



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

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 GSO, NC TROUBLEMakers, Million 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

Continued on page 6



PHOTO: WISCONSIN BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT
Charlotte march, Sept. 24.

Activists say: ‘Black Lives Matter’ at Panthers game



The Tribe, a majority people of color queer and transgender group, organized an occupation at the main entrance in front of the Bank of America stadium, home to the National Football League’s Carolina Panthers on Sept. 25. The occupation was part of on-going protests to put pressure on the mayor and police chief to release the entire footage showing the police murder of Keith Lamont Scott. The protest took place in 90-degree heat before the Panthers played the Minnesota Vikings in front of 70,000 fans.

Hundreds of chanting protesters, Black, Latinx and white, locked arms as a security measure in front of riot cops armed with guns, tear gas and plastic handcuffs. Right before the game, the protesters kneeled during the playing of the national anthem with fists held high in the air. The protest was covered by national and international media including ESPN and the NFL.com. The protest lasted at least three hours until the end of the game.

–Dante Strobino and
Monica Moorehead

WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

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West Virginia

Cop doesn't shoot Black man, is fired

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

“[S]ociety is split into antagonistic, and, moreover, irreconcilably antagonistic classes, whose ‘self-acting’ arming would lead to an armed struggle between them. A state arises, a special power is created, 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 exploited 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 the river from Steubenville, Ohio.

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 then 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, 23, 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.

‘Failure to eliminate a threat’

“We’re putting you on administrative leave, and we’re going to do an investigation to see if you are going to be an officer here. You put two other officers in danger,” Mader recalled the

chief saying. On June 7, he was given a termination notice that he “failed 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 of color should have a right to defend themselves.” □



Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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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 inmates have gone on strike “not only [to] demand the end to prison slavery, [but to] end it ourselves by ceasing to be slaves.” (iwoc.noblogs.org, April 1)

In facilities across the country, inmates, who are disproportionately Black, Latinx or Indigenous, are forced to labor for only a fraction of the legal minimum wage. In many state facilities, prisoners are not paid at all for their labor.

The superprofits generated by this slave labor have fueled the mass incarceration epidemic, prolonging the imprisonment and enslavement of millions.

Despite a near total suppression of the story by the corporate media, the strike spread to at least 46 state and federal prisons. The actual number of affected prisons is likely much higher, as this number only reflects reports received from inmates who are able to send out updates amidst prison repression.

Prison officials in at least 31 facilities instituted total lockdowns in apparent retaliation for the strike. Based on the

inmate populations of these 31 locked-down facilities, no fewer than 57,000 incarcerated workers withheld labor or were otherwise prevented from working due to the strike. (iwoc.noblogs.org, Sept. 14)

An inmate at Alabama’s Holman Correctional Facility relayed this message: “12:01 Sept 9th, all inmates at Holman Prison refused to report to their prison jobs without incident. With the rising of the sun came an eerie silence as the men at Holman laid on their racks reading or sleeping. Officers are performing all tasks.” (supportprisonerresistance.noblogs.org, Sept. 9)

Florida prisons join strike

Inmates in at least five Florida prisons joined the strike. (miamiherald.com, Sept. 13) More than 400 inmates at Holmes Correctional Facility participated in a righteous uprising Sept. 7, briefly taking control of the prison.

According to a guard at Holmes, “[Prison guards] would get one dorm under control and then it would start in another dorm. It was every dorm, as if it was planned.” (miamiherald.com, Sept. 8) By Sept. 9, inmates had begun a series of sit-ins, refusing to perform any labor for the

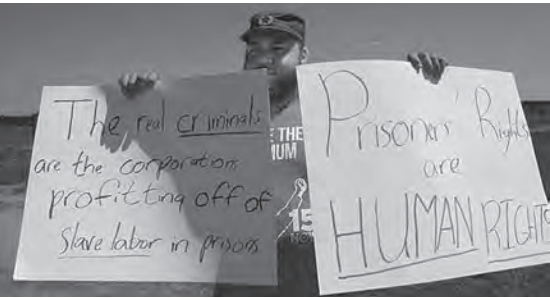


PHOTO: TESSA DEJONGH

Protest at Holman prison in Alabama, Sept. 9.

prison. (chipleypaper.com, Sept. 9)

According to an anonymous source at Washington (state) Corrections Center for Women, at least three inmates refused to report for work at the prison library on Sept. 9. For this they were each sentenced to 20 days in solitary confinement. (supportprisonerresistance.noblogs.org, Sept. 21)

When a group of inmates at South Carolina’s maximum security Perry Correctional Institution refused to return to their cells Sept. 9, guards initiated a total lockdown, confining approximately 1,000 prisoners to their cells throughout the weekend and preventing any inmate labor from being performed. (wyff4.com, Sept. 12)

An anonymous report from a prisoner inside South Carolina’s Broad River Correctional Facility described the guards’ retaliation against strikers: “Prison pigs here at Broad RV Corr, hit us with everything they got after we exposed these inhumane living conditions. They even bought and came through with new

phone detectors. These pigs telling us if we do it again, report anything, we will be searched and locked down for longer periods. Does this not place you in the mind the time when slaves were punished for learning to read or write?” (facebook.com/BlkJailhouselawyer, Sept. 22)

Due to the mainstream media white-out, heightened repression by prison guards and the refusal of prison staff to respond to independent media inquiries, it is impossible to determine the full extent of the strike. But based on what little information is available, it is clear that the Sept. 9 strike has been the largest coordinated prisoner action ever to take place in the United States.

Whether the strike continues to spread or whether business as usual is temporarily restored in the prison system, it is undeniable that the solidarity in action both within and outside the prisons has propelled the movement forward by leaps and bounds.

Organizers and people of conscience on the outside can help further advance the struggle by writing letters to inmates and forming prison solidarity networks among communities most affected by mass incarceration. □

Whistleblower Manning punished for suicide attempt

By Kathy Durkin

In an arbitrary and inhumane decision, a U.S. Army disciplinary board sentenced heroic whistleblower Chelsea Manning to solitary confinement as punishment for her July 5 suicide attempt. This Sept. 23 decision followed a hearing barring Manning from having legal representation.

The Army leveled three charges against Manning and convicted her of “conduct which threatens charge” (the suicide attempt) and possessing “prohibited property” (a banned book, “Hacker, Hoaxer, Whistleblower, Spy”). The charge of “resisting the force cell move team” was dropped. (theintercept.com, Sept. 23)

Manning was sentenced to 14 days in “disciplinary segregation,” but could be released within a week if authorities don’t add further “transgressions.” She plans to appeal the ruling.

Manning’s attorney, Chase Strangio of the American Civil Liberties Union, explained that solitary confinement can “exacerbate” problems of recently suicidal individuals.

The Sept. 24 British Guardian newspaper reported that the military’s decision to enforce “a reprimand for a suicide attempt has provoked shock and outrage among ... mental health practitioners who warn that it risks aggravating the soldier’s vulnerable state of mind.” Studies show that “even short spells in solitary confinement can dramatically increase the risk of suicide.”

