



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL
Detroit supports #CharlotteUprising, Oct. 4.

As state ramps up repression Charlotte Uprising pushes forward

By Ben Carroll
Charlotte, N.C.

Oct. 2 — As the righteous fightback against racist police terror continues to hit the streets of Charlotte, the state has been steadily ramping up its attempts to repress and shut down the growing Charlotte Uprising.

Rebellion broke out in Charlotte on Sept. 20 after police murdered a Black, disabled man, Keith Lamont Scott, as he waited in his truck to pick up his child from the school bus. During protests the next night, rubber bullets fired into a crowd by cops killed a 26-year-old Black man, Justin Carr. The police have since framed up another Black man, Rayquan Borum, for the murder. Charlotte Uprising has called for an independent people's investigation into Carr's death.

Initially, the police chief and the mayor refused to release any video footage from the police murder of Keith Lamont Scott. But the courageous determination and militant struggle in the streets forced them to release a portion of the videotape. They have said they will release the rest of the tape as well.

On Sept. 30, Charlotte Uprising held a solidarity vigil and rally at Mecklenburg County Jail Central. The demonstration called for the release of uprising arrestees who remain in jail, amnesty for all those arrested, and justice for Keith Lamont Scott and Justin Carr. It expressed broader solidarity with the struggle against racist mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex, as well as the growing movement of prisoners on strike, who are organizing to tear down the walls.

More on CHARLOTTE 6

"We've got folks are still in jail, we've got folks who are still caged," Ashley Williams, a Charlotte Uprising organizer, told the crowd. Referring to a court hearing earlier in the day, they said, "It was demoralizing to have to sit for an hour to call [Rayquan Borum's] name, especially for something we know he has no business being in jail for. But it also motivated me to continue to get back out here and remind folks why we're doing this. ... We're also out here for the millions of incarcerated folks who are resisting the prison-industrial complex by doing a hunger strike for the last several weeks."

State witchhunt targets activists

Though the mobilization of the National Guard and state of emergency imposed by the governor officially ended on Sept. 28, a new phase of state repression against demonstrators has begun, particularly against people whom the state has identified as leadership. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department claims to have issued 95 additional warrants targeting people who have been involved in the rebellion.

Jamal Gill, better known as King Mills, was on the ground the first nights of the rebellion, broadcasting the demonstrations — and the police attacks with tear gas and rubber bullets — to tens of thousands of viewers around the country and the world. His videos

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U.N. panel backs call for reparations

By Chris Fry

A comprehensive, up-to-date 22-page report by the U.N. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was released Aug. 18. It offers an overview of slavery, Jim Crow racism, lynching, the Civil Rights Movement and other historical and current events. It does not mince words. (tinyurl.com/gth8o8l)

In January, Working Group panelists traveled to several U.S. cities, including Baltimore, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., and Jackson, Miss. Its members met with government officials and community organizations and members. Step by step, the report analyzed the racial disparity that Black people face in the U.S. legal system, voting rights, health, education, housing and employment.

The report makes a stirring call for reparations for the African- American community: “[T]he legacy of colonial history, enslavement, racial subordination and segregation, racial terrorism and racial inequality in the United States remains a serious challenge, as there has been no real commitment to reparations and to truth and reconciliation for people of African descent.”

It stresses, “Contemporary police killings and the trauma that they create are reminiscent of the past racial terror of lynching. Impunity for state violence has resulted in the current human rights crisis and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.”

The document hails Black Lives Matter activists and their ongoing struggle, saying: “The Working Group is deeply concerned at the alarming levels of police brutality and excessive use of lethal force by law enforcement officials, committed with impunity against people of African descent in the United States.”

Police killings: ‘tip of the iceberg’

Moreover, “In addition to the ... well-known cases of killings of unarmed African Americans ... Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray and Laquan McDonald — [we] received information about many other similar cases. ... Killings of unarmed African Americans by the police [are] only the tip of the iceberg in

what is a pervasive racial bias in the justice system.”

It tells of the Chicago Police Accountability report, which shows that although African Americans constitute “only one-third of the city’s population, 74 percent of the 404 people shot by the Chicago police between 2008 and 2015 were Black, three out of every four people on whom Chicago police officers used Tasers between 2012 and 2015 were African Americans, and 72 percent of ... street stops” not leading to arrests in “the summer of 2014 were carried out on African Americans.”

The panel analyzed the mass incarceration of Black youth, racist use of the death penalty, role of police in the classroom who attack Black children, outrageous use of solitary confinement in prison and denial of effective medical treatment for hepatitis C infections.

As for education, “The Working Group is concerned by the underfunding and closure of schools, particularly those in poor neighborhoods with significant African-American populations. In school curricula, the historical facts concerning ... colonization, the trans-Atlantic trade in Africans, and enslavement, which have been crucial to the organization of contemporary American society, are not sufficiently covered in all schools.” In some states, curricula “fail to address adequately the root causes of racial inequality and injustice. This contributes to the structural invisibility of African Americans.”

The Flint water crisis, huge wealth disparity, environmental racism and Black maternal deaths are also addressed in the document Activists working to effect change would find it most informative.

Of course, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have not seriously addressed the issues raised here. Neither supports the call for reparations for African-American and other oppressed communities. Nor did Bernie Sanders, despite the urging of prominent African-Americans, such as journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates who authored an eloquent call for reparations in the Atlantic magazine. (tinyurl.com/nopprgt)

In contrast, Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, Workers World Party’s presidential and vice presidential candidates, put reparations for the oppressed as the number-one issue in their campaign program. □

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WORKERS WORLD

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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PA prison protests call for clean water, Hep C drugs

By Joe Piette

A car caravan transported prisoners’ family members, friends and prisoners’ rights activists to SCI Mahanoy and SCI Frackville prisons on Sept. 25. Outside both prisons in Frackville, Pa., they held signs and handed out fliers raising prisoners’ complaints that tap water is brown and foul-smelling. They also demanded that the state provide curative hepatitis C treatment to prisoners.

The leaflets explained that the problems with water are not just issues for prisoners, but for the surrounding communities, which have also had dirty water. Water is, of course, essential for life and is considered a basic human right, as agreed to by the United Nations.

After their visit with political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal inside Mahanoy, Pam Africa and Charlotte O’Neal reported to a rally outside that the water there is still undrinkable. Other prisoners told them that the discolored water leaves an oily sheen on their skin after they wash or shower. Africa is minister of confrontation for the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMAJ), and Charlotte O’Neal is a former member of the Kansas City Black Panther Party and a longtime activist in Tanzania.

At Mahanoy, inmates are only allowed three small cups of water at each meal, while at Frackville, prisoners are given a gallon of water daily for all purposes. There is not even clean water available for purchase at Mahanoy, so the imprisoned brothers are limited to buying soda or juice from vending machines. This is not only expensive for prisoners



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

who have little money, but it is a serious danger to those with diabetes — and unhealthy for everyone because of the high sugar content.

Prison officials are threatening inmates with lockdown to prevent them from calling outside and reporting what’s going on.

The ICFFMAJ, the International Action Center, the MOVE Organization, and the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition NYC organized the rallies.

6,000 inmates with hep C denied cure

Demonstrators also criticized the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, which still refuses to give inmates the new, highly effective medications to cure hepatitis C. This is despite an Aug. 31 court decision finding the state’s hep C protocol unconstitutional. Over 6,000 inmates in the state, including Abu-Jamal, have this deadly disease. The DOC refuses to treat them with Sovaldi and Harvoni, which have an up-to-99-percent cure rate.

Abu-Jamal explained to his visitors that his skin still itches, and he continues to take medicine to relieve the dis-

comfort, even though it causes diarrhea. He and other prisoners are suffering from these and other symptoms of hep C, which could be eliminated if the DOC treated them with the new medications.

Pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences Inc. owns the patent for the hep C cures and has a monopoly on both medications. Gilead charges up to \$1,000 for one pill and from \$84,500 to \$94,500 for the full 12-week treatment. In contrast, a humane approach is carried out in India, where the government has set the price of one pill at \$4 and \$378 for the full treatment.

By not curing hep C in prison, this contagious disease can spread within communities, as ill prisoners are released and could transmit the virus to other people. Most families cannot pay for the exorbitantly priced medicines their loved ones need once they return home.

Court ruling: Prison hep C policy “unlawful”

In August 2015, Mumia sued members of the Pennsylvania DOC for failure to treat him with the known cure for hep C. On Aug. 31, U.S. District Court Judge Robert D. Mariani ruled that the DOC’s hep C protocol for treating the state’s prisoners is unconstitutional, violates the 8th Amendment prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment and engages in “deliberate indifference to the known risks which follow from untreated chronic hepatitis C.” Arguing that prisoners

have rights to health care, the judge established that “the standard of care for individuals with chronic hepatitis C is no different within the prison walls than in the community.” (Abolitionist Law Center)

Judge Mariani’s ruling nevertheless denied Mumia’s request for a preliminary injunction that would have allowed the judge to order his immediate treatment. He denied the motion on a technicality — that Mumia’s lawsuit did not name members of the DOC’s Hepatitis C Care Committee, the body charged with treating prisoners with hep C. An appeal on this ruling has since been filed.

Take action!

Activists demand immediate action by state officials on the following: Investigate reports of water problems; give all prisoners an adequate supply of bottled water for drinking and access to clean water for showering and personal use; treat Mumia and all 6,000 state prisoners who are at risk of dying from the untreated disease with the hep C cure; and provide free hep C curative treatment for all Pennsylvania residents with the deadly disease.

Further, activists ask supporters to phone these state officials and register the demands for clean water and hep C treatment:

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf — 717-787-2500

Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel — 717-728-4109

Report complaints about the lack of clean water at SCI Mahanoy and SCI Frackville to the Environmental Protection Agency at 800-438-2474. □

Battle for Port Covington: Gentrifiers vs. workers, oppressed

By Carl Lewis
Baltimore

Once again, as happened with the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, real estate moguls and developers are pressing for millions of dollars of Baltimore residents’ money in order to construct a white-privilege community. Meanwhile, impoverished East and West Baltimore continue to suffer from decay and disenfranchisement.

Especially after last April’s uprising against the police murder of Freddie Gray, this is both an insult to his memory and a slap in the face to Baltimore’s Black community.

Kevin Plank, the multibillionaire owner of Under Armour, a sportswear conglomerate, and his parent real estate company, Sagamore Development, have asked the city to underwrite municipal bonds in order to build and develop a “mini-city” enclave of waterfront parks plus new offices for Under Armour, middle- to upper-class housing, and other industries owned by Plank. This \$600 million in tax increment financing, which means “payment in lieu of taxes,” from the city is the largest such request in U.S. history.

Unfortunately, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the majority of the City Council have endorsed this project, which will continue the legacy of segregation and blight while effectively denying access to these areas for the oppressed. It will criminalize their very presence, as has happened in Harbor Place, another municipal brainchild that was supposed to “redevelop” the city and bring jobs for

the unemployed. Instead, it resulted in minimum-wage jobs along with the development of more condos and residential units for the wealthy.

Most community leaders have called this nothing but corporate welfare, comparable to the building, 50 years ago, of the Charles Center, which promised to bring a thriving downtown, surrounded by robust affordable housing and parks. However, that dream became a nightmare of increased unemployment, closed businesses, and lack of accessibility or affordability for Black people.

The Maryland American Civil Liberties Union and Public Justice Center say the following in their “Comments on the Port Covington Master Plan”: “We should show that Baltimore has learned a hard lesson: that the existence of ‘two Baltimores’ — one empowered, wealthy and thriving, the other still redlined and marginalized — is no longer sustainable. ... As it stands now, the Port Covington Master Plan is a prime example of structural inequality on a massive scale — and of the same old waterfront-focused economic development approach that hasn’t worked to reverse Baltimore’s decline, and will contribute in fact to the disinvestment in other neighborhoods. While ‘big and bold,’ this vision is decidedly limited to the old school of trickle-down economic development.”

