know that the U.S. has signed but never ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which has been ratified by 164 other countries.



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

Since British forces burned Washington in 1814, no country has ever invaded the U.S.

The northern part of Korea was, however, invaded, and was ravaged for three years — 1950 to 1953 — by the U.S. and a 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 threatened the DPRK 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 borders of the DPRK. The U.S. has deployed tens of thousands of soldiers as well as nuclear-capable planes and submarines in its recent practice attacks.

Since 1992, the U.S. in coalition with other imperialist countries has militarily destroyed the governments of Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Iraq and Libya — none of which had the armed might to repel the bombs and troops that were launched.

The DPRK has taken a lesson from all this: don’t

make concessions that could weaken its defense and could lead to a horrendous situation for its people, comparable to the current wars and mass migrations in West Asia and North Africa.

If, in the words of U.S. pundits, it is “irrational” for the DPRK to depend on half a dozen nuclear weapons, then isn’t it

1,000 times more “irrational” for the U.S. to maintain its dangerous and aging arsenal of 7,000 such weapons? No one is going to invade the U.S., which is separated from Europe, Africa and Asia by two vast oceans. Why keep these doomsday weapons? Are the leaders of the U.S. crazy?

But irrationality really has nothing to do with any of this. This is just propaganda to line up the people in the U.S. against the DPRK and its leaders. Defaming the Korean leaders in the most offensive terms is meant to paralyze any discussion here, which could lead people to question why 28,000 U.S. troops remain in southern Korea almost 70 years since the Korean nation was cruelly divided.

The people in the northern half of Korea had a successful socialist revolution despite U.S. occupation of the south. U.S. billionaires hate socialism anywhere because it prevents them from exploiting the workers. The north Koreans want to live in peace and further develop their country. They don’t want an invasion by U.S. troops or transnational corporations, so they will protect their sovereignty by any means necessary. That’s not crazy. □

Sept. 30 International Day for Haiti –

No interference in Haiti’s election, U.S. hands off!

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. 30, the 25th 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 from a Call to Action issued by the Haiti Action Committee.

CALL TO ACTION

The irresistible 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 block Haiti’s most popular political party, Fanmi Lavalas, and thwart the popular will in this election.

That’s why it’s so important for friends of Haiti to do what you’ve done six times before on these “International Days” — organize public events in support of the fighting people of Haiti — on or about Friday, Sept. 30. These actions — from street demonstrations to public or house meetings, musical events, radio shows, vigils and film showings — are all locally organized. So it’s up to you to make this happen in your town.

In 2015, after being excluded for 11 years since a second U.S.-sponsored military coup in 2004, the Lavalas party was finally able to run candidates again, headed by Maryse Narcisse for President. Ever since, huge crowds all over Haiti have welcomed Dr. Narcisse (and Aristide) and her grassroots campaign. Just like they marched to stop the brazen attempt to steal the 2015 elections and impose a U.S.-favored candidate.

Over 200 years ago, Haitians rose up and overthrew both slavery and colonial rule. Now, when the enemies of freedom and sovereignty are attempting to re-colonize and re-enslave Haiti, we need to act in solidarity with our Haitian comrades, in the spirit of their resistance.

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) Stop the terror 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 sweatshop 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 Lavalas movement and its presidential candidate, Dr. Maryse Narcisse.

Let us know what events you’re planning for Sept. 30, so we can publicize them and build momentum for the 7th International Day. Contact us: haitiaction@sonic.net or 510-847-8657 for assistance, speakers, films, materials.

Sent in by Dave Welsh, 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. □

U.S. accepts Haiti’s Oct. 9 vote but withholds funds

By G. Dunkel

The de facto regime of Haitian President Jocelerme Privert has set Oct. 9 for the first round of presidential elections and January 2017 for a second round, if necessary.

Washington’s power over elections in Haiti was made manifest five years ago when then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton went to Haiti and ordered election officials to put Michel Martelly on the ballot for a second round of voting.

The U.S. government invested \$33 million in the 2015 Haitian elections and disapproved the decision of election officials to cancel a runoff that had been set for January 2016. But the fraud in the 2015 elections had been so evident and mass anger and protest was so great that the election officials had little choice but to cancel.

Washington withdrew its electoral funding on July 7. Kenneth Merten, the Department of State’s special coordinator for Haiti, said: “I am confident that Haitians can organize good elections. If the elections are good, the U.S. will not have any problems with the Haitian government.” (Haiti elections blog, Aug. 21)

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 disenfranchised Black U.S. citizens were allowed to vote.

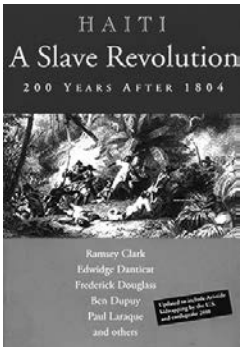
The Provisional Electoral Council has announced that it has cobbled together financing from a number of different government sources and from members of the Haitian diaspora, that is, Haitians living in other countries. Nearly 11 million Haitians live inside Haiti, 1 million in the U.S. and more in Canada, France and the Dominican Republic.

