DEFEND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Stop the war on poor women!

By Sue Davis

A wholesale racist, sexist, anti-worker, anti-poor assault on Planned Parenthood is going on. This is outright warfare against millions of women in the U.S. — predominantly women of color, immigrants, youth, rural residents and women with disabilities, who are the lowest paid workers, often single mothers struggling to keep their families together. Some have called the attack "political theater," but that downplays its seriousness. It is a vicious 21st century witch-hunt.

A fire heavily damaged a Planned Parenthood clinic in Pullman, Wash., on Sept. 4. The local fire department, with other local officials and federal agencies, ruled it was deliberately set. No authorities have called the arson what it really is — domestic terrorism.

"[The fire is] a predictable ripple effect from the false and incendiary attacks that fuel violence from extremists," said Karl Eastlund, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho. (Associated Press, Sept. 5)

There is a long history of anti-abortion violence in the Pacific Northwest, DuVergne Gaines, national clinic access project director at the Feminist Majority Foundation, told RH Reality Check. She noted that a group of anti-abortion extremists held a conference, hosted by the racist, so-called International Coalition of Abolitionist Societies, in northern Idaho two months before the fire. Leaders included justifiable-homicide advocate Matthew Trewhella, founder of Missionaries to the Preborn and a convicted arsonist; Rusty Thomas, director of Operation Save America, who was jailed for destroying clinic property after gaining entry in his police uniform; and members of Abolish Human Abortion. (Sept. 6)

In 1996, a Planned Parenthood clinic in Spokane Valley, Wash., was bombed. The four men convicted were in a white supremacist, anti-abortion group. Both perpetrators of destruction at independent clinics in Missoula, Mont. (firebombed in 1993), and Kalispell (severely vandalized in 2014) were convicted.

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In two-thirds of the 491 counties where its clinics are located, Planned Parenthood serves at least half of all women obtaining contraceptive care. In a fifth of the counties it serves, it is the sole safety-net family planning center. The study points to Texas as a "cautionary tale," the state family-planning program for low-income women "served far fewer women" after Planned Parenthood clinics were cut from the rolls.

Push is coming to shove in Louisiana. After the governor defended Planned Parenthood, the organization sued the state to prove it could help poor women. The state produced a list of 2,000 family planning provid-
ers who could take new patients. After viewing the list, which included dentists, nursing home caregivers and cosmetic surgeons, the judge cut it to 20. At a Sept. 2 hearing, the judge was reluctant to allow Planned Par-

enthood's contract to expire on Sept. 15 because "the committee for the foreseeable future is a good reason for doing so." (Mother Jones, Sept. 10)

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By Jeremy Royer
Straits of Mackinac
Michigan

Organizers from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians were among a group of American and environmental activists who took to the waters under the Mackinac Bridge over Labor Day weekend.

The activists were protesting Enbridge Inc.'s two 62-year-old oil pipelines running under the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Huron and Lake Michigan meet and the state is divided into the Lower and Upper Peninsulas. Connecting the peninsulas over the Straits is the Mackinac Bridge, a five-mile-long suspension bridge.

Starting originally as a single-day event, the protest ended up as a two-day demonstration with a “kayaktiv- ist” flotilla on Sunday, Sept. 6, followed by participation in the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk, which involves some 40,000 people. Both protests included banners, T-shirts and signs displaying demands to shut down what is known as Enbridge Line 5. The large banners included the slogans “Shut down Line 5” and “Water is life.”

The LTBB of Odawa Indians are a federally recognized tribe under Public Law 103-324 and, according to the Treaty of Washington of 1836 (7 Stat. 461) and the Treaty of Saginaw of 1816-1817, the Odawa are ceded as protectors of our Lakehead Systems and the surrounding bodies of fresh water where Enbridge’s Line 5 is being used to transport crude oil. If a spill were to occur, the LTBB of Odawa Indian’s territory would be contaminated beyond reparation — putting an end to the Odawa’s current way of life.

