Police terror ignites
CHARLOTTE UPRISING

By Cathey Stanley and Alissa Ellis
Charlotte, N.C.

“We are freedom fighters and we must be in the street with our people!” With this powerful statement, Lamont Lilly kicked off the People’s Caravan from Durham to Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 24. Lilly’s statement foretold of the powerful people’s presence in the national march unfolding that day as part of the Charlotte Uprising.

Lilly is the vice presidential candidate of Workers World Party in the 2016 elections. WWP had scheduled a southern regional conference on socialism, liberation and revolution titled “Hard Times Are Fighting Times” for Sept. 24. After the struggle erupted in Charlotte, organizers decided to cancel the conference and mobilize all participants to join the Charlotte march.

Charlotte Uprising is the movement led largely by The Tribe CLT and the Charlotte Trans and Queer People of Color Collective, which jointly responded to the Sept. 20 shooting of Keith Lamont Scott by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Scott was a Black man with disabilities killed while waiting for his son to be dropped off from school.

Many organizations pledged support to the Charlotte Uprising and mobilized, including Charlotte SURJ, Ignite NC, Black Youth Project-Durham Chapter, Beloved Community Center, Youth Organizing Institute, Southern Vision Alliance, Durham Solidarity Center, Workers World Party, Queer People of Color Collective GSQ, NC TROUBLMakers, Millon Hoodies and Black University.

Scott’s murder is not the sole police killing Charlotte is rising up to protest. The CMPD has a history of killing people of color and killed only Black people during 2015, according to Charlotte Uprising. During the first night of the uprising, the CMPD killed protester Justin Carr, shooting him at close range in the midst of a peaceful protest in plain view of the marchers.

Charlotte Uprising’s statement calls for the tangible eradication of all forms of oppression. Their list of ten demands focuses on the demilitarization and defunding of the police, as well as justice and reparations for the murder of Keith Scott and Justin Carr (see demands on page 6).

March takes to streets
Hundreds of people met Sept. 24 at Marshall Park to begin a march in the streets. Speakers at the rally before the march placed the murders of Scott and Carr in the historical context of the hundreds of years of oppression faced by people of color.

“We’ve been having sleepless nights for a while,” said march organizer Bree Newsome at the opening rally. “This isn’t just about what happened to Keith Scott. This is about what has been happening for 400 years.”

Energy was high and chants strong as over 2,000 people filled the streets of Charlotte with demands for justice and an end to racial oppression. The beats of the

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Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, WWP presidential & vice-presidential candidates, spoke at the UNC Charlotte campus Sept. 26.
West Virginia

Cop doesn’t shoot Black man, is fired

By Benji Pyles and Jeremy Bauman
Weirton, W.V.

“The [Society is split into antagonistic, and, moreover, irreconcilably antagonistic classes, whose ‘self-acting’ aiming would lead to an armed struggle between them. A state arises, a political power, a special bodies of armed men, and every revolution, by destroying the state apparatus, shows us the naked class struggle, clearly shows us how the ruling class strives to restore the special bodies of armed men which serve it, and how the oppressed class strives to create a new organization of this kind, capable of serving the exploiting instead of the exploiters.”

— V.I. Lenin, State and Revolution

Former West Virginia cop Stephen Mader has come forward, saying he was fired from the Weirton Police Department because he did not shoot an armed Black man, who, he says, was looking for “suicide by cop.” Two other officers arrived and killed the man, who was carrying an unloaded gun.

Weirton is a city of about 20,000 in the West Virginia panhandle, 36 miles west of Pittsburgh, Pa., and across them lies the Ohio River.

Mader answered a call May 6 from a woman who said her boyfriend was trying to commit suicide. The cop told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that he tried to defuse the situation.

“I saw he had a gun, but it was not pointed at me,” Mader said, describing a silver handgun that Ronald Williams of Pittsburgh allegedly held in his right hand, pointed at the ground. Williams, known as “RJ,” told the officer to “just shoot me,” according to Mader.

“And I told him, ‘I’m not going to shoot you, brother,’” Mader told the Post-Gazette. “I thought I was going to be able to talk to him and de-escalate it. I knew it was a suicide-by-cop.”

At that point, two other officers arrived. Williams allegedly walked toward them, waving the gun, and they shot him. Police later established that the gun had not been loaded. Mader and the two other officers are white; Williams was Black.

When Mader tried to return to work on May 17, he was told to report to Police Chief Rob Alexander.

‘Fail to eliminate a threat’

“We’re putting you on administrativa leave, and we’re going to do an investigation to see if you are going to be an officer here. You put other officers in danger,” Mader recalled the chief saying. On June 7, he was given a termination notice or “fail to eliminate a threat” by not shooting Williams.

The following day, Hancock County Prosecutor Jim Davis announced the shooting had been justified, and Chief Alexander told reporters that “all three officers” were back at work and doing well.

“It was like [Chief Alexander] was a good guy, and the next second he’s throwing me under the bus,” Mader said, speaking out for the first time since the incident.

Mader does not think the other two officers were wrong to shoot, however.

“They did not have the information I did,” he told the Post-Gazette. “It’s a shame it happened the way it did, but I don’t think they did anything wrong.”

“I think I’m right in what I did. I’ll take it to the grave.” Chanda Robinson, a Weirton resident, spoke with Workers World about the case. As a Black mother, it is sad I have to teach my own son how to act when around the police, because I fear for his safety. This incident is a frightening reminder of how the police are awarded for killing Black people and punished when they do not.

Robinson also spoke about the recent murder of 13-year-old Tyree King in Columbus, Ohio: “The police should be held accountable for their actions, and people should have a right to defend themselves.”