Electioneering began the last week of August. 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 Aristide! There’s our father!” as well as “We’re not here for pay! 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.

In a press conference after the march, Narcisse said, “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.” (Haïti-Liberté, Vol. 10, No. 8)

The other major candidates are former Sen. Moïse Jean-Charles, of Dessalines’ Children (PD), a split-off from FL; Jude Célestin of the Alternative League for Progress and Haitian Emancipation (LAPEH); and Jovenel Moïse of Martelly’s Haitian Bald-Headed Party (PHTK). □



HAITI A Slave Revolution

Updated to include the Aristide kidnapping by the U.S. and the earthquake in 2010. Available online at major booksellers

Washington offers pittance for monstrous crimes against Laos

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” Posh-pny, 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 their heads 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



Cluster bomb: A spinning canister sprays 200 bomblets, each loaded with hundreds of metal fragments that explode over a wide area when detonated.

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, war inflicts a wrenching toll, especially on innocent men, 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 invaded Vietnam, the Pentagon unleashed a devastating bombing campaign on Laos. Some 270 million bombs were dropped on Laos over a nine-year period. Some 580,000 bombing missions were directed at that tiny country — a planeload of bombs every 8

minutes, 24 hours a day, for nine years. (legaciesofwar.org, 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 did not explode, including some 80 million small cluster bombs. Since the war ended, over 20,000 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 is a fraction of what is necessary to eliminate this deadly threat. The U.S. spent \$18 million per day to drop bombs on Laos, every day, for nine years. In 2014, the Pentagon received \$600 billion to acquire new weapons with which to wage war.

The U.S. imperialist government’s gesture is not a genuine effort to re-

move 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 intensely 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 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.

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 2009, 19,000 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. Yet Wall Street’s war machine is confronting a different Asia than what existed 50 years ago.

At a cost of millions of lives, Vietnam and Laos defeated the genocidal U.S. invasion of their countries. Working people in Japan and south Korea are fighting to stop the installation of THAAD missiles.

On Sept. 8 — the last day of Obama’s trip — the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea marked the 68th anniversary of its founding by conducting a successful test of a nuclear device. Despite U.S. economic sanctions aimed at starving it into submission, People’s Korea will continue to develop technologically to defend itself by any means necessary.

Trans-Pacific poverty

Obama traveled first to the G-20 Leaders’ Summit in Hangzhou, China, to sell the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). China is now a larger manufacturer than the United States. But China is excluded from the TPP and the TPP is basically an anti-China economic bloc.

The corporate media largely ignored this fact and emphasized instead the phony issue of whether the staircase provided for President Obama’s plane deboarding was a deliberate insult.

The capitalist world market has made

massive inroads into the People’s Republic of China. Foreign and Chinese capitalists exploit millions of Chinese workers. Yet the commanding heights of the Chinese economy — including the banks — are still controlled by the socialist state run by a Communist Party of 90 million members.

That’s why the Chinese economy has rapidly grown even since the outbreak of capitalism’s latest economic crisis in 2008.

Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton claim to oppose the TPP, although Clinton had earlier called it the “gold standard” of trade pacts. Super racist Trump wants to pit U.S. workers against even poorer workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

“Free trade” treaties like the TPP and the North American Free Trade Agreement are really colonial trade agreements. NAFTA stole hundreds of thousands of factory jobs from U.S. workers and exploits lower-paid Mexican workers in maquiladoras.

But the biggest victims of NAFTA were millions of Mexican farming families forced off their land by the cheap corn exports from U.S. agribusiness.

Only the solidarity of workers everywhere will be able to fight back against the capitalist monopolies.

Pills cost pennies; profits cost lives

Neither Trump nor Clinton points out that the TPP will protect the super profits of pharmaceutical giants like Pfizer and Merck. According to D.G. Shah, secretary general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, the TPP would allow drug patents to be extended by at least five years.

This prevents affordable generic versions from being sold. The Swiss drug outfit Novartis extended its patent on the high-priced Gleevec cancer medication even longer. (Intellectual Property Watch, Feb. 12, 2015)

Protecting drug company profits at the expense of human life is nothing new for U.S. capitalist politicians. In 1998, President Bill Clinton fired 14 cruise missiles at the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in

Sudan, destroying the African country’s only maker of anti-tuberculosis drugs.

Vice President Albert Gore told South African President Nelson Mandela that the U.S. wouldn’t tolerate legislation providing lower-cost drugs to fight HIV/AIDS.

The liberation hero Mandela — who was captured by the apartheid regime in 1962 with information supplied by the CIA — wouldn’t back down and was sued by U.S. and European drug giants.

