Fight Trump’s racism, Clinton’s militarism

By Deirdre Griswold

People in other countries are probably scratching their heads, wondering what is going on with politics in the United States.

A bare six months ago, it looked possible that a self-proclaimed socialist could win the Democratic nomination, something unheard of in U.S. history.

Now there are dire warnings that an erratic, boastful, racist, misogynist, anti-immigrant billionaire could be elected president and drag everything to the right.

Capturing headlines at the moment is the dismay of Democratic Party leaders that many of the politically active young people who have been involved in struggles like the Fight for $15 movement, Black Lives Matter, immigrant rights, the environmental movement, the Bernie Sanders campaign, the LGBTQ movement and even the women’s movement might not vote for Hillary Clinton.

Politicians and liberal establishment voices like the New York Times are conducting a no-holds-barred roundup to drive these potential Democratic voters into the fold. They are bemoaning the fact that when Sanders stumps for Clinton now, he attracts about one-tenth of the crowds he used to.

Their argument, of course, is that if these young progressives don’t vote for Clinton, they could be held responsible for Trump winning the presidency.

Two-party system works — for the rich

For more than two centuries, the two-party political system devised by the early slave owners, bankers and industrialists to run this country has been highly effective in maintaining the rule of the wealthy few, while roping in the support or at least acceptance of the many.

In its early days the system served the interests of the Northern industrialists and bankers at the same time as the Southern plantation owners — until the two systems collided in a great Civil War.

But having resolved the issue of slave owner versus capitalist, chattel slavery versus wage slavery, the two parties revived their collaboration in the interests of profit with the betrayal of Black Freedom in 1876-77, ending the short-lived Reconstruction era.

The two-party system survived the challenge of the Populist movement toward the end of the 19th century, as well as the great labor struggles of the Depression. All along, both parties have held imperialist wars sacrosanct, making sure that the military-banking-industrial complex comes first, even in times of severe budget crises.

So what about the current quadrennial election? What’s new about this one? As ever, it mainly features a Democrat versus a Republican, although the candidates

Continued on page 5
Socialist campaign comes to Illinois, Wisconsin

By Gerry Scoppettuolo and Andy Katz

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party’s presidential candidate, completed her Midwest tour in mid-September, bringing the party’s revolutionary socialist program to Chicago and to Milwaukee and Madison, Wis. Throughout the tour she met with community members, workers and students in a series of open discussions on the elections, socialism and the need for working-class solidarity.

In Chicago, Moorehead was part of a panel on Sept. 15, which included local activist Ruby Pinto and WWP organizer Danielle Boachie. Pinto, a member of the direct action collective Lifted Voices, discussed the need for Black and Brown unity. She gave examples of this from recent struggles in the city, including the 45 days removed State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez from office and won reparations for victims of police torture.

Moorehead acknowledged during a presidential campaign the apparent contradiction of criticizing the elections as being fundamentally flawed: “While we understand that bourgeois elections offer no real fundamental social change for our class to better their lives, with may be a few exceptions, we as revolutionaries are still obligated to use every arena to engage the masses in activism, to show that only independent mass struggle will get rid of capitalism as an evil.”

Wisconsin campaign events

The next stop was Milwaukee, where Moorehead addressed a community meeting at the Wisconsin African-American Women’s Center on Sept. 16. This is not far from the Sherman Park rebellion of Aug. 19, when hundreds of people took to the streets six days after the killing of Sylvie Smith.

Milwaukee is perhaps the most racially segregated city in the United States, where the combination of racist police violence, mass incarceration and capitalist austerity have brought harsh repression — which sparked the recent rebellion.

Beginning her address, Moorehead emphasized the need for solidarity with the struggles and issues of the most oppressed people as central to all movement.

She raised the example of the rebellion within the National Football League: “Just look how Colin Kaepernick’s refusal to honor the national anthem has given voice to the oppressed all over the country.”

Fish Minor, Milwaukee NAACP vice president, told of the history of change from NAACP-sponsoring in the city’s water. She also explained how prison labor has replaced that used to be unionized state jobs. Center Director Josephine D. Hill likened that situation — the mass incarceration of African-American men — to the Attica rebellion 45 years ago.

Ahmed Mhlahli, of the Pan African Peoples Party, brought a message of solidarity to the meeting.

Concluding the tour, Moorehead held an open community discussion in Madison on Sept. 17. In that city in 2011, some 100,000 students, workers and other community members protested, many occupying the State Capitol to fight austerity and union-busting, right-to-work legislation pushed by Gov. Scott Walker.

Moorehead stressed, “Madison was an example of how powerful the working class is when it comes together, and it is that working-class power that we need to tap into if we are to change course.”

“Revolutionary socialists have the job of exposing the injustice, the bankruptcy and the irreformability of resorting to the capitalist system and of replacing it with socialism.”

Workers World Party understands that the struggle to unite the workers and the oppressed of the world — a part of the struggle that is essential to any genuine socialist movement and to wider socialist unity — must also be a struggle to forge solidarity, in both words and deeds, with the most oppressed sectors of our global class.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

Hate capitalism! Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. Our 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 the most oppressed sectors of our global class.

Workers World is accepting donations from Haitians who voted Oct. 9 for change. Gift cards are also available. Contributions are tax-deductible. To honor the racist Generals over the White House, support the Wisconsin Peace Action League to stop the build up to war.

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We are & what we’re fighting for

Mundo Obrero WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Mundo Obrero

Workers World

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

National Office

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Boston

284 Ames St.
Boston, MA 02110
Phone: 617.286.6574
E-mail: boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.

312 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: 716.883.2534
E-mail: buffalo@workers.org

Chicago

3225 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60657
Phone: 312.399.3361
E-mail: chicago@workers.org

Cleveland

5757 West 2nd St.
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: 216.738.0320
E-mail: cleveland@workers.org

Columbus

610 E. Gay St.
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614.464.6989
E-mail: columbus@workers.org

Denver

2020 30th Ave.
Denver, CO 80211
Phone: 303.459.0888
E-mail: denver@workers.org

Detroit

2570 3rd Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: 313.459.0777
E-mail: detroit@workers.org

Durham

404 Avarue
Durham, NC 27707
Phone: 919.322.9970
E-mail: durham@workers.org

Huntington, W. Va.

huntington@workers.org

Huntsville, Ala.

huntsville@workers.org

Lexington, KY

lexington@workers.org

Los Angeles

200 W. 5th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: 213.206.5699
E-mail: losangeles@workers.org

Milwaukee

2901 W. Mill Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53214
Phone: 414.274.7774
E-mail: milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia

2401 South St.
Philadelphia, PA 19145
Phone: 215.384.2000
E-mail: philadelphia@workers.org

Portland

5040 SE 9th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202
Phone: 503.242.0780
E-mail: portland@workers.org

Rockford

315 East State St.
Rockford, IL 61104
Phone: 815.398.2985
E-mail: rockford@workers.org

San Diego

1004 10th Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: 619.314.1621
E-mail: sanDiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.

4034 N. Hogan St.
Tucson, AZ 85712
Phone: 520.322.7338
E-mail: tucson@workers.org

Virginia

3803 N. Kelly St.
Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703.234.6060
E-mail: virginia@workers.org

Washington, D.C.

147 W. 24th St.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: washingtondc@workers.org

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Workers World

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Editor: Deidre Griswold
Managing Editor: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Web Editor Gary Wilson
Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Rookoo, Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Jouhbet-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, Neil Ninkovitch, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsy Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac
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Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis
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Kaepernick-inspired protests grow

By Monica Moorehead

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick continued his inspirational protest against racist oppression by kneeling during the national anthem, along with teammates Marcus Peters-Zita, who is Filipino, expressed solidarity with his teammates: “I consider my teammates my family, and I’m not going to let the team as Black and oppressed, and then obviously I’m going to support them and take the knee.” (San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 15)

High school football players have taken a knee in a growing list of other states.