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

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

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

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Prisoners hold first nationally coordinated work stoppage

By Mattie Boyd

Prison inmates around the country launched the first nationally coordinated work stoppage on Sept. 9. In their own words, these heroic whistleblowers, or as she termed “the whistleblower, Spy”). The charge of “disciplinary segregation,” but could be “torture.” Manning was sentenced to 14 days in prison fora suicide at Harborside, located out of town in the city in the United States. It is now a bitter prison.” (iwoc.noblogs.org, April 1)

In an arbitrary and inhumane decision, a U.S. Army disciplinary board convicted and sentenced her for “conduct which threatens charge” (the suicide at Holmes) “exacerbate” problems of recently suicidal soldiers. Manning was sentenced to 14 days in prison for a suicide at Harborside, located out of town in East Chicago, Ind., due to the mainstream media white-silence, and forming prison solidarity networks among communities most affected by mass incarceration.

By Kathy Durkin

In 2015, military authorities charged Manning with possessing LGBTI materi- als and having an expired tube of toothpaste, among other infractions. They threatened her with solitary confinement, then, but a national petition campaign and protests helped to stop the military from imposing that punishment. Manning’s supporters organized a similar campaign to oppose the latest charges and threat of “indefinite solitary confinement.”

In September, Manning went on a five-day hunger strike objec- ting to guards’ mistreatment and ignoring her request to have gender reassignment surgery. When the military agreed to the surgery, she ended the protest. If it occurs, she would be the first transgender prisoner to re- ceive this treatment, setting a precedent for other incarcerated trans people.

This is the longest sentence ever meted out to a whistleblower. The anti-war hero and transgender activist’s real offense is exposing evidence of U.S. war crimes to the world. Because of Manning’s principled ac- tions, courage and integrity, the military has never let up on its campaign of ha- rassment and abuse. She has been held under conditions the United Nations deems “torture.” This cruel mistreatment—and denial of necessary medical care—further drove Manning to try to end her life. The army then piled on more abuse by charging and then sentencing her to “desperate act that their continual maltreatment provoked.

The U.S. Army — the country’s dominant armed force — has used solitary confinement as a tool to control and punish dissidents. Manning was sentenced to 14 days in prison after her suicide attempt. The charge of “disciplinary segregation,” but could be “torture.” Manning was sentenced to 14 days in prison after her suicide attempt. The charge of “disciplinary segregation,” but could be “torture.” Manning was sentenced to 14 days in prison after her suicide attempt.

By Lyn Neeley

Hundreds of children living in the West Calumet housing projects in East Chicago, Ind., have tested positive for excessive lev- els of lead in their blood. They have played in topsoil containing up to 30 times more lead than safety levels established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The complex contains 1,100 low-income, mostly African-American people. It lies atop the toxic remains left by companies like Anaconda Lead Products and is near the huge U.S.Smelter and Lead refinery. The complex was built in 1972 in what was once known as the most industrialized city in the United States. It is now a bitter example of decades of environmental injustice. The area’s soil was repeatedly tested for lead in 2008, 2011 and 2014, but results were not released until July. The soil also contains hazardous levels of ar- senic. The lead contamination is much worse and deeper in the soil. In July, residents were suddenly told that their homes will be demolished, their elementary school will be closed, and they will have to relocate. But many res- idents don’t have the money to pay mov- ing expenses or make down payments in a city with scarce housing. Some will be forced to move to an old vacant project called Harborside, located out of town in North Harbor. The EPA gave West Calumet “Super- fund” status in 2009 and started to re- move the soil in a few years. But The EPA Superfund is responsible for cleaning up major land contamination and respond- ing to environmental disasters. Since Jan. 1, the EPA has warned families to stop children from playing in the soil. It spread mulch on contaminated ground and of- fered “deep cleaning” to families. But Randolph asserted: “I’ve lived here all my life, but I never heard this was a Superfund site.”

Continued on page 4
By Martha Grevatt  Boston

On Sept. 22, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, Steelworkers Local 8751 held its first membership meeting since the start of the school. This writer had the rare opportunity to witness the union’s 40-plus-year tradition of solidarity in action. While in Boston, I was asked to give the membership an update on the case of Michigan political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney. Last November 12, 1977, the BPP, a dynamic leader in Chicago, was assassinated in Chicago in 1969. By Erich Struch

"Rainbow Coalition." This was only one of nine solidarity actions taken at just one meeting. The members and leadership gave recognition to the vanguard role being played by Black Panther Party youth of Charlotte, N.C., in resisting racism and capitalism. Motions to con- tribute funds to the Red Warrior Camp and the bail fund for youth arrested in Charlottesville, passed unanimously, with the latter drawing a friendly amendment to increase the amount originally proposed. The Standing Rock resolution read in part: “Whereas the Standing Rock Sioux are in a life-and-death struggle to block con- struction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, a struggle of the most vital import to environmental justice and the very survival of the planet.” “We want to build up the Black Panther Party in a capitalist country like the U.S. where social programs have been cut to the bone.”

"We're coming up on the 50th anniver- sary of Standing Rock. … It is a neurotoxin. It affects verbal rea- soning, visual skills and the ability to learn,” a certified occupational health researcher said. Lead poisoning fuels the school-to- prison pipeline for at-risk children who live in low-income communities. Some children have suffered coma, convulsions and even death. (CDC, Jan. 2014)

Lead affects brain function because it is a neurotoxin. It affects verbal reasoning and motor functional abilities and attention deficit disorder. A BLL of 10 micrograms can reduce IQ by nearly 4 points. A BLL of up to 50 shows an IQ drop of nearly 7 points. (Environmental Health Perspectives, July 2005)

By Erich Struch

Chicago

Fred Hampton Sr., a dynamic leader in the Black Panther Party, born August 29, 1948, was assassinated in Chicago in 1969 by the U.S. government in an infamous Cointelpro raid. He was 21 years old. Every year on Aug. 30, his son, Chair- man Fred Jr. shared his thoughts of Hampton and Clark’s martyrdom. Speaking after the salute were Comrade Mother Akua Njeri; (Chairman Fred Sr’s partner), and BPP veterans Stan McKin- ney and Harold Bell.