Line 5 is an environmental threat to Michigan’s Great Lakes when used to transport Canadian crude oil and is responsible for spilling over 6.8 million gallons of oil into our environment[2]. This includes the Line 56 catastrophe in 2010 that devastated the Kalamazoo River — with diluted bitumen being one of the many toxic compounds found in the spill[3]. This disaster sparked the Odawa Tribe’s justification for shutting down Line 5, as outlined in Tribal Resolution #0915S-01(2). I might add that Line 5 is not only the LTBB’s lifeline to freshwater, but the rest of Michigan’s Great Lakes community is endangered as well[4]. Our freshwater is a shared resource, according to the easement and agreements made under Act 10, P.A. 1953 — Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act and public trust law[5]. Therefore, any entity putting our public resources at risk is not only in violation of the Act, they are also violating Tribal land agreements made between Indigenous peoples and respective governments.

This lack of accountability and public oversight into corporations that exploit our shared commons is not a surprise considering today’s neoliberal capitalist environment[5]. Corporations are allowed to undermine both state and federal laws to maximize their profits. And it is because of corporate entities like Enbridge that Treaty lands are being exploited with little to no respect for the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples.

#ShutDownLine5 #ProtectTheSacred #HonorTheTreaties #1LTBB #Odawa

References:
1. Tribal Resolution, Determination and Safe Removal of Pipeline Running under the Straits of Mackinac (http://tinyurl.com/si458bh, March 29)
2. FLOW Takes Lead Authoring Line 5 Letter to Governor: Elevate the Public Trust

Peltier thanks supporters on 71st birthday

By Leonid Peltier

The district wants to work 30 minutes longer each day. The SEA has forced the district to agree to compensate for this. The administration doesn’t want teachers and staff to have anything more than a paltry raise. The SEA wants a 10 percent increase over two years, which is a compromise over what they asked for originally.

It seems to be following the lead of the state Legislature, which has disregarded the needs of teachers, students and communities to fund basic education in a state with the most regressive tax structure in the country. Due to the pressure of teachers and communities, the Legislature is now under a court order to provide more funds. But they haven’t released enough, so now the court is fining the Legislature $300,000 a day.

Support continues to grow. On Sept. 10, a meeting called by City Councilperson Kshama Sawant was held to discuss the strike issues, especially getting the strike more support. There were 200 people there, including many teachers. Holding a citywide rally to support the teachers was discussed. A report was given by a Denny Middle School teacher about a delegation of striking Pasco, Wash., school teachers who drove more than 200 miles to picket and meet with Seattle school teachers. The 1,000 Pasco teachers represent an oppressed city of mostly Latino/a and Black people.

Seattle teachers strike for better schools

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Seattle teachers and staff workers went on strike on Sept. 9. The strike remains strong heading into its fourth day. It’s the first contract strike in 30 years for the Seattle Education Association.

The school board had voted to seek an injunction against the strike, but the Seattle School District hasn’t acted on this so far.

Picket lines of dozens of teachers can be seen in neighborhoods all over the city at the more than 90 schools in the district. Outside West Seattle and Garfield high schools, the honks of passing vehicles seem to never stop. A teacher at Garfield, Jesse Hogopian, said the high school band had played for the teachers. A folk singer with other musicians played at the West Seattle picket line.

Seattle is coming in from across the country and the world,” reported Jonathan Knapp, SEA president.

Hogopian also reported that teachers had found out that district superintendent Larry Nyland was having a meeting at the Lincoln building. A group of Seattle teachers went there this morning, and when Nyland was leaving they surrounded his car with a picket line.

The SEA says the school district seems to recognize only the wage demands, which the district basically opposes. The teachers also want more support staff hired, such as more psychologists and more secretaries. Those presently employed are overworked. They want race and equity teams in each building to deal with problems of disproportionate discipline actions and institutionalized racism. Teachers want the district to uncouple test scores from teacher evaluations. The teachers have forced the district to give students 30 minutes of recess when, before the strike, most poor middle schools and class sizes gave only 15 minutes.

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By Abayomi Azikiwe

Sept. 14 — Wars Washington initiated aimed at reshaping the political landscape of large regions of Africa, the Middle East, East Asia, Latin America and creating an enormous refugee crisis. Bombing operations by the Pentagon in Iraq and Syria are driving hundreds of thousands of people every month and are now spreading the crisis to Europe. In response to this growing surge of refugee flows, some countries have seen threats from the Middle East, Africa and Asia with imprisonment threatened migrants from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America are now spreading the crisis to Europe. Hungarian officials also indicated they would prevent migrants from entering on trains. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees reported that Budapest was shipping thousands of migrants and refugees to Hungary’s border with Austria on special trains, making it appear that they will no longer register them.