Many are moved to action

The entire women’s volleyball team at Minneapolis South High School knelt on Sept. 16. Megan Rapisore, a white lesbian soccer player, continues to take a knee, despite being ostracized by the U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team. She could face disciplinary charges.

The entire Howard University cheerleaders team knelt at a Sept. 17 game. Two Penn State cheerleaders, Alesza Bazemore and Aniya Braxton, knelt before a Sept. 17 game. Brazen said Kaepernick was her inspiration: “I believe that the climate of the world right now is very hostile. All over the news there has been brutality and violence against people of color and I truly believe in...fighting for equality and standing up for what I believe in.” (The Daily Pennsylvanian, Sept. 17)

Many students at the University of Nevada’s alma mater, sat in the stands during the anthem at a recent game. In the Missouri state Capitol, Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, an African-American representative from St. Louis, refused to stand for the “pledge of allegiance” in Capitol chambers on Sept. 14.

A Kroger store in Springfield, Ohio, sent home Elijah Scott, a 16-year-old African-American worker at a Krogerkel licking over the “Wear a Football Day” on Sept. 11. During his lunch break, he was the only one asked by the manager to change his shirt because it was “disrespectful.” Kroger issued a public apology to Scott.

Cops face growing criticism

As the protests continue to grow, Dabo Swinney, the head coach of the Clemson Tigers, recommend all college football teams to provide a “honor and dignity” by providing the chief football officer of Major League Baseball’s Arizona Diamondbacks has expressed horrible criticisms of Kaepernick and the NFL.

The Broward County Sheriff’s Office Deputies Association in Florida, representing local deputies in the county’s sheriff’s office enforcement group, issued a statement Sept. 15 demanding that the four Dolphins players who took a knee on Sept. 11 – Arian Foster, Jelani Jenkins, Michael Thomas and Kenny Still – be suspended from the team.

The deputies association (which proclaims itself to be a “union”) has threatened to stop escort security for the players on the way to Miami’s first home game on Sept. 20. The Santa Clara, Calif., police also made but rescinded a similar boycott threat against the San Francisco 49ers.

Jumaane Williams, a New York City Council member, said he will not stand for the pledge of allegiance to protest overtime pay given to New York cop Daniel Pantaleo, who choked Eric Garner to death on July 17, while several cops threw him to the ground and Pantaleo put him in a choke hold. Pantaleo made over $190,000 in overtime pay in 2016.

Williams stated, “Kaepernick deservers support, not criticism for his actions. What does it say about our country when there is no national outrage with an athlete sitting out the national anthem, but the same outrage isn’t expressed when a young black man is choked to death?”

Lelani Thomas, an Indigenous high school student in Lower Lake, Calif., accused her teacher of lowering her grade because she knelt during the national anthem. The teacher, however, told Thomas she has never respected the pledge due to this country’s genocidal treatment of Native peoples.

Kaepernick’s latest protest comes just two days after the fatal police killing of 12-year-old African-American Tyree King in Columbus, Ohio, on Sept. 14. The police claim King was a “threat” because he held a BB gun, similar to the excuse used by Cleveland police to murder 12-year-old Tamir Rice in November 2014.

Just hours before King’s murder, the 33,000-member National Fraternal Or- der of Police endorsed Donald Trump for president, as did the National Border Pa- trial Council, in support of Trump’s racist, anti-immigrant views. Kaepernick stated at an Aug. 26 press conference that nei- ther Trump nor Clinton were viable can- didates because of their racism.

Moorehead is Workers World Party’s 2016 presidential candidate. One of her tweets was retweeted by Kaepernick on Thursday, while she posted this tweet on his Twitter on Sept. 16. Moorehead thanked him and the Black Lives Matter movement for politicizing young people.

By Carl Lewis

Progressive and socialist candidates for Baltimore public office united at a Sept. 15 “meet and greet” session sponsored by the Baltimore Campaign for Peoples Power (BCPP). Speakers included Sharon Black, socialist candidate for president of the Baltimore City Council, who garnered over 8,000 petition signatures to get on the Nov. 8 ballot. Also speaking were Andre Powell, write-in socialist candidate for mayor, and Ian Schlakman, Green party candidate for the City Council’s 12th District.

Unable to attend but expressing support for the other candidates were Nnamdi Scott, Ujima Peoples’ Progress Party candidate for the 7th District, and the Rev. C.D. Witherspoon, running for pres- ident of the Baltimore City Council.

The outpouring of support for the can- didates during the petive drive indicates how working-class and oppressed people are fed up with racism, police terror and unlivable hous- ing conditions. Sharon Black emphasized the struggle against the bale’s Eastside community to the big develop- ers and Johns Hopkins Hospital,” dis- playing communities of color.

Andre Powell spoke of the need for a socialist agenda and presented information about Workers World Party’s candi- date for president, Monica Moorehead, and from the role of the Ujima People’s Progress Party: “In practice, it is a mass- based, multiracial approach. Black workers get together and say, ‘We are tired of not being represented.’ So Black workers lead a worker-based electoral party. It does not have goals and objec- tives that deny that other workers will benefit from the kind of things that we move forward.”

Referring to the Democratic Party, Scott said, “We have two major parties in this country that agree on many of the assump- tions about white supremacy, about capi- talism and the like. There are nuances between how [those two parties] want to achieve this economic system. There are nuances between how those two parties want to achieve the same goals.”

For Black and Powell’s campaigns, see Facebook/Baltimore Campaign for Peo- ples Power. For Schlakman’s campaign, see stancia2016.com. For Scott’s campaign, see nnamdiscott2016.com.
On the picket line

By Matty Starrett and Sue Davis

Minnesota nurses on strike

Nurses in the Minnesota Nurses Association started a second unfair labor practice strike on Sept. 5 against Allina Health at five hospitals in the Twin Cities area. The 4,400 nurses, whose contract expired June 1, conducted a seven-day Unfair Labor Practice strike that ended June 25. At the last (22-hour) negotiating session on Sept. 3, Allina demanded a cap on its contribution to health care premiums and shifting cost increases onto nurses, and ignored the union’s request for training to deal with workplace violence and for improvement in the nurse-to-patient ratio. (mnurses.org)

A group of Twin Cities legislators held a press conference Sept. 19 requesting that nurses be granted negotiation rights and work to end the strike. Member organizations in National Nurses United, to which the MNA belongs, organized local pickets and press conferences Sept. 13 in support of the strike. (nationalnursesunited.org) The last big, open-ended nurses’ strikes in the Twin Cities lasted 23 days in 2001 and 38 days in 1984. Stay tuned.

Silicon Valley food service workers win union

Cafeteria workers at technology giant Intel’s Santa Clara, Calif., headquarters voted to unionize with UNITE HERE Local 19 on Sept. 15. This success follows a monthslong struggle against contractor Euro- rest for basic dignity and workplace rights. Cafeteria cashier Monica Moreno told the press: “It’s so important that we won the union vote today because we now end the fear of not having enough money to live.” (bna.com, Sept. 16)

According to documents filed in May with the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Labor Relations Board, Eurorest has illegally prevented the workers from accessing restrooms during shifts and “restrained, coerced and interfered” with their right to form a union representation. Despite Intel pulling in billion-dollar profits yearly, the cafeteria workers who help make this possible are paid so little that many cannot afford to live close to work. According to Working Partnerships USA, service workers at tech companies now account for one average one-sixth of the wages of the white-collar workers and are six times more likely to be Black or Latinx. (kron4.com, Sept. 15)

Ruling helps temp workers organize

The National Labor Relations Board issued a ruling July 11 that re- versed an existing precedent on organizing temporary workers. It held that permanent employees and temporary staffing employees could be combined in the same bargaining unit without either the employer or the staffing agency’s consent. All that was needed was a “community of interest.” In an August 2015 ruling for “joint employer,” the board im- posed new legal obligations on employers who hire through temporary agencies and potentially also on giant corporate franchisors in such in- dustries as fast food, warehousing and food processing plants, recycling facilities, hotels and janitorial services.