The 28-year-old Manning is serving a 35-year sentence at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, having been held in military custody for six years.

As an Army private, Manning was charged and convicted in July 2013 for releasing “classified” military documents to WikiLeaks. Her intention was to expose the truth about the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in what she termed “the war diaries.”



Chelsea Manning

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 actions, courage and integrity, the military has never let up on its campaign of harassment and abuse. She has been held under conditions the United Nations deems “torture.”

This cruel mistreatment — and denial of necessary medical care — drove Manning to try to end her life. The Army then piled on more abuse by charging and then punishing her for a desperate act that their continual maltreatment provoked.

EAST CHICAGO, IND.

Lead poisoning hits African Americans the hardest

By Lyn Neeley

Hundreds of children living in the West Calumet housing projects in East Chicago, Ind., have tested positive for excessive levels 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 houses 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 deadly environmental racism.

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 arsenic. 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 residents don’t have the money to pay moving expenses or make down payments in a city with scarce housing. Some will be forced to move to an old vacated project called Harborside, located out of town in North Harbor.

The EPA gave West Calumet “Superfund” status in 2009 and started to remove topsoil in a few “hot spots.” The EPA Superfund is responsible for cleaning up major land contamination and responding to environmental disasters. Since June, the EPA has warned families to stop children from playing in the soil. It spread mulch on contaminated ground and offered “deep cleaning” to families. But these acts are token safety measures when the soil below is so badly contaminated.

Additionally, Manning’s attorneys filed an appeal on May 19, arguing her sentence was “grossly unfair and unprecedented.” They argued for dropping the charges and the prison sentence, or reducing it to a 10-year term. The ACLU and the Open Society Justice Initiative filed briefs on her behalf.

International letters and messages of solidarity and concern from friends, family and supporters sustain Chelsea Manning. She issued a statement on Sept. 23, which said in part: “I am touched by your warm messages of love and support. This comforts me in my time of need.” (fightforthefuture.org) Send mail to the address below, exactly as written here.

Chelsea E. Manning 89289
1300 North Warehouse Road
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2304

Calumet Lives Matter

Angry residents have organized a group called Calumet Lives Matter. They are demanding answers about why it took so long to be told how dangerous the soil was. Black Lives Matter, several environmental groups, National Nurses United and Northwestern University’s environmental law clinic are all supporting the residents.

The group is asking why Indiana Gov. Mike Pence — Donald Trump’s vice presidential candidate — visited flood victims in Baton Rouge, La., but has not found time to go to East Chicago. They want national publicity for what state Sen. Lonnie Randolph has called “a potential catastrophe that could be approaching the same level as Flint, Michigan.” (indystar.com, Aug. 22)

Randolph asserted: “I’ve lived here all my life, but I never heard this was a Su-

Continued on page 4

Boston union aids progressive struggles

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 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 Local 8751 passed a resolution demanding Pinkney’s freedom. Rev. Pinkney in turn sent a letter of support to the four fired Bus Drivers Union leaders, who later won their 26-month battle and were reinstated by the union-hating Veolia/Transdev corporation. At their recent meeting, the bus drivers listened attentively and voted unanimously to donate to Pinkney’s defense.

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 the Indigenous communities at Standing Rock and the Black and Brown



‘Solidarity in action’

PHOTO: TEAM SOLIDARITY

youth of Charlotte, N.C., in resisting racism and capitalism. Motions to contribute funds to the Red Warrior Camp and the bail fund for youth arrested in Charlotte 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 construction 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.

“Whereas unfortunately and regrettably at the height of this battle, the AFL-CIO issued a statement attacking Standing Rock defenders and defending DAPL using the company line that it provides

‘family-supporting jobs’ and ‘makes the U.S. more competitive.’

“Be it therefore resolved that the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, USW Local 8751, pledges our wholehearted solidarity to the resistance at Standing Rock. ...

“Be it further resolved that Local 8751 will forward this resolution to President Trumka, urging that the AFL-CIO pledge full labor solidarity to this just struggle and pledge the vast human and material resources of the AFL-CIO towards assisting the occupation at Standing Rock.”

What solidarity looks like

The membership also voted to support a campaign by teachers’ unions against Question 2, a ballot measure to impose more privatization on Boston’s public schools through budget transfers to expanded charter schools; to support a local demonstration against police brutality and in solidarity with Charlotte and Tulsa, Okla.; to assist the U.S. delegation to the 17th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions; to support the Sept. 30 Day of Action for Haitian Workers; to support changing “Columbus Day” to Indig-

enous Peoples Day and “Thanksgiving” to the annual National Day of Mourning; and passed resolutions of solidarity with Mexican teachers’ unions and with Puerto Rican unions fighting austerity.

This local of less than a thousand members, 98 percent workers of color and primarily Haitian, committed significant resources to assist oppressed workers in other states and other countries.

This meeting was not exceptional in that regard. Anti-racist and anti-imperialist solidarity is what defines Local 8751, from the days its founders began driving Black schoolchildren through crowds of brick-hurling racists in the early 1970s to its current daily battles with the monster multinational corporation Veolia/Transdev. The union covered its workplace battles in depth, bringing the rank and file up to date on the massive grievance backlog, new charges with the National Labor Relations Board and in federal court, and routing and payroll problems created by Transdev’s misuse of GPS technology to speed up work.

This kind of class struggle unionism, fostered by the revolutionary Team Solidarity leadership of Local 8751, is what sorely needs to be revived across the labor movement in this country. □

Fists up for Fred Hampton Sr.

CHICAGO STREETZ PARTY

By Erich Struch
Chicago

Fred Hampton Sr., a dynamic leader in the Black Panther Party, born August 30, 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, Chairman Fred Jr., throws the Streetz Party, a celebration of his father’s life and work.

Fred Hampton Sr. was chair of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and deputy chair of the national BPP. During his short tenure on Chicago’s West Side, he built the party up as a powerful revolutionary organization that successfully implemented the BPP’s survival programs and political education classes while uniting Black, Puerto Rican and white street organizations into a “Rainbow Coalition.”

Illinois State’s Attorney Ed Hanrahan and Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley colluded with the FBI to carry out covert Cointelpro actions against the BPP. A Chicago Police Department death squad broke in on Hampton asleep in his Mon-

roe Street apartment in the early morning of Dec. 4, 1969, and slaughtered him and Defense Captain Mark Clark. Hampton would have been 68 this year.

As always, the Streetz Party began with a silent salute, arms raised, fists clenched at Ground Zero — the location of Hampton and Clark’s martyrdom. Speaking after the salute were Comrade Mother Akua Njeri (Chairman Fred Sr.’s partner), and BPP veterans Stan McKinney and Harold Bell.

Black Panther Party legacy

Chairman Fred Jr. shared his thoughts on the legacy of the party:

“We’re coming up on the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party, October 15 next month — one of the most revolutionary organizations the world has witnessed. I came up in [a climate] deprived of such an organization — where the only options in life were to become a Boy Scout or a banger. However, the Black Panther Party gave us the light.

“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 turned the communities into classrooms. One of the programs is the triple C — that’s Children, Community and Cubs.