Black Panther Party legacy

Chairman Fred Jr. shared his thoughts on the legacy of the party: “We want to build up the Black Panther Party Cubs so there's not another generation that comes up deprived of such or- ganizations as that. An organization that spread the commun- ities into classrooms. One of the programs that we operated — Chicago Children, Communi- ties and Cubs.”

"I hear a lot of people talk about the Black Panther Party. They say it in an abstract type of way. I’m learning more about my life, more and more through the work, the struggle, the work, the fight, the work.”

"We must acknowledge we have con- tradictions, and acknowledge on our terms, so the state can’t exploit [that]. And I cannot stress this enough: The contributions that [the Black Panther Party] made for our people, it can’t be told in words.”

The celebration marched from Gramercy Park to The Wall, a Reb- el Dias Arts Col- lective mural of Chairman Fred Sr. at Madison and California streets. There the Street Party continued in the parking lot with DJs, a BBQ and free haircuts for youth. Later on the South Side, panel dis- cussions were held on “Community Power Now!” with Chicago State University Afri- can-American Studies professor Dr. Kel- ly Harris and Chairman Fred. Another panel, “Police Terrorism/People’s Pain,” featured Comrade Mother Akua Njeri; Dorothy Holmes, mother of Ronald Rice; and Panzy Rice, mother of Samo Rice; and Panzy Rice, mother of Dakota Bright. The final panel was “Forward to the 50th!” with BPP vets Comrade Moth- er Akua Njeri, Stan McKinney, Harold Bell and Henry Neshit.
By Detroit Workers World Bureau

A public meeting in Detroit Sept. 22 demanded that federal helping Hardest Hit Funds be used to stop tax foreclosures related how water shut-offs.

The meeting was organized by City Councilwoman Mary Sheffield and co-hosted by the Moratorium Now! Coalition to stop gentrification, Evictions along with Utility Shut-offs; the United Community Housing Coalition; and Michigan Legal Services.

One of every three homes in Detroit has had water shut off since 2014. At that time the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department began shutting off water where owners are behind at least $150 on their bills. In October, thousands more families will face eviction when their homes are auctioned off to complete foreclosures for failure to pay property taxes. Some 14,000 families have had their water shut off since April of this year, with 11,000 more on the list scheduled for termination.

This total omits the tens of thousands of families who have been placed in property tax or water payment plans. If these families miss just one payment, they will face the loss of their homes. And, truth be told, they cannot afford these payments.

The funds are there

As organizers pointed out, funds are available to stop these evictions and water shutoffs. That would at least halt the devastation.

Since January of this year, the federal government has given the state of Michigan an additional $260 million in Hardest Hit funding. These funds — the people’s tiny share of money allocated in the Trade Recovery Adjustment Act, which bailed out the banks and auto companies to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars — were earmarked to aid families and communities especially affected by the housing crisis.

In an anti-people decision, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which administers Michigan’s Hardest Hit program, has allocated 80 percent of the funds to tear down homes, rather than keep families in them with running water.

In Detroit, the funds are being turned over to the Detroit Land Bank and Blight Task Force headed by subprime lender Gilbert Gillett. While they give these entities the funds, the feds are investigating the Land Bank for criminal fraud andcronyism in its administration of the “blight removal” program.

At the meeting on Sept. 22, organizers demanded that the Hardest Hit Funds be used to pay overdue property tax and water bills. That would keep families in their homes. They also want the county treasurer and DWD/Great Lakes Authority to place an immediate moratorium on foreclosures-related evictions and water shutoffs while the funds are reallocated.

After the rally, protesters marched downtown to picket Housing Court where people face evictions. There they chanted, “Come out and face us, don’t displace us!” Chanting “No housing, no peace!” they marched to Wyckoff Gardens, a public housing neighborhood where ten percent working-class fighters sang the famous civil rights song, with some slight word changes, but with the same strength and militant determination: “We shall not be moved!”

Capitalism at a Dead End

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Charlotte Uprising fights for change

Charlotte Uprising issued the following demands in response to the police killings of Keith L. Scott and others in Charlotte, N.C., and throughout the U.S.

1. The immediate end to the state of emergency, curfew and the removal of the National Guard.

2. The immediate demilitarization of the police department and the immediate return of all military equipment.

3. The defunding of the police department (2017 budget: $246,644,617) and the redirection of those resources to the needs of our communities (including resources for jobs programs, affordable quality housing, transportation, holistic health and quality schools).

4. An independent investigation in the killing of Keith L. Scott and an investigation into the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department by the Department of Justice and a freeze on the nearly $1.5 million awarded in federal grants annually to the department.

5. A release of the police report and body camera footage connected with the killing of Keith L. Scott and all other killings to the public and immediate repeal of HB 972, which restricts the ability of the public to access police body camera footage.

6. The immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested in connection with the uprising resulting from the killing of Keith L. Scott and the dropping of all charges.

7. The release of all the names of the officers involved in the killing of Keith L. Scott to the public, followed by their firing, arrest and prosecution.

8. Reparations for the family of Keith L. Scott and all victims of police violence, as well as the families of those who have been killed.

9. Community control of the police, starting with the creation of a civilian oversight board that has the power to hire and fire officers, determine disciplinary actions as well as dictate police policies, priorities, and budgets. The board shall not include police representation, and will be controlled by the communities most impacted by policing and incarceration in Charlotte.

10. An end to the repression and targeting of protesters and all those engaged in the Charlotte Uprising.

Police terror ignites

CHARLOTTE UPRISING

Continued from page 1

percussionists of Cackalack Thunder energized the protesters, while banners and signs spread statements of anti-oppression throughout the city.

Folks marched past the capitalist corporations of uptown Charlotte. Protesters shared water, resources and checked in with one another throughout the march. Many on the march were white allies demonstrating their support for dismantling the racist police system.

