CUBA, VENEZUELA

Revolutionary leaders embraced at int’l rally

By Lallan Schoenstein
New York

Sept. 26 — Miguel Díaz-Canel, the new president of Cuba, in town for the United Nations General Assembly, began his speech at a rally here by saying that it was a “solidarity meeting.”

Entitled “Cuba Speaks for Itself!” the event was organized by the September 25th Welcoming Committee, consisting of various New York and New Jersey solidarity organizations.

The evening began as thousands, predominantly Brown and Black, gathered outside historic Riverside Church, a few blocks from 125th Street in Harlem. Some had traveled to the rally from distant cities. Spanish was heard as often as English. It was a broad swath of the movement, embracing the opportunity to greet old and new comrades.

Anticipation of hearing President Miguel Díaz-Canel speak was heightened when a rumor traveled through the waiting line to “expect a surprise.”

That surprise was revealed early in the evening’s program when Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Moros appeared alongside Díaz-Canel, welcomed by thunderous applause and cries of “Long live Venezuela!”

“I came to New York, to the United Nations, to bring the truth of the Venezuelan people. I also reiterate our love and commitment, and share this moment with our brother Miguel Díaz-Canel and the people of Cuba,” Maduro stated.

After standing ovations, Maduro brought everyone to their feet again when he concluded: “We have been victims of immense imperialist aggression, but today I can say that the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela is still standing, alive and victorious.”

President Díaz-Canel on Cuba’s internationalism

President Miguel Díaz-Canel began his speech by reiterating the common struggle of Cuba and Venezuela.

“Today at the United Nations, two sister peoples raised their voices. Venezuela denounced all the aggression to which it has been subjected and also ratified its decision to continue the Bolivarian Revolution, as a legacy faithful to Comandante Hugo Chávez.

“Cuba also raised its voice with Venezuela, to support Nicaragua, to support Puerto Rico, to support Latin America, to support the Palestinian and Saharan people, and to support all the just causes of the world.

“Fidel taught us that to cooperate with other exploited and poor peoples was always a political principle of the Revolution and a duty to humanity,” Díaz-Canel explained.

History of solidarity with oppressed communities

Díaz-Canel said that on their way to Riverside Church, the delegation drove through the Harlem community, past Hotel Theresa, where, in 1960, Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz had stayed with the Cuban delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

Díaz-Canel reminded everyone that Fidel had said: “I’m continued on page 4.

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

- 4 weeks trial $4 1 year subscription $30
- Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program: workers.org/donate

Name ____________________________
Email ____________________________ Phone ____________________________
Street ____________________________ City / State / Zip ____________________________

Workers World Weekly Newspaper workers.org Vol. 60, No. 40 Oct. 4, 2018 $1
The 2018 Days of Action to End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba concluded here on Sept. 28. The week’s program included an afterschool discussion in a Washington, D.C., high school as well as visits to congressional offices; discussions on two popular, pro-working-class radio programs; and two documentary films at a downtown multiplex cinema, which drew a full house.

The audience received a special treat when Norma Guillard, who was in town visiting friends, joined the after-film question-and-answer period. Guillard is one of the women in the film “Maestra,” who shares her experiences as a 12-year-old during the 1961 literacy campaign and discusses the campaign’s impact on her later life.

Guillard’s careers included teaching mathematics, learning the Russian language and becoming a psychologist — all through the education system.

Guillard commented on the shared colonial history of Puerto Rico and Cuba, saying that in the Caribbean those islands are regarded as two wings of the same bird. In the case of education, one wing is broken, while the other — the Cuban wing — is strong and soaring high. In 1999, the Cuban revolution broke the island free from U.S. imperialism.

Catherine Murphy, writer and director of “Maestra,” moderated the panel. Murphy participated in many of the week’s community engagements, sharing knowledge she gained from more than a decade of work on the film. The literary campaign shown in “Maestra” developed into an adult literacy teaching model “Yo Si Puedo” (Yes I Can). It’s now used in 30 countries to teach how to read in many languages, including Indigenous languages and English. The movie “Maestra” is now available with your library card through the free streaming service Kanopy.com.

