U.N. summit fails world’s poor

By Sara Flounders

Imagine an international gathering at the United Nations reporting after 15 years of meetings that it had achieved none of its goals — especially its number one goal of ending extreme poverty and hunger by this year. This happened at the Sept. 25-27 U.N. Sustainable Development Summit, which followed up on the U.N. Millennium Summit held in 2000.

Fifteen years ago, the assembly of 149 heads of state, U.N. agencies and international financial institutions set a series of objectives — the Millennium Development Goals. The eight goals sought to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, combat life-threatening diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and build a “global partnership for development.”

This year’s summit did not even acknowledge the failure to reach the goals projected in 2000. The U.N. instead set yet another 15-year target to end extreme poverty and hunger, as well as 16 other goals, by 2030 in a project called Sustainable Development Goals.

It is important to evaluate this new project’s chances of success. The fate of millions of desperate people worldwide hangs in the balance. The gap between the richest 1% and the very poor is greater than ever. Poverty and hunger have vastly increased. Climate and environmental destruction have worsened. Imperialist-led wars have forced an enormous migration crisis.

The goals of reducing poverty, hunger, increasing literacy and solving the climate crisis have inspired individuals and organizations worldwide. Who could argue with such laudable aims?

However, the truth about these U.N. summits is that while promising global transformation, they are part of the capitalists’ war on the world’s people. The accumulation of wealth and power has accelerated through these global initiatives because the largest corporations dominate the plans. The biggest banks, transnational companies and financial institutions, like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, structure these projects. Their objectives are to expand capitalist markets, maximize profits and restructure the developing countries more tightly into their economic web — not to redistribute the world’s wealth.

International convocations and U.N.-sponsored gatherings, such as the 2005 Millennium +5 Summit, the 2008 Doha Conference for Development, the Millennium Development Review Summit and the 2012 Rio +20 Sustainable Development Conference, have reinforced and legitimized capitalist growth policies as the only way forward.

Changing the hunger count

The Millennium Development Goals were declared an overwhelming success in solving the problem of world hunger by statistically changing how underfed people were counted. The U.N. and non-governmental organizations declared it “the most successful anti-poverty movement in history,” which cut global poverty in half. (Guardian, July 17) But was it really reduced?

Continued on page 9
Wildfires spawned by capitalism

By Chris Fry

Sept. 20 — Five people have been killed by ferocious wildfires sweeping through California, including a woman and two children who died when they could not escape her home on Sept. 12. More than 1,000 homes have been destroyed as of Sept. 20, with thousands more still threatened. More than 25,000 people have fled their homes. Other western states, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho and particularly Alaska, have seen a huge spike in wildfires this year.

As of July, some 5 million acres of Alaska’s forests, more than the size of the state of Connecticut, burned in hundreds of wildfires. Scientist warn that these fires could melt huge areas of permafrost, which covers 80 percent of the state. In turn, this could release billions of tons of carbon emissions from methane into the atmosphere, greatly accelerating global warming. (Alaska’s terrifying wildfire season and what it says about climate change,” washingtonpost.com, July 26)

Ironically, the worldwide current glut of oil caused by capitalist overproduction has resulted in a decline in fuel prices. Alaska’s government, which depends on tax revenue from the same big oil companies that have caused catastrophic effect of global warming. Yes, each wildfire is a “natural” disaster. But, clearly, the huge increase in the number and intensity of these fires can be traced right back to Big Oil, to Big Coal, to hydraulic fracturing and, of course, to Wall Street’s insatiable drive for profits. They are the root cause of each catastrophic effect of global warming.

The only way to reduce the “human” cause of global warming is to create the technologies that allow us to leave the coal, oil and natural gas in the ground. What stands in the way of doing that are the giant corporations and banks, the billionaires from Warren Buffet to, yes, Donald Trump, who stand to lose trillions of dollars in profits from such a shift.

To end the obscene burning of fossil fuels for energy, the workers and oppressed must join together to end the obsolete capitalist economic system once and for all.