“I hear a lot of people talk about the youth, but they say it in an abstract type of way. I’m learning

more and more through my life, more and more through the work, correlating what Frederick Douglass said: It’s easier to raise children as opposed to repairing broken adults. A lot of what people call relationship problems are unresolved childhood problems people have. And it impacts every aspect of our community, and the state exploits that. But to be able to take that, and to understand, there must be a politic and a structure to gauge it.

“We must acknowledge we have contradictions, 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]



Fred Hampton Sr.

provided for our people, it can’t be told in words.”

The celebration marched from Ground Zero to The Wall, a Rebel Díaz Arts Collective mural of Chairman Fred Sr. at Madison and California streets. There the Streetz

Party continued in the parking lot with DJs, a BBQ and free haircuts for youth.

Later on the South Side, panel discussions included “Cointelpro Then and Now” with Chicago State University African-American Studies professor Dr. Kelly Harris and Chairman Fred. Another panel, “Police Terrorism/People’s Pain,” featured Comrade Mother Akua Njeri; Dorothy Holmes, mother of Ronald Johnson; Samir Rice, mother of Tamir Rice; and Panzy Rice, mother of Dakota Bright. The final panel was “Forward to the 50th!” with BPP vets Comrade Mother Akua Njeri, Stan McKinney, Harold Bell and Henry Nesbitt. □

East Chicago, Ind.

Lead poisoning hits African Americans the hardest

Continued from page 3

perfund site until last week. What I want to know is: who’s responsible?” (think-progress.org, Aug. 15)

West Calumet residents have filed a housing discrimination complaint with the National Center on Poverty Law in Chicago. It claims East Chicago’s relocation plan violates federal civil rights laws.

Effects of lead poisoning

Symptoms of blood lead poisoning are irreversible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) set a “blood lead level of concern” (BLL) at 5 micrograms per deciliter in 2012. But studies show that even less than that can reduce IQ and academic achievement and harm organs. Higher amounts can compromise

the immune, endocrine and cardiovascular systems. 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 causes emotional problems and attention deficit disorder. A BLL of 10 micrograms can reduce IQ by nearly 4 points. A BLL of up to 30 shows an IQ drop of nearly 7 points. (Environmental Health Perspective, July 2005)

Because lead is chemically similar to calcium, it settles in the brain and prevents calcium ions from working. According to one study, lead may slow communication between brain cells and cause permanent damage. (Neurotoxicology, Nov. 2009)

Lead is stored in bones, so adults exposed throughout their lives can suffer from cardiovascular disease, tooth decay, miscarriages, kidney disease, mental decline and cataracts. Pregnant women with stored lead risk poisoning their babies since lead leaches from the bones into the blood and the uterus.

Nationally, half a million young children tested positive for excessive BLL in 2013. That’s 1 in 38, or 2.6 percent. Among African-American children, the rate is 3 times that amount — 7.7 percent. (CDC, April 2013)

Lead-fueled racism

Lead poisoning fuels the school-to-prison pipeline for at-risk children who live in low-income communities. Some children are born with inherited lead poisoning, a disadvantage that makes it even harder for a person to survive, especially in a capitalist country like the U.S. where

social programs have been cut to the bone and the killer brutality of police toward Black people is a terrifying epidemic.

In 2000, Congress allocated \$2.1 billion over the next 10 years to eliminate lead poisoning. But that insufficient amount has fallen by 43 percent since 2003. Money for lead testing in children has also been cut by 40 percent. The Pentagon war budget and the cost of prisons, however, have steadily increased.

A 2009 study calculated that every dollar spent on preventing lead poisoning would generate up to \$221 in benefits — in increased productivity and lower health care and education costs.

“We know how to fix it,” said David Jacobs, a chief contributor to the task force, who ran the federal lead program from 1995 to 2004. “The technology is there. It’s just a matter of political will to properly appropriate the money.” (New York Times, March 2015) □

Protest called in Detroit

Activists demand fed funds be used to stop foreclosures

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 to evictions and water shutoffs.

The meeting was organized by City Councilwoman Mary Sheffield and co-hosted by the Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs; the United Community Housing Coalition; and Michigan Legal Services.

One of every three homes in Detroit has been foreclosed in the last 10 years. That's since the beginning of the housing crisis brought on by the racist, fraudulent lending practices of the major banks.

In addition, 65,000 homes have had water shut off since 2014. At that time the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) began targeting homes for disconnection 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 can't afford these payments.

The funds are there

As organizers pointed out, funds are available to stop these evictions and wa-

ter 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 Dan Gilbert. While they give these entities the funds, at the same time the feds are investigating the Land Bank for criminal fraud and cronyism 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 DWSD/Great Lakes Authority to place an immediate moratorium on foreclosure-related evictions and water shutoffs while the funds are reallocated.

Two tireless housing advocates, Marilyn Mullane from Michigan Legal Ser-

vices, and Ted Phillips of the United Community Housing Coalition, exposed how MSHDA has made the Hardest Hit Funds virtually inaccessible to the poor. They exposed bureaucratic impediments to access and demanded that regulations be rewritten to maximize their effectiveness.

Monica Patrick, of We the People of Detroit, joined the rally to express the urgency of tying together the fight to stop water shutoffs with evictions caused by foreclosures. She showed slides reflecting how neighborhoods throughout Detroit are being devastated by this joint scourge.

Linda Jourdan, of the American Civil Liberties Union, described the legal organization's lawsuit. It exposes how tax foreclosures in Detroit are based on illegal assessments that overinflate the value of homes throughout the city and how thousands of Detroiters have been denied poverty exemptions to which they are entitled.

Jerry Goldberg, of the Moratorium

Now! Coalition, thanked Councilwoman Sheffield, calling her the first government official to take up this fight. Goldberg noted that if Hardest Hit Funds were used for their intended purpose, it would actually put money into government coffers that could be used for blight removal and infrastructure.

Goldberg emphasized the role of the banks in destroying Detroit's neighborhoods and demanded that the banks be made to pay to remove and remediate the blight they caused.

A demonstration has been called for Wednesday, Oct. 5, to press the demand for a moratorium on foreclosures/evictions and water shutoffs and for freeing Hardest Hit Funds to keep families in their homes. The protest will be held at the Wayne County Treasurer's Office, 400 Monroe in Detroit, at 12 noon.

For more information, call 313-680-5508 or visit moratorium-mi.org. □

March mourns death of affordable housing

By Anne Pruden
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Angry tenants, mostly people of color, came from three of New York City's five boroughs for a funeral march Sept. 22 in Brooklyn to mourn the death of affordable housing. The event was part of the National Renters' Day of Action, which took place in nearly 50 cities across the country.

Coming from East New York, Bushwick, the Bronx, East Harlem and other working-class communities, people gathered at Brooklyn's famous sports and entertainment arena called the Barclay Center. This site was specifically chosen because locating the mega-bucks project there caused the displacement of thousands of low- and middle-income tenants and signaled the beginning of gentrification in Brooklyn.