“The ruling represents a blow to corporations that have moved force- fully and surreptitiously, toward using temporary workers in an effort to block worker benefits and collective bargaining … [and] to avoid labor contracts by using temporary services,” observed In These Times July 12.

Since the recession of 2008, temp agencies account for more than 17 percent of net employment gains in low-wage service sectors where “permastaff” are used to staff entire departments or facilities. In many auto assembly and parts plants, for example, temp agency work- ers are paid half of what regular hires make and account for more than half the workforce. (labornotes.org, Aug. 23)

Petitions show urgency of low-wage struggle

The struggle for livable wages and a union isn’t just about putting more money in workers’ pockets. It’s about saving lives and protecting those with special needs. Sign two petitions that call attention to this. One from Fight for $15 calls on McDonald’s to pay workers enough so they can af- ford health care. “Myrna De los Santos struggled with health issues for years — but she simply could not afford the health care she needed on McDonald’s pay. Last week, she passed away. She was 46.” The petition at https://www.change.org/p/mcdonalds-call-on-mcdonalds-to-pay-every-worker-enough-to-afford-the-healthcare-they-need-to-live is an effort to block worker benefits and collective bargaining. The other petition at https://www.change.org/p/stop-temp-agencies-denying-pay-for-creates-corporate-fraud is an effort to block temp agencies from blocking workers’ rights. (change.org)

The petition at bit.ly/2eWgpo by former Walmart worker Arleja Stephens calls on CEO Doug McMillon to respect temp workers. Stephens was fired when her high-risk pregnancy required her to miss work. “My experience is not an isolated incident ... Women across the country reported that Walmart does not allow time off for doctor ap- pointments, that they are not given light work as an accommodation, and that they are scared they will lose their jobs if they speak up or ask for help. ... Young, Black, working mothers, like me … should not be forced to choose between a healthy pregnancy and the ability to pro- vide for our families.”

Union victory in LIU lockout

By G. Dunkel

New York

When the Long Island University adminis- tration called off the lockout of its Brooklyn fac- ulty Sept. 14, it was an indisputable union vic- tory. Teachers got their jobs back and students started getting the education they had paid big bucks for.

That afternoon hundreds of students walked out and joined the faculty rallying outside the LIU gates, as they did every day during the lockout.

The administration had spent all summer hir- ing people to scab on the teachers. As it turned out, many couldn’t do the jobs they were hired for. Some quit as soon as they realized they were hired to scab. Others admitted to their classes that they didn’t have the qualifications to teach the course they were assigned.

Many City University of New York retirees find scabbing repulsive. Working for LIU during the lockout was most definitely scabbing. Advan- ced graduate students at CUNY and other New York schools agreed, even though Ph.D. underemployment is high in New York City.

According to a librarian speaking at a Sept. 14 rally, the people who were hired to scab couldn’t get the library running. They didn’t have the safety certificates to run labs or the licenses to run practices in various graduate fields, like occupational therapy or teaching. LIU students, predominantly African Ameri- can, Latinx and South Asian, were angry and disgusted with the situation.

An organized campaign argued that LIU was perpetrating a fraud by charging big money for education they weren’t providing and couldn’t provide. The campaign demanded that the Board of Regents of the state of New York re- move LIU President Kim Cline from office.

The Board of Regents has this power and has used it in the past.

The union also sent letters to 14 accrediting agencies asserting that LIU was failing to pro- vide education up to agency standards.

Given the challenges to its accreditation, the charges of fraud, the growing anger among the students, the solidarity in the broader academic community with the locked-out professors — the faculty at the University of San Francisco issued a solidarity statement — the administra- tion at LIU decided to call off the lockout.

The university agreed to extend the current contract with the faculty until May 31, 2017, and bargain with a mediator.

The union statement on the end of the lockout made the following points: “The LIU adminis- tration will make the faculty whole for health care costs incurred during the lockout period.

“The union’s unfair labor practice complaints relating to the lockout and our arbitration on pay parity remain active and will be vigorously pursued.

“Trying to make the university operate with easily replaceable workers failed this time. It is clear that both workers and bosses will carefully examine the lessons of this struggle.”

‘Fight for $15, fight for fair!’

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Des Moines, Iowa

Polk County Fight for $15 activists are oppos- ing a task force proposal that calls for a gradual $10.75 minimum wage and a “youth wage ex- emption,” instead demanding a living wage for all workers.

On Aug. 25, nearly two dozen Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement members “packed the room” during a minimum wage task force meeting, according to Iowa CCI organizer Emily Schott. Despite the outreach of support for $15, the 13-member task force voted to gradual- ly raise the minimum wage to $8.75 an hour by 2019 “with a host of living adjustments.”

Adding insult to injury, the panel also voted for a “youth wage exemption” affecting workers ages 14 to 27, who will earn only 85 percent of the minimum wage.

Schott said the supervisors are bowing down to big business so “large corporations like the grocery industry can continue to hire hard-working youth at terrible wages.”

The grocery industry is one of the biggest em- ployers of youth, leading the charge for a youth wage in other states. According to Iowa CCI 20-organizer Bridget Fagan-Reidburn, grocery industry representatives were present at the last task force meeting who were not at all the other public gatherings.

The age discrimination being recommended by the task force affects teenage workers with children or family members to support, college students with school loans to pay off and other situations where workers struggle to make ends meet.

“No matter your age, you should be paid the same for doing the same work,” Fagan-Reidburn said.

The proposed exemption does not exist in lo- cal, state or federal law, but this is not the first time such a proposal has been suggested.

In “Fast Food Nation,” author Eric Schlosser tells about when McDonald’s co-founder Ray mond Albert “Ray” Kroc donated over $250,000 to President Richard Nixon’s re-election cam- paign in 1972, the same year the fast food indus- try lobbied Washington to support “the McDon- ald’s bill.” The bill would have allowed workers 16 to 17 years old to earn only 80 percent of the minimum wage — which was $1.60 per hour back then. If enacted, “the McDonald’s bill” would have reduced some wages to less than $7 per hour.

The bill wasn’t passed, but efforts to pick low- wage workers’ pockets continue.

Schott said the vote is just a recommendation and the Polk County Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on raising the wage in October. “We’re gearing up to take the fight to the supervisors. We hope to let them know it’s got to be $15!” she emphasized.


WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

The elections are not the last word — keep fighting for socialism!

By L.T. Pham

Join Workers World Party and hundreds of activists from around the country and the world for the annual WWP National Conference on Nov. 11-13 in New York. 2016 has seen nothing short of an assault on the movement for justice, liberation and self-determination. But it has also been an incredible year of struggle, when the most militant people have risen up to say no more to exploitation, violence and repression, all facilitated by capitalism.

The conference will come only days after the presidential elections. Working and oppressed people will, without a doubt, be disappointed by the results. But where will we go from there? How will we channel our righteous rage and frustration into action? These are the questions we will take up as we honor the brave young people, communities and organizers who have confronted power and are claiming the future.

Regardless of who becomes the next president of the United States, we know that the struggle remains: So long as the U.S. has the ability to terrorize Black and Brown people at home and abroad, so long as the working class is barely afforded to live, so long as LGBTQ people and women are under attack, so long as the politicians, bosses and bankers rule our lives, we must fight, fight, fight!

If you are interested in learning about and discussing why we must keep fighting for socialism, join Workers World Party at the Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign. The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign is the most militant — and shows solidarity with migrants to the U.S. has the ability to terrorize Black and Brown people at home and abroad, so long as the politicians, bosses and bankers rule our lives, we must fight, fight, fight!

The annual WWP National Conference will convene revolutionaries and organizers from the frontlines of struggles, from Black Lives Matter to Palestine Solidarity, from anti-war to Fight for $15, from the LGBTQ struggle to women’s liberation and immigrants’ rights. We lift up the struggles that need solidarity, not only here in the U.S. but also around the world — to end the blockade still on Cuba, end U.S. wars against Cuba, South Africa, Syria, stop the subversion of Venezuela, and show solidarity with migrants to the U.S. and the European Union. We lift up the banner of socialist unity to build toward a revolution that will liberate all workers and oppressed people.