By telling people that the only way to escape economic death is to “volunteer” for fire duty. But global warming, now has less money to spend fighting these fires.

More than 4,000 prisoners, nearly half the 10,000 firefighters involved, are fighting the blazes in California. The work is incredibly hard and dangerous. Prisoners cut fire lines in steep areas that bulldozers can’t reach, strengthen the smoke and tree line walls that support the fire and keep it burning. For doing this work next to flames that shoot 100 feet into the air, they are paid a paltry $1 an hour. While being trained, they get about $2 a day. (thinkprogress.org, Aug. 15)

Courts have ruled that California must greatly reduce the number of inmates in its prisons. The harsh conditions of overcrowded and segregated jails have forced many prisoners to “volunteer” for fire duty. But since California saves so much money from this slave labor — up to $1 billion per year — its lawyers actually filed documents late last year saying that state parole boards are allowing prisoners to “volunteer” for fire duty.

Workers built it — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 56 years WWHP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, 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. WWHP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a work-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWHP 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 the grips of their war. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

workers.org/wwp
Black Lives Matter at ‘Liberation for all of us’

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Durham, N.C.

A dynamic Black Lives Matter contingent of queer and trans* people of color, advancing behind the banner “No Pride for some of us without liberation for all of us,” disrupted the North Carolina Pride parade on Sept. 26. The action, carried out in Durham, was organized by groups from here and Greensboro. (Trans* indicates the spectrum of all the different genders of people who do not conform to the either/or of male/female.)

As the contingent marched, members chanted the searing lyrics of R&B singer Janelle Monae’s protest song against racist police terror, “Hell You Tallahount.” Participants drummed and shouted out the names of murdered Black queer and trans* women. This year, as of September, at least 27 trans* women of color have been killed in the U.S., an historically high rate.

On reaching the corner at Main and Broad where participating groups were announced, the contingent asked for and received the microphone to read a statement in solidarity with the murdered women. However, they were told by a Pride official, “Don’t say anything offensive.”

In Facebook posts, BLM Youth Assembly organizer Ngoc Loan Tran described the events after the group began to read: “The MC intervened and brought security and cops to confront us, put hands on queer Black people speaking, and stopped us from reading statements. Only someone who’s never been determined that the fight for Black lives is offensive. … Murdering queer and trans Black people without remorse is offensive; trying to separate struggle from celebration is offensive. Be loud, don’t be quiet! The first Pride was a riot!”

Stonewall and transgender women of color

Stonewall was the lesbian-gay-bi-trans* queer six-day uprising against police repression in New York in June 1969. That fightback resistance was led by transgender women of color, like Missy P. Johnson of African descent and Latina Sylvia Rivera, as well as by butch lesbians, teenage street hustlers, drag queens and trans*queer six-day uprising against police repression in New York in June 1969.

The statement pointed to the deep contradiction between the original Stonewall militancy and the current NC Pride celebration: “VW Pride is sponsored by banks and corporations that cage, murder and enslave Black and Brown Queer and Trans folk,” including “kindred locked back in the Durham County Jail, denied urgent medical care, reading material, clean drinking water, and even a fundamental right to sunlight.”

A major corporate sponsor of NC Pride is super-bank Wells Fargo, which has made millions in loans to the for-profit Corrections Corporation of America. Other corporate sponsors include Bud Light and PepsiCo, environmental polluter Allied Chemical and pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline.

Community members and activists gathered Sept. 27, the day after the local Pride march, for a community forum hosted by the Durham, N.C., branch of Workers World Party. Lesbian activist Minnie Bruce Pratt, and activists Jess Jude and Ngoc Loan Tran began by sharing their personal history and experiences connecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer struggles with other movements.

The audience responded by sharing their own experiences and dissing the idea that the next step in building solidarity across struggles, and the value of joining a revolutionary party to help achieve that goal. Later that night, there was a community screening of the film “Pride,” which tells the true story of a community-led group of gays and lesbians who raised funds to help support striking Welsh miners in 1984. Afterwards, the discussion of building solidarity continued, building a bridge between the LGBTQ and Black Lives Matter movements.