By far the most pressing issue in this whole city-financed project is the fight for affordable housing for all working people and the oppressed. The project’s many opponents include the ACLU; Maryland Working Families; the People’s Power Assembly; the Maryland Consumer Rights

Coalition; the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; UNITE HERE Local 7; City Advocates for the Homeless; and the Baltimore Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, led by the Rev. C.D. Witherspoon.

At a tense City Hall meeting of more than 100 people on July 27, advocates for the poor and oppressed were vocal in their condemnation of the “deal” between the city and these capitalist parasites. Jon Laria, a spokesperson for Sagamore, arrogantly asserted that “I am not going to sit here — and I am not going to ask Sagamore to sit here — if there is booing and jeering back and forth.”

Laria and his gang of lawyers and public relations people, as well as Sagamore’s security goons, were reacting to a tidal wave of harsh criticism from the crowd. One person summed it up by yelling, “A poor Black city supporting kayak and boat slips!?” Laria responded, “I am fairly sure that African Americans kayak too.” Rev. C.D. Witherspoon of the SCLC then shouted in response to this racist and paternalistic comment, “Working-class people in the city will never benefit from these amenities. This is for rich white people! You want it, pay for it yourself!”

City Council President Jack Young

gave his wholehearted support to this giveaway. Sharon Black, who is running an independent socialist campaign, is challenging Young for the City Council president’s seat. She and Andre Powell, a write-in candidate for mayor, have been vocal as well as active in denouncing the city government’s giveaways to big business interests.

An article in the Baltimore Sun exposed Plank’s “promise” that affordable housing units will be built: “Critics contend the affordable housing agreement is too weak. It requires 10 percent of Port Covington’s affordable housing units be built for people who make less than \$26,000, but it contains what the critics call a ‘loophole’ that allows the developer to pay money into an exclusionary housing fund instead of building the units. The developers do not have to build the housing for the poor unless they receive federal low-income housing credits.” (Sept. 19)

Baltimore city schools, some of which have already been closed, will be further victimized by this robbery. It will divert \$315 million of state aid from the school system until the bonds are repaid. There is basically no enforcement code in Sagamore’s promises.

It’s all just another example of “capitalism at a dead end.” □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance Leilani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead, and more.

Available at all major online booksellers.





Campaign heads West

By Terri Kay

The Moorehead/Lilly campaign is heading west, starting with Workers World Party presidential candidate Monica Moorehead’s participation in the School of Americas Watch’s U.S./Mexican Border Convergence in **Nogales, Ariz., and Nogales, Mexico, from Oct. 7 to Oct. 10.** Moorehead will help amplify the demands of the convergence:

- An end to the destructive U.S. military, economic and political interventions in the Americas.
- Demilitarization of the borders. We need to build bridges with our neighbors, not walls.
- The dismantling of the racist and sexist systems that steal from, criminalize and kill migrants, refugees, Native people, gender nonconforming people, communities of color and others throughout the hemisphere.
- Respect, dignity, justice and self-determination for all communities, especially the poor and most vulnerable.
- No more profits over people! Private military, prison, oil, mining and other corporations should not determine our future or that of the earth. The people should. (soaw.org)

Moorehead will stay through **Oct. 10** to participate in an event honoring **Indigenous Peoples Day in Tucson.** WWP vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly will start out in **Los Angeles on Oct. 9,** meeting with original members of the Black Panther Party and discussing the campaign’s program at a 10 a.m Black Panther Party Breakfast at the Simply Wholesome restaurant in South Central. Lilly will then arrive in **Oakland on Oct. 10** to speak at Laney College as part of a series during Latinx History Month. The 6 p.m. event features Melanie Cervantes of Dignidad Rebelde as the keynote speaker. Lilly will speak in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day about his recent solidarity trip to Standing Rock.

Both Moorehead and Lilly will then

appear in **Oakland** on **Oct. 12** at the Workers World Party office for a reception at 6 p.m., followed by presentations at 7 p.m. in which they will report back from their visits to Nogales, the Charlotte Uprising, Standing Rock and other significant struggles. Cat Brooks of the Anti Police-Terror Project will be a guest speaker as well. The wheelchair-accessible office is located at 1305 Franklin St. #411. Call 510-600-5800 for information.

On **Oct. 13,** Moorehead and Lilly will speak at **Los Angeles** Trade Technical College as guests of the Black and Brown Students for Social Change. Then, on Oct. 15, they will be speak at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles. There, the two will discuss an alternative view to that of the ruling-class candidates of the two-party system, amplifying the Black Lives Matter movement, the fight to end the war on Black and Brown peoples, and nationwide calls to disarm the police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Guests who come early can also catch the “Fidel is Fidel” photo exhibit from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A dinner and mixer with the candidates will begin at 5 p.m.; the candidates’ presentation and discussion will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The center is at 5278 W. Pico Blvd. (just seven blocks west of La Brea Avenue).

The candidates’ last stop will be in **San Diego** on **Oct. 16,** where they’ve been invited by the Committee Against Police Brutality to participate in a roundtable discussion at the Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center, located at 5148 Market St. The event, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., will also include Soldier Patrick Germany of the San Diego Black Panther Party; Rashida Hameed, San Diego community activist and founder of Epiphany Women in Focus; Dennis Malone of All of Us or None; Darwin Fishman, San Diego Citizens’ Review Board of Police Practices; and Aaron Harvey, Justice4SD33. □



Presidential campaign pushes forward in Michigan

By Martha Grevatt

Michigan supporters of Workers World Party presidential candidate Monica Moorehead and vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly recently learned that the two have achieved official write-in candidate status in the state. That means that the state is legally obligated to tally every vote for these two revolutionary socialists.

Getting official status involved locating a supporter in each of 14 congressional districts who would go on record as an “elector” for Moorehead and Lilly. On Sept. 9, a delegation from Detroit Workers World Party and Fight Imperialism Stand Together accompanied Moorehead to Lansing, the state capital, to file the necessary paperwork.

Speaking in Detroit on Sept. 10, Moorehead pointed out that “Detroit has

a proud place in African-American history, as exemplified by the role of African-American workers — many communists and socialists — in the forming of the UAW [United Auto Workers union], particularly at Ford.”

Michigan workers, especially workers of color, have a high stake in the fight against capitalism. As Moorehead further elaborated, “Capitalist hi-tech, low-pay restructuring resulted in layoffs of tens of thousands of good paying jobs for Black workers in disproportionate numbers. The entire inner city of Detroit has been made expendable by the bosses and especially the banks. ... Detroit and similar cities like Flint, Benton Harbor, Muskegon, Saginaw and Pontiac are owed reparations to help rebuild their cities under control of the workers and community united, void of police terror.” □

Lessons of the Clinton-Trump debate

By Teresa Gutierrez

CNN reported that the Sept. 26 debate between presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump at Hofstra University in Long Island, N.Y., was the most watched ever. Some 84 million people tuned in, according to Nielsen ratings. Those figures exclude the millions who watched from other countries.

In one way, it is difficult to understand why any thoughtful individual with a sense of justice, equality and peace, would bother to watch the spectacle. The two candidates are among the most hated presidential candidates in U.S. history. Ever.

One is a racist misogynist buffoon who has galvanized white supremacists and anti-immigrant thugs. The other is a practiced warmonger whose history in politics has aligned her with the forces that created mass incarceration and increased poverty, especially among workers of color.

Clinton has the blood of Hondurans, Haitians and Syrians (and more) on her hands. Trump has lied, cheated, stolen and exploited thousands on his way to becoming a billionaire. Trump proves that you don’t have to be smart to get rich. You only have to be merciless and coldblooded.

Both are dangerous to the workers and oppressed, not only in the U.S. but around the world.

So why watch the debate? Frankly, this writer does not have the answer.

It is, however, important to tune into the public spectacle that is the 2016 presidential elections, no matter how painful, no matter how hard.

Put on your class-conscious glasses

Why? Because the elections give an important lesson for understanding the society we live in. More important, they are a glaring example of the need for the working class to put on its class-conscious glasses, break from both parties and fight like hell to build a movement that fights for fundamental revolutionary change.

The debate did, indeed, take up issues that are relevant to workers and people of color. Moderator Lester Holt asked about income inequality, police violence and so-called national security.

But the answers and the content of the debate were far from relevant to the real-

ity that people face every day.

What follow-up, for example, arose from an earlier Democratic Party debate, the issue of the water in Flint, Mich.? None. Flint’s water crisis is now out of the headlines despite the problem still being dire.

Trump’s answer to police brutality was “law and order.” Those are code words for more repression, more militarization of the police and a thoroughly pro-cop orientation. Clinton, who has been forced to address the issue more, given the historical reliance of the Democratic Party on the Black vote, paid lip service to the issue.

But neither called for the jailing of killer cops, which would be the first just step in addressing the epidemic. Neither would ever call for what the Black Lives Matter movement is demanding, which is abolishing the police altogether, a righteous demand.

The debates are a good example of how the ruling class of this country has fine-tuned to the nth degree the ability to distort reality. Trump and Clinton argued about the Trans Pacific Partnership. Trump makes it sound as if he is against trade agreements that shut down factories in the U.S., lay off workers and allow companies to flee abroad for cheaper labor. Clinton flip flops on trade agreements depending on which way the wind is blowing.

No candidate mentions that it is these trade policies that have brought on the greatest forced migration of workers in history.

But the reality is that despite their rhetoric, neither would ever wage the necessary genuine fight to stop abusive capitalist trade policies, because both are loyal to capitalism. Both want the riches and plunder that come from the profit system. One wishes only to reduce the pain on the people; the other is just plain lying in order to attract disenfranchised white workers.

As one journalist, Max Ajl, wrote, “Which presidential candidate will be the more effective evil remains to be seen, but one thing is for certain: no matter who is elected, U.S. voters lose.” (telesur, Sept. 27)

The candidates debated national security — but who is fighting for the security of the Syrian children? Not them. Instead, a Clinton presidency would



Union calls national boycott of Trump properties

Culinary Workers Local 226 took a bold step in their drive for a union contract at Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on Sept. 27. On behalf of the 500 workers, mostly Spanish-speaking immigrants, CWU Local 226 called a national boycott of all facilities that Trump “owns, has invested in, or has partnered with,” said CWU spokeswoman Bethany Khan. “Other unions can respect [the] boycott and not deliver goods or pass the picket line.” The AFL-CIO supports the boycott. (Huffington Post, Sept. 27)

The cooks, housekeepers, bellhops, cocktail servers and other workers voted to join UNITE HERE’s Culinary Workers Local 226 and Bartenders Local 165 last December. But Trump management appealed the National Labor Relations Board’s certification of the union, and the board has yet to issue a final ruling.

The NLRB general counsel filed charges against the hotel after finding merit in the union’s claim that management intimidated and retaliated against pro-union workers during the organizing campaign. But the full board hasn’t ruled on that, either. WW wants to know: Why is the NLRB twiddling its thumbs?

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No borders in workers' struggles!

The following statement was released by Workers World Party 2016 presidential candidate Monica Moorehead and vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly on Oct 7.

We salute with full solidarity those gathered at the Encuentro en la Frontera/Encounter at the Border in Arizona, Oct. 7-10. We salute the School of the Americas Watch for its bold decision to bring the struggle here from its 25-year righteous outcry at the gates of Fort Benning, Ga., in opposition to catastrophic U.S. "interventions" in Central and Latin America.

Side-by-side with you, we are fighting to end the racist persecution of migrants and refugees, and to end U.S.-led and U.S.-backed imperialist war and policies forcing people to flee their own homelands.

This action, at this brutally militarized border, dramatizes the bloody connections between U.S. military aid and training of repressive security forces; forced migration of workers, particularly from Central America and Mexico; racist U.S. immigration laws and for-profit ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement]

prisons entombing immigrants; the monster prison-industrial complex targeting Black and Brown people; and the ongoing murderous assault of state police terror against people of color.