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

Vol. 60, No. 40 • Oct. 4, 2018
Closing date: Oct. 2, 2018
Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Leani Dowell, Monica Mooncheed, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editor Gary Wilson
Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roshik; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Calligan, Sue Davis, Bob McCubbin, Jeff Sorel
Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, G. Dankel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, John Parker, Betsy Pieters, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Alberto Garcia, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas
Supplier Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2018 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: $30; institutional: $50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles may be reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on the Web at www.workers.org.

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

On an essential difference between capitalist and socialist economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World is a socialist organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to transform economic systems through the lens of education.

Join us in the fight for socialism!
The blast destroyed the structure, bad foundation on the evening on Sep. 13. a Lawrence, Mass., home off its concrete stem from natural gas lines operated a building in North Andover, one town and burns. any spark might ignite more leaked gas. return home until their address was listed to find emergency food and beds, admitted to hospitals for injuries. Thousands of people were missing and who might be injured. Sinister homicide, mass destruction of lives of Black students. Campus Crossing is an apartment complex located less than three miles from NCCU. A majority of residents at the complex attend NCCU, and NCCU even contracts for a transportation company to bus students to and from the beginning. In the United States, higher education is run as a business and NCCU is no exception. In an era of rising tuition rates, debilitating loan and hidden costs built up, NCCU administration has increased tuition and diverted its student body from public and campus resources to multiple private firms whose sole concern is profit — not valuing the lives of Black students.

By Takiyah Thompson Durham, N.C.

DeAndre Marquise Ballard, a 23-year-old North Carolina Central University student scheduled to graduate in May, went missing on the night of Sept. 17.

Friends and family began questioning his whereabouts when he didn’t show up for class the next day. They began posting on social media asking the NCCU community had seen DeAndre.

It was not until Sept. 21 that NCCU’s Chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye released an email saying DeAndre had “passed away.” The announcement left the entire student body in shock, wondering what had happened to DeAndre.

His mother, Ernisha Ballard, remembers him as someone who “loved God. He loved his friends, and he loved his family.”

Chancellor Akinleye released an email saying DeAndre had “passed away.”

On Sept. 28, they affirmed that if there is no righteous shoot, then no one is safe.” On Sept. 28, they affirmed that if there is no justice for Pito, there will be no peace!”

By Workers World Boston bureau

Oct. 1 — An explosion violently shook a Lawrence, Mass., home off its concrete foundation on the evening of Sept. 13. The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.

By Workers World Boston bureau

Oct. 1 — An explosion violently shook a Lawrence, Mass., home off its concrete foundation on the evening of Sept. 13. The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.

‘Justice for Dre’: Security kills Black student

Bosswall community demands Justice for Pito

By Takiyah Thompson

The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.

‘Justice for Dre’: Security kills Black student

Bosswall community demands Justice for Pito

By Takiyah Thompson

The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.

‘Justice for Dre’: Security kills Black student

Bosswall community demands Justice for Pito

By Takiyah Thompson

The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.

‘Justice for Dre’: Security kills Black student

Bosswall community demands Justice for Pito

By Takiyah Thompson

The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.

‘Justice for Dre’: Security kills Black student

Bosswall community demands Justice for Pito

By Takiyah Thompson

The blast destroyed the structure, badly injured the people inside and killed 18-year-old Leonel Rondon of Lawrence when brick and masonry from the car just outside the demolished home.

Simultaneously, one mile away, the upper floor of an apartment building burst into flames, destroying multiple homes and exposing residents to harmful smoke and burns.

Hours later, another explosion rocked a building in North Andover, one town over. Then another a few miles to the south. Then yet another.

The cascade of fire and destruction stemmed from natural gas lines operated by Columbia Gas Massachusetts.

In a joint statement, the Boston Bus Drivers, issued a Sept. 15 statement recognizing the just fight of DeAndre, in support of the truth and against the neoliberalization of higher education that treats Black lives as just another expense to be itemized.
Airport workers win!

By G. Dunkel

New York

“We did this together, we fought for so long and we won!” Gertrude Lopez-Ortiz, a cabin cleaner at Newark Liberty International Airport told the local 32BJ news service. “Now it is a dream come true for me and my co-workers! I was here when the Port originally promised this in 2014. Our hard work, and the support of our brothers and sisters in 32BJ is paying off.” (seiu32bj.org, Sept. 27)

What the 14,000 workers organized by 32BJ at New York City’s airports — LaGuardia, JFK and Newark, three of the busiest airports in the U.S. — won is a minimum wage of $19 an hour by 2023. Their current contract establishes medical insurance, days off, fair scheduling, but not minimum wages.