In contrast to the love, solidarity and militancy of justice shared among the marchers was the threat from police and National Guard soldiers, large weapons gripped in their hands. They lined menacingly along the sides of the streets and particularly focused on protecting the Bank of America headquarters and the posh Omni Hotel.

Cops serve capitalist class

The police and military presence, designed to intimidate and deter fighters for social justice, once again demonstrated clearly that the cops’ role is only to serve the capitalist class — to protect the property of the capitalists over and at the expense of the masses of people.

The root of the problem of racist police brutality lies not within individuals, but within the structure of the capitalist system. To survive as an economic system, capitalism needs police to maintain the wealth of the few while maintaining racism and all forms of oppression.

The march wound its way past the major institutions of violence in Charlotte: the courthouse, the jail and police department headquarters. Marchers reconvened at the end of the route in Marshall Park, which has continued to remain a space held for convergence and pre-action unity.

At the post-rally at Marshall Park food was provided for the people. Speakers and musicians were invited to the mic, uplifting the voices of the people. The release of the tapes of Scott’s murder were once again demanded and the crowd echoed the call. Before the event closed, marchers were invited to celebrate and relax after the march and called to reconvene at Marshall Park at 8:30 p.m.

Shortly after the march, the CMPD conceded to the people’s demands and released a clip of the brutal murder of Scott. The clip was missing audio, but it clearly showed the murder of Scott in cold blood.

In response to the incendiary video recording of Scott’s death and the lack of responsibility for Carr’s murder in the streets, marchers again took to the streets that night. The Charlotte Uprising has sustained continued support from the people, and actions are planned through the week to demand justice for Keith Scott and Justin Carr.

For more information on Charlotte Uprising and to sign a petition to police and government officials pledging support for the ongoing struggle against killer cops, go to charlotteuprising.com.

The writers are members of the Durham, N.C., WWP branch.

Cleveland

In solidarity with Charlotte

Continued at workers.org Oct. 6, 2016


Donnie Pastard, spokeswoman for this ad hoc group of community activists, said at the picket line: “Cleveland stands with all the cities in the USA who have experienced the trauma of recent police violence against Black people in Charlotte, Columbus, Tulsa and Milwaukee. There must be justice reform now! We also salute all the athletes and students around the country who are ‘taking a knee’ against the systemic racism which infects not only policing but the entire criminal justice system.”
Sept. 22 — The revolutionary socialist Workers World Party presidential campaign of Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly expresses our full and complete solidarity with the uprising that broke out Sept. 20 in Charlotte, N.C. — the Wall Street of the South.

The heroic Black and Brown youth on the front lines of this tremendous and growing rebellion are inaugurating a new period of heightened struggle against the police war on Black and Brown people and the intolerable conditions imposed on oppressed communities in the belly of the beast. It is right to rebel!

At the time of this writing the rebellion is entering its third day after the city has been rocked by thousands taking to the streets, shutting down highways and expressing the righteous anger in response to the police murder of Keith Lamont Scott.

The uprising in Charlotte comes days after the police execution of Terrence Crutcher in Tulsa, Okla., the tremendous strike against slave labor by prisoners on the 45th anniversary of the Attica rebellion on Sept. 9, three years after the police murder of Jonathan Ferrell by Charlotte cops, and on the heels of rebellions in Milwaukee, Baltimore, Ferguson, and elsewhere.

We urge the rest of the movement to do whatever possible to come to the defense of the uprising in Charlotte in this critical hour as the state is carrying out a full-scale mobilization of all its repressive forces against the rebellion by Charlotte cops, and on the heels of rebellions in Milwaukee, Baltimore, Ferguson, and elsewhere.

We urge the rest of the movement to do whatever possible to come to the defense of the uprising in Charlotte in this critical hour as the state is carrying out a full-scale mobilization of all its repressive forces against the rebellion.

During both nights of protest, the state has violently repressed the demonstrators by using chemical weapons, flash bang grenades, rubber bullets and mass arrests in an attempt to shut down the Black community that is in open revolt. The governor of North Carolina has declared a state of emergency in the city and has called in the National Guard and State Highway Patrol.

But the people have so far prevailed

During protests on the night of Sept. 21, police shot a Black man in the head with a rubber bullet — he is in critical condition in the hospital. The police — in collusion with politicians and the corporate media — have put forward an outrageous lie that this man was shot by another demonstrator.

We must be clear that this lie is an effort by the state to divide and distract from the central issue at hand — the ever-growing police war on Black and Brown communities that has created the conditions the masses of people are rising up against.

The police are an occupying army in the Black and Brown communities. They are the most parasitic social grouping in society. They play the role of hired mercenaries of the ruling class to keep workers and the oppressed in complete subjugation.

The cops’ job is to protect the class rule of the 1%, the banks and the corporations against the interests of the multinationals working class and oppressed people. The police are one of the tools of repression and violence utilized by the 1% against the masses of people, along with the prisons, the courts, the military and the corporate media. We say: ABOLISH THE POLICE!

The irreversible crisis of the capitalist system at a dead end is to blame for racist state repression whose objective is to divide the working class and imprison Black and Brown and other oppressed people with impunity.

Charlotte is itself caught in a deep contradiction. The city is the second largest financial center in the U.S., home to huge multinational banks and corporations like Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Duke Energy. The tremendous wealth of these institutions — the product of wages stolen from the workers — stands in stark contrast to the intolerable conditions imposed on the working class and particularly on Black and Brown communities.

We fight for a revolutionary socialist future that can abolish once and for all the rule of the capitalist class and their many agents of repression and finally rid society of all forms of oppression.

We stand unequivocally on the side of the Black community that is rebelling in Charlotte against police terror! It is right to rebel!

Black Lives Matter!

National Guard Out of Charlotte!

Full Amnesty for All Those Arrested!

Abolish the Police & ICE!