We denounce the violently racist proposals and words of Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, who incites despicable mob thinking and vigilante action with his call for a wall to fortify the already unjustly imposed border on lands stolen by the U.S. from Mexico.

The U.S. spends trillions fortifying the repression of workers and oppressed people at home and in other countries. With Plan Merida, a "security cooperation" agreement, the U.S. gave Mexico billions to supposedly "fight drugs." The money intensively armed state police to arrest and murder protesters, including teachers and students. We say: "No to Plan Merida! Money for drug rehabilitation, not war and repression!"

Furthermore, we demand justice for the families of the Ayotzinapa 43 and all those killed and disappeared by the murderous U.S.-backed Mexican government, especially the murdered and missing women of Juárez. We are pained by

the continued U.S.-backed war of aggression in Colombia and stand with all those in resistance to imperialism and those fighting for peace in that beleaguered nation.

We denounce Hillary Clinton, Democratic Party candidate for U.S. president, who was chief engineer of the 2009 coup against democratically elected Honduran President Manuel Zelaya when she served as Secretary of State. Clinton has blood on her hands for the ensuing loss of Honduran lives, the targeted killing of women, and the political assassinations of Garifuna Nation leaders, union members and other activists, including environmental leader Berta Cáceres and LGBTQ leader Walter Tróchez.

What was Clinton's cold-blooded answer to a question about the forced "child migrant crisis" coming out of Honduras? She called for the deportation of these children, whose families had to send them alone to the U.S. to escape killings she had set in motion. She said: "Tell them the journey is too dangerous."

For 60 million people and counting, the "dangerous journey" of forced migration is happening worldwide because



Monica Moorehead (right) holds banner, May Day 2016.

of U.S.-driven neoliberal economic exploitation, imperialist wars and capitalist-driven climate change. These assaults have bludgeoned and destabilized countries in Northern Africa and the Middle East, particularly countries like Libya, Syria and Iraq, which are seeking to remain independent of U.S. control.

We denounce the xenophobia and Islamophobia that has sprung up in the wake of these migrations. We are in solidarity with all migrants, and especially the Muslim community.

We say: End forced migration! Reparations for all refugees from Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America/Caribbean!

We say: Full rights for the undocumented! No borders in the workers' struggle!

No militarized borders! No to U.S. imperialist interventions!

Black Lives Matter everywhere! Stop police terror from the U.S. to Mexico!

No to Trump's racism, no to Clinton's war machine! Build the movement for revolutionary change! □



Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly

and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have marched against the Republicans in Cleveland and the Democratic Party machine in Philadelphia. They have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about **REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**.

The candidates are really going to be busy starting Oct. 7 through Oct. 9 at the Border Convergence in Tucson, Ariz., on to California Oct. 9 through Oct. 21, then to upstate



Teresa Gutierrez

New York and finally Baltimore. Visit our website at workers.org/www/campaign-news/ for weekly updates on our work.

In the remaining weeks before the Nov. 8 election, we have a chance to reach millions more with ads, online voting, ballot access work and additional travel around the country.

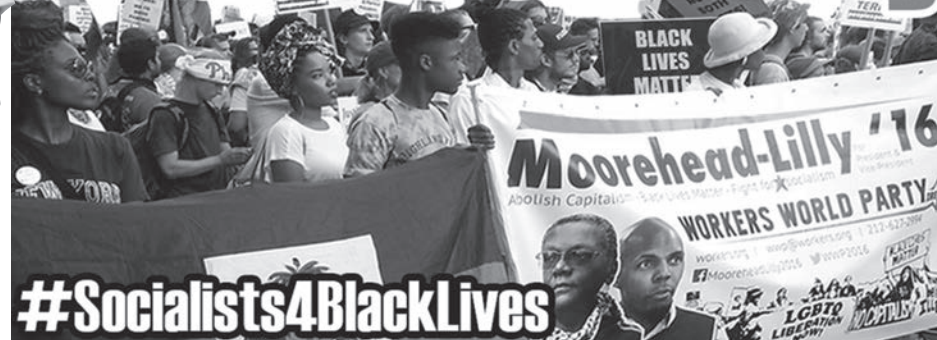
But we can't do this without your support!

We are a working-class party and our only source of income is from people like you. Help us get out the voice for revolutionary socialism

DONATE! DONATE! DONATE!

The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign needs your donation now

vote4socialism.org



to counter the Clinton war machine and Trump's racist, anti-people offensives.

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

Paid for by the Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee.

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mean more displacement, more bombs, more imperialist domination of Syria. A Trump presidency would mean, well, it would mean abundant chaos.

The pain of this election is real. It is painful for young people who had their hopes on an anti-Wall Street candidate; it is painful for every Black person whose communities are being ripped apart by police terror, whether they know the victims or not; it is painful for every Muslim who attempts to board a plane, for every immigrant child who fears their parent may not come home.

It is painful to read in the Sept. 24 New York Times, "And in Richardson, Tex., the Alamo Drafthouse had to switch to a bigger room after overwhelming interest in a screening [of the debate] with refreshments like a 'build a wall around it' taco salad."

Imagine how the inevitable migrant worker in that restaurant felt that night.

A woman of color posted on Facebook

recently the following: "As I picked up my coffee this morning and watched CNN on the screen, the hatred spewing from Trump's spokesperson brought me to tears. Right there, in the coffee shop, in public while alone, I burst out crying."

Her post ended with a call to her Facebook friends, to, despite the contradictions, hold their nose and vote for Hillary Clinton to assure that Trump would not get in.

She is not alone in this view.

Hold your nose?

Indeed, the sight of Trump and Clinton, their arrogance, their cynicism, their manipulation, can demoralize the senses. It can lead us all to tears any time anywhere.

But the pain of watching Donald Trump or the fear of warmonger Clinton should not lead to despair — or simply to voting for the "lesser evil" Democrats.

It must lead to building a revolutionary movement where the movement for Black

Lives is central to the leadership, where Black and Brown people are in utmost solidarity, fighting for and defending the issues that matter to the vast majority of people, young and old, of every color and nationality, gender or gender nonconforming, abled bodied or not, etc.

This movement should be and is inspired by the heroic and momentous resistance at Standing Rock, N.D., by long-oppressed Indigenous people.

This movement must be class conscious. It must understand that it is the workers and the oppressed who have the real power in society. It must fight for a long-term solution: socialism.

This is the kind of program WWP candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly are addressing as they travel the country on their campaign.

The revulsion aroused by the likes of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton has widened the opportunity for that kind of movement to develop.

Why class consciousness?

It is important to give an example of why class consciousness is important.

Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein, who many millennials and others are turning to in growing numbers, spoke on Democracy Now! in the aftermath of the debate. In response to the issue of police violence, she said her platform calls for a truth and reconciliation commission to address police violence.

Sadly, this is a dead end. Class consciousness, Marxism and revolutionary thinking demonstrate that the oppressed, who are being brutally occupied by the police and have been for centuries, cannot reconcile with their oppressors.

The interests and needs of the workers and oppressed are irreconcilable with the bosses and oppressors. Understanding this truth will lead to a great revolutionary socialist movement in this country.

Gutierrez is manager for the 2016 WWP Presidential Campaign.

#CharlotteUprising marches on rich, white mall

By Ben Carroll
Charlotte, N.C.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney had been set to hold a community forum on Sept. 29. Over a hundred community members who have been part of the ongoing Charlotte Uprising came to speak out, continue to raise the call for justice for Keith Lamont Scott and Justin Carr, and call for Putney's resignation. But at the last minute, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department called off the forum.

In response, activists left the church, where the forum was to be held, in their cars in a "funeral-like" caravan. A rally was held at a shuttered library before a

march that went to high-traffic shopping areas in South Charlotte — a predominantly rich, white part of town.

The march passed restaurants and other shops with chants of "Black Lives Matter!" "Justice for Keith Scott! Justice for Justin Carr!" and "No justice, no peace! No racist police!"

South Park Mall was just ahead as the march made its way forward. South Park is the largest mall in North Carolina — and one of the most profitable in the country — and includes many high-end retail stores. After marching down into the parking lot and circling the outside of the mall, the demonstration headed inside.

The energy was electric as chants from megaphones bounced off the high ceil-



South Park Mall, Charlotte, Sept. 29.

WW PHOTO: BEN CARROLL

ings. Workers from nearby stores, many of whom were Black and Brown, came out and joined the chants, cheered on the demonstration, and raised their fists in the air. Some even joined the demonstration, as many of the stores closed early and locked their doors. It was another economic blow the Charlotte Uprising has dealt to business since the rebellion broke

out, causing losses upwards of tens of millions of dollars to the economy.

After winding through the mall and holding down chants in the central rotunda, the march pressed forward and continued on to other nearby shopping areas. More actions and demonstrations are planned for the days ahead as the Charlotte Uprising continues to build. □

Uprising forces release of killer cop's video

By Fred Goldstein

The truly heroic forces of the Charlotte Uprising have carried out a great struggle to get justice for Keith Lamont Scott, who was murdered in cold blood by the cops on Sept. 20 while waiting in his car for his son to come home from school. Now they are also fighting for freedom for Rayquan Borum, who has been framed up for the police killing of Justin Carr during the rebellion. Eyewitnesses say that the rubber bullet that killed Carr was fired by the police. Only the police have rubber bullets.

In the course of the righteous rebellion, the Uprising has pushed back the cops and established an important precedent that the movement should study and try to follow. They have carried their rebellion to the commercial and financial centers of Charlotte, the Wall Street of the South.

For example, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Duke Energy, the real ruling class of North Carolina, were forced to tell their workers to stay home for several days.

Taking it to the ruling class

The commercial EpiCenter, which houses businesses, a major hotel, restaurants and bars, was invaded and business has fallen way off. There were major cancellations at large hotels. The Westin Hotel had three large groups cancel, losing several 4,000-room nights of business. The Aria Tuscan Grill restaurant had 300 reservations on a Friday night and none of them showed up.

According to the owner of the Aria Tuscan Grill and City Smoke, "I remember 9/11 vividly, and remember thinking that was the worst. This event is even bigger."

As state ramps up repression

Charlotte Uprising pushes forward

Continued from page 1

have been viewed more than 1 million times. In a clear targeting by the state for his role in mobilizing people and documenting the rebellion, police arrested Mills on trumped-up charges on Sept. 28, one week after the initial demonstrations. They gave him an obscenely high bail of \$320,000, which the movement fought and reduced to a still outrageous \$162,000. After being bailed out he was rearrested on new charges just hours later, while eating lunch. Charlotte Uprising packed his first court appearance on Sept. 29 in a show of unity and solidarity.

Police have been following and targeting other activists who have been at the



Charlotte protest, Sept. 28.

(Charlotte Observer, "Unrest 'huge blow' to uptown hospitality industry," Sept. 28) There was also damage to Walmart, the Omni Hotel, the Hyatt, the Charlotte Convention Center and an office tower near the NASCAR Hall of Fame. There were boarded-up stores in both downtown and uptown.

Demonstrators blocked interstate highways I-77, I-85 and I-277, all of which are important access routes to the commercial districts. The police had to shut down I-277 for several hours.

The Carolina Panthers game on Sept. 25 was the most undersold game in two years. With tickets costing \$120 each, much revenue was undoubtedly lost.

Police do 180 on videos

The protesters' victory so far has been to force an adamant police chief and the mayor to release police videos of the shooting. The police initially refused to release them.

Police Chief Kerr Putney spoke the day after the killing. With Mayor Jennifer Roberts by his side, he firmly refused to release any videos on the grounds that they were part of an ongoing investigation.

Putney started litigating the case in public right away, declaring that Scott got out of his car with a gun and pointed it at the police.

The next day, as the rebellion grew, Putney said that even if the videos didn't show Scott with a gun, the cops found a gun. Later they said they found an ankle holster. Of course "dropping a gun" is standard police operation when they want to cover up a killing or frame up someone. One video also shows the cops yelling at Scott, "Drop the gun." But the police knew full well that the dash cam was on them and they acted out their lines accordingly.