Anthony Podesta was a top lobbyist for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which also sued Mandela. (Guardian, Dec. 18, 1999) His brother and former business partner John Podesta was then President Bill Clinton’s chief of staff and is currently Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager.

Black America and the Philippines

The capitalist media also went overtime on the sexist remark made by Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte towards President Barack Obama. This was particularly unfortunate, since it allowed racists to ridicule the only Black president in U.S. history. Duterte later apologized.

President Duterte’s popularity in his country is based on being the first Philippine leader in a century to refuse to bow down to U.S. imperialism. Duterte has resumed peace talks with the leftist National Democratic Front and has demanded that U.S. Special Forces leave Mindanao province.

Duterte has also released from prison liberation fighters Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Tiamzon, the alleged military leaders of the New People’s Army. The NPA has declared a cease-fire. The two released prisoners have joined the peace talks being conducted with the Philippine military in Europe.

None of these actions is to the liking of the brass hats in the Pentagon.

African Americans and Filipinos share a common heritage of being victims of racist mass murder. After the U.S. declared war on Spain in 1898, the McKinley administration urged Philippine in-

dependence leader Emilio Aguinaldo to return to the Philippines, then a Spanish colony. Philippine freedom fighters soon defeated the Spanish colonial army and surrounded Manila.

President McKinley double-crossed Aguinaldo and declared the Philippines a U.S. colony. One million Filipinos were killed by U.S. Army massacres and disease. Gen. Jacob Smith declared, “I want no prisoners, I wish you to kill and burn: the more you kill and burn, the better you will please me.”

These massacres went hand-in-hand with at least a hundred African Americans being lynched annually in the early 1900s. The favorite term of U.S. racists for Filipinos was “n—r.” (U.S. War Crimes in the Philippines, worldfuturefund.org)

McKinley’s double-cross of Filipinos was like the betrayal of African Americans in 1877, when President Rutherford Hayes ended Reconstruction and returned the South to racist rule.

During the 1898 war, David Fagen was one of the Black GIs who went over to fight for Philippine freedom. U.S. officers put a price of \$800 on the African American’s head and some reports say he was executed, although others say he escaped. (“The Philippine War — A Conflict of Conscience for African Americans,” National Park Service, 2016)

Long live the unity of African-American and Philippine freedom fighters. Black and Filipino lives matter! □

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

PentagonAchillesHeel.com

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Available online at major booksellers.

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Prescription for the planet

A nice day comes along, the sky is blue, the temperature moderate, and 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 workers and the class struggle. It's about the extra oppression of people of color and colonialism-imperialism. It's about the improbable proliferation of multibillionaires.

It's about the advertising industry which screams Buy! Buy! Buy! to stimulate profits. It's about the stock market abhorring thrift and rewarding hectic growth. It's about capitalist bought-and-paid-for legislatures allocating trillions to bloody military conquest and pennies to a sustainable infrastructure.

In just two centuries, the tempestuous, unplanned growth of capitalism has transformed the globe. Its insatiable need for raw materials, markets and cheap labor has spawned two world 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 carbon emissions targets.

"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 from 2005 levels."

China surpassed the U.S. in greenhouse gas emissions in 2006, at the height of its industrial growth. But it has four times the population of the U.S., making it still much, much lower in emissions per capita. The greenhouse gas that has accumulated in the atmosphere over decades comes overwhelmingly from the U.S. and other industrialized capitalist countries.

Obama, in contrast to the Chinese, comes back home with no guarantee

that he can get Congress to ratify the Paris agreement. As usual, "democracy" in the form of an elected legislature is being blamed for the congressional stalemate and inertia. But what kind of "democracy" is it that is so corrupted and manipulated by big money?

The U.S. political system is not a democracy in any real sense. It's a plutocracy. And the plutocrats are willing to see the planet rot if that enhances their bottom line.

Democrats like Al Gore have come up with schemes to appeal to those, like himself, whose fortunes come from oil companies and other polluters. (The Gore family money comes from Occidental Petroleum.) They try to sell the idea that there's money to be made from switching to renewables. And maybe there is, for some. But most of the super rich in the U.S. haven't bought it. They are the moneyed interests behind the seemingly know-nothing legislators. For them, it's a no-brainer. Profits today trump saving the planet tomorrow. (Did we say Trump?)

So, no good news? Well, there is substantial hope. Anti-capitalist sentiment is growing, fast. The young, who must live in the world of tomorrow, are breaking away from all the old fears and prejudices. They made up most of the 400,000 who marched in the historic People's Climate March in New York two years ago, many carrying signs and banners attacking capitalism.

Socialism versus capitalism also attracted a huge following to the Bernie Sanders campaign before he was pulled into supporting Hillary Clinton. It wasn't a revolutionary movement, but it showed a rising anti-capitalist consciousness after decades of capitalist conformity.