Workers World Durham, N.C., Bureau

Building solidarity and LGBTQ movement

White NC Pride leaders committed a terrible, shameful failure of solidarity and an act of racism when they interrupted the Black Lives Matter contingent, threatened its members physically and called in the police.

At a celebration of Stonewall, the historic LGBTQ fightback battle that was led by trans* women of color, white NC Pride organizers sought to repress, with their own physical coercion and using state power, a people-of-color-queer and trans* contingent that embodied the spirit that Stonewall’s struggle, fighting back against racism, homophobia, transphobia and woman hating.

The Black Lives Matter group was advancing a powerful possibility for solidarity, connection and resistance. They were offering the potential for convergence of the Black Lives Matter movement and the LGBTQ movement for liberation. They were offering a chance to reject big-business manipulation of the LGBTQ freedom struggle. They were offering a chance for the LGBTQ movement to widen and strengthen itself in the broader struggle for justice.

The Black Lives Matter protesters made very clear the opposing positions of repression and liberation as they stood at the intersection of Pride and downtown Durham. They quite succinctly posed the question: Which side are you on? This is the question that each one of us must answer in order to stay correctly on the road to solidarity and liberation.

Deception at Volkswagen

By G. Dunkel

When the news broke Sept. 18 that Volkswagen was cheating on its diesel emission controls, the economic reaction was fairly swift. VW stock fell by about a third in a few days of trading; the Environmental Protection Agency threatened to remove half a million VW diesels from the road and to fine the company $7 billion.

Shares in other European car makers also fell, with Peugeot down 7 percent, BMW down 5.7 percent and Daimler, the owner of Mercedes-Benz, also down 5 percent. Around half the cars sold in Europe use diesel.

The big papers in the U.S., including the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, were filled with speculation about how the company would, or could, compensate the owners of its diesel cars. Volkswagen was, for a brief period before this scandal broke, the largest car manufacturer in the world, directly employing 300,000 workers in Germany alone and indirectly providing jobs for tens of thousands of workers employed by its suppliers. Worldwide, VW sold one out of every 10 cars.

Pressure is mounting. The German government has announced Sept. 27 that Volkswagen had until Oct. 7 to come up with a schedule for fixing this problem once and for all. VW diesels meet environmental standards. Otherwise, it would remove authorization for VW diesels to use German roads.

Some of the descriptions of Volkswagen’s test-heating technology compare it to “cheat devices” which were the old style way of getting around pollution controls. In this case the company used software built into the cars’ computer that sets 40 to 60 parameters controlling such things as engine speed, exhaust paths and so on. Using software tools developed by Bosch in 2007 for testing purposes, it modified its small- and medium-sized diesel cars to pass emissions tests, but to remove these controls on the open road for vastly better performance and economy.

Clean air saves lives; VW chooses death

According to the Sept. 22 Guardian, “The release of emissions tests may have added nearly a million tons of air pollution by VW cars annually — roughly the same as the UK’s combined emissions for all power stations, vehicles, industry and agriculture.” Scaling the amount of nitrogen dioxide emitted by 500,000 Volkswagen diesels in the U.S. to the world-wide figure of 11 million, VW diesel were responsible for emitting 948,691 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions into the atmosphere.

According to the EPA, NOx reduces the ability of people and animals to resist lung infections like the flu and colds, produces acid rain and has severe environmental impact.

What is driving the reaction against Volkswagen is the importance of clean air, not just for people’s health, but to their economies. According to reports put together by Michael Greenstone in the Sept. 25 New York Times, “[H]undreds of millions of life-years [are] saved from improved air quality in our country” due to the Clean Air Act, which was the result of tremendous, militant activism over decades.

Volkswagen workers also have to breathe the dirt of the VW pollutes. They want their jobs, but they also want their health and the health of their families. What their corporate employer has done is destroy both, and this threat flows from the capitalist system Volkswagen operates in.