A day later Putney said the cops would release the videos when there was a good reason to.

And finally, in the wake of the movement's calls for his resignation, Putney totally reversed course on Sept. 24 and said he would release the videos.

So far the police have released partial videos; they are due to release much more video. This victory is going to put pressure on police departments across the country to release videos of police shootings. And it was done in a matter of days.

This is no small accomplishment. In Chicago the movement could not get the release of the video of Laquan McDonald's murder for 14 months, and it was only released after a court order based on a lawsuit by a reporter.

Taking on state by pressuring ruling class

At the present time, the movement against racist police killings and brutality does not have the force to take on the state directly. The local police are militarized, as are the state police and the National Guard. The state can only be pushed back indirectly, by interfering

with the sales and profits of the banks, big business, and medium and small businesses. Because the cops are, in the end, only the servants of business, it is the capitalist ruling class that can be forced to tell their servants to pull back.

Of course, the ruling class is secretly behind the new wave of repression being brought against the Uprising — including hundreds arrested, new warrants for organizers and the frame-ups of key people. It is quite expected that the ruling class will strike back with repression. But no matter what, the victory has already been accomplished and cannot be erased. And the repression must be fought, not just by the Charlotte movement, but also by people from the entire country in the struggle for Black lives.

Displaying extraordinary heroism and determination, the Uprising refused to be intimidated by a massive show of force. Hundreds of cops in riot gear, showering rubber bullets and tear gas, and wielding clubs, could not drive the demonstrators off the streets.

The Uprising defied a state of emergency declared by the governor and curfews by the local government. The activists came back, day after day, night after night. While they could not defeat the state outright, they also refused to be intimidated. They pushed up against the cops, the Guard and the state police. And they stayed in the streets.

This struggle has illuminated the relationship between the bosses and the cops. That alone is an accomplishment. Of course, there still has to be the indictment, the trial and the conviction of the cops involved. That is a much larger struggle. But the Uprising has shown the great potential of a truly grassroots rebellion. □

Roy Cooper, and North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory to demand an immediate end to the repression of demonstrators. More info can be found at charlotteuprising.com. Donations to the bail fund, which are urgently needed, can be made there as well.

Daily actions — including a statewide mobilization and call for solidarity actions around the country on Oct. 4, the two-week anniversary of Scott's murder — are continuing.

The Black and Brown youth — including many women, queer, trans and gender-nonconforming people — who have been on the frontlines of the rebellion in Charlotte are inaugurating a new period of struggle against racist police terror. The masses of working class and oppressed people in the streets have felt their power, and there is no

high bails issued by the courts are an attempt to frustrate and drain the resources to bail people out, which have been sustained by an outpouring of donations from across the country.

But Charlotte Uprising has vowed to fight back, stay in the streets, and push back against these attempts by the state to crush the movement. The struggle in Charlotte is entering a critical hour, and the need for the broader movement to come to the defense of the uprising is urgent.

Charlotte organizers have put out a call for a national phone and email campaign targeting the CMPD, Mecklenburg County sheriffs, Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts, North Carolina Attorney General

Kaepernick ‘effect’ grows with every police atrocity

By Monica Moorehead

Oct. 3 — Since Aug. 26, when San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick explained why he began to sit and then kneel during the playing of the national anthem to protest racist police violence, at least 20 more Black people have been murdered by the police. They include California residents Alfred Olango, a Ugandan immigrant in El Cajon; Reginald Thomas Jr. in Pasadena; and Carnell Snell Jr. in Los Angeles.

What is also intensifying is that more and more athletes are taking a visible stand against police brutality, including in the National Football League, the most popular sport in the U.S., which is more than 70 percent Black. Duane Strong, a Houston Texans tackle, wrote an Oct. 2 Sports Illustrated column titled “I stand with Colin Kaepernick: We won’t — we can’t — just ‘Stick To Sports.’”

A native of Richmond, Va., Strong described what happened to him once he moved to Houston: “Like so many other young black men, I was pulled over in a routine traffic stop that ended up as anything but routine. I hadn’t committed any crime, but that didn’t stop the officer from treating me like a criminal. Why was I driving a rented car with an out-of-state license? I wanted so desperately to defuse what he had made into a confrontational situation that I tried pulling up a recent article on my phone to prove I was a member of the Texans. He still didn’t believe me, instead opting to make me sit on a curb for upwards of 45 minutes in intense heat so he could exercise his power over me.”

Strong explained, “The entire experience made me feel incredibly angry and frustrated, but even worse, it made me question the legitimacy of law enforcement; something to this day I remain reticent to do on account of the countless public servants who put their lives on the line every single day to uphold the oaths they have sworn to. Still, if someone like me could be treated like that — simply because of the way I looked — other innocent people surely endure much, much worse.” (tinyurl.com/hh2chsu)

Refusing to stay quiet

Jared Odrick, a Jacksonville Jaguars player, also wrote a Sept. 12 Sports Illustrated column titled “Football, the Flag and the Right to Speak Our Minds.” In it, he stated: “When we step outside the bounds of third-down efficiency we are told to keep quiet. ... Social injustices can’t be ignored.”

Odrick continued, “We’ve forgotten that we’re supposed to loathe falling in

line. So-called renegades shouldn’t be embraced only after decades have passed and their causes deemed by historians to be acceptable or inevitable. Muhammad Ali challenged our country in fundamental ways while captivating audiences with his skill in the ring. He is viewed now as a cultural warrior, when in reality he lived as a pariah in his prime.”

“Millions of fans tie their identities to our teams’ successes, but they don’t know the men behind the face masks,” stressed Odrick. “When Kaepernick bucked the system, he forced people to reflect on the constructs they’ve accepted or, worse, had never considered.” (tinyurl.com/jugpaat)

While at least 13 NFL teams have seen individual players either kneel or raise their fists before their games, what has become known as the “Kaepernick effect” has had a profound impact on college and high school players, including whole teams like the Monroe High School Varsity football team in Rochester, N.Y., and the Plainfield South Varsity football team in Illinois.

Players on the University of Massa-



chusetts Dartmouth football team protested against police brutality on Oct. 1. One of them was Raziel Pena-Vargas, a 23-year-old Dominican American, who stated, “I would like for our government or police forces to find a solution to stop shooting unarmed black men. We have to find a solution because this is becoming an epidemic in this country. ... When I saw Colin Kaepernick not stand for the National Anthem, I thought, ‘Wow, that takes a lot of guts.’” When Pena-Vargas was a teenager in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,



Colin Kaepernick; Tindley Accelerated School volleyball team kneels in protest, Oct. 1.

he was beaten by police at a bowling alley. (southcoasttoday.com, Oct. 1)

Fourteen non-football athletes who have recently protested the anthem are players from the Women’s National Basketball Association; the entire Rochester, N.Y., boys soccer team; the entire girls volleyball teams at Tindley Accelerated School in Indianapolis, Ind., and Westside High School in Anderson, S.C. Band members and team spectators have refused to stand for the anthem all over the country.

On Sept. 26 Walmart bakery workers in McDonough, Ga., in the Atlanta-metropolitan area, refused to decorate a cake reading “Blue lives matter” at the request of a cop’s daughter. They said the cake could be perceived as racist.

Kaepernick called the Sept. 26 Trump/Clinton debate “embarrassing” and said that both candidates attempted to show which one was less racist than the other. □

Protests denounce police murder of Alfred Olango

By Zola Rices-Muhammad
San Diego

An unarmed Black man named Alfred Olango, a 38-year-old refugee from Uganda, was gunned down and murdered by a police officer on Sept. 27 at 2:30 p.m. in El Cajon, a suburb of San Diego and my home city. Olango was shot five times at a distance of about 5 feet. The El Cajon Police Department officer, Richard Gonsalves, was close enough to him to know that Olango did not have a gun.

A whole series of demonstrations, protests, rallies and prayer circles have been held in response to Olango’s killing. Overnight, demonstrations grew to some 1,000 people in the streets. The police told the area businesses to close down. Angry cries protested all law enforcement, including Border Patrol agents and the district attorney. These events were mostly peaceful with the exception of actions by a small group of racists, who pushed their way into one march wearing Trump hats and carrying the Confederate flag.

On the day of his murder, Olango was having a mental breakdown, according to his mother, Pamela Bengé, because of the death of a close friend, when his sister,

Sept. 28 protest.

Lucy Peterson, called 911. She told the operator that he was sick and in need of help. She expected an ambulance.

When El Cajon police arrived, they began to herd him into the parking lot of a

shopping center; guns drawn. Olango was still disoriented and witnesses say he was verbally asking the officers to not shoot him, while Peterson shouted that he was unarmed and sick.

Peterson, who witnessed her brother being killed, screamed at Gonsalves, “I called you to help me, but you killed my brother. ... Why couldn’t you guys tase him? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?” (Democracy Now, Sept. 28)

Witnesses at the scene state that the ECPD confiscated the cell phone of a worker at a taco shop who had recorded the murder. However, the ECPD are claiming that the cell phone was freely given to them and not confiscated. An American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego statement notes that “there are disturbing reports from a number of witnesses that police officers confiscated cell phones from people who witnessed the shooting. Confiscating cell phones is a violation of the ... U.S. Constitution and analogous rights under the California Constitution.” (aclusandiego.org, Sept. 27)

On Sept. 30, El Cajon Police Chief Jeff Davis held a press conference to release both the surveillance video from the taco shop and the cell phone video from the worker who had recorded the killing from the drive-through window. The press conference was attended by the police chiefs of Chula Vista and San Diego as well as San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis,



who has justified every officer-involved shooting in this city during her tenure.

The Olango family had expressed to the chief of police that they would like to view the video before it was released to the public. However, the mayor and the ECPD then gave them an insufficient amount of time to gather the whole family to come to the police station.

Born in the city of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, Olango came to the U.S. when he was 12 years old with his family, who were fleeing persecution in war-torn Uganda. He survived refugee camps just to be violently gunned down by El Cajon police. He was a father who doted on his daughter, and he leaves behind a large African family.

Officer Gonsalves had previously been sued by El Cajon Police Department officer Christine Greer for sexual harassment after he continuously sent her sexual text messages, including pictures of his genitals, and asking for a threesome with Greer and her wife. Greer’s lawsuit stated that other women in the department had also been harassed by him. Gonsalves retaliated against Greer and was ultimately demoted from sergeant to patrol officer.

If Gonsalves had been fired for his sexist actions as he should have been, Alfred Olango might still be alive today. Instead, another unarmed Black man in need of medical attention has, instead, been killed by the police. □

turning back. The state desperately fears this, and fears the rebellion is spreading. It will do anything in its power to stop it.

The state of North Carolina is also in a position of somewhat relative weakness given the sustained fightback against the anti-trans, anti-worker House Bill 2, which has resulted in huge economic losses. This is especially true in Charlotte — the Wall Street of the South — given its position as the largest city in the state and its immense concentration of capital. Charlotte is the second-largest financial center in the country.

The Charlotte Uprising has additionally inflicted severe economic losses for the ruling class, including the large banks and corporations headquartered here, and has shut down business as usual in

the city. Events on the second night of the rebellion, as well as many of the ongoing demonstrations, have taken place in the financial heart of the city.

“The struggle in Charlotte against police terror is no different than the struggle at Standing Rock against the National Guard,” said Lamont Lilly, a delegate to Standing Rock and Workers World Party vice-presidential candidate. “The same repression, the same surveillance, the same terror has been used by the state against not only the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement, but against our movements for hundreds of years. Our sense of solidarity, resistance and building unity between and among our struggles will be decisive to fighting back and carrying the struggle forward.” □

International day in solidarity with Haiti



Pierre LaBossiere speaks, Sept. 30, Oakland, Calif.