Abolish Capitalism! Fight for Socialism!

Sept. 22 — A multi-hour demonstration titled “Midnight in America” gathered on the grounds of the National Civil and Human Rights Museum, then filed the streets of downtown Atlanta on its way to the famed Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue. Located across the street from the tomb of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, the church where Dr. King pastored is part of the Historic King District.

Protest organizers aimed to show solidarity with the victims of police violence in Tulsa, Okla., and Charlotte, N.C., as well as Atlanta. The marchers continued to take their demands for accountability and justice to the Atlanta police headquarters and then on to the city jail.

They marched with drums and chants of “Black Lives Matter” and “Indict, convict, send those killer cops to jail.” The corporate media covered the largely youthful protest in Atlanta in tandem with the ongoing struggle in Charlotte.

A large coalition of organizations, including the state NAACP, Black Lives Matter Atlanta, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, #ATLisReady, AUC Shut It Down and others all heavily engaged in the movement against racist and police terror, had quickly mobilized for the action.

— Dianne Mathiowetz
Justice for Terence Crutcher
Tulsa killer cop’s indictment not enough
By Deirdre Griswold

The fatal shooting of Terence Crutcher by a cop in the city of Tulsa, Okla., on Sept. 16 is a case in point. Crutcher, 40, was a student at Tulsa Community College and had enrolled to begin a music appreciation course on the day he was shot by officer Betty Jo Shelby.

At first, the police story was that Crutcher had a gun and the officer felt her life was threatened. But immediately people took to the streets demanding that police release their videotapes of the shooting. The videos were peaceful and clergy-led, but the authorities knew it might not stay that way if nothing was done.

Within two days the video of his death was released to Crutcher’s family, who viewed it together with Black pastors and elected officials. It was excruciatingly unambiguous. Crutcher had been shot down in cold blood.

Cop walks free after being charged
On Sept. 22, two prosecutors indicted officer Shelby — on a charge of first-degree felony manslaughter. The cop was released immediately on a $50,000 bond after being in custody for only 20 minutes, according to court records. The prosecutors’ documents confirm that Crutcher was unarmed, had his hands in the air and was walking away from Shelby when she shot and killed him.

(NY Times, Sept. 24)

Federations cheered at the indictment. The attorney for Crutcher’s family, Damario Solomon-Simmons, said, “We are happy that charges were brought, but let me be clear — the family wants and deserves full justice.”

For the grieving Crutcher family, not only for Terence, but to be a deterrent for law enforcement officers all around this nation to know that you cannot kill unarmed citizens.

More rallies are planned in Tulsa — both by the Black community, who want justice, and by the police, who are treating the indictment as though the killer cop were the victim in this case. Shelby’s spouse, also a cop, was present in a helicopter above the scene when she gunned down Crutcher.

Oil-rich Tulsa was the scene in 1921 of a racist assault on what was then a well-to-do Black community that left 300 residents dead and the whites in control of all the wealth. The job of the police is not to protect the people — if so, why shoot them? — but to perpetuate the status quo that works for the super-rich. — Report and photo by Berta Joubert-Ceci

Still no justice for Kayla Moore
By Terri Kay
San Francisco

Kayla Moore was a Black transgender woman who was diagnosed as schizophrenic and weighed 350 pounds. She was killed by the Berkeley police on Feb. 13, 2013. There was a hearing in San Francisco federal court on Sept. 23 where the judge was expected to rule on the city of Berkeley’s motion to dismiss a civil suit for wrongful death brought by Moore’s family. The suit had been scheduled to begin on Oct. 17.

In anticipation of the court hearing, there was a demonstration in front of Berkeley City Hall on Sept. 20, while the Berkeley City Council was meeting inside. After rallying at the City Hall, the group of over 100 people marched through downtown Berkeley. Stopping in front of the building where Moore had lived and been killed, the marchers held a short rally, eventually heading back to City Hall.

There was another rally Sept. 23 in front of the San Francisco federal court building. A couple of people were present inside the hearing to show support for Moore’s family.

The police are not a legal analyst, but from a layperson’s perspective, the judge made the following points: He didn’t accept the legal basis for the plaintiffs’ (Moore’s family) wrongful arrest claim. However, he was willing to consider a ruling on excessive force.

The question of whether or not the police who killed Moore did so under “protected” status as police officers was the subject of much debate. The judge seemed to conclude that the city’s position that the officers could not have known that Moore was unable to breathe and was suffering from asphyxiation.

The city challenged the capability of the family’s expert witness, who did an independent autopsy and found that Moore died of asphyxiation resulting from undue pressure on her chest. The judge didn’t respond to the city’s challenge of the witness.

The police were at Kayla Moore’s apartment on the night she was killed because a friend was concerned that she was suffering from a psychotic episode and needed help. Instead of sending mental health workers, police answered the call. They decided to arrest her, supposedly based on a warrant that was actually issued for an elderly person in San Francisco with the same name.

At the end of the hearing, the judge said he would consider the arguments presented and make a ruling at the Oct. 17 court date. — By Sue Davis

Overturn the Hyde Amendment!
By Sue Davis

The Hyde Amendment turns 40 on Sept. 30. This reactionary legislation mandates that if you are poor and receive your health care via Medicaid, you can not get coverage for an abortion unless your health is endangered by the pregnancy or you were impregnated through incest or rape.

The amendment has not been a permanent law but a “rider” that has been included in all federal appropriations bills since 1976. It disproportionately affects young women of color, who are more likely to be poor and depend on Medicaid in this racist society.

A poll released Sept. 13 by Hart Research Associates shows that 76 percent of voters agree that “However we feel about abortion, politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman’s health coverage for it just because she’s poor.” The poll also found that a majority support a bill requiring Medicaid to cover abortion.