Deception — and the other car manufacturers with their own versions of VW’s defeat devices — don’t consider the lives extended and improved by clean air. In the ruthless drive for profits and expansion, they will lie and cheat, using high technology, threats, collusion and copyright laws to keep the software code running their cars from being inspected, in order to preserve their profits.
to go long periods without food. Others and on their beds, except when they were
detained all visits, phone calls, outdoor
centers in the country with over 1,800
stayed, which took
one individual required serious medical
rubber bullets and pepper spray. At least
art staff entered several units wearing
members, supporters learned that Stew-
tained individuals and second-hand ac-
detained at Stewart Detention Center in
36x400]
In 2012, Detention Watch Network
The corporation was losing money
as simple and plain as Black and white
— abstract nationalism — you missed
-abstract, elementary (it's no disrespect to
of what's least-
conventional type of tactics and means.
Let me be clear that this is the system
where we frame it in terms of what's le-
球场 intoxicated to
too proletarian revolu-
the early morning
experiences surviv-
Sun Tzu said, the cardinal principle of
where the state functions. A lot
on with a politic that expose and deal
this kind of abstract, feel-good type of
locked up. But the stakes are too high for
"conscious" artists on there that ain't
the news that's not put on the TV all the
May 2015 should serve as a reminder that
in the struggle ... 'This day and age, with
Please seize the time. Please
talking to you. Just wanted to get that off
the real deal contradictions.

Kevin Caron is an activist with Georgia
this isn't no abstract
that's not put on the TV all the
time. There's forces struggling right here

The following is a transcription of a talk given by Chairman Fred
the real deal contradictions.
These violations include rotten,
human rights have left those de-
(aka Monroe Street). Those gath-
For example, the harder she trick on they tie, real

The streets Party kicks off every
year with a memorial in front of
what they call "our Ground Zero, where
the pigs took out our twin towers, Chair-
man Fred Hampton and Defense Captain
Mark Clark," at 2357 N. Chairman Fred
Way (aka Monroe Street). Those gathered
march to The Wall, a giant mural of
Chairman Fred Sr. at Madison and Cali-
on the early morning
experiences surviv-
from Georgia Detention Watch and
unconventional type of tactics and means.
Let me be clear that this is the system
where we frame it in terms of what's least-
and those resisting Stewart from the in-
side, Flores-Maisonet and others built a
groundswell movement to shut down the facility
by organizing regular demonstration
and setting up El Refugio, a hospita-
tality house that offers assistance to
the families of those who are detained.
In 2012, Detention Watch Network
named Stewart Detention Center one of
the 10 worst immigration detention
conditions without proper treatment.
Families had hoped to take advantage
of the long weekend to visit their loved
ones at Stewart, some even driving as far
as 900 miles. All were turned away with
little or no explanation until Sunday,
Sept. 6, when staff ended the lockdown.
Built as a speculative project in the
ear 2000s, the medium-security facil-
ity that would later become Stewart
sat empty for several years. Meanwhile, CCA
scrambled to obtain a contract with the
state of Georgia. Despite pouring tens of
thousands of dollars into Georgia state
officials' election campaigns, CCA failed
to make a deal.

The corporation was losing money
until, in 2006, CCA secured a contract
with the federal government and Stewart
County to warehouse undocumented immigrants awaiting deportation by Im-
migration and Customs Enforcement.
 Oppression breeds resistance
Almost immediately upon opening,
the horrid conditions at Stewart were
met with resistance. In 2007, Hondu-
ran immigrants at the facility organized
a large hunger strike that garnered
attention of local activists and advocates,
as well as Antônio Flores-Maisonet. Inspired
by those resisting Stewart from the in-
side, Flores-Maisonet and others built a
grassroots movement to shut down the facility
by organizing regular demonstrations
and setting up El Refugio, a hospita-
tility house that offers assistance to
the families of those who are detained.
Stewart. These violations include rotten,
derived food that has been served with
maggots as well as indefinite deten-
tion with multiple complaints, includ-
ing a slow and nontransparent depor-
tation process. They also include severe
medical neglect, which, in March 2009,
proved fatal when Roberto Medina-Mar-
tinez died of a treatable heart infection.
These clear and consistent violations
of basic human rights have left those de-
tained at Stewart with no option but to
mount resistance. The most recent upris-
ing comes on the heels of a large hunger
strike that took place in Stewart through-
out the summer of 2014.