We choose ourselves — not the warmonger Hillary Clinton who called Black youths “predators,” not the hate-mongering billionaire Donald Trump who nurtures Klan and Nazi types. We choose solidarity — not the state’s tools of division, not the comfort of isolation.

We choose the movement — not the lies of the election, not the idea that the powers that be will fall on their own. We choose a path to revolution — not the hope of a softer, kinder capitalism, not another day of chains and cages. Let us continue to build the movement against capitalism, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia and more!

Black Lives Matter! Defend Native sovereignty! Abolish the police! Smash capitalism! LGBTQ liberation now! End women’s oppression! Free Palestine! The working class has no borders!
The struggle at Standing Rock, N.D., led by the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation), has brought together hundreds of Indigenous Nations, thousands of Indigenous people and many supporters to block the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). They are united in their fight against corporate pollution of water, protection of sacred Native sites and defense of Indigenous sovereignty.

Protest organizers for this historic and crucial struggle have occurred in various cities in the U.S. and internationally. Here are reports about some of them.

**DETOUR**

Over 150 activists from Detroit and around Michigan turned out on Sept. 12 to demonstrate solidarity with Standing Rock and oppose Big Oil destruction of the planet. The evening “light protest,” called the Detroit Light Brigade, the Detroit Coalition Against Tar Sands and the Blood Oil Campaign Against Marathon, was held outside a Marathon facility in southwest Detroit. Marathon’s airborne toxins have made its 48277 ZIP code the most polluted part of Michigan.

A large crowd gathered on the side of a building. ETP refers to Energy Transfer Partners, which Bakken Project includes the DAPL. ETP recently sold a 37.5 percent share in the Bakken Project to Marathon and Energy Credit Partners.

Organizers of this action have demonstrated previously against Marathon and Enbridge. Enbridge caused a catastroph- ic pipeline break that contaminated a portion of Michigan’s Kalamazoo River. It also operates the Line 5 pipeline that runs under Lake Superior. Environmen- tal activists and Indigenous peoples in Michigan have protested with canoes and kayaks to demand the shut-down of Line 5, whose aging pipes pose a danger to the Great Lakes, the largest group of freshwa- ter lakes on Earth.

The protest took over the street and blocked traffic, with participants chanting “Whose streets? Our streets! Whose water? Our water? The slogan “Water is Life” resonates with southeast Michigan, which still feels the impact of the wa- ter contamination crisis in Flint and the Great Lakes. An estimated 4 million people live near the Great Lakes, whose aging pipes pose a danger to the Great Lakes, the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth.

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Recently, activists from Standing Rock posted a video of a protest against Marathon’s proposed Line 5 expansion, which includes the Dakota Access Pipeline. Activists from Standing Rock have been arrested repeatedly for blocking pipeline construction.

**IN SOLIDARITY**

Honor the treaties! NO DAPL!

**PHILADELPHIA**

Around 500 people gathered in Phil- adelphia on Sept. 17 for a solidarity rally with the Indigenous peoples challenging the DAPL at Standing Rock. The rally, organized by the Philadelphia-based Native American Netroots Network, was held at the site of a building. ETP refers to Energy Transfer Partners, which Bakken Project includes the DAPL. ETP recently sold a 37.5 percent share in the Bakken Project to Marathon and Energy Credit Partners. The protest took over the street and blocked traffic, with participants chanting “Whose streets? Our streets! Whose water? Our water?” The slogan “Water is Life” resonates with southeast Michigan, which still feels the impact of the water contamination crisis in Flint and the thousands of water shut-offs in Detroit. The protest was held outside a Marathon facility in southwest Detroit. Marathon’s airborne toxins have made its 48277 ZIP code the most polluted part of Michigan.

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**SEATTLE**

Over 500 Native people and their supporters marched in downtown Seattle on Sept. 16 behind a huge banner which read “Stand with Standing Rock/ Water is Life! #NoDAPL.” The march began outside City Hall, where Mayor Ed Murray signed a proclamation supporting Standing Rock. Several city council members said they backed the声明. The Seattle City Council had already passed a resolution in solidarity with Standing Rock.

The march was led by drummers who continued drumming throughout the rally. Representatives of Northwest Native Nations and Indigenous peoples from Alaska, Hawaii, California and the Great Plains attended as well as supporters. Many protesters had previously traveled to Standing Rock.

Rally chairperson Millie Kennedy, Alaska Native and member of the Tsimshian Nation, greeted demonstrators at the site of the rally, which was at the site of the rally, which was downtown Seattle. Kennedy welcomed the activists and thanked them for their participation.

In a separate action, seven people, in- cluding members of the Philadelphia Student Union, were arrested for occupying the lobby of TD Bank, a pipeline funder.

— Betsey Piette

— Martha Grevatt

**PROFITS DETERMINE PIPELINES**

Pipelines are by far the cheapest way to move gasoline or oil. Transport by rail and truck costs about $30 a barrel more. The pipeline’s failure to profit margin- nally, not the danger of transport by rail, drives pipeline construction.

At the height of the Standing Rock struggle, corporate media have been almost total- ly silent as two states, Alabama and Georgia, declared a state of emergency due to a Sept. 9 pipeline spill in Shelby County, Ala. (NationalChang.org)

The ruptured fuel line carries refined gasoline from Houston to the East Coast. By Sept. 12, the break had leaked over 250,000 gallons of gasoline.

Capitalism is driven to maximize prof- it. Every decision is based not on human need nor on environmental safety nor even on the future of the planet. Corporate- ce decisions are based on what is most immediately profitable.

**POWER PLANTS, PIPELINES AND U.S. LAND THEFT**

Through the 1950s and into the early 1960s, the U.S. government seized hundreds of thousands of acres of land remaining to Indigenous Nations, in an aggressive plan to build dams along the Missouri River Basin.

One was the Oahe Dam, creating the Oahe Lake, in the area that is now being defended against DAPL by the Oceti Sakanowin (Great Throat Nation). Accord- ing to Native American Netroots, that dam destroyed more Native land than any other public works project in U.S. history by flooding 90 percent of the timber and more than 3 million acres of land.

There are people who remember their land before its expropriation and flooding for Big Energy profits.

Though further impoverished by the loss of their lands, the Standing Rock Sioux have resisted granting applica- tions for oil drilling or pipelines. Other impoverished Indigenous Nations have felt forced to turn to the profit-promising made by Big Energy oil drilling, fracking against mining corporations in order to build their tribal economies.
By Lamont Lilly

The mainstream media would have us believe that the current struggle at Standing Rock, N.D., is all about clean water—that its only focus is stopping the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) from running through Indigenous reservation land. And, yes, it is about these things. But while such a narrative may create “hot headlines,” it fails to capture the full truth and essence of what’s really going on there.

On Sept. 9 through Sept. 12, our Workers World delegation gathered with 8,000 others in answer to the national call to mobilize for support. I realized that Standing Rock is actually an entire race of peoples’ fight for sovereignty and complete liberation, a fight for the right to exist without forced displacement and assimilation.

Standing Rock’s “stand for water” is a struggle against corporate interests, a struggle against greed and the big oil companies—and against the ruling class that is promoting and supporting the pipeline, to say nothing of the oil companies in their advantages.

Resistance, unity and mass consciousness

Shortly after our flight into Bismarck, N.D., we went to the state Capitol building, where I began to realize that this was much bigger than just a fight for water. Is water a central component to this struggle? Yes, yes, it is. But what I shortly realized, as local members of the Indigenous community began to gather, and as school-aged Native students told me of this march to stand down the street in the rain, is that the significance of the developments at Standing Rock was nothing short of historically majestic. This “local protest” had become monumental.

Representatives of Indigenous Nations began pouring into Bismarck from all over the country and from other countries. In spite of the rain, more and more people just kept coming. A protest had become a reunion, a reunion even for some who had never met. I believe that a reunion, a many thought would never happen again. The struggle for water had performed a material miracle. Resistance had created both unity and mass consciousness.