The struggles of oppressed peoples against racist police and against the North Dakota oil pipeline are also anti-capitalist, going up against the capitalist state and the polluting corporations.

Hope for the planet rests on the generalizing of all the struggles of the workers and oppressed to bring down this greedy, unjust system. □

Part of national trend

Maternal mortality doubles in Texas

By Ellen Catalinotto

Deaths of women during pregnancy, childbirth and in the year after birth doubled in Texas from 2010 to 2013, going from 18.6 per 100,000 live births to 36.1. "The steep rise is difficult to explain in the absence of war, natural disaster or severe economic upheaval," a recent report in the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology concluded.

But attacks on women's ability to control their reproductive lives, lack of health care, the elevation of so-called fetal rights over the rights of their mothers, and other forms of misogyny have been correctly termed a war on women. More than 609 Texas mothers were casualties during the study years.

Assaults on Texas women include deep cuts in family planning and abortion services, with 80 clinics closed since 2011 and "the sustained destruction of the women's health care safety net," which includes the removal of Planned Parenthood "from Medicaid programs that offered exams and basic preventative care," according to the Austin Chronicle of Sept. 9. There are 254 counties in Texas, of which 147, with a total population of almost 2 million, have not one obstetrician.

The Chronicle article quotes researchers at the Texas Policy Evaluation Project who "argue that as more women experience unplanned pregnancies due to strained contraception access and fewer options for abortion care, their risk for pregnancy-related complications has also risen."

As in many measures of health inequality, Black women suffer the highest maternal mortality rates. In 2011 and 2012, Black mothers accounted for 11.4 percent of Texas births but 28.8 percent of pregnancy-related deaths. Rates of severe, but not deadly, 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 was 23.8 deaths 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 or soon afterwards.

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 women remain at risk for the first year after pregnancy has ended.

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

Drug problems, depression and self-medication

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 1999 and 2011. The authors attributed half the rise to drug overdoses with "the highest concentration of rising female death rates clustered in historically impoverished regions of the Southwest."

Some 130 Texas drug treatment facilities accept Medicaid, but the number that enroll pregnant women is probably few. Women may be reluctant to disclose drug problems for fear of losing custody of their children or being jailed for "child endangerment" under state laws that recognize "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 illicit drugs.

The Texas task force recommended increased access to comprehensive health services during the year after delivery and throughout the period between pregnancies to promote safe birth spacing and "ensure that health issues are appropriately diagnosed, managed and treated, thereby reducing the risk for maternal mortality" as well as severe complications for both mothers and babies. Screening for mental health and drug or alcohol problems was another recommendation.

The task force also called for promoting "equity in the access to and quality of services provided to all patients," referring obliquely to racism 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 lifelong access to effective and respectful health care.

The author is a retired women's health care provider.

Prisoners' strike sparks solidarity actions



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Continued from page 6

whose motto is "fighting for health and justice," showed solidarity. Their statement read, in part: "BBC & residents of #Uniontown have experienced enough problems with #policebrutality & the criminal justice system. Today, BBC stands with the work strike of Free Alabama Movement, T.O.P.S. (The Ordinary People's Society Southeastern Region) and incarcerated people at roughly 40 prisons in 24 states across the U.S."

Immigrant rights activists rallied in front of the historic 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham to demand closure of the Etowah County Detention Center. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is infamous for abuses against inmates regarding access to health care, family

members and legal advice. Participating with Shut Down Etowah were the Adelante Alabama Worker Center and activists from Birmingham Black Lives Matter, the LGBTQ community and other groups.

— Minnie Bruce Pratt

TEXAS

Crowds gathered outside the Harris County Jail on Sept. 10 as activists spoke about the prison strike going on from coast to coast, including Texas. They exposed the prison slavery that exists in all Texas prisons, where prisoners are forced to work but paid zero cents an hour for their labor. Many families joined the protest and spoke out about what had happened to their husbands, boyfriends, fathers and husbands. Said one: "I'm afraid to give my name be-

MOLDOVA

'I'm not afraid'

Movement against oligarchy finds new life

By Greg Butterfield

Picture it: the center of a beautiful but decaying city. A lavish military parade and concert is held for the rich politicians and bosses who've sucked it dry.

Thousands of police in riot gear, brought from all parts of the country, protect wealthy partygoers. Ordinary residents struggle for a glimpse of the festivities behind tall, chain-link fences.

When hundreds of protesters arrive, chanting and peacefully demanding entrance to the city's main square, police respond with violence and tear gas.

Is this the opening of a dystopian novel? A scene from the 2016 U.S. Democratic or Republican party convention?

Actually, it happened on Aug. 27 in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, a small eastern European country. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the country's independence — during the breakup of the socialist Soviet Union in 1991.

For many Moldovans, the contrast between an opulent party for a few at the expense of poverty and repression for the many summed up the quarter-century since capitalist rule was restored.