Tenants representing at least 12 housing and community organizations were led by Families United for Racial and Economic Equality, the Brooklyn group that organizes public housing and New York City Housing Authority tenants.

At the rally speaker after speaker talked about unfair, racist landlords who subject tenants to high rents and displacement. Rosa, a Latina from Casa, declared, "We're part of humanity!"

A Black man from East New York spoke about people who pay for housing with Section 8 vouchers in unregulated buildings. Landlords are purposefully refusing to do repairs so their apartments will fail inspections and tenants will have to



Brooklyn, Sept. 22.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

look for other housing. "The truth is that we are poor. And under the city's rezoning, people are being forced out."

Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network organizer Imani Henry announced a protest against developers in Brooklyn on Sept. 28 and noted that the nationwide housing movement plans to coordinate more actions throughout the fall. These will take place to protest skyrocketing rents and rampant displacement.

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 tenants are fighting privatization. There the working-class fighters sang the famous civil rights song, with some slight wording changes, but with the same strength and militant determination: "We shall NOT be moved!" □

Venezuela in the Bronx

By Bill Dore
South Bronx, N.Y.

In 2006 Venezuela's revolutionary President Hugo Chávez visited the South Bronx in New York City. In an act of international solidarity, his government launched a program to provide free heating oil to the people of that oppressed community.

Ten years later, on Sept. 22, over 100 activists gathered at The Point, a community center in the South Bronx, to welcome Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez and to dedicate a three-story mural in honor of President Chávez.

The mural, painted on the wall of The Point by Bronx artist Andre Trenier, shows Comandante Chávez, as he is affectionately known, singing along with community activist Omar Freya whose band was performing in honor of Chávez. Speaking at the dedication, Freya recounted how Chávez had spoken with every one of the hundreds of people gathered to welcome him, then picked up an instrument and played with the band.

"Comandante Chávez had a special feeling for this neighborhood," Minister Rodriguez told the gathering. "That is why we are here because we feel that you are like us." She expressed solidarity with the protests against police brutality in



WW PHOTOS: BILL DORES

Left to right, Karen Jarrett, of the New York State Nurses Association; Estela Vazquez, of 1199SEIU; Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez; and Wanda Salaman, of Mothers on the Move.

Charlotte, N.C., and the struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline in Standing Rock, N.D.

Rodriguez also denounced the U.S. government's plan to give \$38 billion worth of arms to Israel to terrorize the Palestinian people, while so many in the U.S. live in poverty. Speaking to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 23, Rodriguez delivered a scathing indictment of capitalism as a "threat to the future of humanity."

Among those welcoming Minister Rodriguez to the Bronx were The Point President Maria Torres; Estela Vazquez, of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East; Shep Sadiki Ojore Olugbala, of the original Black Panther Party and the Universal Zulu Nation; Dr. Raymond Rivera, of the Latino Pastoral Action Center; and Wanda Salaman, of Mothers on the Move.

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com Available at online major booksellers

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 up-town 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.



Ashley Williams, Bree Newsome and Tamika Lewis, Charlotte rally, Sept. 24



WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

Cleveland

In solidarity with Charlotte



Clevelanders United for Justice Reform Now! held a solidarity picket line at the newly opened African-American Cultural Gardens on Sept. 26.

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.”

— Report and photo by Susan Schnur

WWP ELECTION CAMPAIGN

‘Full solidarity with the rebellion in Charlotte’

Police and National Guard out of Charlotte and Black and Brown communities! Full amnesty for all arrestees! Smash racist police terror and the capitalist system into the ground!

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 Terence 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.



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 escalating 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 multinational 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



Charlotte, Sept. 24.

PHOTO: WISCONSIN BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT

the prisons, the courts, the military and the corporate media. We say: ABOLISH THE POLICE!

The irresolvable 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 and murder 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!



Charlotte, Sept. 24

PHOTO: WISCONSIN BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT



Charlotte

WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT



PHOTO: WISCONSIN BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT



PHOTO: STEVE EBERHARDT

Sept. 22 — A multi-hour demonstration titled “Midnight in America” gathered on the grounds of the National Civil and Human Rights Museum, then filled the streets of downtown Atlanta on its way to the famed Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue. Located across the street from the tombs 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 At-

lanta 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 Grass-roots 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

Hardly a day goes by without a new name added to the horrific roll of people of color cut down by police bullets in the United States. It is no wonder that the Black Lives Matter movement has sprung up in these dangerous times to embody the spirit of resistance that beats in the hearts of millions, who are pained and outraged, again and again, not only by the police murders but because the so-called “justice system” abets and indeed encourages this reign of terror.

Under these circumstances, even a minimal charge against the uniformed perpetrator gets counted as a small victory for the protesters, at least by the corporate media. As for the grieving families and friends of those gunned down, they are not so easily satisfied and continue to demand justice.

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 vigils 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



Photo of Crutcher at his funeral.

On Sept. 22, 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. (New York Times, Sept. 24)

Demonstrators cheered at the indictment. The attorney for Crutcher's family,

elected officials. It was excruciatingly unambiguous. Crutcher had been shot down in cold blood.

Cop walks free after being charged

Damarion Solomon-Simmons, said, “We are happy that charges were brought, but let me be clear — the family wants and deserves full justice.

“Not only for this family, not only for Terence, but to be a deterrent for law 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. □

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 steps, 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. After the rally, people headed inside to the hearing to show support for Moore's family.

This reporter is 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 challenge. 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 question 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 had died from asphyxiation resulting from undue pressure on her chest. The judge didn't respond to the city's challenge of the witness.

The police were called to 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



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

Maria Moore speaks at federal court rally.

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. □

International meeting of women in Bogotá



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

an people in their critical path to peace. The final resolution of the Congress included a joint effort by all groups present to defend the struggles for social and economic justice throughout the world.

— Report and photo
by Berta Joubert-Ceci

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 cannot 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 routinely attached to annual 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. 15 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 near-

ly 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.

Polls show that opposition to Hyde is especially strong among African Americans, Latinxs and youth from 16 to 36 (millennials).

The reproductive justice organization All* Above All, led nationally by young people and people of color, called for protests against Hyde in United for Abortion Coverage Week of Action, from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1. Over 130 activities hosted by 68 organizations in 38 states have been organized to demand an end to federal and state bans on abortions for low-income women.

The current campaign to stop Hyde started when Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) introduced the EACH Woman Act (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance) last year. Calling Hyde “shameful and discriminatory,” Lee noted that “none of us, especially elected officials, should

be interfering with a woman's health care decision just because she is poor.” The bill currently has 122 sponsors.

Lee told Truthout, “Accessible, affordable reproductive healthcare is a human right. All women, no matter their income, employer or ZIP code, should be able to make the health care decisions that are right for them and their family.” (Sept. 14)

A wide range of organizations are working in A*AA's coalition. A number of them address the special needs of Black and Latina women, including In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health.

Yamani Hernandez of the National Network of Abortion Funds notes that its nearly 100 affiliates “hear from over 100,000 people who have to make impossible decisions, like choosing between paying for utilities or abortion care.”