Drums by Tacuma King and his Bay Area Youth Arts drum corps anchored an Oakland, Calif., rally denouncing U.S. interference in the Oct. 9 Haitian election. It was part of an international day of protests in various cities on Sept. 30, the 25th anniversary of the first U.S.-backed military coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In London, a crowd marched on the U.S. embassy, assailing persistent U.S. support for fraudulent elections in Haiti. Organized by Global Women's

Strike, the protest included representation from Caribbean Labor Solidarity and the All African Women's Group and activists from Argentina, Congo, Germany, India, Italy, Romania and Zimbabwe.

In Boston, the majority-Haitian School Bus Drivers Union, Steelworkers Local 8751 helped organize the Sept. 30 event. In Miami the protest was held at the headquarters of the Haitian community organization Veye Yo.

— Report by Dave Welsh

Alert: U.S. & allies plot to steal another election

The following action alert was issued by the Bay Area-based Haiti Action Committee.

On a Lavalas campaign sweep throughout Haiti, former President Aristide and Dr. Maryse Narcisse, the Fanmi Lavalas presidential candidate, have been greeted by huge enthusiastic crowds. There is much concern, however, that the right wing is putting in place the usual apparatus of violence, denying voters their electoral cards, and instituting sudden changes of polling stations to suppress the popular vote, steal ballots and change the vote count.

The Haitian people are determined that their votes will be counted in the Oct. 9 election. After the vote, they will mobilize to defend their ballot. Our support outside of Haiti is crucial, as the corporate media will undoubtedly dutifully report the official right-wing, anti-democratic version as the elections unfold.

The concerns below are being expressed by individuals and grassroots organizations regarding Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council, known by the acronyms KEP in Kreyol or CEP in French. This agency, supposedly in charge of organizing free and fair elections, is notorious for being at the center of the massive fraud that has marred recent elections in

Haiti. Of great concern also are the official teams of observers headed by the [Organization of American States] and other international bodies and their local teams that in the past have hailed and supported the CEP's fraudulent results as legitimate.

1. The electoral council or CEP is headed by a leading figure of the 2004 kidnapping coup d'état, Leopold Berlangier.

2. The main coup leader/sweatshop owner, Andy Apaid, now plays a central role as lead consultant in the CEP's tabulation center, where the official vote counting results are collected and finalized for publication.

3. The CEP under Berlangier's leadership has failed to implement a number of recommendations of the Electoral Verification Commission. This failure has allowed fraudulent parliamentary results that favored [former President Michel] Martelly/right-wing supporters to stand.

4. Berlangier's CEP is insistent on quarantining all votes from a precinct where a candidate obtains 200+ votes out of a total of 550 ballots per precinct. Under the pretext of preventing fraud, perfectly valid ballots are eliminated from the count because a popular candidate is receiving "too many" votes. Officials of Fanmi Lavalas have been protesting this measure

as it arbitrarily discards valid ballots in precincts that will have large turnouts in favor of their candidates. Quarantined or provisional ballots in Haiti end up not being counted and are likely to be destroyed.

5. A leading figure of the 2004 coup d'état, Rosny Desroches, is in charge of the officially designated election observer teams of 1,500 individuals. According to radio reports, funding for the observer teams came through the National Democratic Institute working in collaboration with International Foundation for Electoral Services. While the International Republican Institute does not have offices in Haiti, it operates from the Dominican Republic through a number of existing organizations in Haiti. [Both NDI and IRI are part of the U.S. government's misnamed National Endowment for Democracy; the IRI was implicated in the 2004 coup in Haiti.]

6. It has been reported that the National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians is organizing an election observer team of 200 people. NOAH has worked closely with the OAS and the State Department, both of which have been ardent supporters of fraudulent elections in Haiti.

7. The OAS is planning to deploy a

team of observers. The OAS has been thoroughly discredited in Haiti, given its recent stand in support of the massive fraud orchestrated by the CEP in the 2015 elections.

The OAS's record of support for fraudulent elections in Haiti includes its intrusive role in the 2010-11 elections that resulted in the Martelly presidency.

All this means that the U.S. government and its allies will have their hands all over how the ballots are counted in this upcoming election. As the people of Haiti continue to mobilize for Lavalas, we have to do all we can to ensure that their voices and their votes are respected. One person, one vote. Tout moun se moun. Every person counts.

The action alert urged people to contact Secretary of State John Kerry at 202-647-9510 or tweet @JohnKerry; President Barack Obama at 202-456-1111; and the OAS at 202-370-5000 or fax 202-458-3967. Tell them three things: 1) The Haitian people have had enough of U.S./UN-supported fraudulent elections. 2) Respect the vote of the Haitian majority. 3) Stop U.S. financing of the terror campaign by a privileged minority against the poor majority, who are fighting for democracy in Haiti.

#FBCensorsPalestine protests rock Facebook

By Joe Catron
New York

Employees leaving Facebook's New York office on Sept. 30 encountered a boisterous rally outside the social media giant's plush East Village suites.

Chants of "Facebook censors Palestine!" drew attention not only from people in the building and on surrounding sidewalks, but also from a global audience. More than 250,000 viewers watched a live video defiantly streamed on a Facebook page whose Palestinian editors the company had targeted a week earlier: tinyurl.com/FB-NY-protest.

The demonstration, organized by Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network and supported by the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, the International Action Center, New York City Students for Justice in Palestine, the Pakistan-USA Freedom Forum and the Party for Socialism and Liberation, protested a Sept. 12 agreement between Facebook and Israel to suppress what Israeli officials call Palestinian "incitement" on the social media service.

Following the deal, Facebook suspended the accounts of eight administrators at the pages of two major Palestinian news outlets, Shehab News Agency and Quds News Network on Sept. 23, before deleting the page of a third, Safa Press Agency, on Sept. 28.

"We know of three more mainstream networks that had the same issue," New

York-based Palestinian activist and Quds co-founder Raja Abdulhaq said. "We are a verified media outlet on Facebook, so we would expect the company to give us a little more respect." (gizmodo.com, Sept. 26)

After widespread criticism, the company restored access to the pages, which have more than 6 million, 5 million and 1 million followers, respectively, calling the suspensions "mistakes."

Deletion of Palestinian content 'recurring challenge'

But Palestinian activists say Facebook's deletion of Palestinian content, including the profiles and pages of users with fewer contacts and less recourse, is a recurring challenge.

In a notorious case, the company removed a photograph of the identity card of an elderly Palestinian woman showing her birth year before the state of Israel's founding in 1948. Multiple users had posted comments indicating that she was older than the occupation.

Even before the Sept. 12 agreement, Facebook had complied with 95 percent of Israel's requests to delete Palestinian content, boasted Tel Aviv's "justice min-



Sept. 30 protest at Facebook's New York office.

ister," Ayelet Shaked, on Sept. 12.

Shaked is herself infamous for advocating the genocide of Palestinians on Facebook, having posted on July 1, 2014, that Palestinian mothers "should go, as should the physical homes in which they raised the snakes. Otherwise, more little snakes will be raised there." (electronicintifada.net, July 7, 2014)

Shaked posted her appeal for mass murder on Facebook a day before the kidnapping and burning alive of 16-year-old Palestinian Mohammad Abu Khdeir by fanatical Israeli settlers, and six days before Israel's 51-day bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which killed more than 2,200 Palestinians and drew accusations of genocide. Yet Facebook took no action against Shaked's account.

The company was instead happy to meet with her as the head of Israel's delegation on Sept. 12 and promised to follow her dictates for suppressing Palestinian speech.

The New York rally, which also demanded the release of poet Doreen Tatour, astrophysicist Imad Barghouti and hundreds of other Palestinian political prisoners detained by Israel for their Facebook posts, followed a week of Palestinian protests.

On Sept. 25, Palestinian journalists and activists, along with their supporters worldwide, boycotted the site for two hours while protesting its policies on Twitter.

According to Palestinian media, 53,304 tweets, posted by 8,128 users with the hashtag #FBCensorsPalestine, were delivered to more than 300 million other Twitter accounts.

On Sept. 28, Palestinians in Gaza took the campaign to the streets with a protest outside the office of the U.N. Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

"We stand today in condemnation and protest against the ongoing massacre of our rights as Palestinians which Facebook is carrying out," Safa Press Agency editor Yasser Abu Hin said. (middleeastmonitor.com, Sept. 29)

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

Haiti faces election tampering, cholera, hurricane

By G. Dunkel

The first round of presidential and parliamentary elections in Haiti is set for Oct. 9; the second round is set for January. The budget for these two rounds is \$55 million. The United States is refusing to contribute to this election because it feels the previous attempts were satisfactory, even though Haitians rejected the results as completely tainted by fraud.

Interim President Jocelerme Privert called the decision to hold these elections “irreversible,” even though Haiti is under military occupation by United Nations troops, a cholera epidemic that the U.N. forces brought to Haiti in 2010 is still raging, and Hurricane Matthew is predicted to dump up to 40 inches of rain on Haiti’s denuded land from Oct. 3-4.

The U.N. forces, called Minustah, took over in June 2004 from U.S., French and Canadian troops, which had occupied Haiti after the U.S. sealed a coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004 by kidnapping him and taking him to the Central African Republic. Minustah troops currently number

around 5,000, with an additional 10,000 private “security contractors.”

They are officially called “peace keepers,” but in reality they are a veil for U.S. control of Haiti’s politics and economy, and a backup for the 11,000 cops in Haiti’s national police force, who were trained by cops from the United States.

Cholera has killed 9,393 and sickened 790,840 as of Aug. 20, according to Haiti’s Ministry of Health. UCLA epidemiology professor Ralph R. Frerichs asserts that many cases in remote areas have never been reported. (“Deadly River,” 2016) Rains in May and June led to a 30 percent spike in the disease.

The campaigns of the four most prominent candidates have been drawing large crowds as they crisscrossed the country. Dr. Maryse Narcisse, of the Lavalas Family Party (FL), accompanied by Aristide, encountered some rock throwing in Gonaïves and scuffles in Cap Haïtien. Moïse Jean-Charles, the candidate of Desalines Children, a breakaway from FL, had a window of his car smashed in the Center Department. Given what has historically happened in Haitian elections,

these incidents are a sign of tension rather than an outbreak of violence, noted Haïti-Liberté, 28 Sept.-4 Oct.

The Haitian government, the Haitian media and various election observers are doing everything they can think of to undercut and minimize FL, which has major support throughout Haiti.

In the middle of September, the Department of Homeland Security abruptly reversed a policy of granting “temporary protective status” to Haitians who reached the U.S. border, which has had the effect of removing this issue from the election campaign.

Leading up to the Olympics, Brazil welcomed thousands of Haitians, mainly men, who were a cheap source of labor. Now that the Olympics are over and Brazil is facing economic difficulties, Haitian laborers are being laid off there. Many of them are trying to get into the U.S.

The DHS decision produced a major outcry in the Haitian community. Marleine Bastien and Steven Forester, writing in Haïti-Liberté, reported, “The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) decision last week to resume de-

portations of noncriminal Haitians, disingenuously citing improved conditions despite political and economic turmoil and an unchecked cholera epidemic, is inhumane, ill-advised, and shocking to the Haitian-American community. It may rip families apart and curtail life-saving remittances to Haiti.” They demanded that DHS immediately reverse itself.

While thousands of Haitians are being refused entry or deported from the U.S., the Dominican Republic is also waging a major campaign to expel anybody with Haitian ancestry on its soil.

Three years ago the Dominican Constitutional Court issued ruling TC168-13, which removed citizenship and statehood from 250,000 people of Haitian ancestry. Since August 2015, some 136,800 returnees have been counted at the border. This year, more than 48,000 have been counted.

A coalition of progressive Dominican groups and Haitian organizations held a press conference Sept. 23 to mark the third anniversary of this decree and to call for its withdrawal. (Radio Metropole Haiti) □

U.S. continues subversion against Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

Despite ongoing bilateral discussions and mutually beneficial agreements between the U.S. and Cuba following the Dec. 17, 2014, announcement by both countries that restored diplomatic relations, the U.S. has continued funding and promoting programs intended to undermine and overturn the socialist economic relations chosen by the Cuban people.