Since 1991, the country's new "independent" ruling class of oligarchs have rushed headlong into the arms of the U.S. and Western European imperialist powers. But ordinary Moldovans have found their means of life reduced many times, while young people have left the country in droves, seeing no future at home.

"At a time when Moldova has closed at least 30 schools because their buildings are in very bad condition and the budget has no money to prepare them for winter, when hospitals have no medicines, and children's homes do not have food or hygiene items, we consider it inadmissible

to spend 50 million lei [Moldova's currency] for a parade and song and dance at the plaza," Ana Ursachi told Workers World.

Ursachi, Moldova's most renowned defense attorney and an activist in her own right, initiated the protest that challenged this festival of vultures. Known by the hash tag #NuMaTem (I'm not afraid), her call for Moldovan residents to raise their voices spread like wildfire over social media in the weeks leading up to Independence Day.

Workers, farmers, students, parents and children, politicians and activists, recorded and posted videos declaring "I'm not afraid" in defiance of the Moldovan government. Controlled by powerful oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc, it has grown increasingly repressive and openly corrupt.

Plahotniuc and several of his hangers-on are suspected of stealing a billion euros of international aid money from the national banking system — displeasing the country's Western backers. The government has cracked down on internal opponents in a desperate bid to remain in power.

Ursachi explained: "Since the government did not heed the voice of society, many different people, united by the #NuMaTem action, took to the streets to boo the government, considering the pompous parade a feast during a plague.

"The demonstration was peaceful," she emphasized. "But the brutish regime, believing that the people were ruining their holiday, used force to disperse the demonstrators. This happened on a street just 500 meters from the parade and music."

Moldova's Interior Minister Alexander Zhizdana blamed "aggressive" protesters for the police use of tear gas. Acting President Nicolae Timofti even presented awards to Zhizdana and other security

officials in recognition of their "personal contribution" to the security of the military parade, Jurnal.md reported Sept. 2.

Officials also launched an investigation of the protest "instigators," including Ursachi, who has been subject to a slander campaign in media controlled by Plahotniuc and other oligarchs. (NewsMD, Sept. 2)

Meanwhile, on Sept. 5, Ursachi, former parliamentary deputy Alexander Petkov and Balti Municipal Councilor Helen Gritsko filed suit against the government for its illegal use of tear gas against the peaceful assembly, backed by "a huge amount of evidence ... [including] terabytes of videos showing that police used the gas against the elderly, children and people with disabilities." (Omega.md)

"By the way, ordinary people who wanted to watch the parade were not allowed into the square either," Ursachi told WW. "They were obliged to stand behind a fence while about 100 deputies, ministers, the chairman of the Constitutional Court, and businessmen and politicians loyal to the regime celebrated!"

One year of persecution of Petrenko Group

Sept. 6 marked one year since the arrest of seven leaders and activists of Moldova's Red Bloc communist party at a protest in Chisinau. Ursachi is also the attorney for the Petrenko Group, as they are known, named for Red Bloc leader Grigory Petrenko.

The Petrenko Group spent several months in jail. Today, they are still subject to so-called judicial control — a modified form of house arrest that prevents them from traveling outside Moldova or even attending protests.

Facing trumped-up charges that could land them in prison for years, the Petrenko Group's case has been stalled for

months by the country's courts. The group says the judges are in Plahotniuc's pocket. Instead of proceeding with the case and allowing Red Bloc members to present a defense, the courts simply extend the "judicial control" regime month to month.

In early 2016, a large protest movement, including opposition parties across the political spectrum, threatened to topple the Moldovan government. Among other demands, this movement called for early parliamentary elections. Officials and the judiciary moved to derail the protests and placate mainstream opposition parties by instead calling for presidential elections, now scheduled for Oct. 30. The Moldovan president is a figurehead with little real power.

The Red Bloc urged opponents of the oligarchy to boycott the staged presidential election and continue building a broad protest movement. Eventually, most opposition parties, including the moderate Socialists and the left-nationalist Our Party, bowed to government pressure and entered the race. But the revolutionary left sees signs of hope in the #NuMaTem mobilization.

"The civil disobedience action on August 27 was initiated by ordinary people and civil society activists," Pavel Grigorchuk, member of the Petrenko Group and editor of the news site Grenada.md, told WW. "It attracted a lot of self-organized concerned citizens who oppose the criminal oligarchic regime. I assess the level of organization of the protest movement very positively.

"Perhaps this autumn and winter will be unseasonably hot in Moldova," Grigorchuk said, "and the changes for which many Moldovans have struggled for years will finally come." □

cause they have already beat my son, but I thank you all for

being out here to support our children. I'm so afraid my child will not come out alive." This fear is real as at least 12 jail inmates were found dead last year in the jail.

Two lines of dozens of uniformed police stood threateningly at the front entrance of the jail, giving stern looks to all who entered. Many visitors were stopped and questioned about why they were there. This intimidation did not stop people from joining the demonstration and condemning the treatment going on inside the walls.