It was Friday and we had just arrived. So much was unfolding, and we hadn’t even made it to the official campground at Standing Rock yet. We had merely decided to support a Bismarck protest we heard about before traveling to Standing Rock, getting settled and set up for the evening. After the protest, we finally arrived at the Main Camp at Standing Rock late on Friday afternoon, with plenty of time before dark. We debated for a half hour about where to pitch our tent, and finally found a spot.

We broke during camp that evening that the Obama administration and the U.S. government had decided to temporarily halt further construction of DAPL in the immediate Lake Oahe area by Standing Rock. But certainly the overall DAPL project had not been canceled in North Dakota or elsewhere.

Indigenous Nations came from all over: Ontario (Canada), Hawaii, Ecuador, Jamaica, Alaska, Massachusetts, California. There were elders and small children, business men and women.

Main Camp organizers noted that over 260 Nations had gathered; the largest of any gathering since Wounded Knee in 1973. Morale was high, but people were still weary of the government. After 500 years of colonial lies, false promises and broken treaties, many of the elders had seen this story before. They reminded the media and informed the various Nations to stay vigilant.

As organizer and Standing Rock Sioux elder Phyllis Young stated: “Our freedom is in our DNA. Our culture is bigger than the U.S. Constitution. When one Nation’s rights are violated, we are all violated.” On the subject of false treaties, Young reminded us that “these agreements are problematically because we do not recognize their sovereignty. They have not kept their promises.”

Building collective memory

Our time and efforts were divided between four different encampments. If you were coming from Bismarck, the first encampment you’ll approach is “The Front.” This was the site where private security firm G4S sprayed the Waters Protectors with pepper spray and prompted dogs to attack women and defenseless children.

Just off the road, the camp is small in size, but well-guarded and protected. A few yards behind the company’s barbed wire gates, you can actually see the uprooted soil, courtesy of U.S. Army Engineers and private construction vehicles. North Dakota later issued a misdemeanor warrant for Democracy Now host, Amy Goodman, for simply documenting what happened there.

Main Camp is where the masses reside — a 20-acre plot of flatland surrounded by sacred burial space, “Facebook Hill” (where people can pick up enough cell service to post on social media), and scattered marsh remnants of the Missouri and Red Rivers. Main Camp is where most of the socializing and public assemblies took place.

Though much smaller, Sacred Stone is probably the camp most recognized by name. Sacred Stone is the location of the initial resistance, dating back to the spring of this year.

Last, but certainly not least, is Red Warrior Camp — the heavily targeted and radical youth encampment located just between Main Camp and Sacred Stone. Red Warrior Camp has really inspired and galvanized the young people. We were honored to formally meet with them the day before we left. In return, we left the workers and students with our equipment and the supplies that we could spare. Their spokesperson, Cody Hall, was arrested during the time our delegation was there.

Main Camp, which was where we stayed, was highly organized and well laid out. Tents and tips were sporadically spaced at the site of your own choosing. The kitchen, dry storage and main assembly circle were all conjoined. While the main circle was open-air seating, all other stations were well constructed for the harsh conditions of North Dakota.

There was a medical room and camp infirmary as well as a freedom school and welcome center. There was the donation center and legal support station. There were safety teams and ground sanitation. Several thousand of us were fed, sheltered and provided for, every day. There were many participants who came on faith and with very few resources. The ingenuity required to seamlessly feed three meals a day to thousands is no small feat.

In addition to the elements of traditional spirituality and tribal dignities, there was also a special emphasis placed on remembrance — remembrance of the old and new Dakota languages that so many still fight to preserve, remembrance of the past freedom fighters and political prisoners. Elders and youth alike noted the important contributions of Sitting Bull and Leonard Peltier, Russell Means and John Trudell.

With over 260 Indigenous Nations represented, were there a few internal differences? Yes, of course. But there was also a celebration of those differences, a moment of material magic that so many were able to come together and build on their commonalities. Not only was there a collective sense of pride, urgency and organization, a collective memory was etched in communal stone, passed down to the next Seven Generations.

“We want our grandchildren to see this, to be here and touch the land,” said Chief Arvol Looking Horse, “I remember my grandmother teaching me about Wounded Knee, and we have to pass this down. The story of today.”

It was so important that the youth and children were able to witness such a display of unity. This is the moment that they too, will pass down to their children — the preservation of culture, history, tradition and the interconnectedness of mind, body, soul, air, life — the importance of respecting the continued on page 9

"Local protest has become monumental"

— Jim McMahan

Dallas Goldtooth, a Mdeewawanken Dakota and Dene organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network, points out that “the Standing Rock resistance is creating solidarity against environmental devastation. He describes the 380 resolutions or solidarity statements with Standing Rock from Native Nations as “amazing, historic.”... A lot of tribes that are heavily dependent on resource extraction have also come out in support. Three Affiliated Tribes—an organization of the Bakken oil shale is under their lands. The Nakajo Nation... heavily dependent on coal. The Crow Nation... all coal. All statements of solidarity... It opens up a door for more organizing.” (yesmagazine.org)

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, was part of a recent Workers World delegation to Standing Rock.

...people’s lives, but we’re protecting 85 percent of the world’s biodiversity.” Quinnipiac Nation President Fawn Sharp told the rally, “When another country can take unilateral action against our land and resources, that is a political injustice and an assault on all of us.”

Northwest Sacred Water Canoe Family members expressed their pride at rowing 40 miles down the Missouri River and then being welcomed by the Standing Rock gathering.

The program included members of the Makah, Swinomish, Tulalip, Quinault and other Native Nations. City Councilmember Kishana Sawant and Emily Johnson of 350 Seattle, an organization fighting for climate justice, also spoke.

Joe Williams, of the Swinomish Nation, emphasized, “This is not only a Native fight... This is a fight for everybody. We all need to come together and join this fight.”

For three consecutive weeks, Northwest Nations have marched in Seattle demanding a halt to construction of the DAPL. Other actions in the state included a protest at Michels Corporation, a DAPL contractor in Kirkland, Wash.

Tents and tips were spaced at the site of your own choosing. The kitchen, dry storage and main assembly circle were all conjoined. There was a camp infirmary as well as a freedom school and welcome center. There was the donation center and legal support station, all constructed for the harsh conditions of North Dakota. There were safety teams and ground sanitation. The ingenuity required to feed thousands is no small feat.

Continued on page 9

— Jim McMahan
Somali Muslims and allies protest Islamophobia

By Taryn Fiek

Minnesota

Sept. 16 — Cars honk and passersby raise their fists as over 250 people protest Islamophobia, racism and U.S. wars abroad in the Minneapolis neighborhood of West Bank. The crowd marches, chanting, “No more wars! No more fear! Our Muslim friends are welcome here!” and holding signs that read “Stop the war on the home and abroad” and “No U.S. military intervention in Syria.”

The Minnesota Anti-War Committee and Minnesotans Against Islamophobia sponsored the protest.

Minnesota is home to more than 30,000 Somali immigrants, around one-third of the total living in the U.S. The majority live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. They are targeted by racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Burhan Mohumed, who grew up in the West Bank neighborhood, decided to get involved after reading and dealing personally with the racism and poverty that affects his community. “You start to realize that, you know, you’re not poor by the lack of hard work, you’re not poor because you’re irresponsible.”

“I’m a first generation immigrant that grew up here. Muslim and Black, obviously. You start to look over your shoulder.”

Minnesota police have targeted the Somali community in Minneapolis-St. Paul by using an all-black jury in Minneapolis in June of this year, five pleaded guilty before their trials.

With their sentencing in November, some face imprisonment.

“You’re saying that we’re all potential terrorists, potential extremists,” says Burhan.

The Minnesota Anti-War Committee says the CVE program “criminalizes and spies on the Somali community in Minnesota and is a classic divide-and-conquer tactic using ‘trusted’ individuals and organizations, infiltrators posing as friends, teachers in schools, and social service organizations.”