CCA is one of the largest private,
for-profit correction companies in the
United States. In 2012, CCA's revenue,
which comes entirely from taxpayer
funds, exceeded $7.5 billion. Earning
$60.50 per day per individual detained at
Stewart, the longer CCA can keep some-
one in detention, the more they profit.
While the U.S. corporate media has
focused on the immigration and refu-
gee crisis in Europe throughout recent
weeks, refugees fleeing U.S.-backed mil-
itary repression and economic exploita-
tion in Latin America have been left out
of the discussion. The Stewart Uprising of
2009 should serve as a reminder that
the root causes of the immigration crisis
in the U.S. and elsewhere are policies that
exploit the labor and resources of some
parts of the world to benefit the wealthy
in others.

Kevin Caron is an activist with Georgia
Detention Watch and the movement to
DeleteShutDownStewart. He lives in Atlanta.

Remembering Chairman Fred Hampton
The following is a transcription of a talk given by Chairman Fred
Hampton Jr., gave a talk about her experiences surviv-
ing the early morning cop assault of April 4, 1968. Also in atten-
dance was Kanahus Manuel, a representa-
tive of the Suquamish Nation from Canada.

Those who missed the event yesterday,
I'm still charged up off it. Like Chairman Fred used to say, I'm
too proletarian revolu-
tional ideology intoxicated
be astronomically in-
tradition. When you get through some-
the conditions of people look at certain dynamics: this is
at the world, how the state functions. A lot
in the struggle ...' This day and age, with
'back in the days, I'd a been involved
Please seize the time y'all. Don't tell me about
"conscious" artists on there that ain't
Don't disrespect. The stakes are
too high. We got cats who do cops run like
cat Dom P, my little nephew who
lock up. But the stakes are too high
for this kind of abstract, felt-good type of
thing, ...
[Introducing Pam Africa] Policeman
beat her down, and they told her just
let go of the tie. The harder they beat
her, the harder she trick on they tie, real
talk. This is ghetto folk, not folklore, but
real-deal real contradictions.
This isn't an abstract
that's not put on the TV all the
time. There's forces struggling right here
and now, seize the time.

— Transcribed by WY Chicago Bureau
Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 and their labor-commu- nity supporters rallied at the Milwaukee County Courthouse on Sept. 24 in oppo- sition to the concessionary contract being pushed by County Executive Chris Abele.

The ATU protest was part of a series of actions that included a three-day walkout from the union’s 5,000 members on Sept. 14, hundreds of drivers suspended on Sept. 15, a mass picket line at Franklin High School on Sept. 25, and school stops on the near west side. The SEA membership approved a three-year contract to a concessionary contract being pushed by County Executive Chris Abele.

Other issues include pensions, health care cost increases and the need for adequate bathroom breaks. The membership’s vote on the proposed contract will take place on Oct. 5. It has been postponed from Sept. 30 to give union members adequate time to make an informed decision on the proposal. The bargaining committee is urging mem- bers to vote “no.” For more information on how to support the transit workers’ struggle, see Facebook.com/ATU-Local-998.

### Milwaukee transit workers fight cutbacks

**By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau**

On Sept. 14, hundreds of teachers held a mass picket line at Franklin High School. About 500 teachers marched five- and-a-half miles from Chief Sealth Inter- national High School to school district headquarters. There were many other conver- gence actions across the city.

After a tentative agreement was reached between the Seattle Education Association and the Seattle School Dis- trict on Sept. 15, SEAS Representative Assembly voted to suspend the strike. Teachers and staff returned to work on Sept. 26, and school stopped the next day. The SEA membership approved a three- year contract, with a big ratification turn- out from the union’s 5,000 members on Sept. 20.

Parents and supporters sang at a rally outside the hall where the vote took place. They were giving support to the educators whatever way they voted.