This wage will be reached in stages. On Nov. 1, the minimum will be $13.60 an hour for workers in New York, up from $12.45 an hour at New York’s Liberty airport, up from $10.45. The Port Authority (PANYNJ) used its power to impose the new schedule on the sub-contractors that supply services like baggage handling, aircraft cleaning, wheelchair pushing and terminal cleaning.

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union President Stuart Appelbaum, UNITE HERE Local 100 President Bill Granfield and RWDSU Local 1002 President Alvin Kaminarim responded in a joint statement: “We enthusiastically support the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s new wage resolution. … Service workers at La Guardia, JFK and Newark Liberty are key to the success and security of our region’s airports.”

Education workers march on Wall St.

By G. Dunkel

New York

More than 500 workers marched from the Stock Exchange to 100 Wall Street on Sept. 27 to demand a fair contract for the 30,000 workers the Professional Staff Congress, American Federation of Teachers Local 2314, represents at the City University of New York (CUNY).

Most of the marchers were members of the PSC, but there were contingents from Service Employees Local 32BJ, the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, the New York Public Interest Research Group and the Fast Food Workers Organizing Committee.

It was a militant march, with a brass marching band and chants of “Education is a right! Fight, fight, fight!” “Education is a right! Strike, strike, strike!” and “No contract! No peace!”

The PSC’s main demand is to increase the pay for adjuncts from $3,200 to $7,000, which will give them a living wage in the New York area. It is also demanding a fully funded 5 percent raise for the other CUNY workers it represents.

The search went to the office of Alvin Thompson, chair of CUNY’s Board of Trustees and chief administrative officer at Siebert Cinerous Shank & Co., an investment bank located at 100 Wall Street.

At the rally, held in front of Thompson’s office as the workers in the area streamed past, PSC officers pointed out that while Wall Street made $25 billion in profits last year, CUNY’s budget was $3 billion — to educate 275,000 enrolled students.

The money is there on Wall Street; more of it should be spent on social needs, like public higher education.

Close to 40 percent of CUNY’s students were born outside the mainland U.S. Fifty-four percent have household incomes of less than $30,000, and 38 percent have incomes less than $20,000. They deserve the same quality of education as New York City’s Columbia University students, whose median family income is $150,000. Only 3 percent of Columbia University students come from poor families that make less than $40,000 a year.

The PSC’s 30,000 members are ready to fight for the raises and investment needed to ensure an intellectually rich college education for CUNY students.

“By failing to invest adequately in CUNY,” said PSC President Barbara Rowen, “New York is making a policy decision not to invest in the future of hundreds of thousands of working-class, poor and middle-class students. This rich city, in this rich state, must do better. CUNY needs competitive salaries that would allow the university to keep the talent, committed faculty and staff students need. And CUNY’s underpaid adjuncts need wage justice.”

CUBA, VENEZUELA

Leaders embraced at int’l rally

Continued from page 1

going to Harlem because that’s where my best friends are.” At the Hotel Theresa, President Castro held meetings with Malcolm X, among others. When Fidel Castro again traveled to the U.N. General Assembly in 2000, he spoke at a huge rally at Riverside Church. There, he announced the opening of a medical school in Havana, Cuba — the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM).

This Cuban medical school offers scholarships to those of limited means. Its only stipulation is that the graduates should return to their home countries to practice in underserved communities.

Since then, the school has trained 12,800 physicians from 103 countries.

Special mention was made of Fidel’s friend, the late Rev. Lucius Walker, who initiated the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. This U.S. organization receives applications to attend the medical school in Cuba. His daughter, Gail Walker, continues that work as executive director of IFCO.

At a local health clinic serving the building and janitorial union Service Employees Local 32BJ, thanked Cuba for its commitment to train young people for the benefit of those most in need.

Dr. Sitembile Sales provided a brief account of their endeavors, including “to improve birth outcomes; expand health care for the homeless; develop and improve primary services to transgender and gender non-conforming communities.”