Refugees herded into makeshift detention centers, lacking a lack of food, constant police harassment and brutality. A Sept. 11 BBC article noted, “Footage has emerged of migrants being thrown bags of food at a Hungarian camp near the border with Serbia. An Austrian woman who shot the video said the migrants were being treated like animals.”

Netherlands, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban lauded the police for brutaleness. A Sept. 6, 14, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said, “The focus will initially lie on the border with Austria. The goal of this measure is to restrict the present inflow of migrants into Germany.”

The German government said it was stopping train transport to and from Austria for thirteen hours on Sept. 13, according to a report sent out by the Austrian Federal Railways. Halting train traffic between the two countries extended from 5 p.m. on Sept. 13 to the next morning at 6 a.m.

Spokespeople for the Austrian police reported that 7,000 people had crossed the border from Hungary on Sept. 14. On the previous day some 14,000 entered the country.

Austrian government leaders said military personnel were sent to the entry and exit points and that “If German carries out border controls Austria must put strengthened border controls in place.”

EU and U.S. fail to address causes of crisis.

Meanwhile, the political and security crisis in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Turkey and other states are creating the conditions for displacement. Rapidly developing with the root causes of the crisis, the U.S. and EU states are instead arguing about how few refugees to take into their countries.

Some EU leaders have rejected any quotas of refugees as proposed by Germany and France. This rejection creates logistical challenges in the transport of migrants to states where the official position is to accept migrants for resettlement.

The president Barack Obama’s administration issued a Sept. 11 statement that the U.S. would allow 10,000 Syrians to enter the country. This is only a small fragment of those forced to leave Syria and other states on two continents due to Washington and Wall Street’s foreign policies.

British Prime Minister David Cameron visited on a refugee camp in Lebanon on Sept. 13 and said his government would open its borders to 20,000 displaced persons. Successive governments in London have supported U.S. military interventions in Yemen, Libya, Iraq and Syria and in other places, among others. Resistance among migrants to repression in Hungary indicates that the EU is unable to deal with the millions of new refugees the country. Hungary has said that they want to keep people out to preserve their “European Christian heritage.”

- and a safer life.

EUROPE

European governments are incapable of meeting the needs of refugees and migrants under conditions of an economic crisis. The European Union and the United States government’s policies are completely in line with the root causes of the crisis, the U.S. and EU states are instead arguing about how few refugees to take into their countries. West European governments have to impose “extraordinary measures” against migrants and refugees.

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- and a safer life.
A European "Day of Action" in solidarity with refugees and migrants took place on September 12 in a number of capital cities on the continent and even as far away as Sydney, Australia.

The huge outpouring of tens of thousands of migrant supporters countered the corporate media's focus on right-wing hostility to the refugees in some countries. Many protesters asserted opposition to their government's plans to limit the number of refugees who would be admitted into their country.

The point was stressed at several countries' rallies that the migrants are fleeing areas where the U.S. and other NATO governments have a responsibility to stop wars in which their own governments are complicit. Activists insist that their governments have a responsibility to open the borders, welcome all migrants and provide essential services to them, especially those from Syria, who have fled their homes after four years of imperialist-led war and dislocation.

The Ankara regime recently granted the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) bases inside Turkish borders to carry out systematic terror against workers and communities in the Kurdish regions. The U.S. and other NATO governments, including the U.S. military "advisers." These areas are all fighting, arms shipments and sending military "advisers." These areas are all fought by the establishment of seven U.S. military bases in Colombia. One is being developed as the new "School of the Americas," reported the Sept. 10 Workers World. Its purpose is to train police and military forces in counterinsurgency warfare and special operations covert actions.

At one point, four out of every five labor unionists murdered in the world were in Colombia. Legal charges have been brought against the U.S.-funded Coca-Cola and Drummond Coal for hiring paramilitary death squads that carry out systematic terror against workers and communities in the country. Particularly targeted are workers who organize in industries dominated by U.S. corporate interests, such as mining, oil, coal, flowers and bananas.

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West Wall can move capitalist money across national borders in milliseconds. But millions of workers fleeing imperialist bombs and starvation face barbed wire fences and internment camps when they seek to cross those borders. The Bolivarian government's welcome to both Syrian and Colombian refugees is a ringing call for the working people oppressed in every country of the world to unite and fight to "open the borders" to all those increasingly displaced by wars waged for corporate profits.