— Gloria Rubac

WASHINGTON STATE

Demonstrators rallied outside Tacoma's Northwest Detention Center to denounce gross violations of prisoners' rights and stand in solidarity with imprisoned migrant workers. The action was called by Northwest Detention Center Resistance.

Prisoners' messages were played over the amplified speaker system. Women Latinx prisoners said: "We are many mothers. We have been separated from our children." They deplored their exploitation, stating, "We only get paid a dollar a day for our work." Protesters chanted, "¡No están solo!" ("You are not alone!")

Additionally, activists rallied outside the State Department of Corrections in Olympia and then marched to Starbucks, which profits from superexploitation of prison labor.

— Jim McMahan



PORTLAND, ORE.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Hundreds of activists gathered at Chapman Square across from the Justice Center, a detention facility, where they cheered in solidarity with striking prisoners. Speakers condemned capitalism, too. Black Lives Matter and September 9th PDX played prominent roles in organizing the demonstration. Right 2 Survive PDX and Right 2 Dream Too denounced racist policing and prison slavery. They work to empower the homeless and disenfranchised to oppose government abuses — and run a cooperative homeless encampment.

Demonstrators then militantly marched into the streets without a permit and stopped traffic, chanting "End prison slavery!" near Portland City Hall. One grouping ripped apart a blockade that stood in the marchers' way, as hundreds filed into a nearby intersection and held it for several minutes. Another grouping then directed traffic so participants could safely continue their march.

— Sage Antonia Collins

DETROIT

A "noise demonstration" in front of the new Wayne County jail's construction site expressed solidarity with striking prisoners and called for an end to prisons and jails. Jail construction began in 2011, but was halted in 2013.

Some 100 activists from various political and community groups used whistles, pots, pans, plastic buckets, drumsticks and homemade noisemakers. Energy and spirits were high as more people joined the action. Protest songs rang out. A banner reading "No new jails, no old jails!" was put up and led the march to the current Wayne County jail.

The march wove through Greektown, where fliers about the prison strike and the Attica uprising were distributed; then a rally took place outside the Wayne County jail. A chant of "No more cops! No more jails!" brought support from prisoners. Defying police instructions to move onto the sidewalk, protesters stayed in the streets and marched outside the prisoners' cells. They chanted "We love you!" to the inmates, who pounded on the windows to acknowledge the demonstrators. The march ended back at the new jail's site, with activists still blocking the streets.

— Kayla Pauli

PHILADELPHIA

In this city — notorious for locking minors in solitary confinement — several dozen activists held a march and noise demonstration outside the Juvenile Justice Center. With drums, noisemakers, firecrackers and megaphones, activists loudly showed their solidarity with prisoners, including youth and those subjected to slave labor. Banners stating "Burn down the plantations!" and "Mumia: We got you!" were visible throughout the demonstration. Despite a heavy police presence, no one was arrested.

This "Justice" Center is a key link in the region's school-to-prison pipeline. Built in 2012, the year that Philadelphia shut down 37 public schools, it funnels low-income, mostly Black and Latinx students into the corrections system — where as adults they may be exploited as prison slave laborers.

ROCHESTER AND ATTICA, N.Y.

Dozens of militant protesters 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.

Talila Lewis, an African-American professor from the Rochester Institute of Technology, represented prisoners with disabilities, especially those who are hearing-impaired. Lewis founded Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of the Deaf. HEARD created the #DeafInPrison campaign to "raise awareness about abuse of and discrimination against Deaf prisoners across the nation." Lewis noted that people with disabilities are incarcerated in disproportionate numbers relative to their population in the U.S.

Later, a caravan of vehicles traveled to the infamous Attica prison for a noise demonstration in solidarity with the inmates. Although local media have been silent about these rallies, the demonstration at Attica attracted the attention of police, who pulled over several cars for bogus violations after they left the protest site.

— Lydia Bayoneta and Gene Clancy



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

—Report and photo by Ellie Dorritie



Trump va a México, regresa inmigrantes ridiculizando

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

El candidato presidencial republicano Donald Trump viajó a la Ciudad de México el 31 de agosto por invitación del Presidente de México, Enrique Peña Nieto. Tanto Trump como la candidata demócrata, Hillary Clinton, fueron invitados invitados. Sólo Trump aceptó y en el último minuto.

El propósito del viaje de Trump no estaba claro, pero la mayoría de los expertos convino en que era un intento de la campaña de Trump para tratar de posicionar al candidato como “presidencial” y “señorial” como sea posible. En realidad, la reunión se convirtió en nada más que una sesión de fotos.

Pero a su regreso a los EE.UU., ¿dónde fue su primera parada? Nada menos que Phoenix, donde habló la misma noche sobre en la política de inmigración.