Studies by the Guttmacher Institute show that Hyde has imposed an “undue burden” — the measure the Supreme Court used last June to overturn a restrictive Texas law — on the lives of nearly 29 million women of reproductive age (15 to 44) who get health insurance under the federal Medicaid program.

Guttmacher estimates that between 18 percent and 35 percent of Medicaid recipients — about 1 in 4 — who have had an unwanted pregnancy have been forced against their will to carry it to term under Hyde.

Pols show that opposition to Hyde is especially strong among African Americans, Latinos and youth from 16 to 36 (millenials).

The reproductive justice organization All* Above All, led nationally by young (millenials), especially strong among African Americans, Latinxs and youth from 16 to 36 (millenials).

The reproductive justice organization All* Above All, led nationally by young women from 85 organizations in 44 countries who attended the Sept. 15-18 gathering also stood in solidarity with the Colombians of women in Bogota, for the XVI Congress of the Women’s International Democratic Federation (FDDM). Close to 900 women from 85 organizations in 44 countries who attended the Sept. 15-18 gathering also stood in solidarity with the Colombians.

Yamani Hernandez of the National Federation (FDIM). Close to 300 women from all over the world met in Bogotá, Colombia, for the XVI Congress of the Women’s International Democratic Federation (FDDM). Close to 900 women from 85 organizations in 44 countries who attended the Sept. 15-18 gathering also stood in solidarity with the Colombians.

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Leonard Peltier writes from prison

Following are excerpts in a statement from U.S. political prisoner Leonard Peltier. It can be read in full at allworkers.org.

I have been asked to write a solidarity statement to everyone about the Camp of the Sacred Stones on Standing Rock. Thank you for this great honor. I must admit I have been very difficult for me to even begin this statement as my eyes get so blurred from tears and my heart swells with pride, as chills run up and down my neck and back. I’m so proud of all of you young people and others there.

I am grateful to have survived to see the rebirth of the united and undefeated Sioux Nation at Standing Rock in the resistance to the poisonous pipeline that threatens the life source of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. It has been a long, hard road these 40 years of being caged by an inhuman system for a crime I did not commit. I could not have survived physically or mentally without your support.

Along the lines of what Martin Luther King said shortly before his death, I may not get there with you, but I only hope and pray that my life, and if necessary, my death, will lead my Native peoples to freedom.

I refer here not to the Promise Land of the Christian bible, but to the modest job of saving our sacred burial grounds from destruction in order to enable us to survive as distinct peoples and live in a dignified manner in our own lands.

It should be remembered that Standing Rock was the site of the 1974 conference of the international Indigenous movement and the birthplace of the American Indian Movement. It is to Standing Rock that the Standing Rock Sioux, and the Black Mesa people of the Navajo Nation at Standing Rock in the center of our policymaking. Women are leading the movement to end war and get there with you, but I only hope and pray that my life, and if necessary, my death, will lead my Native peoples to freedom.

I am outraged that the Hyde Amendment... .”

“All* Above All press release.

Despite this statement, AFL-CIO affiliates have continued coming out for Standing Rock. Significantly, on Sept. 19 those who support it. Each of us, not just women of color are leading the movement to end war and pray that my life, and if necessary, my death, will lead my Native peoples to freedom.

As we approach November — a time that marks not only a significant change in our country’s leadership but also the moral and political symbolism of peaceful protest today is as necessary for us as [it] was necessary for the people of Pine Ridge in the 1970s. The 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee was ended with an agreement to investigate human rights and treaty abuses; that inquiry and promulgation of a new Constitution by the United States. The Wounded Knee Agreement should be honored with a Truth and Reconciliation Commission established to thoroughly examine the U.S. government’s role in the “Reign of Terror” on Pine Ridge in the 1970s.

I have to caution you young people to be careful, for you are up against a very evil group of people who has only concern is to fill their pockets with even more gold and wealth. They could not care less how many of them you have to kill or bury in a prison cell.

I call on all my supporters and allies to join the struggle at Standing Rock in the spirit of peaceful spiritual resistance and to work together to protect Unci Maka, Grandmother Earth. I also call upon my supporters and all people who share this Earth to join together to insist that the U.S. complies with and honors the provisions of the United Nations Declaration in the UNDRIP, International Human Rights Treaties and the long-neglected Treaties and trust agreements with the Six Nations.

Finally, I also urge my supporters to immediately and urgently call upon President Obama to grant my petition for clemency, to permit me to live my final years on the Turtle Mountain Reservation.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, Doksha Leonard Peltier

#NoDAPL battleground: Iowaans resist pipeline

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Boone, Iowa

Standing Rock Solidarity demonstrators gathered here on Sept. 22 to protest Dakota Access Pipeline construction and “to put people and planet first.” The Iowa Utilities Board, appointed by Gov. Terry Branstad, in March voted to approve the use of eminent domain, or seizure of personal property by the state, for the pipeline.

The pipeline, which is slated to run through both North and South Dakota, Illinois and Iowa, is owned by Energy Transfer Partners L.P., a Houston company.

The Midwest Mobilization was formed in response to the pipeline, comprised of such organizations as Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Hold Iowa, 100 Granries, the Bakken Pipeline Resistance and others to show solidarity with the resistance of Indigenous Nations against DAPL, with allies from Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota.

Iowa CCI organizer Adam Mason said in an Sept. 23 press release, “I would say the goal would be to continue to fight for lead-free water in Flint to uncontaminated water in North Dakota.”

“Since the start of construction, peace and nonviolent demonstrations have been harassed and arrested by local police and state troopers. Some 28 Iowaans were arrested on Aug. 31 for “blocking the roads into Dakota Access’s worker staging area outside of Boone,” according to Mason.

Bakken Pipeline Resistance activist Mark Edwards said on Sept. 5, “One spill, for 1 hour, has the potential to leave 1 million gallons of toxic crude in the Des Moines River and contaminate other water supplies.”