Somali-Canadian rapper K’Naan is developing an HBO series about “jihadi recruitment” in Minnesota titled “The Recruiter.” The executive director of the series, Kathryn Bigelow, directed the pro-militarist films “Zero Dark Thirty,” a fictional account of the CIA hunt for Osama bin Laden and “The Hurt Locker,” which praised soldiers occupying Iraq.

The Somali community and supporters protested “K’Naan” when he spoke in the Twin Cities area last week and were met with pepper spray and arrests from the police. While K’Naan met with protesters later to say the show would not demonize the Somali community, many remain unconvinced as long as Bigelow is attached to the project.

Islamophobia to continue post-election

The crowd begins stopping traffic and spilled out all his bad guts about his feelings about Muslims and about immigrants. “I am terrified. As a Black person, as a Muslim, I’m terrified. Because now, it’s like — what do you do? How do you protect yourself?”

“I think a socialist system, something that really includes the whole body of the people. … I think that’s the system that would help us. But capitalism? You know Trump’s a capitalist, Hillary is a capitalist.”

“Today’s rally, today’s march … this is why I sort of breathe easy. Because I see there’s a collection of people that honestly do care about the future of this country. They care about the world, and they care about humanity.”

Victory to Zimbabwe!

By Stephen Millies

More than 100 people marched and rallied in New York City on Sept. 17 in defense of Zimbabwe; the country’s president, Robert Gabriel Mugabe, and the Zimbabwe African People’s Union-Patriotic Front. U.S. economic sanctions have targeted the African country since its private leaders, led by President Mugabe, started taking over land stolen by white plantation owners in the late 1990s.

President Mugabe, the former chair of the African Independence Movement, is scheduled to address the United Nations.

The march started at Citylink’s world headquarters and went to Zimbabwe’s Mission to the United Nations for support. Marching in military order in the streets, demonstrators finally reached the U.N. at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The militant action was organized by the December 12th Movement and Friends of Zimbabwe. The People’s Organization for Palestinian, Universal Negro Improvement Association, African Diaspora for Development, All-African People’s Revolu-

Tuskegee Airmen fought racism in the U.S. military

By Dolores Cox

2016 is the 75th anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen’s formation. The Airmen were the first African-American military pilots who fought in World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen were determined to rise above racial barriers and break “Jim Crow” segregation in the military, which enforced separate barracks, dining halls and opportunities.

“Whites only” signs created barriers for all Black people. African descendants were not allowed to attend prestigious schools and competitive jobs — and constantly had to do more and achieve more just to prove they were equal.

Each flight school would train Black people to earn private flying licenses. Even with a license, Black men were repeatedly rejected as aviators. Outrageous racism and the belief that Black people were not capable of flying or serving in any combat position due to “inferior intelligence” and “black skin” kept Black menphysically “unfit” to fly complex aircraft.

However, the Tuskegee Airmen proved the racist wrong. They were fighting against the Nazis during World War II and against racial discrimination at home.

The Tuskegee Airmen’s story began in 1941. With the war in Europe escalating, and pressure from Civil Rights activists, the Army Air Corps started an experimental program that year for the first all-Black flight school at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Under African-American Lt. Col. Benjamin Davis Jr., men trained vigorously to master skills in aerial combat.

In 1943, Tuskegee Airmen were sent to Italy to escort bombers flown by white pilots, protecting them from Nazi combat planes. These Airmen were called the “Red Tail Angels” due to their aircraft’s color.

Nearly 1,000 Black aviators passed arduous training at the Tuskegee airfield by 1946. They learned to fly and maintain military aircraft. The Airmen’s struggles and valiant accomplishments led to greater changes. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had authorized Black men to fight in World War II, and in 1948, President Harry Truman issued an executive order integrating the military.

The Tuskegee pilots flew 1,578 combat missions in Europe during World War II and 30,000 Somali immigrants, around one-third of the total living in the U.S. The majority live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. They are targeted by racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

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I’m a first generation immigrant that grew up here. Muslim and Black, obviously. You start to look over your shoulder.

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Islamophobia to continue post-election

The crowd begins stopping traffic and spilled out in front of the Republican Party’s office, chanting, “No Trump! No KKK! No racist USA!”

Does Burhan think anything will get better for Muslims after the presidential election in November?

“To be honest with you, I think that it will get better. You have Hillary — who has a proven record, has a proven history of her supporting policies and her saying very devastating and very problematic statements against people of color.”

“You have Trump, who has literally —
Workers World condemns the blockade of Cuba

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez announced on Sept. 9 that Cuba will submit a resolution to the upcoming United Nations General Assembly meeting titled “The necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.”

The Workers World Party Presidential and Vice Presidential Campaign joins with the Cuban people and millions globally who declare #YoVotoVsBloqueo — “I vote against the blockade.” We reiterate our party’s longstanding support for revolutionary socialist Cuba and respect for its sovereignty and self-determination against the imperialist bully to the north.

There is now a commonly held, but false and dangerous, illusion that the genocidal financial noise around Cuba has ended. This illusion is driven by the U.S. government’s positive agreement on Dec. 17, 2015, to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, which it broke in 1961. President Barack Obama visited Cuba and commercial flights to the island began on Aug. 31. The unique restriction banning U.S. travel to Cuba has been reduced to a computer check box. However, Cuba’s 2016 report states that the blockade has in fact been toughened.

In his report, Cubano details the large small and even new ways the web of U.S. laws and regulations that make up the blockade hurt the Cuban people while enriching every continent with their extraterritorial reach. The full report can be read in English at cubaweb bloqueo.com.

Here are a few examples.

- Cuba’s Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) has exported pharmaceuticals to Thailand for many years. An order from PharMaLand pharmaceuticals to Thailand for many and Biotechnology (CIGB) has exported treatments with Cuba due to U.S. sanctions. Thailand handling the order received a deal of international solidarity. Workers demand repeal of the new labor law.
- Cuba offers more than 200 internationally recognized, quality medical programs in 47 health institutions serving 15,000 foreign patients annually. But medical treatment does not fall into the 12 categories of travel permitted by the U.S. government. In short, it is illegal for a U.S. resident to seek medical treatment in Cuba, even though Cuba has developed effective treatments like a vaccine for lung cancer and Heberprot-P, which prevents more than 70 percent of diabetic foot ulcers. These treatments reduce medical costs and markedly improve quality of life, yet are out of reach for U.S. residents.
- Cuba constitutionally guarantees free education and health care as well as access to culture and sports. The well-being of the people, not profits, is the purpose of its socialist organization of society. The blockade hurts all aspects of Cuban society, from construction to food import and production to the right of development itself.

President Obama has not done all that he could to dismantle the blockade of Cuba. He continues the Medical Professional Program, a brain drain that offers special benefits to Cuban medical professionals who abandon international assignments.

According to Cuba’s 2016 document, Obama could allow Cuban banks to open accounts in U.S. banks; authorize direct exports of U.S. products to Cuban companies; permit imports of Cuban services or products like biotech products, including those manufactured in third countries containing Cuban raw materials; authorize U.S. companies to invest in Cuba; and allow ships that have docked in Cuba to dock in U.S. ports, eliminating the present six-month waiting period.

As the vote against the U.S. blockade in the United Nations General Assembly nears, the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) has begun days of action under the title, “We remember: Solidarity against the blockade and terrorism.” On Sept. 4, ICAP began commemorating the 1997 bombing of a Havana hotel that killed the young Italian Fabio di Celmo. The days of action will end on Oct. 27 with the twenty-fifth commemoration of the U.S. attack on the U.S. to end its blockade of Cuba.

Workers demand repeal of new labor law

By G. Dunkel

In French big cities — Paris, Lyon, Tours and Nantes — and in 110 communities in all, 170,000 workers and students came out on Sept. 15 to demand repeal of the new labor law, which was pushed through Parliament without a vote and went into effect July 22.

This was the fiftieth national demonstration and strike against the law, the first since summer vacation began. In Nantes, Russia, the Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Cameroon, Réunion, the Comoros and Argentina have sent messages of solidarity, according to the CGT, one of five labor confederations.