The wpfwfm.org Haitian radio program Konbit Lakay reported Sept. 24 on the growing crisis at the Mexican border due to the Obama administration’s decision to reject thousands of Haitian refugees there and to step up deportations. The host compared these hostile actions to the preferential status accorded to Cubans entering the U.S.

The 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act automatically considers all Cubans to be refugees, affording them social benefits and legal permanent residency status after remaining a year in the U.S. In 1995 the U.S. instituted the wet foot/dry foot policy, stating that if Cubans made it to the U.S. shore by boat they would be considered refugees. Those intercepted at sea would be returned to Cuba. The application of the

CAA and wet foot/dry foot are both applied at the discretion of the U.S. president.

As President of Haitian Women of Miami Marleine Bastie pointed out, conditions in Haiti are far worse than conditions in Cuba.

Another continuing violation of Cuban sovereignty is the Cuban Medical Professional Parole program in effect since 2006. (tinyurl.com/CMPPprogram) Wholly at the discretion of the president, this brain drain entices medical professionals who enjoyed free education in Cuba to abandon internationalist missions and come to the U.S. Many who accept the bait find it is extremely difficult to get their U.S. medical license. (newswork.org, March 24)

U.S. tax dollars urgently needed for human needs from Flint, Mich., to Appalachia are allocated to subversive programs in Cuba, without Cuba’s approval or consent. The United States Agency for International Development reports: “United States Congress appropriated \$55 million for Cuba programs between fiscal years 2009-2011; USAID managed nearly \$31 million of this amount, while the Department of State managed the remainder. Also, \$20 million has been appropriated for fiscal year 2012.” (April 1, 2011) The so-

called National Endowment for Democracy allocated more than \$3 million in 2015 alone. (ned.org)

These programs included one led by US-AID contractor Alan Gross, who installed military-grade communication devices in three Cuban cities; the U.S. operation of a defunct Twitter-type communication system, promoted through front businesses in third countries to conceal the U.S. puppet-masters; programs aimed at Cuban hip-hop; and a patently transparent AIDS education program, which used young Latin Americans to try to identify Cuban youth open to pro-capitalist propaganda.

Cuban youth rallied to expose the innocent-sounding World Learning Program and the Summer Leadership Program for Cuban Youth grant, which is funded by the U.S. State Department. On Sept. 28 students in Santiago de Cuba and in Ciego de Avila condemned U.S. government maneuvers that attempt to manipulate Cuban youth. An article in Granma points out these projects are “aimed at creating supposed opinion leaders and agents of change which have nothing in common with the Cuban Revolution’s social project. ...

“[Federation of University Students]

President Abel Mayea categorically stated: “There are no ulterior motives in the scholarships awarded. It’s clear that they want to subdue us. Cuba is not opposed to exchanges, but these must be undertaken with respect and with complete adherence to institutionality. They won’t be able to offer us more than what the Revolution has given us in 58 years.” (Sept. 29)

The Cuban constitution guarantees the right to education, and 23 percent of Cuba’s national budget is devoted to it. One soon-to-be graduate civil engineer pointed out that “in these five years our Revolution has guaranteed all my studies, free of charge, which is why we don’t need any scholarships from the U.S.”

Cuba’s Director of U.S. Affairs Josefina Vidal said in an Oct. 1 Q&A session on Twitter, “We insisted once again that the financing of programs aimed at provoking internal change in Cuba needs to be eliminated, which would be an essential step toward normalizing bilateral relations.”

For the 25th consecutive year the United Nations General Assembly will vote in favor of Cuba’s resolution: “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the U.S. against Cuba.” □



Continued from page 4

For lists of Trump-related properties, visit “Boycott Trump” on arbeiternews.com and “Boycott Trump List of [sic] Companies to Refuse to Support” on Facebook.

Minn. nurses to vote on proposed contract

The 4,800 registered nurses at five Allina Health hospitals in the St. Paul, Minn., area, represented by the Minnesota Nurses Association, are fighting for a fair contract. But the highly profitable nonprofit hospital system insists on shifting health care increases to the nurses and has ignored appeals for training to deal with workplace violence and for a fair nurse-to-patient ratio. So the MNA held a one-week strike in June. When Allina still refused to budge, the MNA called an unfair labor practices strike on Labor Day.

Over the last month, the nurses have picketed, rallied, marched and galvanized hundreds of supporters to petition Allina for a fair contract. On Sept. 25, they snarled traffic in front of a Minneapolis hotel during the annual General Mills shareholders meeting. By spotlighting the role of GM Executive Vice President John Church, who chairs the Allina board, they hoped to pressure the hospital system to resume negotiations.

A federal mediator brought Allina back to the table on Sept. 25. Despite 40 hours of negotiations over three days, Allina was intent on “nickel and diming the nurses in a zero-sum game that made it impossible for the negotiating team to reach a tentative agreement,” said MNA Executive Director Rose Roach at a Sept. 30 news conference. When the nurses voted on the agreement on Oct. 3, they sent a “re-sounding” no to Allina. The strike continues. (mprnews.com, Oct. 3)

Candy makers: ‘No pension, no Peeps!’

The 400 workers at Just Born Quality Confections in Bethlehem, Pa., voted unanimously to strike Sept. 2. The workers, who produce iconic Peeps marshmallow candies, are demanding fair wages and benefits after management moved to eliminate pensions for new hires and increase out-of-pocket health care costs. Workers are represented by the Bakery Workers (BCTWGM) Local 6.

According to Debbie Harden, a 16-year package handler, the workers waited until Easter and Valentine’s Day orders were in to initiate the strike: “We held out, because it kind of hits them the hardest. They need us more than they think.” (mcall.com, Sept. 7) But after the company filed a suit charging Local 6 with violating the contract by calling the strike — which Local 6 disputes — the workers returned to work Sept. 30, citing progress on the contact. Talks will continue Oct. 13. (AP, Sept. 30)

Fair scheduling for fast food workers in NYC

On Sept. 15, Mayor Bill de Blasio proposed legislation so that New York City’s 65,000 hourly fast food workers will receive advance notification about work hours. The Fair Workweek law would require public posting of predictable advance schedules and additional compensation for working unscheduled hours.

According to www1.nyc.gov, the city’s official website, “Across the country, nearly one in five Americans has an unstable work schedule and about 40 percent of early career workers, defined as workers aged 26 to 32, have less than one week advance notice of their schedules.” (Sept. 15)

The law would be the first pro-worker legislation regulating the U.S. fast food industry. Adding the need for fair scheduling only bolsters workers’ demands for \$15 an hour and a union. □

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Class struggle pays

Figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Sept. 13 showed a sharp rise in the median income from 2014 to 2015 and a drop in the poverty rate. The median income is the point at which half of all incomes fall below it and half above.

Over the past two weeks literally thousands of articles, analyses and reports have been devoted to examining these figures, their limitations and the sectors of the U.S. population whose situation is better or worse. This is done mainly in light of the upcoming elections.

The Democratic-leaning pundits have been careful to point out that while this reveals a significant improvement, real incomes were still a bit below where they were in 2007, when the financial crisis started. Their bourgeois opponents point to all the weaknesses that still exist in the economy and its lackadaisical growth.

The general consensus was that this improvement was due to “expanding the social safety net,” according to New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, “to increase purchasing power and sustain demand.” The economy has been sputtering along, but a bit faster.

However, something else has been going on over these past three years that all these bourgeois economists and analysts want to discount, minimize and discredit.

Millions of people, in thousands of demonstrations and all forms of protest, have been in the streets demanding “\$15

an hour and union protections.” Thousands were arrested and hundreds lost their jobs. Their victories were diffuse and sporadic, with many jurisdictions enacting a \$15-hour minimum wage — but with a fairly distant goal. For example, in the city and county of Los Angeles, as well as in Mountain View and Emeryville, Calif., legislators approved an increase to \$15 — but it will fully phase in only between 2018 and 2021.

However, all this struggle in the streets has had an impact beyond the laws that were passed. According to the National Employment Law Project, “at least 23 employers increased their minimum pay to between \$14 and \$16 per hour.”

If you look at a map prepared by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, part of the U.S. Commerce Department, that shows income increases by state, you can see that the highest rate of income growth occurred in California, Oregon and Nevada. These states make up the region the BEA calls the Far West, and the gain there was between 4.8 percent and 6.3 percent, well above the national growth rate of 4.4 percent. The map can be found at bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/rpp/rpp_newsrelease.htm.

The Far West is where the Fight for \$15 has had its biggest impact and major successes. It also has a high level of unionization. Class struggle for better wages and working conditions does pay. □

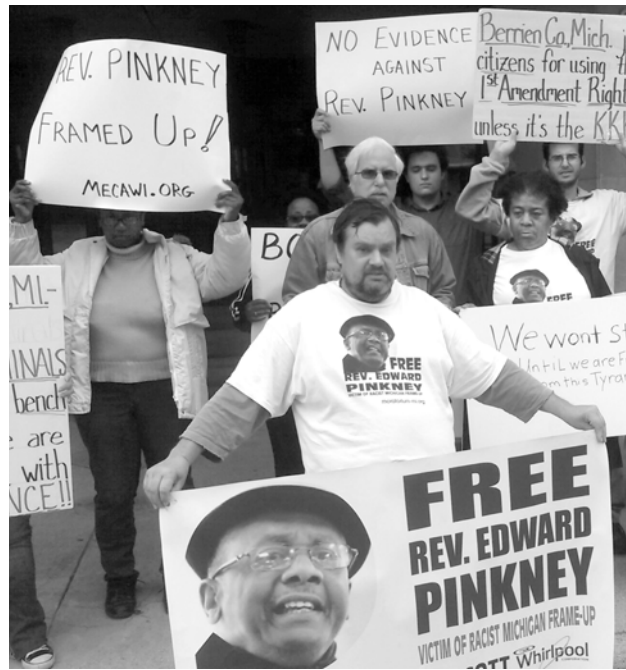
Rev. Pinkney transferred out of ‘hell hole’

By David Sole
Detroit

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, political prisoner, was transferred on Sept. 7 from the Marquette Branch Prison in the far north of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Some 11 months after arriving at that prison and suffering months of threats and abuse from guards, he was sent to West Shoreline Correctional Facility outside of Muskegon. His new location is only 90 miles from the home of his spouse, Dorothy Pinkney. The distance to Marquette, in comparison, was 500 miles.

Rev. Pinkney has now served 22 months of his 30-month minimum sentence. On Dec. 15, 2014, he was given a 2 1/2 to 10 year sentence for supposedly altering dates on a recall petition against then Mayor James Hightower of Benton Harbor, Mich. Rev. Pinkney was convicted with no evidence, simply for being the leader of the recall effort and a well-known activist in his home town. His case has drawn the support of the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild, as well as many groups and individuals across Michigan.

Attorney Tim Holloway filed an “Application for Leave to Appeal” with the



Protest in Grand Rapids, Mich., for Rev. Pinkney.

Michigan Supreme Court on Rev. Pinkney’s behalf on Sept. 3. This reporter visited Rev. Pinkney at his new location on Sept. 30 and asked him about his long sought after transfer. He acknowledged the efforts of his supporters, who worked tirelessly to draw attention to the mistreatment, harassment and abuse he faced every day in Marquette Prison.

This campaign included picketing the Michigan Department of Corrections in Lansing, protesting across the state, including outside Marquette’s prison gate,

Continued on the next page

Train crashes and capitalist decay

By Stephen Millies

The Sept. 29 train crash in the Hoboken, N.J., terminal during the morning rush hour has shaken people throughout New York City’s metropolitan area. Many are questioning the safety of rail transportation in general.

Instead of coming to a stop at the end of the track, New Jersey Transit train No. 1614 jumped over the bumper block and almost plowed into the station’s waiting room.

Part of a roof collapsed, killing Fabiola Bittar de Kroon, a working mother who was walking on a platform in the station. More than 100 people were injured. Other commuters are thinking that it could have been one of them.