Given all the cuts and attacks on public education that had taken place, the teachers were demanding better con- ditions for the students, while insisting on fairness for themselves. The teachers were fed up with overwork and being dis- respected by the community and anti-public education “philanthro- pists.”

A very inclusive 40-member bargaining team negotiated throughout the sum- mer. The SEA called for a pay increase for educators, since their tiny salary increas- es had been wiped out by higher medical costs in the last contract. They also want- ed more help for support staff. Teachers opposed the short 15-minute recesses for students and a longer school day. They wanted “race and equity teams” in the schools to combat systemic racism.

### Community, labor support key

Picketing teachers were very visible through the strike, with dozens demonstrating and chanting at each of the city’s 97 public schools. They were supported by parents’ groups, such as Soup for Teachers, which brought food and support to the picket lines. While educators wearing red shirts were all around the city, it appeared that school districts moved to settle with the SEA.

The SEA won a guaranteed 30-minute recess for students; a 4.8 percent cost-of-living increase in the first two years, a 5 percent pay increase over two years, with a 4.5 percent increase in the third year. The school day will be lengthened by 20 minutes. The SEA website says the teach- ers will be compensated for additional time and that the staff will be added to help the educators and students.

The SEA forced the district to uncou- ple student test scores from teacher eval- uations. “Race and equity” teams will be set up to deal with racial disparities in education in 90 schools; this is a gain, but it is not enough.

The teachers’ struggle can be built on. Seattle Educators Association President Jonathan Knapp said they followed the lessons of the 2012 Chicago teachers’ strike in unity with the community. One advance was an alliance with at least three new parent groups. Black Lives Matter and NAACP activists strongly supported the strike.

This strike also grew out of a wave of dozens of one-day strikes by teach- ers across Washington state during the spring. These walkouts opposed the state Legislature, which has refused to allocate necessary funding for basic education for all students. The struggle for a decent ed- ucation will continue because youth are too precious to be sent to prison or in oth- er ways abused by the capitalist class.

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A new brand of Catholicism, called Liberation Theology, put emphasis on raising up the poor and marginalized in the church, especially in Western Europe. It should be obvious that the U.S. big-business media, from the lofty, globally connected perch of the New York Times and Washington Post to the frenetically right-wing Fox media conglomerate, all speak for various elements of the U.S. capitalist ruling class. Even the most liberal never go beyond criticism and editorial positions intended to patch up and prettify this increasingly monstrous system. Far be it for any of these ever side with those who advocate a revolutionary solution to the gnawing decay of outmoded capitalism. Their enthusiasm for the pope’s pronouncements, therefore, must be seen in the context of present-day struggles. Here in the United States, these struggles are becoming more acute as the exploitation of the working class and the even fiercer oppression of its most marginalized sections – Black people, Latinx and Asian people, gay men and lesbians, people of color, and immigrants – have aroused a significant section of the population. The young especially are showing outright defiance of the powerful forces of religious dogma, especially in relation to police violence and mass incarceration.

Role of Catholic Church in history

While the Catholic Church is a powerful worldwide institution with a long history, the church is also known for its struggle with the masses. Throughout the centuries, its influence today should not be exaggerated. The church has been in decline for many years, especially in Europe, where it has no real influence. It was long ago superseded in Europe and the U.S. by various Protestant religions, whose struggle with the Catholic church had its roots in the French revolution and bourgeois revolutions. The Enlightenment period rejected Catholic dogma and opened the way for the development of science and industry, pillars of early capitalism.

With the development of capitalism into its imperialist phase and mercantile and industrial capital began taking a back seat to increasingly powerful banks and other financial institutions. The growing world economy was dominated mainly by “WASP” — white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants from Europe and North America — who ruled through such institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The past century saw many challenges to imperialist rule. Most notable were the revolutions in Russia, China, Korea, Vietnam and Cuba that overturned capitalist property relations and aimed at building socialist societies. Facing problems of extreme underdevelopment and unremitting hostility from the imperialists, these revolutions were socialist and summoned the efforts of the masses of people to improve conditions, rather than seek the help of a supposed higher power.