Dr. Joaquin Morante talked about Cuba’s international campaign of medical care. He said that doctors trained in Cuba were able to do relief work in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

Among the audience was a delegation from a nurses’ union whose t-shirts were emblazoned with demands for solidarity with Puerto Rico:

“¡Cuba sí, bloqueo no!” President Diaz-Canel denounced “the huge degradation of the Cuban people in the past 60 years,” a blockade that “results in an illegal embargo that constitutes an obstacle to the development of the Cuban people and has caused huge deprivation to Cuban families. There were ongoing chants of “Cuba sí! Bloqueo no!” throughout the program.

He said that Cuba is “a small country not rich in financial resources. ... We are sharing what we have — not giving away our leftovers.”

Above all, “our efforts of sharing and sacrifice over several decades have had an impact in several continents.” Since the revolution, 42,000 Cuban doctors, engineers, agronomists and sports professionals have provided training in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The “Yo Si Puedo” teaching method has been used in 30 countries and has taught 10 million people to read.

He said Cuba’s greatest contribution was to support “African liberation movements, safeguarding Angola sovereignty, fighting for the independence of Namibia and providing a demolishing blow to apartheid South Africa’s war machine. “Cuba comes to the U.N. General Assembly to promote cooperation and solidarity as opposed to threats, competition, racism and selfishness — with the authority of a country which turns words into concrete actions.

Those keeping peace in suspense by expanding arsenals with increasingly sophisticated weapons, promoting conflicts, threatening invasions” are increasing the suffering of those who bear the cost of wars.

Cuba’s position is “total disarmament and international solidarity to cooperate with poor and exploited peoples.”

Diaz-Canel expressed gratitude to people in the U.S., especially in the Cuban community, for their support of the Cuban Five and Elián González.

“Chávez and Fidel are present. Long live the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela! Long live the Cuban Revolution! Long live the friendship between our peoples! Hasta victoria siempre!”

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Moros

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel.
Kavanaugh nomination exposes ruling-class crisis

By Sue Davis

Oct. 1 – The Sept. 27 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing about the current nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court could not have been more polarized. Calm, de- liberate, earnest, cooperative, though admittedly terrified, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testified in the morning. In contrast, during the afternoon, there was high drama as Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh alternated between entitled “angry-white- man” shouting about sectarian victimization — “revenge on behalf of the Clintons” — and tearfully pouting, obviously fear- ful of losing his upper-class power. — And hundreds of angry people, many women survivors of rape and sexual assaul- t, marched around the halls of Congress and over to the Supreme Court to voice their anger and assert their rights against the white-male, ruling-class pow- er structure that runs the U.S. This class also prides itself on its social capital — its private schools, elite colleges and universities, with their closed frater- nities and select drinking clubs that promote rape culture; and exclusive hunting, fishing, golf and country clubs that reek of the special advantages enjoyed by the white, moneyed 1% — as they exploit and oppress the other 99%.

Twenty-seven years ago, Anita Hill, a brilliant and brave Black woman, pre- sisted with strong and powerful testimo- ny against counterpointing, racist-sexist abuse when she reported on sexual ha- rassment during the Clarence Thomas hearing conducted by all white male sena- tors. The Sept. 29 New York Times quoted Hill on Kavanaugh’s rage: “No female candidate for a Supreme Court position would ever have the license to speak with such irritation and fury, she said. ‘We still don’t allow women to cry or be angry.’”

“Many of us are going to feel betrayed,” she added, if the Senate ultimately con- firms Kavanaugh for a lifetime appoint- ment to the highest court in the land.

In-your-face confrontation stuns the tide

Although many magazine, newspaper and other media reports have framed the hearing as “she said, he said,” the rami- fications of the hearing range far beyond that sexist phrase, in ways that connect to the entire social, cultural, economic and class system in the U.S. What sur- faced during that hearing is a split in the ruling class, reflected in the different roles played by Senate Republicans and Democrats. The Republicans have done everything in their power to ram through Kava- nun’s appointment to the court before the midterm elections. They have tried at ev- ery turn to limit the hearing and control the outcome by putting up roadblocks to prevent any witnesses from coming forward to name Kavanaugh as an abuser and as Kavanaugh’s drinking and gang-rape buddies have been identified. As such, the Republicans on the Senate committee are doing the bid- dings of the white supremacist, warmon- gering, male-dominated, anti-LGBTQ, Trump-aligned wing of the ruling class. The Democrats, though just as wedded to patriarchal, imperialist, elitist capital- ism, have played a more moderating role in their obvious support for Dr. Blasey. Looking for a way to reap victory in the November general elections, they have commended her courage and brav- e in coming forward to “do her civic duty.” They have insistently called for an FBI investigation to delve into Kavan- uh’s behavior and character.