Tens of thousands say ‘Refugees welcome!’
By Kathy Durkin

Europe took place on Sept. 12 in a number of capital cities on the continent and even as far away as Sydney, Australia.

Great waves of tens of thousands of refugees gathered at European government buildings, where they were shut out by fences, barbed wire and razor wire. But the huge outpouring of tens of thousands of migrant supporters countered the corporate media's focus on right-wing hostility to the refugees in some countries. Many protesters asserted opposition to their government's plans to limit the number of refugees who would be admitted into their country.

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Racism and Black tennis players

The Public Broadcasting Station recently aired an “American Masters” documentary on Althea Gibson, the first African-American tennis star to break the color barrier in the virtually all-white, highly privileged professional tennis world. She has been part of the Women’s Tennis Association for what they would face as adults, play-Off Wall Street.

Gibson was born in 1927 in Silver, S.C., into a sharecropper family. To escape dire poverty, her family moved to Harlem, N.Y., where she started her tennis competition as a teenager. She went on to dominate the American Tennis Association.

When she first stepped foot on the manicured lawns of Forest Hills in Queens, N.Y., to play tennis in 1950, she was constantly bombarded with the one-der race epithet from racist spectators. She emerged as the first Black person to win the French Championship (today’s French Open) in 1956. In 1957, she also won the Wimbledon and U.S. National (today’s U.S. Open) championships. She won the same 1957 championships in 1958 – a remarkable feat.

Gibson also taught her kids to take more remunerative work because women tennis players were paid next to nothing in those days. She was contemplating suicide when a woman tennis friend raised $1 million for Gibson from admir- ing fans worldwide.

Despite racism, Williams sisters remain dominant

Serena and Venus Williams were mere toddlers when their mother died in 1984. They both consider Gibson to be an important role model, as she overcame the many obstacles she faced as a Black woman to reach the highest pinnacle of success in the tennis world, similar to those faced by these amazing sisters.

The Williams sisters began to play tennis at a very young age in Compton, Cal- if., thanks to their father, Richard, who coached them. Since the late 1990s, they have dominated women’s tennis in the most amazing way, with Venus winning seven single Grand Slam titles and Sere- na winning 21 single titles. Serena came very close to winning her first calendar Grand Slam title at this U.S. Open (win- ning all four major compe- titions in one year) and to tying with Steffi Graf at 22 wins in the modern tennis era.

Serena’s mother, Oracene Price, said that her daughter felt so much pressure to become just the fourth woman in history to win the calendar Grand Slam. (ESPN, Sept. 11.)

Both Williams sisters have faced hor- rific racism even to the present day. Rich- ard Williams paid children to yell out racist epithets to his daughters on the Court. He at first refused to prepare them for what they would face as adults, playing professional tennis in front of largely white crowds.

As Serena began to rack up the single titles on the U.S. Tennis Association tour, she faced ugly racist epithets, most not- ably at an Indian Wells tournament in California in 2001. She boycotted playing tennis there until earlier this year.

Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpischev was forced to pub- licly apologize last October to the women’s tennis association referred to them as “brothers” and called them “scary” to look at. He was banned for a year by the Women’s Tennis Asso- ciation and fined. Serena char- acterized his remarks as racist and sexist.

Serena may be ranked the num- ber one women’s tennis player, but not in terms of “marketability” in the corporate world. According to Forbes, Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova is the world’s highest-paid woman athlete in terms of endorsements. Serena has beaten Sharapova 18 out of 20 times. In terms of the overall Forbes list of men and women, Sharapova is ranked 12th and Williams 9th.

On more than one occasion, Serena has been riled in sexist terms in print and social media for her powerful body image – being “5’9” and 130 pounds – but she has never been on the defensive about it.

At 33 and 35 years old, respectively, Serena and Venus Williams are just as dominant today as they were 18 years ago, when they both played at the U.S. Open as teenagers. When asked which athlete she would like to meet today, Serena answered, “Muhammad Ali,” due to his heroic stance in 1967 when he refused to fight in Vietnam.