Arizona se ha convertido en el epicentro de la campaña anti-inmigrante que ha barrido a los EE.UU. desde el año 2006. Fue en Arizona, donde comenzaron las retóricas racistas estilo Nazi y acciones contra los migrantes.

Y prevaleció.

No sólo eran inmigrantes y otros prisioneros tratados brutalmente y deshumanizados por infame Sheriff Joe Arpaio, pero existe un clima anti-Latino horrible en Arizona, que incluye el cierre de los estudios mexicano-americanos en universidades e incluso libros escritos por la prohibición de Latinos/as.

Arpaio es un oficial de policía de la derecha en el molde de alguaciles racistas y brutales como Bull Connor, que golpeó a los manifestantes pro derechos civiles en Alabama a mediados de la década de 1960.

Arpaio no sólo dio su aprobación a Trump para presidente, sino que fue uno de los oradores en la Convención Nacional Republicana.

Durante mediados y finales de la década del año 2000, las milicias de derecha como los Minutemen invadieron la frontera EE.UU.-México, militarizandola aún más. Ellos crearon una presencia peligrosa, odiosa y racista con la aprobación de Arpaio y otros organismos encargados de hacer cumplir la ley.

De hecho, Arizona fue uno de los últimos estados para reconocer el Día Martin Luther King. En primer lugar, se rescindió el Día de Martin Luther King, lo que desencadenó un boicot masivo en 1987 y, a continuación, sólo se votó para revivir el día de fiesta en el año 1992 debido a que se ponía en peligro los planes de realizar el Super Bowl en Phoenix.

Así que no fue una coincidencia que el racista, demagogo fascista Donald Trump eligió a Phoenix para su primera parada después de la Ciudad de México.

Allí dio un importante discurso sobre la política migratoria. Los informes de prensa le llamó “el discurso más alineado con fuerza contra la inmigración por cualquier candidato en los tiempos modernos.” (MSNBC)

El periodista Dan Rather en el Show Rachel Maddow el 1 de septiembre dijo que el discurso de Trump fue “una mezcla infernal de veneno injuriosa”.

Y eso fue. Frenar la inmigración,

además de una difamación racista de los mexicanos, ha sido una piedra angular de la campaña de Trump. En el primer día él tuvo éxito en conseguir la atención de cada individuo racista que se resiente de los inmigrantes cuando llamó a todos los mexicanos que entran en los “violadores” de Estados Unidos y “criminales”.

La retórica anti-inmigrante de Trump fue tan violenta la semana pasada que algunos de sus seguidores “hispanos” lo abandonaron justo después. Sí, Trump tiene el apoyo de los mexicanos conservadores y colonizados, muchos de los que son propietarios de las empresas o son parte de la comunidad evangélica conservadora.

Parte del plan de Trump fue su frío anuncio de que deportaría a 2 millones de trabajadores en la primera hora de su presidencia. Activistas inmigrantes inmediatamente emitieron una alerta contra esta peligrosa retórica.

Trump todavía exige que se construya un muro en la frontera México-EE.UU. Él sigue a gritando en sus manifestaciones “¿Quién pagará por ella?” con el público gritando en respuesta, “¡México, México!”

Trump galvaniza a los racistas

Todo indica que, a pesar de la impopularidad de Hillary Clinton, los poderes fácticos de Washington y Wall Street la prefieren como el mejor candidato para llevar a cabo sus guerras en el extranjero y la represión y la explotación en el país. A pesar de mostrarse como de izquierda, a veces con el fin de cortejar a los partidarios pro Sanders, Clinton está totalmente alineada con la agenda capitalista de la guerra, el racismo y la represión.

Y las políticas anti-inmigrantes que se están llevando a cabo hoy en día se están haciendo bajo un presidente demócrata. El presidente Barack Obama ha deportado a más inmigrantes que cualquier otro presidente estadounidense hasta la fecha.

Incluso si Donald Trump pierde las elecciones, ha tenido éxito en la apertura de las divisiones de la clase obrera y ha galvanizado a los racistas y supremacistas blancos. Él ha probado el poder de un demagogo y ha sido correctamente comparado con Hitler y Mussolini.

Alguien así, al igual que sus seguidores incitados, no es probable que simplemente desaparezcan el 9 de noviembre. Trump y su raza es probable que continúen con su propaganda vitriólica y racista que se dirige de nuevo contra los migrantes. Ellos serán libres para dirigirse a la comunidad Negro, que durante la temporada de elecciones Trump ha intentado utilizarlos en contra de los indocumentados.

Del 7 al 10 de octubre, la School of the Americas Watch ha pedido una convergencia en la frontera EE.UU.-México. SOAW ha llevado a cabo manifestaciones anualmente desde hace décadas en la escuela que entrena a los oficiales militares latinoamericanos, ahora en Fort Benning, Georgia. Para protestar por el papel militar de EE.UU. en América Latina y el Caribe.