While the movement against Hyde is growing, reactionaries in Congress trying to convert the amendment into a permanent law have been boosted by Donald Trump, who actually called for “punishing” women who have abortions. They

Continued on page 9



RESISTANCE GAINS SUPPORT

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 workers.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 it is 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 closer to the Promise Land.

I refer here not to the Promise Land of the Christian bible, but to the modest promises of the Treaties our ancestors secured from enemies bent on their destruction in order to enable us to survive as distinct peoples and live in a dignified manner.

It should be remembered that Standing Rock was the site of the 1974 conference of the international Indigenous movement that spread throughout the Americas and beyond, the starting point for the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UNDRIP was resisted by the United States for three decades until its adoption by the U.N. in 2007.

While some of the leaders of this movement are veterans of the 1970s resistance at Pine Ridge, they share the wisdom of our past elders in perceiving [that] 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 ended with an agreement to investigate human rights and treaty abuses; that inquiry and promise were never implemented nor honored 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 whose only concern is to fill their pockets with even more gold and wealth. They could not care less how many of you they 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 international law as expressed in the UNDRIP, International Human Rights Treaties and the long-neglected Treaties and trust agreements with the Sioux Nation.

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. By facing and addressing the injustices of the past, together we can build a better future for our children and our children's children.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you for working together to protect the water. Water is Life.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Doksha
Leonard Peltier

Labor groups strengthen solidarity

By Martha Grevatt

The Communication Workers issued a strong statement on Sept. 9 expressing solidarity with the Indigenous peoples' resistance to pipeline construction at Standing Rock in North Dakota. Other unions soon followed, including National Nurses United, United Electrical workers, Amalgamated Transit Union, National Writers Union and many locals.

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 standoff.

Despite this statement, AFL-CIO affiliates have continued coming out for Standing Rock. Significantly, on Sept. 19 the Labor Coalition for Community Action issued a support statement. The coalition comprises the federation's six Constituency Groups, representing millions

of Black, Latinx, Asian/Pacific, women and LGBTQ union members and acting as "unions' bridges to diverse communities."

The statement read: "Together, the Labor Coalition for Community Action, which includes the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and Pride at Work, rises 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.

"We advocate for a progressive labor movement rooted in dignity and respect of all peoples, including Native Americans and their families. Though cited to bring 4,500 jobs, the Dakota Access Pipeline seriously threatens tribal sovereignty, sacred burial grounds, and the water supply of the Standing Rock Sioux and potentially 17 million others. As organizations dedicated to elevating the struggles of our respective constituencies, we stand together to support our Native American kinfolk — one of the most marginalized and disenfranchised groups in our nation's history — in their fight to protect their communities from further displacement and exploitation.

"We recognize this systematic oppression that so intimately resonates with many communities of color and marginalized populations, whether it be fighting for lead-free water in Flint to uncontaminated water in North Dakota.

"We remain committed to fighting the corporate interests that back this project and name this pipeline 'a pipeline of corporate greed.' We challenge the labor movement to strategize on how to better engage and include Native people and other marginalized populations into the labor movement as a whole.

"Lastly, we applaud the many labor unions working to create a new economy with good green jobs and more sustainable employment opportunities for all. We also encourage key stakeholders — labor unions including the building trades, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and others who would be impacted — to come together to discuss a collective resolution.

"As we just recently recognized Native American Women's Equal Pay Day and as we approach November — a time that marks not only a significant change in our country's leadership but also the

#NoDAPL battleground:

Iowans 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's construction. 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, Texas corporation.

The Midwest Mobilization was formed in response to the pipeline, comprised of such organizations as Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Bold Iowa, 100 Grannies, 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 a Sept. 23 press release, "175 water protectors from across the Midwest — tribes, students, farmers, nurses and more — united in Boone County where Dakota Access is currently drilling under the Des Moines River [near Pilot Mound]."

The Midwest Mobilization rally kicked off at the Boone County Fairgrounds, where three activist workshops were conducted. Afterward, a 60-car caravan traveled from the fairgrounds to the Iowa DAPL construction site. Using 12 vehicles, they blocked an access road on 130th Street to stop Dakota Access trucks from entering or leaving.

DAPL construction in Illinois and South Dakota has been completed, mak-

ing Iowa and North Dakota "the key battlegrounds left in the pipeline resistance," according to Iowa CCI organizers.

celebration of Native American Heritage Month — we will continue to campaign and organize for a broader agenda that secures the rights for all working people in all communities." □

In an additional victory in this fight, suits filed against Bold Iowa and its director, Ed Fallon, as well as against Iowa CCI and Mason, have been dismissed by a federal judge. Mason said the company had "aimed to silence our ongoing peaceful, nonviolent, direct actions to stop construction of this pipeline that threatens land, water and climate."

Since the start of construction, peaceful demonstrators have been harassed and arrested by local police and state troopers. Some 28 Iowans were arrested on Aug. 31 for "blocking the roadways 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 descendant of the Plains Cree and Saulteaux nations, said the endgame of the anti-DAPL movement is to confront climate change. "We are being led toward a mass extinction event by our greed and amazing ability to evade the obvious and scary truth."

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

Activist Sylvana Flute, a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate nation, told Iowans, "We are going back to Standing Rock, and we are going to spread the word. We are all in this together, and we are here to support you." □

called a Sept. 23 congressional hearing to argue that the "right to life" of a fetus is "the ultimate civil right" and hosted a number of pro-Hyde speakers, allowing only one against, Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE) Executive Director Kierra Johnson.

Women of color lead struggle

Johnson testified: "As a Black woman, I am outraged that the ... Hyde Amendment has been permitted to persist for so long. It is a source of pain for many women and should be a source of shame for those who support it. Each of us, not just some of us, should be able to make our own decisions about pregnancy." (Huffington Post, Sept. 23)

In summing up the struggle for reproductive justice, Destiny Lopez, co-chair of A*AA, told Truthout, "As we wrestle with issues on economic, gender and racial justice in particular, the perspectives and leadership of women of color must be the center of our policymaking. Women of color are leading the movement to end the Hyde Amendment..."

Unless otherwise cited, the main source for this article is a Sept. 15 All Above All press release.*

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Wells Fargo and capitalist fraud

It's called cross-selling. Wells Fargo cultivated this strategy, pressing 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 5.9 products per customer, more than any other bank in the country. 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 insufficient funds fees for 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 these 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 Los Angeles 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 this activity to Wells Fargo's "ethics hotline" found themselves out the door in short order.

Meanwhile, Carrie Tolstedt, head of Wells Fargo's community 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: "One means of falsifying loan applications that I learned of involved 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." (boingboing.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. □

Leftist landslide in British Labour election

By John Catalinotto

Rank-and-file party members, unionists and new Labour adherents all voted by a large margin to continue leftist Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the British Labour Party.

The Sept. 24 inner-party election gave Corbyn 62 percent of the total of more than 500,000 votes. This outdid his surprise victory a year ago, when he received 60 percent.

Corbyn's landslide re-election is a healthy antidote to the anti-immigrant Brexit vote of June, pushed by the Conservative Party. His victory shows that a large section of the masses in Britain — which now has a broad, multinational working class — is ready to break out of electoral politics that have offered Labourites only a choice between right and center tendencies and instead support a left alternative.