James Blake: standing while Black

Black tennis stars like Althea Gibson, the Williams sisters, Arthur Ashe and others not only face racism on the ten- nis courts but off them as well. Take the lesser-known James Blake, once ranked the fourth-best tennis player in the world before he retired in 2003. A surveillance tape caught Blake being viciously at- tacked by a plainclothes New York police officer outside of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in a case of so-called mistaken identity. Po-lice Commissioner William Bratton stat- ed that the person that Blake resembled could have been his “twin,” a re- minder of the racist cliché that all Black people look alike – es- pecially if they are Black young men.

The white cop who attacked Blake, James Frascatore, was named in four civil complaints in a seven-month period of 2013. He has been named in two federal civil rights lawsuits as being the type of officers accused of beating, pepper spraying and falsely arresting two Queens men in separate incidents that year.

Just before the 2013 U.S. Open, Frascatore was fired. While Bratton was forced to publicly apologize to Blake, he should also be pressured to arrest and charge Frascatore with assault and battery based on racism.

On Sept. 10, a protest called by the People’s Power Assembly demanded jus- tice for Freddie Gray and that the trial against the cops who killed him be held in Baltimore. More than 100 demonstrators rallied outside of the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse in Baltimore, where a hear- ing was held to decide upon a motion to change the trial venue to a county outside of Baltimore city.

Sharon Black of the People’s Power As- sembly said, “The police murdered Fred- die Gray in Baltimore, and they need to be held accountable in Baltimore. We re- member the case of Rodney King and the trial in Simi Valley [Calif.] that led to the acquittal of the police who brutally beat King.”

The Rev. C.D. Witherspoon continued, “We are doing today for all of the victims of police terror, including the murders and abuse of women, the LGBTQ community, everyone!” Along with With- erspoon, Kwame Rose — who was arrest- ed at a Sept. 2 protest near the courthouse.

People’s victory in Freddie Gray trial

By Colleen Gillan

Baltimore

Urban Shield, a million-dollar expo for training and sales of military hardware to local police departments, was kicked off in Oakland last year after mil- itant community actions including street protests.

This year, the four-day event, called “the largest tactical exercise in the nation” for domestic war games, retreat- ed to the county fairgrounds in Pleasan- ton, Calif., but drew continued protests.

Several hundred people took over the intersection outside the Alameda County Sheriff’s office for 90 minutes of guerrilla theater, music and speeches to denounce Urban Shield, which trains about 5,000 police officers of different agencies, including SWAT team tactics. A 13-year-old Lati- na girl took the mic to tell how a police SWAT team raided her home at 4:30 a.m. and searched a baby’s sibling. “As soon as I hit the door, I opened it, they start- ed screaming at me to put my hands up, pointing rifles at me,” she said. “It seemed like a movie.”

The Stop Urban Shield Coalition, which includes the Arab Resource & Or- ganizing Center, the Anti-Police/Terror Project, Bayan, Code Pink, Occupy Oak- land, Critical Resistance, Workers World Party and the War Resisters League, stat- ed that “Urban Shield is just one front in the fight against the state’s attempt to militarize every aspect of our lives — from its war-making here and abroad, to the increasing presence of police in our schools, to the systemic murder of Black and Brown people at the hands of police — stopping it would be a major victo- ry against growing militarization, from Oakland to Ferguson to Baltimore.”

Urban Shield was created in the wake of Sept. 11 by the Department of Home- land Security and its business partners. Mohamed Sheikh of Critical Resistance said, “Sept. 11, is an excuse to become militarized and to spy on peo- ple. Urban Shield, he said, teaches law enforcement how to ‘take over control and repress communities around the world.”

The Urban Shield extravaganza will include police enacting “Active Shooter/ Immediate Action Team scenarios” nor- mally used in combat zones. Its sponsors include the Homeland Security Depart- ment, Elephant Hunt Clothing (guns and skulls), iRobot (unmanned ground vehicles), Mile High Shooting Accesso- ries (sniper rifles), Winchester and other suppliers.

The event is open to teams from any- where, including south Korea this year. In past years, teams from police or sheriff’s departments in Jacksonville, Fla.; Miami; Boston; Philadelphia; Chicago; and Dallas have participated, in addition to the French National Police and agen- cies from the Kingdom of Jordan, Bah- rain and the settler state of Israel.
**Veolia/Transdev ends all investment in Israel**

By Terri Kay

In late August, Transdev, a subsidiary of the giant, France-based, transnational corporation Veolia, sold its final 5 percent stake in CityPass, which runs Jerusalem Light Rail. This rail line was trained to be operating illegally appropriated Palestinian land for the benefit of Zionist settlers on the West Bank. The trains bypass Palestinian neighborhoods.