Christine Nobiss, founder of Iowa to the Camp of Sacred Stones and a descendent of the Plains Cree and Saulteaux nations, said the endgame of the anti-DAPL movement is to confront climate change.

“We want to continue putting pressure on the Obama administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others complicit in the pipeline’s construction. We want to continue putting pressure on the Obama administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others complicit in the pipeline’s construction. We want to continue putting pressure on the Obama administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others complicit in the pipeline’s construction.”

“People are here to support you.”

By Martha Grevatt

The Communication Workers issued a statement on their involvement in the solidarity with the Dakota Access Pipeline construction at Standing Rock in North Dakota. Other unions followed, including National Nurses United, United Electrical workers, Amalgamated Transit Union, National Writers Union and many others.

Then, most unfortunately, the AFL-CIO national leadership issued a narrow, backward statement calling for the Dakota Access Pipeline construction to go forward because jobs were being affected by the resistance and others to show solidarity with the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and defending Native lands from exploitation by corporations and the U.S. government.

“We advocate for a progressive labor movement rooted in dignity and respect for all people, including Native Americans and their families. Though cited as a failure, the American Indian Movement, Pride at Work, the AFL-CIO, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and Pride at Work rise in solidarity with Native Americans and our allies in protesting against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and defending Native lands from exploitation by corporations and the U.S. government.

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It’s called cross-selling. Wells Fargo cultivated this strategy, pressuring its customers to enroll in several of the bank’s various types of accounts. These include checking, savings, mortgages, credit cards and more. With multiple accounts, it becomes a hassle for the customer to leave the bank.

In 2012, Wells Fargo averaged 9.9 products per customer, more than any other bank in the nation. Cross-selling had grown Wells Fargo into the largest bank in the country, with $1.67 trillion in assets, until September, when it slipped to second place behind JPMorgan Chase. Wells Fargo went far beyond simply coaxing its customers to open up different types of accounts. Starting at least as far back as 2011, the bank:

- Opened deposit accounts and transferred funds without customer authorization, sometimes resulting in inevitable fees for the customers;
- Applied for credit card accounts without customers’ knowledge, hitting them with annual fees, interest charges and late fees;
- Created phony email addresses and PINs to enroll customers in online banking services.

Wells Fargo created 2 million fake accounts. Not only did this cost its customers millions in fees, they also ruined the credit rating for thousands, which, in turn, ruled out new loans or mortgages. After the city of 8.5 million and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fined Wells Fargo $185 million for five years of “misbehavior,” the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing on Sept. 20 that summoned Wells Fargo CEO John G. Stumpf.

Stumpf testified that the bank’s method of dealing with this robbery of its own customers was to blame and fire 5,300 mostly low-paid workers. Of course, Stumpf pleaded ignorance of any criminal behavior by Wells Fargo executives. But investigations revealed that management had squeezed workers to open new accounts. Workers who failed to meet Wells Fargo’s “sales goals” were often fired. Other workers who bravely reported the malpractice to Wells Fargo’s “ethics hotline” found themselves out the door in short order.

Meanwhile, Carrie Tolstedt, head of the Retail Line of Business, an autonomous banking department, at the heart of this scandal, is retiring with a cool $124 million bonus. CEO Stumpf himself had his stock holding increase by $200 million during the bank’s cross-selling campaign.

The senators at the hearing excoriated Stumpf and Wells Fargo management for this fraud. But the U.S. government actually helped Wells Fargo fleece its account holders.

This is not the bank’s first crime. Beth Jacobson, a Wells Fargo loan officer and whistleblower, reported in 2008, when current CEO John Stumpf was a top bank executive, that former management was failing customers with fraudulent applications that I learned of involving cutting and pasting credit reports from one applicant to another. … IDs deception by the subprime loan officer would artificially increase the creditworthiness of the applicant so that Wells Fargo’s underwriters would approve the loan. … I reported this conduct to management and was not aware of any action that was taken to correct the problem.” (Thehoo-ing.net, Sept. 21)

This deception by Wells Fargo and other giant banks sparked the 2007 Great Recession, which cost 8 million workers their jobs and 6 million families their homes.

Were Wells Fargo executives punished? Did any of them go to jail? Of course not. Instead, Wells Fargo received a $36 billion taxpayer-paid bailout from the federal government.

So now Wells Fargo got caught. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The entire capitalist system depends and thrives on the oppression and exploitation around the globe of the real producers of wealth, the vast working class. Its extinction is long past due.

The late U.S. military strategist Kahn, a Nobel laureate and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, was the recipient of the 2014 Manoel de Oliveira Award on Netanyahu — who directed the military assault that killed thousands of civilians and was survivable. He was a model for the widespread popular and working-class protests that swept the world.

There are two sides to the story. Generally, members of the Labour Party in Parliament have been to the right of the party’s members or constituents. But Corbyn, a long time member of Parliament, has always been at the far left of the Labour Party. Not only did he oppose all austerity and denationalization programs, he supported rights for LGBT, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities; he opposed the war on Iraq and NATO’s 2011 attacks on Libya; spoke out against Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Gaza and in solidarity with refugees and immigrants.

His surprise victory in the inner Labour Party struggle in September 2015 sent a shock through British politics. It was similar to what might have happened if grass-roots support had won Bernie Sanders the Democratic Party nomination in the United States.

The British corporate media, all the Conservative (Tory) Party politicians, some generals and 250 of the 230 Labour members of Parliament (MPs) immediately ganged up on Corbyn. Those who didn’t call him a traitor said he was too far left to ever win a general election and predicted his defeat.

But workers, youth, people from the Muslim and Caribbean communities and hundreds of thousands of other Labour Party members joined the struggle to support Corbyn because he represents what they want.

The elections to the Labour Party’s national conference is not just another election. The Labour MPs maneuvered to stop several hundred thousand new members from voting — people who had joined in order to support Corbyn — that a task means there is no room for compromise with the right wing. …

“We have secured a convincing victory because the vast majority of the Labour Party — and millions of working-class supporters — want to see a committed and credible alternative to austerity, in Parliament and on the streets.”