Labour is a social democratic party that historically has delivered benefits to some of the workers without challenging capitalist rule or British imperialism. In the 1990s, former Prime Minister Tony Blair's "New Labour" — something like Bill Clinton's centrist grouping in the Democratic Party — pushed the Labour Party far to the right.

Generally, members of the Labour Party in Parliament have been to the right of the party's members or constituents. But Corbyn, a longtime 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities; 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 210 of the 230 Labor

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

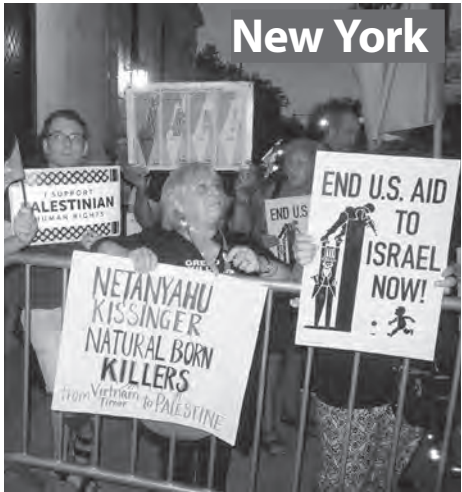
Even though the Labour MPs maneuvered to stop several hundred thousand new members from voting — people who had joined in order to support Corbyn — the voting constituents still trashed rightist Labour MP Owen Smith.

A leftist newspaper called Red Flag, produced within the Labour Party, evaluated the Sept. 24 vote: "Jeremy Corbyn's overwhelming victory now presents the possibility of consolidating Labour as a left-wing socialist party — a task that 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. □

War criminals protested



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

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 was honoring these war criminals at the swanky hotel.

The think tank bestowed its 2016 Herman Kahn Award on Netanyahu — who ordered the military assault that killed 504 Palestinian children in Gaza in 2014 — "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

Washington State

Clock ticking to 'Free Leonard Peltier!'

By Jim McMahan
Olympia, Wash.

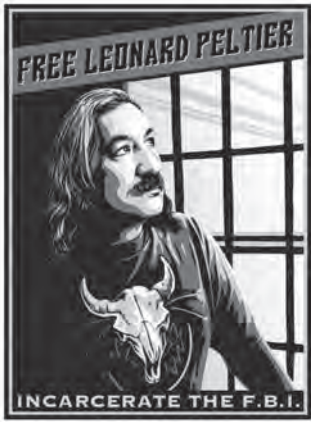
Marching behind a "Free Leonard Peltier" banner, demonstrators demanded presidential clemency for the Native American political prisoner at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia on Sept. 17. People also carried signs in solidarity with the Standing Rock struggle to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. Peltier, born in North Dakota to the Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations, strongly supports the #NoDAPL struggle.

The rally in Olympia was one of many actions around the U.S. demanding clemency for Leonard Peltier on or around the occasion of his 72nd birthday. Peltier has been imprisoned for nearly 40 years for defending his people from an FBI attack on American Indian Movement supporters at the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975. He was framed up by the FBI, and federal

prosecutors collaborated by withholding evidence that would have proved his innocence.

Eddie Little Crow, a Dakota elder who himself was imprisoned for over 30 years, spoke at the Olympia rally: "Leonard sits in Florida in a maximum security prison. He's been moved and moved, and we want him out of there. What are they thinking when they lock up a man who just turned 72?"

Those attending the rally also heard from Ray Kingfisher of the Northern Cheyenne who, like Peltier, participated in the cross-country Trail of Broken Treaties in 1972. Crystal Chaplin — the mother of two young Black men, Andre



CREDIT: POASTERCHILD

Thompson and Bryson Chaplin, shot and severely wounded by Olympia cops — also gave a strong solidarity statement.

The event was organized by the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee of Olympia. Steve Hapy, of the LPDOC Tacoma chapter, stressed that Peltier, despite his conditions of imprisonment, has never shied away from taking a stand. "Leonard has always used his position to stand up for the people, like the people of Big Mountain or Standing Rock."

Leonard Peltier urgently needs people to stand up for him NOW. Supporters are fighting for clemency for Peltier from the Obama administration before his term ends. More people and organizations are needed in the U.S. and around the world to "Free Leonard Peltier." For ways to help, see whoisleonardpeltier.info.

Non-Aligned Movement summit

120 nations meet in Venezuela, assert self-determination

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

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held its 17th summit Sept. 17-18 on Margarita Island, in the state of Nueva Esparta, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to mark its 55th anniversary. Its theme was “Peace, Sovereignty and Solidarity for Development.”

Over 120 nations attended, including many heads of state, amid a growing economic and security crisis for oil and commodity producing regions. Venezuela has lost revenue due to U.S.- induced overproduction of petroleum resources.

Venezuela, Nigeria, Brazil, Angola, Ecuador and other countries are experiencing economic difficulties, which in some cases have resulted in political instability. The United Socialist Party in Venezuela is facing profound challenges to its authority by a U.S.-supported opposition coalition.

The summit’s concluding declaration said the nations and governments represented were “mindful of the fact that the history and reality of [today’s] world ... demonstrates that it is the developing countries ... who suffer more intensely from the disregard of international law, from invasions, from the ravages of war and armed conflicts, caused mostly by the geopolitical interests of the great centers of power, as well as from protracted conflicts inherited from colonialism and neocolonialism.”

These words reflect the burgeoning international crisis of internal and external displacement in recent years, which the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says has reached an unprecedented level. The UNHCR reports that by the end of 2015, 65.3 million people worldwide had been forced away from their homes. In this population, approximately 21.3 million were refugees; more than half were under the age of 18. (tinyurl.com/zaq2e67)

UNHCR also noted: “There are also 10 million stateless people who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, health care, employment and freedom of movement. ... [Globally], nearly 34,000 people are forcibly displaced every day as a result of conflict or persecution.”

Many of the displaced are fleeing Pentagon and NATO instigated wars of conquest and regime change. Additionally, unsustainable economic growth in many African, Asian, Middle Eastern and Latin American states has prompted millions of people to seek employment in North America and Europe. The large influx of people from oppressed nations into world capitalist centers has created social tensions manifested in electoral politics.

Right-wing governments and political parties have made substantial gains in industrial states fueling institutional racism, intolerance and violence. Concurrently, these countries in Europe and North America are undergoing structural unemployment and rising poverty rates.

Pledge to continue founders’ legacy

The NAM grew out of the 1955 Bandung Conference in Indonesia. That gath-

ering of 29 countries was a response to the growing threat of another world war following World War II. That period was characterized by U.S. intervention in Korea, French imperialism’s defeat in Vietnam and the beginning of the Algerian people’s armed struggle for national liberation. These developments heightened military and political conflicts between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, then the major global powers.

Liberation struggles, anti-colonial movements and political parties aimed to end colonialism and imperialism. The USSR, and later, the People’s Republic of China, sought to ally their foreign policies with peoples aspiring to end colonial and semicolonial rule, as well as those who had gained national independence.