In 2009, the U.N. Human Rights Council described the light rail project as “built to service the settlements.” The rail was designed to connect the western part of Jerusalem with the Israeli settlements surrounding the city in the occupied West Bank. These settlements were built in violation of international law.

This was the last and final in a series of withdrawals. Veolia’s sale marks it as Israel and the Occupied Territories. It follows the sell-off of Veolia’s energy, water and waste businesses there in April to the private equity firm Oaktree Capital Management. In September 2013, Veolia had sold its local bus services subsidiary to the Afikim Company. Veolia’s bus company had been running Israeli settlements to the illegal West Bank settlements, while excluding all Palestinian towns and riders.

Veolia acquired a damaging and toxic reputation for its involvement in Israel, which included transferring waste from Israel to occupied Palestinian land in the Jordan Valley along with its transportation companies. The bigger they are, the harder they fall!

According to the Sept. 1 Newsweek, “The BDS movement has waged a seven-year boycott campaign against Veolia — a company that employs 179,008 people and boasts a market capitalization of $8.9 billion — and claims responsibility for Veolia’s withdrawal from Europe and the U.S. have cost the company approximately $20 billion.”

Additionally, Morningstar online reported that between 2010-13 Veolia lost or withdrew from waste contracts worth $3.2 billion.

Riya Hassan, the European coordinator of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions National Committee, said, “Veolia is still a target for union activists, environmentalists and anti privatization campaigners, due to its record of anti labor policies and continued in the privatization of public water. All those still being affected by Veolia’s policies and struggling for accountability and reparations can continue to count on our solidarity. The BDS movement takes cross struggle solidarity to heart.”

What does Corbyn’s Labor Party victory mean?

By John Catalinotto

An electoral earthquake has shaken Britain’s Labor Party. Jeremy Corbyn, who, while taking consistent left and anti-militarist positions as the representative in Parliament of London’s Islington North seat since 2005, was elected party leader by a landslide 60 percent of the vote against three other candidates. The Sept. 12 Guardian newspaper described Corbyn as “one of the most left-wing, anti-establishment leaders in [Labour’s] history.”

The internal election is scheduled for 2020. Corbyn’s election as leader of the number two party makes him head of a shadow cabinet. His group will confront the ruling Conservative Party and rightist Prime Minister David Cameron. Corbyn’s election is a rebuff by the working class and youth in Britain to the politics of anti-work austerity and imperial war that has characterized both Conservative and recent Labor governments.

Whatever its impact on the 2020 election, Corbyn’s victory opens the possibility to mobilize both mass sentiment and street demonstrations to oppose austerity and war.

The Conservatives have already reacted by calling Corbyn “a threat to national security.” This frontal attack is itself a sign of their nervousness that behind this change in Labor’s leadership is a change in the mood of the masses in Britain. It means that workers and youth especially are fed up with politics as usual and are looking outside the box for solutions to their crisis.

Britain was not the first country in Europe to show that the working class is fed up. Expressions of this through voting shifts have already taken place in the following countries:

- **Spain:** The new anti-austerity party called Podemos got 8 percent in the 2014 elections and may win more.

- **Turkey:** Seating of the leftist-Kurdish electoral coalition known as the People’s Democratic Party in Parliament.

- **Greece:** victory of the social-democratic Syriza party last January, despite its now obvious limitations.

- **Scotland:** Scottish National Party winning 56 of 59 seats in the General Election in May, which was also at least partly a rebellion against the British Labor Party’s pro-austerity positions and a harbinger of the latest change.

In the United States, Bernie Sanders’ large and energetic rallies are also a sign that a large number of people, especially youth, are fed up with politics as usual and want to fight austerity and increase resistance.

Corbyn’s history in the Labor Party

Corbyn has been virtually unknown in the United States, even within the radical movement. This writer first became aware of him in November 2001, soon after the U.S.-British invasion of Afghanistan. At a protest meeting in Madrid, Spain, we represented the anti-war movement of our respective countries. It was early in the post-9/11 imperialist aggression that was to swallow up Afghanistan and Iraq under George W. Bush in the U.S. and Labor’s Tony Blair in Britain — two war criminals.