Este año, en un acto muy progresivo, SOAW está llamando a esta convergencia en la frontera EE.UU.-México como

#noDAPL: Debemos defender a Standing Rock

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

Los representantes de unas 300 naciones indígenas y sus partidarios tienen 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 protegidos 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 dirigida por los indígenas se ha fortalecido, lo que generó el apoyo nacional e internacional.

Una serie de eventos de solidaridad bajo la bandera de “#NoDAPL Semanas Globales de Acción” comenzó el 3 de septiembre y continuará hasta el 17 de septiembre. Ver nodaplsolidarity.org.

Estamos en plena solidaridad con la magnífica lucha de miles de personas indígenas y no indígenas que se encuentran en la Standing Rock, en lo que ahora se conoce como Dakota del Norte, la protección de la tierra y el agua en contra de la construcción de la Tubería de Acceso Dakota. Están protegiendo el río Missouri y el agua potable de millones contra los esfuerzos descarados de las corporaciones y los políticos corruptos para empujar una tubería innecesaria en tierra en contra del tratado Nación Sioux y a pesar de la falta de consentimiento de la Standing Rock.

Naciones indígenas de todas las Américas han estado al frente de la devastación del medio ambiente durante décadas. Ya ha pasado mucho tiempo para todos para cada uno respetar el liderazgo indígena, escucha voces indígenas y de pie con los pueblos indígenas en sus muchas luchas.

Respetamos y honramos a la soberanía y el derecho a la libre determinación de Standing Rock y todas las naciones Indígenas. Reconocemos plenamente la necesidad de su derecho a negar su consentimiento para cualquier desarrollo o la explotación de la tierra y el agua en sus territorios, desde Oak Flat, Arizona, hasta Mauna Kea, Hawai. Estamos dolorosamente conscientes de la pobreza en curso y el genocidio que sufren las personas indígenas, tanto dentro como fuera de las reservas.

Protegiendo el agua e insistir en que el agua es un derecho humano son cuestio-

nes fundamentales para nuestro futuro. Mientras que muchas personas ahora saben acerca de la crisis del agua potable en Flint, Michigan, también tenga en cuenta que más de una décima parte de los hogares nativos en el los EE.UU. no tienen agua potable. Además de la crisis del agua en algunas colonias como Puerto Rico, somos conscientes de que también existe en las comunidades negras y agrícolas, mientras que miles de personas pobres viven en las ciudades que están cerrando agresivamente el agua debido a las tarifas exorbitantes.

Reconocemos que todas las personas en los EE.UU. están viviendo hoy en tierras indígenas. #NoDAPL y cientos de otras luchas indígenas en curso son lo más cercano a nuestros corazones como las luchas monumentales de los negros para defender sus vidas. Nuestra solidaridad con las luchas indígenas no es nueva. Los miembros del Partido Mundo Obrero han apoyado la libertad de Leonard Peltier, Wounded Knee en 1973, la caminata más larga, Big Mountain, el bloqueo Mohawk de 1990, la adquisición de Menominee 1975, las luchas por el Día de los Pueblos Indígenas en muchas ciudades y mucho más. Nuestros miembros también tienen una larga y orgullosa historia de apoyo contra la tubería y las luchas anti-fracking.

Como los negros cuyos ancianos fueron atacados por perros durante los tiempos de la esclavitud y las luchas por los derechos civiles, que condenan las acciones despreciables de las compañías de seguridad privadas contratadas por las corporaciones detrás de La Tubería de Acceso en Dakota que les soltaron a los perros y les rociaron con gas pimienta a los pacíficos Protectores del Agua, incluyendo a niños. Compartimos su indignación por la injusticia contra los Protectores del Agua pacíficos que tienen su acceso por carretera bloqueados por la policía y el servicio de telefonía celular cortadas, mientras que son objeto de una vigilancia policial y la detención.

Finalmente, hacemos un llamado a todas las personas que se oponen a la avaricia corporativa y la destrucción de tomar medidas inmediatas - a nivel local y nacional - en apoyo de los Protectores de agua #NoDAPL y seguir el liderazgo indígena para detener la fractura hidráulica y tuberías dondequiera que vivan. La avaricia corporativa voraz del capitalismo sólo puede ser revocada por millones de personas unidas en la lucha revolucionaria.

Mni Wiconi. El agua es vida. □

protesta por la militarización de la frontera y en solidaridad con los migrantes.

La convergencia de la frontera se llevará a cabo en Nogales, Arizona, y se llevará a cabo una acción en el lado de México en Sonora. (Soaw.org)

La campaña presidencial Moorehead/Lilly planea asistir a la convergencia y enviar representantes. Se insta al movimiento progresista y de la clase obrera para apoyar esta importante acción, ya que es una manera concreta en este año de elecciones para contrarrestar la retórica antiinmigrante de Trump. □