In Paris, units of the CRS, the national anti-riot corps, blocked many roads to the gathering point, didn’t let unions bring in sound trucks and searched the bags of the 40,000 people who marched. They used tear gas and water cannons to control the marchers. One union member belonging to Solidaire lost his eye due to a tear gas grenade and is charging the corps with brutality.

In Tours and Nantes, where the struggle against the labor law this spring was very intense, the Sept. 15 protests were larger, more militant than the cops expected.

Since these protests involve losing a day’s pay to strike, and there have now been 17 this year, a debate has opened up in the labor movement about shifting the focus to legal challenges and enterprise-by-enterprise struggles, fighting each set of rules that implements one of the points in the law. While it is not clear how the unions plan to proceed, they are well aware that the polls show seven of every 10 people in France oppose the law.

A date for the next national demonstration hasn’t been set, but the seven unions and student organizations mobilizing for these protests have called for a meeting at the end of September.

“The CGT released a statement on Sept. 15 setting out its strategy: ‘The CGT will continue to fight, on every level, to block the application of this law, point by point, measure by measure, whether it is on the local level, in enterprises with their employees, or nationally before the courts. It intends always to block this wicked law even while having recourse to other axes of mobilization.’”

Standing Rock

Local protest has become monumental

Continued from page 7

land, animals and fellow human beings.

Water is life, not a business

Standing Rock is more than just a fight to stop construction vehicles from digging up the soil to lay pipes. What this is really about is the preservation of the Indigenous way of life — a way of life that walks in accord with the natural elements, not to somehow profit from them. Water is life, not a business.

And Standing Rock is not only a struggle for change. It is not only a struggle to defend the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations. It is, as well, part and parcel of a class struggle of the poor and working class against the interests of the super-rich. This struggle is about supporting the right to be free from corporate greed and white supremacist domination, the right for Indigenous people to determine their own destiny, the right to exist without the U.S. government meddling in the internal affairs of Native Nations and exploiting their differences to divide and conquer.

What we saw and heard at Standing Rock was the effects of colonialism continuing to play out, 500 years later. Some Indigenous people have survived through surface-level assimilation, adopting more Eurocentric names, styles of dress and religious practices. Others have refused to assimilate and remain rooted in the old ways. Everyone has prayer through action; others embrace a more militant form of resistance by any means necessary.

The only negative aspect of our entire stay was a major response. Drones, helicopters and aerial surveillance were a constant. The road checkpoints, encampment warrants and threat of arrests were very real. Supporters and organizers were quite conscious of the repressive character of the state, yet refused to allow that presence to dampen the occasion. But I guess that’s to be expected when you’re pursuing liberation.

Nearly 70 people have been arrested for simply standing in the way of DAPL, but many more are springing up to take their places. When we are talking about #NoDAPL, it’s really important that we demand that all the charges be dropped. I came to realize that we have to do more to uplift and amplify this struggle. We have to do more to connect this struggle to Black Lives Matter, to the Palestinian struggle and the Latinx movement.

Everyone needs to stand with Standing Rock, and we must connect this and all the other Indigenous struggles to the overall struggle against capitalism and white supremacy.

Much thanks to Standing Rock for allowing us to be there! Long live all the Indigenous Nations! Free Leonard Peltier!

Lamont Lilly is the 2016 Workers World Party U.S. vice presidential candidate.
Generals over the White House

The Sept. 17 bombing of Syrian troops by U.S. planes shows the Pentagon runs the show. The generals went over the heads of the White House and the State Department, sabotaged a ceasefire agreement with Russia by launching deadly airstrikes and provoked a new war crisis. In 1980 Sam Marcy, founding chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote a pamphlet titled “Generals over the White House” (tinyurl.com/5jg94j3). Not much has changed since.

The U.S. ruling-class media spelled out the plan for American and Russian forces to jointly target terrorist groups. Kerry and Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter had worked on the deal for months. President Barack Obama encouraged him.

On Sept. 13, the Times reported: “The U.S. and Russian militaries have agreed to coordinate efforts to avoid confrontations at the outskirts of the Islamic State group’s capital, Raqqa.” The Sept. 9 agreement meant that the U.S. for now, should ally with one “terrorist,” Russia, to defeat another, IS. Kerry had worked on the deal for months. President Barack Obama encouraged him.

On Sept. 9, the New York Times reported: “Secretary of State John Kerry had reached an agreement with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, “that, if successful, could lead for the first time to joint military targeting by the two powers against Islamic jihadists in Syria.”

A Pentagon 2015 Military Strategy paper claimed that “Punitive World War” came from Russia, Iran, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Islamic State group (IS). The Sept. 9 agreement meant that the U.S. for now, should ally with one “terrorist,” Russia, to defeat another, IS. The assault also allowed Islamic State forces to recapture important strategic positions that Syria government forces had been on the verge of seizing.

If the Obama administration continues to avoid confronting the generals, then it is conceding foreign policy to the Pentagon, as it did in Afghanistan in 2009. The Pentagon’s arrogance also sent a message to the people of the United States: “If you want to prevent new wars, you’d better get out in the streets, stop work and mobilize, not depend on government officials, elected or appointed, to stop the bombers.”

Anti-war forces have called demonstrations in different parts of the U.S. in the coming days to protest the new U.S. aggression in Syria. Help make these protests strong!

Workers all over the world are in the fight of our lives to keep predatory, profit-hungry capitalism from killing us, our loved ones, our jobs and workers, our communities, and the very earth and water.

The epic struggle at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) gathers together and upholds the struggles of poor and working people for survival while fighting to protect the water and defend Indigenous sovereignty. Led by people from the Oetzi Sakowin (Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation) and hundreds of other Indigenous Nations, the encampment has been joined by many non-Native people from many communities.

The #NoDAPL battle at Standing Rock embodies the old union slogans, “An injury to one is an injury to all” and “Solidarity forever.”

But at the height of this battle, Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO, has issued a statement attacking Standing Rock. He defends DAPL, he says, because it provides “family-supporting jobs” and “makes the U.S. more competitive.” He demonizes the Standing Rock Resisters, claiming, “They are ‘attackers’ who are holding workers’ jobs ‘hostage.’”

In those phrases, Trumka ignores centuries of European colonization and U.S. government genocide and exploitation of Indigenous Nations — the settler and military massacres, the seizure of resources and land, even the theft of Native children from their families and their cultural and physical torture at government schools.

These words are a betrayal of the working class. He is siding with big business as it fracks over workers and leaves behind devastation in communities. These words that Indigenous people and other people of oppressed communities are integral to the multinational working class that has built the infrastructure of the U.S., from colonization to capitalism — built the canals, the railroads, the interstate highways, the sky scrapers and put up the telephone lines, laid the digital cables and now answers the phone calls when we need help.

This is the same old business-unionism mistake — supporting corporate privatization in the hope of getting short-term jobs instead of fighting for the long-term progress that solidarity between the workers and oppressed communities can win for unions.

Many unions support Standing Rock. But Trumka isn’t speaking for all the unions in the federation. Others have come to the defense of Standing Rock with solidarity statements affirming the unity of demands of workers and oppressed people: the ATU transit workers, the California Faculty Association, the Communication Workers, the National Nurses United, the National Writers Union UAW Local 1811, the UE electrical workers, and locals from across the U.S., including the San Francisco region of the Inlandboatmen’s Union/LIU and the homecare and public-service workers of SEIU 501 in Portland, Ore.

This report lays out just one aspect of the current costs of the wars on Iraq, Afghanistan costing $5 trillion worldwide. As Winona LaDuke, an Anishinaabe author and activist from the White Earth Nation, has said: “Flint, Michigan, has a problem. ... What we need is those skilled laborers to be put to work in Flint.”

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Brown U. study shows Wars on Iraq, Afghanistan costing $5 trillion

By James Carey

Sept. 18 — Professor Neta Crawford of the Watson Institute at Brown University released a report detailing the costs, both currently and estimated for the future, of the United States’ wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, totaling $5 trillion (that’s $5,000,000,000,000!).