NJ Transit has halted train service into Hoboken, forcing 60,000 daily riders to take longer routes to work or school. Port Authority Trans Hudson subway and Hudson-Bergen light rail service to Hoboken has resumed.

It’s unknown if a mechanical breakdown — like brake failure — or human error was responsible for the crash. The inquiry by the National Transportation Safety Board will take months.

The capitalist media have, surprisingly, not rushed to blame the train’s engineer, Thomas Gallagher, who is cooperating with investigators. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has been attacked instead for shortchanging NJ Transit, a state agency.

Many of NJ Transit’s engines and cars were damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and some of its railroad yards were flooded. The Federal Railroad Admin-

istration found safety violations at the commuter railroad. (New York Times, Oct. 2) That’s not unusual in the industry.

Profits before safety

Positive Train Control might have prevented the Hoboken tragedy. PTC is a high-tech safety system that forces a reduction in a train’s speed or can bring it to a stop if an engineer ignores a signal or safety restriction.

Since 1970, the NTSB has advocated installing PTC on the country’s railroads. (“NTSB Most Wanted List 2014.”) The NTSB claims that PTC could have prevented 145 rail accidents that have killed 288 people and injured 6,574 since 1969. (Washington Post, Oct. 27, 2015)

After the 2008 Chatsworth, Calif., train crash that killed 25 people, Congress passed the Rail Safety Improvement Act. The act ordered PTC installation by Dec. 31, 2015.

Freight railroads like the Union Pacific — a 32,000-mile-long goliath that made more than \$5 billion in profit last year — screamed that they couldn’t make the deadline. The Association of American Railroads got its lackeys in Congress to extend the time limit to the end of 2018.

Amtrak did finish installing PTC on its Northeast Corridor between Boston and Washington, D.C., by the original deadline. That was too late to prevent the May 12, 2015, wreck of Amtrak train No. 188, which killed eight people in Philadelphia.

NJ Transit has lagged behind in implementing PTC. (The Record, Sept. 29)

Donald Trump’s poodle in Trenton, the state capital, knows his priorities. In addition to refusing to properly fund NJ

Transit, Gov. Christie vetoed an increase in the state’s minimum wage.

Capitalist infrastructure at dead end

The decades long delay installing PTC is just one aspect of the crumbling infrastructure in the capitalist United States.

The whole world knows how the children of Flint, Mich., have been poisoned by lead in their water supply. There’s 240,000 water main breaks per year — 20,000 per month — in the “land of the free and home of the brave.” (New York Times, April 17, 2009)

When Colin Kaepernick and his fellow athletes courageously take a knee for the “Star Spangled Banner,” they’re standing up for Flint.

Eight people died in an East Harlem apartment building in 2014 when a 127-year-old gas main owned by Consolidated Edison exploded. (WNYC, March 12, 2014) The private utility made more than \$1 billion in profit that year while refusing to replace gas pipes installed in 1887.

Ancient pipes require round-the-clock maintenance. Two years before the East Harlem tragedy, Con Ed declared war on its workers by locking out members of Utility Workers Local 1-2 for three weeks.

According to the NTSB, the East Harlem tragedy might have been prevented if a big hole in a nearby sewer main had been repaired. The city government had known about it for at least eight years. (New York Times, June 9, 2015.)

Sitting in City Hall eight years before the explosion was megabucks Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who was more interested in closing firehouses than in fixing sewer pipes. Forbes magazine estimates

Bloomberg’s fortune at \$44 billion.

That’s enough dough to give every New Yorker \$50,000. But Bloomberg was never in a giving mood. He wanted to force homeless families living in shelters to pay rent while letting public housing crumble. Public housing is infrastructure, too.

Money for bridges, not drones

Thirteen people were killed in 2007 when an Interstate 35W bridge collapsed in Minneapolis. According to the Federal Highway Administration there’s more than 66,000 “structurally deficient bridges” in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. (CBS News, May 25, 2013)

While 66,000 bridges in the U.S. are in danger, the People’s Republic of China has been building thousands of miles of high-speed rail lines and millions of units of affordable housing.

Last year, socialist China spent more money on infrastructure than the capitalist U.S., Canada and Western Europe combined. (Bloomberg BusinessWeek, June 15)

Electrical outages have turned off the lights in all or part of New York City in 1965, 1977, 2003 and 2006. But private utility companies don’t want to invest in upgrading the electrical grid, an absolute necessity for capitalist production.

The capitalist government had to step in via President Barack Obama’s stimulus program to spend billions on it. Capitalists don’t find investing to fix and expand the infrastructure to be individually profitable.

Yet Citibank can find the dough to help finance the Dakota Access Pipe-

Continued on the next page

contacting state legislators to intervene for Rev. Pinkney’s safety and telephone barrages to Gov. Snyder and Heidi Washington, MDOC director.

‘They wanted to get rid of me’

According to Rev. Pinkney, “What I think was the final straw was when state Rep. Dave Pagel showed up at Marquette Prison during the last week of August. He is the chairperson of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of Corrections. And the first thing he did was to ask to see me! This kind of blew the minds of the prison officials.

“I talked with Pagel in the law library for quite a while,” explained Rev. Pinkney. “After he left, my prison counsel- or wanted to know how I had so much ‘juice.’ I asked her if she wanted me to get her a raise or, maybe, a promotion.”

Less than two weeks later, Rev. Pinkney was told to pack his things because he was leaving the next morning. “They wanted to get rid of me and all the scrutiny that comes with housing a political prisoner,” he stressed.

Even with a possible appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, which will take many months, Rev. Pinkney is looking for his earliest release to occur in June 2017. He is enjoying many more visitors already — and his supporters are not letting up on their organizing.

Detroit activists from the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI.org), the Moratorium Now! Coalition Against Foreclosures, and the Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association joined together on Sept. 23 to carry out an all-day fish fry fundraiser for Rev. Pinkney’s defense. It raised hundreds of dollars.

Plans are also in place to distribute leaflets about Rev. Pinkney at a regional conference of Amnesty International in Dearborn, Mich., on Oct. 8.

Send birthday greetings

Rev. Pinkney will celebrate another birthday behind bars. Oct. 27 is his 68th birthday. A campaign is underway to have hundreds of people send hundreds of cards and letters to him to express support — and to let the West Shoreline prison administration know they are being watched by Rev. Pinkney’s supporters around the country, who are paying attention to how he is being treated.

Send cards and letters to The Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, West Shoreline Correctional Facility, 2500 S. Sheridan Drive, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. □

line, which invades Indigenous land and threatens the water supply. (Democracy Now! Sept. 13)

The United States isn’t broke. The Pentagon has spent more than a trillion dollars to occupy and kill poor people in Afghanistan alone.

Maintaining and expanding the infrastructure is a test for any social system. Capitalism — which was born in the African Holocaust and the genocide of Indigenous peoples in the Americas — has failed that test.

We need a socialist revolution just to get lead out of our water and to fix the roads.

The writer is a retired Amtrak train dispatcher.

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 all major online booksellers.

Power outage in Puerto Rico

Union battles push toward
privatization

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The dictatorial Financial Control Board (FCB, cal the Junta by progressives) created under the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stabilization Act (PROMESA) aimed at determining Puerto Rico’s destiny, met for the first time on Sept 30.

This meeting was not in San Juan, Puerto Rico, but in New York. That sent a clear message about the location of economic and political power imposed on the Caribbean nation.

In less than half an hour the Junta’s seven members — all unelected — approved and immediately announced a plan of action: The island’s current governor — and the winner of the upcoming November elections — will have only a secretarial role, turning in weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports to the Junta.

The Junta will take control of the central government and 20 major publicly run corporations, such as the Water and Sewer Authority, the Electric Power Authority, the prestigious University of Puerto Rico, the public radio-TV station, the teachers and judiciary retirement fund, and other agencies that remain solvent despite the deep economic crisis.

Remember that the Junta was set up to pay the bondholders on Wall Street, not to help the Puerto Rican economy.

As the Junta met, demonstrators who reject that imposition of power took to the streets in both New York and Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico, police used violence to arrest five protesters, thus foreshadowing an expected increase in repression against social and political movements.

The power outage

The consequences, reactions and responses to this dictatorship will be discussed in future articles. In this one we focus on the Sept. 21 power outage.

On that day, the most serious power outage in recent history had the impact of a declaration of war. It illustrated the consequences of the austerity processes that the Junta will enforce. The Electric Power Authority (AEE) was already being administered by a board — independent of the Junta — which executed similar austerity measures that the Junta plans to impose on other departments. Thus, the power outage vividly illustrates how the Junta’s austerity plan — disguised as “restructuring” — will inflict negative consequences on the people.

For two days, the people were forced to endure seasonally high temperatures, worsened by the lack of water due to pump failure, plus excessive traffic congestion due to lack of traffic lights. (Here we must mention that Puerto Rico has no real public transportation system, making transport by private vehicles a necessity.) There were even accidental deaths, and all kinds of problems that result from lack of electric power, such as spoiled food, small producers’ loss of income, etc.

Thanks to members of the Union of Workers of Electrical and Irrigation Industries (UTIER), who tirelessly for more than 24 hours, it was possible to control the situation despite the AEE’s failures. Compañero Angel Rafael Figueroa Jaramillo, president of UTIER, told WW-Mundo Obrero about the significance of the power outage.

Workers World/
Mundo Obrero:
What was the cause of the outage?

Angel Rafael Figueroa Jaramillo:
Your readers should understand that it was this [financial] crisis that caused the outage; it had nothing to do directly with the country’s generation [of electrical power]. It was directly related to policies of austerity and economy in the country’s power generation. These are two different things.

There’s no doubt there was a fault in the switches in the Central Aguirre yard. But the power plant at Central Aguirre suffered no damage. The output transmission lines — the 230,000 volts coming out — broke down as a result of a switch that was not working because it lacked proper maintenance.

Now if a [power] reserve had been available on the power line — we used to always have a reserve equal to or slightly greater than the largest plant on the line, in this case 500 megawatts (mw) — that reserve would have absorbed the demand that existed before the [Central Aguirre] machine went offline.

As part of the austerity measures, the executive director of AEE, Javier Quintana, on July 25 signed off on a reduction of the reserve from 550 mw to 300 mw. That led other plants, which didn’t have the capacity to absorb consumer demand at that time, to activate a self-protection mechanism that switches them off. This includes privately owned plants [two private plants are both in the south of the island].

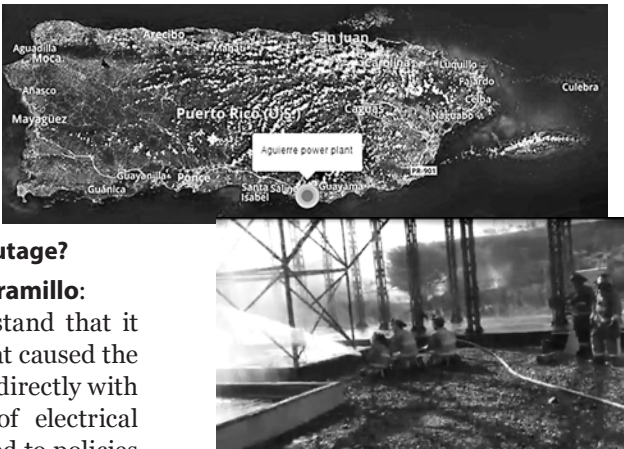
WW-MO: What does management and the government see as the future of AEE?

ARFJ: There’s no doubt that this is a policy of privatization that [the capitalist rulers are] trying to implement on a worldwide scale and in Puerto Rico. The way they get popular legitimacy for this policy is based on three principles: let services deteriorate; raise the cost of services; wage a campaign against the state enterprise, in this case AEE, so that the country turns against the company. Then, as if by magic, the solution is to put the company into private hands, even for a service so essential as providing electricity.

For more than 15 years, UTIER has been pointing out and denouncing the road [the capitalist bosses] are taking. They are obstructing the work of the people who work for the country. They refuse to repair the equipment, they abandon preventive maintenance, and they let maintenance systematically deteriorate.