What ultimately made the Republic- ans cave and call on Trump to order an FBI investigation was an incident in- volving Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Az.). He had announced the morning of Sept. 28 that he would support the Kavanaugh nomi- nation to get it out of committee and onto the Senate floor for the final vote. But then this politician, who is not running for office in the midterm election, was backed into the corner of an elevator by two white rape survivors, Ana Maria Archila and Maria Gallagher. A video of their confrontation of Flake went viral. First Archila chastised him for support- ing Kavanaugh: “What are you doing, sir?” Flake is reported as asserting: “You are telling all women that they don’t matter, that they should just stay quiet because if they tell you what happened to them, you are going to ignore it. That’s what hap- pened to me.”

Furious that Flake was avoiding eye con- tact with her, Gallagher demanded: “Look at me when I’m talking to you.”

Shortly after that angry educational reprimand, Flake announced he would not vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh without an FBI investigation. Trump re- luctantly authorized a week-long supple- mental, superficial background check of four people. For the moment, the Repub- licans have backed off, as did Trump, de- spite having attacked the FBI many times over the last two years.

‘ Pretending to look for the truth’

A number of corporate media sources have questioned how this FBI investiga- tion — limited by time and number of in- terviewees — will expose any additional information about Kavanaugh’s sexual abuse, blatant misogyny and flagrantly sexist behavior.

In a Sept. 30 New York Times column, Supreme Court justices must present themselves as nonpartisan and above re- proach. Yale law professor Judith Resnik speculated that Kavanaugh’s antics at the hearing “could leave the Supreme Court ‘under a cloud of politics and scandal from which it would not recover for de- cades.’” (NY Times, Sept. 29) Speculating that it’s possible Kavanaugh’s nomination may be a bust, even by capitalist “demo- cratic” standards.

But one thing is certain: The violent crime of sexual assault has been dra- matically revealed, and it is now firmly planted in the public arena. There is no going back. Ford’s narrative has brought stark attention to the existence of sexual abuse and violence against women in all realms of life.

Women survivors can only move for- ward on all fronts, their arms linked with others who have suffered the brutal violence of patriarchy, racism and capitalist oppression. This is the path of solidarity needed to smash the capitalist state and smother the new socialist society.

Kathy Dunnick contributed research to this article. Davis wrote three previous WW articles on Kavanaugh: “Kavanaugh is No Friend to Workers,” Aug. 9; “Trump nominated Kavanaugh to over- turn Roe v. Wade, but Labor for Kavanaugh has got to go!” Sept. 27.
South Koreans press for peace treaty

By Deirdre Griswold
New York

The Trump administration continues to evade the biggest question looming over Korean-U.S. relations: When will Washington sign a peace treaty to end the Korean War?

The lack of normalization of relations between the U.S. and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is meaningful when Washington won’t even agree to discuss an end to a war that killed millions of Koreans and has lasted since 1950, despite an armistice agreement signed 65 years ago.

It is in the continuation of this formal state of war and the military occupation of South Korea, along with annual war exercises that simulate an attack on the north, that have forced the DPRK to bolster its defense capabilities.

While Trump himself publicly blows hot and cold on the question of the DPRK, he has appointed some of the most vicious hawks to top positions in his government.

John Bolton, who in February wrote a piece for the Wall Street Journal titled “The Legal Case for Striking North Korea First,” was named Trump’s national security adviser in April.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who handles relations with the DPRK, recently spoke at the United Nations advocating harsher economic sanctions on that far-north country, which would deprive it of fuel this winter. Many such attempts in the past by the U.S. to starve and freeze the Korean people into submission have failed.

But the Cold War attitudes at the top don’t reflect the realities on the ground. The Korean people, divided since 1945, have been working toward peace and reconciliation for decades. This was made spectacularly clear to the world at this year’s winter Olympic games in South Korea, when athletes from the north received an ecstatic welcome as they joined their southern counterparts in a joint parade under one flag.

South Korean Peace Delegation in N.Y.