By 1961, the need arose for a more permanent organization. In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, then a socialist federation led by Marshal Tito, NAM was founded by leading figures, including Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Jawaharlal Nehru of India and Sukarno of Indonesia.

The decolonization process in Africa was well underway by then, and the NAM sought to form a bloc of emerging states within the United Nations.

Over the last 55 years, NAM has experienced ebbs and flows. Leadership has been held by various countries, including Cuba and Egypt. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the previous summit in 2012.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani emphasized at the recent NAM summit: “In today’s global relations, hegemonic

and domineering inclinations are incontrovertible reality. Alignment towards military polarizations and blocs is another dominant feature in the mentality and behaviors of some of the players.

“Arms race, warmongering, intensification of conflicts and violence, and interfering in the domestic affairs of developing nations by the holders of power and wealth ... are only examples of such behavior which cannot be interpreted unless with the logic of hegemony-seeking and predominance.” (Iran Times, Sept. 18)

Right to self-determination affirmed

Consequently, the summit’s declaration stressed “the inalienable right of all peoples, including those of non-self-governing territories, as well as those of territories under foreign occupation or under colonial or foreign domination, to self-determination.

“In the case of peoples who are subject to foreign occupation and colonial or foreign domination, the exercise of self-determination remains valid and essential to securing the eradication of all those situations and ensuring the universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Pressing issues addressed at the summit included climate change, sustainable economic development, U.N. Security Council reform, human rights, unilateral sanctions, peacekeeping missions and religious tolerance. Also discussed were international solidarity, South-South cooperation, the role of youth, gender equality, the need for a new world communications and information order, and independence for Palestine and the Western Sahara.

Republic of Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe called upon the NAM to increase its cooperation with his country, now facing greater threats by former colonial and now neocolonial powers. For the last 15 years, imperialist governments in Washington, London and other European Union countries have imposed harsh economic sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Mugabe, before attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York, emphasized to summit participants: “Poverty is a threat to international peace and security and the well-being of people who are at the center of Agenda 2030. We should, therefore, continue to speak out against unilateral actions that undermine efforts to address poverty and underdevelopment.

“Zimbabwe and other Non-Aligned Movement members continue to be targets of unwarranted sanctions from powerful countries who seek to use economic might to impose their will on others. We are grateful for the steadfast support and solidarity from the movement, and expect sustained efforts to have these heinous sanctions lifted.” (Zimbabwe Sunday Mail, Sept. 18) □

New York and Boston

Protests condemn U.S. for war on Syria

By **Frank Neisser and Howard Rotman**
Boston

Anti-war activists and the public gathered and rallied at Boston’s Park Street Station for a speakout against the 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 eastern city of Deir Ezzur, which killed between 60 and 90 Syrian troops and wounded over 100 more.

The U.S. attack was a dangerous escalation in the five-year war that U.S. imperialism initiated to bring about the overturn of the legally elected and internationally recognized government of Syria.

The protesters decried the U.S. government and its allies for their continued efforts to destabilize Syria and for continuing to arm and support terrorist groups like the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State group (IS) in an effort to defeat the Syrian government.

The U.S. Sept. 17 airstrikes facilitated the advancement of IS by targeting Syrian government forces in a strategic location already surrounded by IS.

The rally was co-chaired by Susan McClucas of the Committee for Peace and Human Rights; Frank Neisser of the International Action Center; and anti-imperialist activist Daniel Haiphong. Haiphong exposed the hypocrisy of Samantha Power, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., and Washington’s war on the self-determination of the Syrian people.

Pentagon sabotaged cease-fire

Neisser said that the bombings ordered by the Pentagon, in defiance of the diplomatic path begun by the State Department and the president, deliberately sab-

otaged the Sept. 7 ceasefire agreement negotiated between Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

A large delegation from the Syrian American Forum waved Syrian flags and repeatedly led chants of “Hands off Syria! U.S. out of Syria!” Several members of the delegation spoke, including Eyad Salloum, who thanked everyone for coming out and explaining how defense of the Syrian government and demanding the imperialists leave was the only way to preserve their secular, independent country.

Other speakers included Bishop Filipe Teixeira, founder of the Franciscan Order of Saint Joseph Cupertino, who opened the rally; Charles Clemons of TOUCH 106.1 FM, the voice of the Black community; John McLoud and Joan Livingston, from the Committee for Peace and Human Rights; Al Johnson, from the Smedley Butler Brigade; Jeff Klein reporting on a recent delegation to Syria; Susan Massad, of the Women’s Fightback Network; and Nino Brown, of the Answer Coalition, who condemned the U.S. regime-change destruction of many countries in the Middle East.

Also speaking were Phebe Eckfeldt, of the Moorehead-Lilly election campaign of Workers World Party, and Brian Shea, of the Disabled Caucus of the International Action Center. Shea contrasted the austerity war at home, which is cutting back personal care assistants for people with disabilities, with the billions spent on wars in Syria and around the globe.

New York protest

Syrian Americans from across the Northeast were joined by anti-war activ-

ists at a protest 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 Arab Army troops massacred by Pentagon aircraft on Sept. 17. They also demanded an end to U.S.-NATO support for contra “rebels” and the Islamic State group.

There was loud agreement from the crowd when International Action Center Co-Director Sara Flounders declared, “We need money for jobs, education and hospitals 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 Jersey, the People’s Organization for Progress, the United National Antiwar Coalition and Veterans for Peace Chapter 21-N.J.

Greg Butterfield contributed to this article.

Protest supports Zimbabwe

Protesters chanted “Mugabe is right! Stand and fight!” outside the United Nations General Assembly in New York City Sept. 21. The December 12th Movement, Friends of Zimbabwe, the International Action Center and others rallied in solidarity with President Robert Mugabe’s call for “African land for African people” and demanded the imperialists keep their hands off independent Zimbabwe.



— Report and photo by Greg Butterfield



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!

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 política en Estados Unidos.

Hace apenas seis meses, parecía posible que un autoproclamado socialista podría ganar la nominación demócrata, algo inédito en la historia de EE.UU.

Ahora bien, hay serias advertencias de que un fanfarón, racista, misógino, multimillonario, anti-inmigrante podría ser elegido presidente y arrastre todo hacia a la derecha.

La captura de los titulares en este momento es la consternación de los líderes del Partido Demócrata que muchos de los jóvenes políticamente activos que han participado en las luchas como La Lucha por \$15, La Vida de los Negros Vale, los derechos de los inmigrantes, el movimiento ambiental, la campaña Bernie Sanders, el movimiento LGBTQ e incluso el movimiento de mujeres no voten por Hillary Clinton.

Los políticos y voces establecimiento liberal como el New York Times están llevando a cabo una redada sin límites a conducir estos posibles votantes demócratas en el redil. Ellos están lamentando el hecho de que cuando Sanders haga las corridas electorales por Clinton, él logre atraer una décima parte de sus seguidores que él atraía.

Su argumento, por supuesto, es que, si estos jóvenes progresistas no votan por Clinton, podrían ser considerados responsables de la victoria de Trump.