The wars are a topic rarely discussed by Western media and the cost has almost never been touched on. Indeed the findings of the report lay out a bleak picture of the truly astronomical costs of such a large imperialist military operation.

The costs factored into the study account for everything from initial Department of Defense and State Department appropriations, current and future veterans’ health care costs, Homeland Security costs for countering and preventing terrorism on U.S. soil and, of course, the interest itself on all the money borrowed to pay for everything up to this point.

The figure of $5 trillion is only an estimate of what has been spent or borrowed. The current bill already stands at around $3.7 trillion, or about the equivalent of what has been requested by the federal government for their regular budget for the 2016 fiscal year. One of the largest costs that is currently already owed is the interest, which has already reached a total of $453 billion (almost a half trillion). This sum is expected to keep climbing since the federal government makes moves to pay back any of the money borrowed from foreign lenders and selling U.S. Treasury bonds.

The interest payments are the most troubling. The report even warns that interest payments could “add over $7.9 trillion to the national debt.” This can only get worse since President Barack Obama has already requested approximately another $593 billion for fiscal year 2016 for the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as to bolster DOD programs.

This report lays out just one aspect of the current costs of the wars for allied countries and the countries that have been devastated by our wars. This report does not account for any corporate profits from the wars. It will be a long time before we know what the real costs of repairing the devastation in nations like Iraq and Syria will cost the world. How will those other countries actually pay that price.

The costs are going to continue to rise worldwide as the so-called war on terror goes from bad to worse. The Pentagon is guilty of causing material and financial devastation both domestically and worldwide.

This report lays out just one aspect of the damage done since September 2001, and the world will continue to see the loss of life and physical consequences as time goes on. Except for a handful of corporations and individuals that have grown rich from war spending, humanity as a whole has only profited from U.S. imperialism.

Wars on Iraq, Afghanistan costing $5 trillion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>$ billion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOD and State (Overseas Contingency Operations or OCO)</td>
<td>$1,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other War-Related: estimated additional DOD base budget ($373B) and Vietnam (1961-1968) spending</td>
<td>$965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland Security spending for prevention and response to terrorism</td>
<td>$418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total War Appropriations</td>
<td>$4,645</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total War Appropriations and War-Related Spending through 2016</td>
<td>$3,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Future Obligations for Veterans Medical and Disability 2017-2026</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Spending: 2001-2016</td>
<td>$4,792</td>
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</tbody>
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This report lays out just one aspect of the damage done since September 2001, and the world will continue to see the loss of life and physical consequences as time goes on. Except for a handful of corporations and individuals that have grown rich from war spending, humanity as a whole has only profited from U.S. imperialism.
‘White Helmets’ — pawns for U.S. militarism

By Sara Flounders

The dangerous U.S. military escalation of its 9-year war to overturn Syria’s government can be seen in the Sept. 17 bombing, which killed 62 Syrian Army soldiers and aided the position of the Islamic State group. The attack sabotaged a U.S.-Russian brokered ceasefire and led Russia to call for an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting.

At the same time, there has been a heavy barrage of U.S. war propaganda. “White Helmets,” a new film, is part of the sophisticated disinformation campaign.

War propaganda is always more insidious on the home front, but it is an essential ingredient of imperialist wars. Charging the enemy with genocide, baby killing, mass rapes, mass graves and weapons of mass destruction have all been debunked after a U.S. war. But they saturate the media before a war and seem indisputable.

Samantha Powers, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., has denounced both Russia and Syria. She labels U.S. wars “humanitarian interventions,” and has used un-substantiated war propaganda to justify wars in West Asia, North Africa and the Balkans that have decimated countries, killing tens of thousands of people and displaced millions.

Social media hype

The film praising White Helmets, a U.S.-British funded group embedded with U.S.-funded reactionary opposition forces, is trending on Netflix. The documentary’s well-publicized launch is calculated to help it win awards and convey the call for deeper U.S. military involvement in Syria. It premiered the Sept. 17-18 weekend at the Toronto International Film Festival.

NBC News praised the featured group as “one of the few voices of resistance in the United States.”

“They are the subject of their own reality show,” the Washington Post, New York Times and Wall Street Journal sang the movie’s praises to a captive audience.

Anti-war organizations have called for protests in September against U.S. aggression in Syria.

Additionally, the White Helmets receive millions of dollars from billionaire financier George Soros, the Netherlands and the British Foreign Office. Equipment and vehicles come through Turkey.

The White Helmets have never functioned as a neutral force. While attacking the Syrian government and calling for more U.S., British and NATO bombing, the group functions exclusively in Syria and is led by the Former American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, who is now permitted to keep U.S. imperialism’s crimes secret.

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EE.UU. acepta de Haiti Oct. 9 votación, pero retiene los fondos

Por G. Dunkel

El régimen de facto del presidente de Haití, Jocelerme Privert ha fijado la fecha del 9 de octubre para la primera vuelta de las elecciones presidenciales y legislativas del 2016. Sin embargo, el fraude en las elecciones del 2015 había sido tan evidente y la ilegalidad de las protestas fue tan grande que los funcionarios electorales no tuvieron más remedio que cancelar.

Washington reñió su financiación para el país haitiano, el de coordinador especial de Departamento de Estado para Haití, dijo: “Estoy seguro de que los haitianos pueden organizar nuevas elecciones. Si las elecciones son buenas, los EE.UU. no tiene ningún problema con el gobierno de Haití.”

(Welsh Financiarios de Ucrania, por el y ex director de la Comisión Estatal de Aportes de septiembre con Vasilij Volga, el ex presidente de la empresa de economía de la Unión de las Fuerzas de Izquierda, ex miembro del Parlamento)

La arrogancia y la hipocresía del papel de los EE.UU. en Haití también es clara en el comentario deldiario de Merten, Pensamos que sería la reacción de los medios cor- porativos en los EE.UU. si, por ejemplo, Haití declarara que aceptaría los resultados de una elección en EE.UU. sólo si se les permitía a millones de ciudadanos de una misión de observación internacional.

El levantamiento popular en el este se dirigió en contra de ellos. Mi esposa está siendo reprimida. Este es el sentido de la llamada ley de la descomunistización, la cual se prohibió también el parlamento de oposición.

El acuerdo de Minsk es sólo una posibilidad para lograr un acuerdo. ¿Qué piensa sobre el actual gobierno de la Unión de las Fuerzas de Izquierda? ¿Qué papel jugó la UE en este conflicto?

Vasilij Volga está programado para hablar en Chianciano Terme, Siena, Italia, a partir del 16 al 18 de septiembre.

‘Unión Europea tiene plena responsabilidad por guerra civil en Ucrania’

Por un autor invitado

Uniós de conciliación y la izquierda y a la izquierda por no la derecha. Mi esposa está en prisión. Me dirigí al ministerio del interior, la procura y los servicios secretos para iniciar el proceso de negro. El Tribunal Supremo de Ucrania, sin embargo, decidió abrir investigaciones, pero no Avakov sólo se rió de esa decisión. Nada ha ocurrido hasta ahora. Cualquier actividad pública por nuestro grupo es ata- cada por los paramilitares Azov y ninguna autoridad puede moverse en contra de ellos.

¿Qué pasa con la represión contra usted personalmente?

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¿Qué papel jugó el UE en este conflicto?

Fue la UE, la que trajo esta tra- godia en nuestro país. Ellos firmaron un plan de paz con el presidente Yanukovich que se comprometieron a garantizar. En un estudio de dicho acuerdo, Yanukovich estaba programado a retirarse después de medio año. Al día siguiente, Alemania y Francia apoyaron y reconocieron las fuerzas de derecha ultra radical. Si se trataba de un mal acuerdo, ¿qué lo firmaron? ¿Se trataba de un buen acuerdo, por qué no ponérselo en práctica?

¿Qué pasó con la represión contra usted personalmente?

Milenio Moíse de Martelly (PHTK); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progreso e Emancipación de Haití (LAPEH); y Jovenel Moïse del Parti de la Marcha por el Progres