Representing this strong movement, a South Korean Peace Delegation recently visited New York City to attend the opening of the United Nations General Assembly. They called on the U.N. to help build permanent peace on the Korean peninsula by declaring an end to the Korean War and suspending the sanctions against the DPRK.

During their stay, members of the delegation spoke on Sept. 25 to a special forum at the city’s Solidarity Center. It was chaired by Sara Flounders of the International Action Center, who welcomed the delegation as representing “the hopes and aspirations of 60 million Korean people for peace and reunification.” She then explained that they spoke for “many groups who have united to end the war and sanctions, and sign the peace treaty.”

Continued on the next page

Monica Moorehead, a juror at the Tribunal, with Pula Maciling Malayao, a witness representing the Indigenous Bontok People of the Philippines, a U.S. counterinsurgency program that also targets the Bangsamoro. The Duterte regime further intensified its repression of the Moro and Lumad by its all-out war and martial law in Mindanao.

The Duterte regime continued the National Internal Security Program Application on Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous Peoples Centric Approach in its counterinsurgency program. These focus in particular on the role of indigenous communities in neutralizing insurgency in the countryside.

By “neutralizing” our communities, the Armed Forces of the Philippines hopes to cripple the expansion and mobility of...
Continued from page 6

The New People's Army in remote areas. Duterte takes an interagency approach by activating the AFP and calling the armies of the local communities and territories targeted for counterinsurgency programs in specific regions and on the national level, including agencies on the indigenous peoples, social welfare, education, justice, and others.

The communities and territories targeted for counterinsurgency and economic programs are severely affected by militarization. Among the strategies employed is the recruitment of indigenous peoples into paramilitary groups, especially in the Lumad communities.

These paramilitary groups sow terror, divisiveness and disintegration of traditional socio-political structures in our communities. The congressionally sanctioned counterinsurgency program focused on indigenous peoples are the filing of trumped-up charges against indigenous community leaders, destruction of community livelihood and facilities; and forcible closure of Lumad community schools, which express the resistance of the communities.

Thrashes and harassment are made against teachers, parents and students. On Sept. 5, 2017, Obello Bayo-a, a Ma- nohoben student who died of heart attack at the Sahigungan Lumad community school, was killed by paramilitary group members who were recruited, armed and trained by the ADF.

When we organized an action demanding an independent foreign policy in front of the U.S. Embassy in October 2016, the police dispersed our protest because they didn’t want to be embarrassed before U.S. embassy officials.

The result of this war, on “terror” and imposition of martial law in Mindan- ao have resulted in massive violations of the Moro and indigenous peoples’ rights and cultural heritage.

The siege of the city of Marawi has re- sulted in the devastation of the principal center of the Moro national movement in Mindanao and other regions and loss of their cultural heritage. Other Moro communities are constantly militarized under the Duterte regime. From July 2016 up to the end of May 2018, at least 15,757 evacuees have been reported in the province of Maguindanao alone.

U.S. imperialism under President Don- ald Trump actively supports the Duterte regime by providing orientation, training, funds, arms and intelligence information to state forces. It also provides direct military intervention under the cover of one-sided treaties with the Philip- pine government. The U.S. government has extensive economic and geopolitical interests in the territories of the Moro and indigenous peoples. These areas host U.S. military camps, multinational oil exploitation, sugar and lignite mining, and air and agribusiness plantations.

Trump said during his visit in Novem- ber 2017 that the U.S. government is the “prime mover of real estate from the mili- tary standpoint.” On August 9, 2018, the U.S. reaffirmed its support for Duterte’s war on “terror,” military law and Oplan Kap- yapan by saying that the “U.S. Special Operations Forces will continue to as- sist the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Mindanao through support that helps AFP commanders in their fight against militants.”

U.S. support is to “increase intelligence, surveillance and reconnaiss- ance capabilities” of the AFP. Over the past three years the Philippines has been the biggest recipient of U.S. military aid in the Indo-Pacific region.