El sistema bipartito funciona –para los ricos

Desde hace más de dos siglos, el sistema político bipartito ideado por los primeros esclavistas, banqueros e industriales para manejar a este país ha sido muy eficaz en el mantenimiento de la regla de los pocos ricos, mientras capturan en el apoyo o al menos la aceptación de la muchos.

En sus inicios el sistema servía a los intereses de los industriales y banqueros del Norte, al mismo tiempo que los propietarios de las plantaciones del sur - hasta que los dos sistemas chocaron en una gran guerra civil.

Pero después de haber resuelto el problema entre el esclavista y el capitalista, la esclavitud frente a la esclavitud salarial, las dos partes revivieron su colaboración en interés de lucro con la traición de la Libertad para los Negros en 1876 y 1877, poniendo fin a la época de la Reconstrucción de corta duración.

El sistema de dos partidos sobrevivió al desafío del movimiento populista hacia el final del siglo 19, así como las grandes luchas obreras de la Depresión. En todo ese tiempo, ambos partidos han mantenido guerras imperialistas sacrosanta, asegurándose de que el complejo militar-industrial-bancario es lo primero, incluso en tiempos de crisis presupuestarias.

¿Qué pasa con la elección cuatrienal actual? ¿Qué hay de nuevo acerca de esto? Como siempre, presenta a un demócrata contra un republicano, aunque los candidatos proporcionan un contraste más llamativo que en las contiendas presidenciales anteriores.

¿Moviéndose a la izquierda o la derecha?

A medida que el estancamiento capitalista, que ha devastado muchas áreas, se prolonga, el sufrimiento generalizado que resulta está socavando el statu quo político.

Pero la pregunta es: ¿Están los trabajadores de EE.UU. moviéndose hacia la izquierda o hacia la derecha? ¿Está Trump apelando a un nuevo movimiento de derecha? ¿O su campaña está recogiendo la mayor parte de los votos de aquellos que no están en movimiento, no organizados, pero parecen idolatrar a una superestrella de los medios de comunicación que promete que va a solucionar todo con sólo votar por él?

Llamando constantemente a los partidarios de Trump “trabajadores blancos”, los grandes medios de comunicación pueden hacer que parezca que hay un cambio reaccionario en la clase obrera. ¿Pero cuando estos alguna vez han descrito a los muchos movimientos sociales progresistas en este país en términos de clase similares?

Desde hace unos años, muchas, muchas personas han

estado marchando, llegando a través de las redes sociales, que se reúnen multitudes instantáneas y otras formas inventivas de protesta. En su mayoría son jóvenes y muy francos, 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.

La gente dinámica de color ha estado en el liderazgo de muchos de estos movimientos, y también hay muchos, muchos trabajadores blancos - con o sin trabajo - que con pasión odian el sistema y todas las formas de intolerancia que dividen a nuestra clase.

Las calles pertenecen al pueblo

Las calles son del pueblo - no es sólo un eslogan. Los reaccionarios, los intolerantes, no están en las calles. A excepción de unos pocos acérrimos, que han sido reacios a expresar sus ideas retrógradas, de odio para el escrutinio público y la crítica. Pero Trump y los magnates de los medios reaccionarios les han dado una plataforma alta.

Desde que Sanders cedió y dio su aprobación a Clinton, el movimiento que había mirado hacia él para un nuevo curso ha tenido que replantear los que se debe hacer a continuación. No van a Trump, obviamente. Pero no pueden tener mucha confianza en Clinton y el establecimiento Democrática, tampoco.

Ellos saben que, después de ocho años de un gobierno demócrata, incluso uno encabezado por primera vez por un presidente afroamericano, poco ha cambiado en el manejo anti-trabajador, pro corporaciones y racistas del gobierno de EE.UU.

Las cárceles todavía se rellenan con los pobres. Los policías todavía derriban a los negros desarmados, incluso a los niños.

El super-ricos absorben una porción cada vez mayor de la riqueza, mientras que ciudades como Flint, Detroit, Oakland, Chicago, Baltimore y Cleveland, y muchas áreas rurales sufren niveles insostenibles de desempleo, falta de vivienda y la decadencia.

El complejo Pentágono-bancario-industrial continúa aplicando su experiencia en matar a la gente de todo el mundo - y valerse de millones de millones de dólares de impuestos del tesoro público en Washington.

La crisis ambiental global continúa manteniéndose detrás de las ganancias de las empresas petroleras y químicas y los portafolios de Wall Street.

Cualquiera que sea el candidato capitalista que obtenga más votos en esta elección, no va a cambiar todo esto - o eliminar los movimientos progresistas de este país.

Lo que es crucial es que los movimientos deben mantenerse independiente del establecimiento capitalista y fiel a sus orígenes, tener confianza en su propia fuerza, y no convertirse en un apéndice de los “menos reaccionarios” de los dos partidos imperialistas. □

ABOLIR AL CAPITALISMO –
LUCHAR POR EL SOCIALISMO
REVOLUCIONARIO



Moorehead-Lilly '16
PARA PRESIDENTE Y VICEPRESIDENTE DE EE.UU. @wwp2016
WORKERS WORLD PARTY.ORG
PARTIDO MUNDO OBRERO



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 racismo y la opresión nacional. ¡Apoyo incondicional a la autodeterminación de todas las nacionalidades oprimidas, incluyendo Negro, Latino, Indígenas, Asiáticos y los Árabes!
4. Queremos derechos plenos para todos los inmigrantes. ¡Alto a las redadas y deportaciones! Poner fin a la islamofobia ahora!
5. Queremos derechos humanos básicos: calidad de los alimentos, agua, vivienda, vestido, atención médica, educación de calidad y cuidado de los/las niños/as adecuado, libre o asequible. como derechos humanos básicos. ¡Poner fin a todas las formas de austeridad en todo el mundo! ¡Cancelar la deuda!
6. Queremos liberación PLENA y la igualdad para las mujeres, incluida la justicia reproductiva, y la liberación TOTAL de lesbianas, homosexuales, bisexuales, transgénero 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. ¡Liberar 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. Fuera el Pentagano 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 criminales o discapacidad; sin racismo, sexismo, homofobia, clasismo, patriarcado, discriminación por edad y sin preferencia a personas sin discapacidades. \$15 y una unión ahora!!
 10. Queremos poner fin al complejo industrial carcelario y al encarcelamiento en masivo. ¡Libertad para Mumia Abu-Jamal, Assata Shakur, Rasmea Odeh, Leonard Peltier, Ana Belén Montes, Rev. Edward Pinkney, los 9 de MOVE, Aafia Siddiqui, Oscar López Rivera y TODOS los presos políticos!
- Para ponerse en contacto con la campaña para invitar a los candidatos para que presenten un charla en su campus, sindicato, grupo comunitario, o reunión en su casa, o para más información, póngase en contacto con **Teresa Gutiérrez** administradora de la **Campaña Moorehead / Lilly al 917.740.2628**. Visita www.workers.org/wwp/ WWP2016@workers.org.