Corbyn was impressive with his lack of swagger. He showed more sensitivity to helping the meeting be a success than to spotlighting his talk. He went on in subsequent years to become a leader of the Stop the War Coalition, and current is chair of that organization, which has been the leading anti-war group in Britain. In January 2003 he spoke at a major anti-war rally we helped organize in Washington against the oncoming war on Iraq.

Corbyn was the first to invite Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein to the British Parlia
dment as early as 1984. He is also known for supporting rights for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer communities.

Corbyn also opposed NATO’s 2011 at
tacks on Libya and its current apparent involvement on Ukraine. He spoke out against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006 and its bombings of Gaza in 2008 and 2014. On Sept. 12, just hours following his election as Labor leader, he left Parliament to speak at a London rally of 50,000 people in solidarity with the refugees in Europe.

Corbyn has been one of the few Labor members of parliament to consistently oppose all privatization. He has flouted the official Labor leadership in Parliament against privatization — that is, all anti-worker measures.

Within Labor’s group in Parliament, Corbyn got support from only 20 of the 250 members. Betting odds against his election were 200 to 1. Recent changes in Labor’s voting rules, however, tripled the number of rank-and-file eligible rank-and-file voters to 500,000. Labor’s voting rules, however, tripled the number of rank-and-file eligible rank-and-file voters to 500,000. And he won support from some of the major trade unions. The mass of rank-and-file youth and worker votes overthrew the Tony Blair-Gordon Brown “New Labor” parliamentary faction.

As Friedrich Engels wrote in “The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State” in 1884, all elections can do is provide a “gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more in the modern state.” Since that time, the capitalist ruling class has tightened its hold on elections and on state power.

No matter how principled the individual, a Labor Party leader who doesn’t surrender to the ruling class will face enormous hostility from those who control the enormous state, media, police and army power of British imperialism, including the monarchy. A much different kind of struggle — a class struggle — will be needed to actually change this balance of forces.

Nevertheless, Corbyn’s election to Labor Party leader shows that a large section of the masses in Britain — which now has a broad, multinational working class — is ready for struggle. Let’s hope this “momentary” develops and spreads throughout the imperialist countries.
Guerras de Estados Unidos causan crisis de refugiados

Por Sara Flounders

Las guerras de Estados Unidos, las sanciones y la desestabilización planificada, son la causa directa de millones de desplazados de miles de refugiados/as de guerra que inunden las fronteras de Europa y el mar Mediterráneo. Las principales potencias de EUA y la OTAN han colaborado con el imperialismo norteamericano en cada conflicto. Los medios corporativos están publicando imágenes dolorosas de niños abatidos, hombres y mujeres aullando de dolor, sacerdotes y sacerdotisas enmascarados, muertos y desaparecidos en miles, perpetrando el odio y la muerte en las gentes, en una eterna preparación para justificar una nueva ofensiva militar por parte de los países de la OTAN contra Siria.

Los refugiados de las guerras de agresión de EUA

Tiene hoy el mayor número de personas desplazadas por la guerra las sanciones de EUA a partir del 2010 fueron seguidas en Irak por la creación de una estructura y 13 años de sanciones económicas. La estrategia de Washington en cada una de las guerras de agresión, ha sido encender las diferencias sectarias, étnicas, nacionales y religiosas. Esto significa organizar la violencia y desmembrar la infraestructura civil, incendiando redes eléctricas, depósitos de combustible, riego, generadores de energía, agroindustrias, industrias locales, especialmente las escuelas, en un esfuerzo para desmoralizar y desorientar a la población. Washington arma y empodera a las fuerzas más reaccionarias y caudillos corruptos como colaboradores.

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Ninguna de estas guerras fue con fines humanitarios. La guerra en Afganistán, la destrucción mundial de cientos de miles de refugiados/as de guerra que inundan las fronteras de Europa y el mar Mediterráneo. Las principales potencias de EUA y la OTAN han colaborado con el imperialismo norteamericano en cada conflicto. Los medios corporativos están publicando imágenes dolorosas de niños abatidos, hombres y mujeres aullando de dolor, sacerdotes y sacerdotisas enmascarados, muertos y desaparecidos en miles, perpetrando el odio y la muerte en las gentes, en una eterna preparación para justificar una nueva ofensiva militar por parte de los países de la OTAN contra Siria.

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