A recent 10-day series of airstrikes and indiscriminate bombings by the AFP in Maguindanao that was directed by U.S. Special Forces on the ground killed one civilian, severely wounded three and dis- placed over 7000 Moro people, including 400 children and 59 pregnant women. On Sept. 14, seven Tausug Moro youth farmers were tortured and massacred by the military in Sulu. In addition, Trump’s government banned a Filipino co-chairperson, Jerome Sucor Aba, to torture by U.S. state forces in California. We should not be allowed to join in cracking any forms of resistance. Faced with these ethnicoidal attacks, the Moro and indigenous peoples are even more determined to heighten our struggle for our collective and democratic rights.


McKinsey has so far received $50 million in fees for “advice.” It owns millions more in bonds issued by Puerto Rico, and will press for their payment. In 2017, Puerto Rico, which is a commonwealth of the United States since it was grabbed from Spain in 1898, Countries are taken over and is currently in default on $127 billion of bonds. Puerto Rico is no exception. It has been exploited by U.S. capitalists— including the banks—for more than a century. The country is not a state; nothing—a dot one percent. Especially at such a crucial time for the Puerto Ri- can people, progressives must demand: Cancel the debts and pay reparations for more than a century of exploitation!

Continued from page 7

Capitalist vultures rip off Puerto Rico

By Deirdre Griswold

Capitalist vultures see the wounded country of Puerto Rico as a cash cow and are exploiting the sad dilemma of Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans for profit.

A case in point is the Wall Street con- sulting firm of McKinsey & Co., which has a contract to “advise” the govern- ment of Puerto Rico on a financial over- haul of its debts.

According to an article in the Sept. 26 New York Times, this process “will determine how much money the bank- rupt territory’s creditors recoup on their investments. The giant consulting firm has millions of dollars riding on the out- come.” The reason: McKinsey owns bonds issued by Puerto Rico.

McKinsey also created a potential conflict of in- terest between McKinsey’s client, which wants to save as much money as possible, and McKinsey itself, which wants to make as much money as possible on the “bonds.”

Such a relationship during bankruptcy is unethical and illegal. But the U.S. Congress, which for the most part does the bidding of Wall Street, set up a spe- cial legal framework in the case of Puerto Rico’s debt. It left it to the rules that nor- mally would compel disclosure of a con- flict of interest.

protests in several municipalities and universities, at celebrations of national observances and in a general strike on Sept. 20.

The Constitutional Court, the coun- try’s highest legal authority, declared un- constitutional the Government’s attempt to pass legislation granting Morales im- munity from prosecution for electoral campaign finance fraud.

The CC blocked Morales’ attack on the CICIG, holding decisively that the CICIG as an international institution could not be unilaterally suspended.

The so-called “Pacto de Corruptos” — the corruption gang in Congress who represent reactionary oligarchies and the transnational corporations — has made its way into a “Pacto de Golpiotas” — coup plotters. Morales announced that he will not obey illegal orders, declaring that he will govern ac- cording to his own concept of legality.

The CICIG and LaLefundisimo (the rule of the landlords)

Following its independence in 1821, Guatemala became part of Mexico until 1825. Since then it has been a country of Mayan peoples. Guatemala has been governed by dictators, “caudillos,” who were creoles of Spanish descent or mestizos of mixed origin.

The United States has intervened in Guatemalan politics since the days of the Monroe Doctrine in the early 1800s. Washington trained and funded the right- wing military which committed genocide against hundreds of thousands of Mayan Indigenous people, who, with the peasant movement, supported the left during the Civil War between 1960 and 1996.

For centuries colonial oligarchs had stolen the lands of the Mayans to create huge plantations where the Indigenous peoples were virtually enslaved, producing sugar, coffee, cacao and bananas for the international market.

Military dictatorships protected the great landlords (latifundistas) who used the public treasury as their bank account.

The CICIG was installed by the United Nations in 2007 to combat corruption. Since its inception, it has been promoted by foreign powers, including the United States. The commission fights corruption primarily by corrupting the U.S. imperialism under President Don- ald Trump has been strongly supported by the military — has morphed into a “Pacto de Corruptos” — the corruption gang in Congress who represent reactionary oligarchies and the transnational corporations.

The CICIG is not empowered to solve the country’s fundamental social prob- lems such as land reform (for the landless), racism or assassinations of In- digenous leaders. Rejecting the alternative of a return to military dictatorship, the CICIG is the first step in establishing the existing weak institutional system.

Class differences in the fight against corruption

International communications me- dia compare the mobilizations of recent weeks to those of 2015 that ended the government of Otto Pérez-Molina, the former corrupt servant of the oligarchy and the transnational corporations. The CICIG was installed by the United States, Guatemala and the transnational corporations.