Marxists know that even a principled Labour Party leader cannot simply use an elected post to overcome the power of those who control the enormous banking, media, police and army power of British imperialism, including the monarchy. They must also organize outside the electoral arena.

Demonstrators at the front door of New York City’s luxurious Plaza Hotel on Sept. 22 boldly protested against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The ultra-right Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank, has published its list of hundreds of groups — “for signal contributions to global security and diplomacy.”

The late U.S. military strategist Kahn, who founded the Hudson Institute, argued during his lifetime that nuclear war was survivable. He was a model for the title character in Stanley Kubrick’s 1964 movie Dr. Strangelove.

— Steve Millies
Protests condemn U.S. for war on Syria

By Frank Neisser and Howard Rotman

Anti-war activists and the public gathered and rallied at Boston’s Park Street Subway Station against U.S. escalation of the war in Syria. Speakers protested the Sept. 17 U.S. bombing of the Syrian government’s army positions in the country’s northeast. Their aim was to ensure that the imperialists keep their military polarizations and blocs is another form of imperialism. The U.S.-led NATO bombs and military interventions in target countries have been a constant threat to the lives of millions of innocent civilians and to the global peace and security of the world. The United States is the leading imperialist power in the world today. The U.S. government and its allies have been the driving force behind the U.S. military adventures in Syria and around the globe. The U.S. military intervention in Syria is part of the imperialist strategy of regime change and regime destruction of many countries. The U.S. military intervention in Syria is an attempt to control the country’s natural resources and influence the political and economic affairs of the country.

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Protest supports Zimbabwe

Protesters chanted “Mugabe is right, stop sanctions!” outside the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on Sept. 21. They chanted “hands off Syria!” and held a moment of silence for Syrian Armenians massacred by Pentagon aircraft on Sept. 17. They also demanded an end to U.S.-NATO support for contra rebels in Nicaragua and the Islamic State group.

There was loud support from the crowd when International Action Center Co-Director Sara Flounders declared, “We need money for jobs, education and hospi
tals right here, not for war against Syria.” The action was organized by the Syrian American Will Association, the Syrian American Forum, Arab Americans for Syria and the IAC. It was endorsed by the Peace Council of New York and New Jerse
y, the Global Organization for Progress, the United National Antwarr Coalition and Veterans for Peace Chapter 21-N.J.

Greg Butlerfield contributed to this article.
Lucha contra el racismo de Trump y el militarismo de Clinton

Por Deirdre Griswold

La gente de otros países está probablemente rascándose la cabeza preguntándose qué está pasando con la clase trabajadora de los Estados Unidos.

Ahora bien, hay serias advertencias de que un fanfarrón, racista, misógino, multimillonario, anti-inmigrantes, rígido, arroso republicano como Donald Trump podría ser elegido presidente y arrastrar todo hacia adentro de la raza imperialista para los Negros en 1876 y 1877, poniendo fin a la época de la Reconstrucción de corta duración. Pero después de haber resuelto el problema entre el Norte y el Sur, la lucha por $15 y una unión ahora!!

Por Deirdre Griswold

La gente dinámica de color ha estado marchando, llegando a través de las redes sociales, que se retienen multitudes instantáneas y otras formas inventivas de protesta. Es su mayoría son jóvenes y muy franceses, rompiendo todo tipo de barreras represivas. Se han enfrentado a policías y guardias de seguridad. Y la gran mayoría de ellos son de la clase trabajadora.

1. Queremos poner fin a la guerra contra gente de raza Negra y todas las personas de ascendencia africana en todo el mundo. Reparaciones. ¡YA!
2. Queremos poner fin al sistema capitalista y su robo y la explotación de los pobres y la clase trabajadora en todo el mundo. El socialismo revolucionario que pone a la gente antes que los beneficios financieros y suprime todas las formas de explotación y opresión. ¡AHORA!
3. Queremos poner fin a TODAS las formas de racionamiento y la opresión nacional. ¡Apoyo incondicional a la autodeterminación de todas las nacionalidades oprimidas, incluyendo Latino, Indianas, asiáticas y las islas caribeñas! ¡NO A LA RACIONAMIENTO!
4. Queremos derechos plenos para todos los inmigrantes. ¡Altos a las redadas y deportaciones! Poner fin a la islamofobia ahora!
5. Queremos derechos humanos: calidad de los alimentos, de la vivienda, vestido, atención médica, educación de calidad y cuidado de los/ñas/as adecuados, libre e asequible: como derechos humanos básicos. ¡Poner fin a todas las formas de austeridad en todo el mundo! ¡Cancela la deuda!
6. Queremos libertación PLENA y la igualdad para las mujeres, incluida la justicia reproductiva, y la liberación TOTAL de lesiones, homosexuales, biysexuales, transexuales y personas queer. ¡Dejar de matar a las mujeres transgenero de color!
7. Queremos poner fin a la destrucción capitalista y corporativa de la Tierra y sus recursos naturales. ¡Librar a la tierra!
8. Queremos poner fin a la conquista injusta y violenta del imperialismo de EE.UU., incluida la ocupación de todo el mundo. ¡Fuerza el Pentágono desde Palestina a Haití a América Latina y todo el mundo! ¡Fomentar la solidaridad internacional de la clase obrera!
9. ¡Queremos pleno empleo y trabajo decente y / o ingresos para todos, independientemente de su raza, religión, edad, sexo, antecedentes del mal comportamiento; sin racismo, sexismo, homofobia, clasismo, patriarca, discriminación por edad y sin preferencia a personas sin discapacidades.
10. Queremos poner fin al complicado industrial carcelario y al encarcelamiento en masa, Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!

Correspondencia sobre artículos en Workers World Mundo Obrero pueden ser enviadas a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

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