In turn, service costs were increased in an unscrupulous way, and there was no coherent explanation from the state to try to help the country understand the reasons [for the increase]. On the contrary, what [the state] did was join in the campaign of demonization of the company, saying the company was holding the country for ransom, that we were victims of the AEE. And the country was beginning to adopt a negative attitude about its own company, the company of the people of Puerto Rico.

As part of this systematic process of neglecting maintenance, [the AEE administration] started to indicate that the AEE is so much in debt that it is almost impossible to meet its creditors’ demands. In the process they hired the private company AlixPartners, headed in Puerto Rico by Lisa Donahue, and began



a process of alleged debt restructuring, together with a process of restructuring the company’s operations.

From the point of view of the private sector, making the company more efficient is nothing other than reducing costs for those operations that directly affect the amount and quality of services to the people.

Then [the AEE administration] started to quickly abandon some obvious things. Our electrical system did not get repaired, to the extreme that when a problem begins at the point of power generation, another more complicated one occurs, [in] transmission and distribution.

To solve both types of problems, [the AEE administration] resorted to leaving people without service through selective outages in sectors, communities or cities. ... [That was] creating an environment of hostility toward the company caused by the poor quality of service provided.

In addition, in 2014 the Puerto Rican government approved anti-worker Law 66, [which] led to an abrupt departure of thousands of public service workers. In our case, more than 1,200 left who had between 25 and 30 years of service, which meant we lost the experience they had developed and accumulated working on technical tasks.

WW-MO: What does UTIER propose?

ARFJ: First, the country must be educated. Some [people] are already orienting on the impact of the PROMESA Act and the Junta; we’ll do it on the theme of energy. It has to be more strategic, more successful.

In [the last] three to four days, we have changed the discourse from the position that privatization is bad because it costs more. No, what we do now is compare the two models, the private and the public.

Do we have the money? No. That dispenses with the discussion over whether there’s money or not.

Let us evaluate the private model. Do [companies] have \$4 billion to invest? Yes. What is it going to cost us? There will be interest on that investment. And the bill goes to the people. It will generate profits [that the people will pay].

Let’s evaluate the public model. Do we have the money? No. Can we get it? Yes. Through what mechanism? We can self-finance.

Both models will cost the country money because we have to invest. But in the public model you can make a “spill” — a special contribution for three or four years to create a fund to not only build some new units, but also rebuild the entire transmission system.

Will that “spill” pay interest? No. Will it generate profits? No.

Then, [for the] Puerto Rican people, which of the two will cost less?

That has to the country becoming interested in the subject. In places where we have explained it over time, people immediately decide in favor of the public model. □



Moorehead-Lilly '16
por la presidenta y el vicepresidente
PARTIDO MUNDO OBRERO/WORKERS WORLD PARTY

El Apagón en PR, para privatizar la energía

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El pasado viernes 30 de septiembre, se reunió por primera vez la dictatorial Junta de Control Fiscal creada bajo la Ley PROMESA que pretende regir el destino de Puerto Rico. Este primer encuentro no fue en San Juan de PR, sino en la ciudad de Nueva York. Un claro mensaje de dónde está el poder económico y político que se impondrá aún más en ese país caribeño.

En menos de media hora sus siete integrantes – no electos por el pueblo - aprobaron el plan de acción que inmediatamente anunciaron: el gobernador de la isla, tanto el actual como quien salga electa/o en las próximas elecciones de noviembre, tendrán solo un papel secretarial, rindiéndole informes financieros a la Junta semanalmente, mensualmente, trimestralmente y anualmente.

La Junta tomará el control del gobierno central y de 20 corporaciones públicas importantes como la Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados y la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica; la prestigiosa UPR, la emisora tele radial del estado, los fondos de retiro de maestros y judicatura y otras agencias que aún siguen solventes pese a la profunda crisis económica.

Recordemos que el propósito de tal Junta es la de pagar a los bonistas de Wall Street, no la de ayudar a la economía borricua.

Mientras se reunían, se manifestaron tanto en NY como en PR, las fuerzas que rechazan dicha imposición. En PR, cinco manifestantes fueron violentamente arrestados/os; indicando así el aumento en la represión que se espera contra el movimiento social y político.

Las consecuencias, reacciones y respuestas a esta dictadura se analizarán en posteriores artículos.

Ese día, como preámbulo – ó guerra anunciada - de las consecuencias que los procesos de austeridad que la JCF impondrá, se hizo patente en PR en forma de un apagón general. La AEE ha estado dirigida por un proceso similar a la JCF que ha impuesto sendas medidas de austeridad. Por eso, este apagón ilustra vívidamente las consecuencias adversas al pueblo que los planes de austeridad, bajo el engaño de “reestructuración”, la Junta irá imponiendo.

Ese 21 de sept., Puerto Rico se vio envuelto en el apagón más serio de la historia reciente. Por dos días, el pueblo tuvo que soportar el calor excesivo propio de la temporada, aumentado aún más por la falta de agua al fallar las pompas; una excesiva congestión vehicular por la falta de luz en los semáforos - aquí hay que mencionar que PR carece de un verdadero sistema de transporte público, lo que hace que el transporte se haga con vehículos privados. Hubo incluso hasta muertes accidentales y todo lo consecuente con la falta de electricidad, como alimentos dañados, pérdida de ingreso de pequeños productores, etc.

Gracias a las y los trabajadores de la UTIER (Unión de Trabajadores de la Industria Eléctrica y Riego) quienes laboraron incansablemente por más de un

día, se pudo controlar la situación dentro de los márgenes de insuficiencia de la AEE.

WW-MO conversó con el compañero Ángel Rafael Figueroa Jaramillo, presidente de UTIER) con quien sobre el reciente apagón general ocurrido el pasado 21 de septiembre.

WW-MO: ¿Cuál fue la causa del apagón?

ARFJ: “Para que las/os lectores puedan comprender, esta crisis que se creó con el apagón en nada tuvo que ver de forma directa con la generación [eléctrica] del país. Tuvo que ver de forma directa con políticas de austeridad y de economía dentro de la generación del país, que son dos cosas distintas.

“No hay duda alguna que hubo una avería en el patio de interruptores de la Central Aguirre. Pero la CA como planta generadora no sufrió avería. La salida, las líneas de transmisión - los 230.000 voltios que salen - tuvo una avería a consecuencia de un interruptor que no trabajó por falta de mantenimiento.

“Ahora bien, si hubiera habido una reserva disponible en línea, que siempre había sido igual o un poco mayor a la planta más grande que se encuentra en línea - en este caso de 500 MW (megavatios) - esa reserva en línea hubiera absorbido el consumo que había ante la salida de esa máquina. El propio director ejecutivo de la AEE Javier Quintana, aceptó el 25 de julio que como parte de las medidas de austeridad redujo las reservas, de 550 MW a 300 MW. Eso conllevó que las demás plantas que no tenían la capacidad para absorber la demanda de consumo en ese momento, activaran un mecanismo de autoprotección que las apaga para protegerlas. Incluyendo las plantas privadas” [dos existentes en el sur de la Isla].

WW-MO: ¿Cuál es la visión de la gerencia y el gobierno respecto a la AEE?

ARFJ: “No hay duda alguna que como política de privatización que se está tratando de implementar a nivel mundial y en PR , una de las formas de que el pueblo pueda legitimar esta política está establecida en tres principios:

1. Deterioro del servicio,
2. encarecimiento del servicio, y
3. una campaña en contra la empresa del estado AEE para que el país se vuelva en contra de la empresa para así sacar como una vara mágica que la solución es poner en manos privadas la empresa. Y más, un servicio tan esencial como es el servicio eléctrico.”

“Desde más de 15 años, la UTIER venimos señalando ese camino denunciándole al país que nos están inhabilitando en el trabajo a nosotros, los hombres y mujeres que laboramos para el país. No nos vendan los equipos, se abandona el mantenimiento preventivo, deterioro sistemático del mantenimiento. Y a su vez, se encareció el servicio de una forma inescrupulosa y no hubo una explicación coherente del estado para tratar de que el país pudiera entender.

“Todo lo contrario, lo que hacía era



Encuentro internacional de mujeres en Bogotá

Mujeres procedentes de todas partes del mundo se reunieron en Bogotá, Colombia, para el XVI Congreso de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres (FDM). Cerca de 300 mujeres procedentes de 85 organizaciones en 44 países que asistieron a la reunión de septiembre 15-18 también se solidarizaron con el pueblo colombiano en su ruta crítica hacia la paz. La resolución final del Congreso incluyó un esfuerzo conjunto de todos los grupos presentes para defender las luchas por la justicia social y económica en todo el mundo.

— Berta Joubert-Ceci

unirse a una campaña de demonización hacia la empresa diciendo que la empresa tenía el país secuestrado, que éramos víctimas de la AEE; y el país comenzaba a tomar una actitud negativa contra su propia empresa. La empresa del pueblo de PR.

“Como parte de ese proceso sistemático de abandono del mantenimiento, comienzan a indicar que la AEE la endeudaron a una magnitud que es casi imposible cumplir con los acreedores. En ese proceso contratan a la compañía privada AlixPartners, encabezada en PR por la Sra. Lisa Donahue, y comienza alegadamente un proceso de reestructuración de la deuda pero también a su vez, un proceso de reestructuración de las operaciones de la empresa.

“Desde el punto de vista del sector privado haciendo la empresa más eficiente, que no es otra cosa que reducir gastos que inciden directamente en el servicio y la calidad de servicios al pueblo.

“En esa dirección se comienza a abandonar con más rapidez cosas obvias. Nuestro sistema eléctrico no se reparaba, al extremo que comienza un problema en un momento de generación, pero en otro que es más complicado, que es de transmisión y distribución.

“En ambos problemas se recurría a dejar sin servicio al pueblo con apagones selectivos en sectores, comunidades, o en municipios.

“Se iba creando un ambiente hostil hacia la empresa por la calidad del servicio que se brinda.

“A eso se suma que el gobierno de PR aprobó en 2014 la Ley 66 en contra de los trabajadores y esto conllevó una salida abrupta de miles de trabajadoras/es [del servicio público]. En el caso nuestro, de más de 1200 que fluctuaban entre 25 y 30 años de servicio, que era la experiencia desarrollada y acumulada de una empresa tan técnica.

WW-MO: ¿Cuál es la propuesta de la UTIER?

ARFJ: “Primero hay que educar al país. Hay quienes ya están orientando

sobre el impacto de la Ley PROMESA y la JCF; nosotros lo hacemos en el tema energético. Debe ser algo más estratégico, más exitoso.

“En estos 3-4 días, hemos cambiado el discurso de que la privatización es mala porque cuesta más; no, lo que haremos es comparar los dos modelos, el privado y el público.

“¿Tenemos el dinero? No. Para sacar la discusión de que si hay o no dinero.

“Evaluemos el modelo Privado. ¿Tiene \$4.000 millones para invertir? Sí. ¿Qué nos va a costar esto? Va a cobrar intereses por esa inversión. Y eso sale de la factura del pueblo. Va a generar ganancias (de lo que le cobra al pueblo).

“Evaluemos el modelo Público. ¿Tenemos el dinero? No. ¿Lo podemos conseguir? Sí. ¿Por qué mecanismo? Podemos autofinanciarnos.

“Ambos modelos van a costar dinero al país porque hay que invertir. Pero en el modelo público se puede hacer una “derrama”; una aportación especial por tres o cuatro años para crear un fondo para poder construir no solo algunas unidades nuevas, sino también reconstruir todo el sistema de transmisión.

“¿Esa derrama va a pagar intereses? No. ¿Va a generar ganancias? No.

“¿Pues entonces, pueblo de PR, ¿cuál de las dos te cuesta menos?

“Eso ha llevado a que el país se haya interesado por el tema. En los lugares que lo hemos explicado con tiempo, la gente inmediatamente se decide por el modelo público.” □



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!