The Mayan peoples and CODECA (Campesino Development Com- mittee) have stood up to defend their cultural heritage. Other Moro com- mittees and territories have stood up to defend their cultural heritage.

The CICIG is not empowered to solve the country’s fundamental social prob- lems such as land reform (for the landless), racism or assassinations of In- digenous leaders. Rejecting the alternative of a return to military dictatorship, the CICIG is the first step in establishing the existing weak institutional system.

The United States has intervened in Guatemalan politics since the days of the Monroe Doctrine in the early 1800s. Washington trained and funded the right- wing military which committed genocide against hundreds of thousands of Mayan Indigenous people, who, with the peasant movement, supported the left during the Civil War between 1960 and 1996.

For centuries colonial oligarchs had stolen the lands of the Mayans to create huge plantations where the Indigenous peoples were virtually enslaved, producing sugar, coffee, cacao and bananas for the international market.

Military dictatorships protected the great landlords (latifundistas) who used the public treasury as their bank account.

The CICIG was installed by the United Nations in 2007 to combat corruption. Since its inception, it has been promoted by foreign powers, including the United States. The commission fights corruption primarily by corrupting the U.S. imperialism under President Donald Trump has been strongly supported by the military — has morphed into a “Pacto de Corruptos” — the corruption gang in Congress who represent reactionary oligarchies and the transnational corporations.

The CICIG is not empowered to solve the country’s fundamental social prob- lems such as land reform (for the landless), racism or assassinations of In- digenous leaders. Rejecting the alternative of a return to military dictatorship, the CICIG is the first step in establishing the existing weak institutional system.

Class differences in the fight against corruption

International communications me- dia compare the mobilizations of recent weeks to those of 2015 that ended the government of Otto Pérez-Molina, the former corrupt servant of the oligarchy and the transnational corporations. The CICIG was installed by the United States, Guatemala and the transnational corporations.

The Mayan peoples and CODECA (Campesino Development Com- mittee) have stood up to defend their cultural heritage. Other Moro com- mittees and territories have stood up to defend their cultural heritage.
En una semana de acciones, crece el ‘Tribunal de Descolonización de Puerto Rico’

Por Cheryl LaBash

A medida que el actual residente de la Casa Blanca, Donald Trump, se perfila como el que puede dar el creciente número de muertes en Puerto Rico por los huracanes María e Irma, la organización crea para llevar a los Estados Unidos a juicio por 120 años de dominio, impone el latifundismo; establecieron dictaduras militares, y usaron el tesoro público para pagar reparaciones a Puerto Rico ahora y compartir la petición Descolonizar Puerto Rico apoya los derechos fundamentales en la Constitución como cuenta bancaria para sus negocios. Esto provocó la evolución del Pacto de Corruptos, compuesto por disputas internacionales, robaron las tierras que les quedaban a los pueblos indígenas y se inasumieron los más brutales militares en tácticas contrainsurgentes en su famosa Escuela de las Américas. La CICIG no puede, ni tiene intención de resolver los problemas sociales de base del país, como el latifundismo, el racismo o el asesinato de líderes indígenas. Pero también creó oportunidad para la resistencia popular en el país, que en los siguientes años pudo crecer y seguir luchando por los derechos básicos: tierra para los campesinos, mejores salarios, servicios sociales, etc.

CODECA y otros también alzan la demanda de una Asamblea Nacional Constituyente Popular y Plurinacional, como camino para avanzar las otras demandas de los pueblos galueños. Esta Asamblea consiste en cinco cambios fundamentales en la Constitución y la Ley Electoral. Los principales entre ellos está el limitar los salarios públicos en relación con el salario mínimo, tomar en cuenta consultas comunitarias para la aprobación de leyes, y lo que más amenaza el poder de la oligarquía: representación participativa en la política de los 22 pueblos de Guatemala.

Si la Asamblea Nacional Constituyente Popular y Plurinacional es la solución a los retos que enfrentan los pueblos de Guatemala no se podrá saber sin antes ponerla en práctica. Pero lo que queda claro es que para salir de las condiciones que sufre hoy el país, hay que romper con el monopolio del poder que ejerce la oligarquía.