In Eastern Europe, where the upend of the old social order came through the military defeat of Nazi Germany and its collaborators by the Soviet Red Army, rather than by popular revolutions, the Catholic Church became a conduit for counterrevolution. Pope John Paul II, a Pole, played a notable part in the return of Eastern European countries to the fold of global capitalism. But while this earned him and the church great praise from the Vatican and its allies in the West, it has not reversed the historically declining fortunes of the Vatican.

The rise of the women’s movement and the concomitant struggle for reproductive choice, as well as revelations of child sexual abuse by a supposedly celibate Catholic hierarchy plus an army of priests of various nationalities and religions, have led to a decline in the influence and finances of the church, especially in Western Europe.

Today, there are more practicing Muslims in a Catholic country than there are practicing Catholics. And in Italy, home of the Vatican, those who attended Mass every Sunday in 2010 made up less than 5 percent of the population; the figure was even lower for youth. (Center for the Study of New Religions)

The Church and Liberation Theology

In Latin America, however, the situation is more complex. Beginning in the 1960s, the struggle of the masses against brutal dictatorships, which were propped up by the U.S. military and arms dealers, shook the Catholic hierarchy and attracted many priests and nuns who were closest to the poor. A movement of Catholicism, Liberation Theology, put emphasis on raising up the most oppressed and was sympathetic to revolutionary forces in the hemisphere, including BLACK people. Revolutionary aspects of its advocates participated in armed struggles against the repressive regimes. Politicians and priests in this movement became targets of the dictators, most notably in Central America, Argentina and Brazil, and the movement itself was denounced by the Vatican.

New Pope and Argentina’s ‘Disappeared’

Pope Francis is from Argentina. He was not part of this progressive, even revolutionary movement that reached into the clergy. The military in Argentina launched a coup in 1976, supported by Washington, and carried out the vicious war against the left in which thousands were “disappeared.” The military eventually had to accede to a return of civilian government.

It was Pope John Paul II who anointed Bergoglio a cardinal in 2001. When Bergoglio became pope two years ago, information surfaced about the complicity of the Argentine church with the crimes of the generals. Bergoglio was accused of not having used his position — he had been a bishop at the time of the “dirty war” — to save priests and others imprisoned by the junta. He denied the charge. (Time, “The New Pope and Argentina’s ‘Disappeared’ of the Dirty War,” March 13, 2013)

Bergoglio’s ascension in the church to the position of pope reflects the new reality since that time. Throughout Latin America, there is little sympathy for the reactionary forces that were lined up with U.S. imperialism in the period of multiple military coups and vicious dictatorships, from Venezuela and Chile to Guatemala and Paraguay. Even the corrupt and murderous political establishment in Colombia has had to sit down in Havana with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and negotiate an end to the war there.

The new pope is able to articulate the sentiments of the masses of oppressed people with great passion and seeming humility. Yet the institution he represents, except for a small and valiant group in it which he has distanced himself from, has been opposed to the struggles of the people to take control over their lives in the now, not the hereafter. By praising the pope to the skies, we can assume that the capitalist establishment in the U.S. is eager to cloak itself in his present popularity and promote the church as a force for change.

That is a far cry from being committed to any meaningful struggles that could make a dent in imperialist wars abroad or the economic aggression known as “free trade” — both of which result in devastation that is driving millions to leave their homes. Nor will it reverse the amazing wealth that one end of the class divide and abject poverty at the other.

To do this — and to respond seriously to the hair-raising predictions about the future of this planet — requires a massive showdown with the class of super-rich who at present control most of the world.

Justice for Natasha McKenna!

Philadelphia

Sept. 21 — As Philadelphia is gradually being militarized by Homeland Security and the Secret Service in advance of the visit of Pope Francis on Sept. 26 and 27, members and supporters of the Racial, Economic and Legal Justice (REAL Justice) Coalition defied the lockdown, taking to the streets of Center City to protest the violent murder and torture of Natasha McKenna by Fairfax County, Va., police in early February 2015.

McKenna, a 27-year-old African-American woman diagnosed with schizophrenia as a child, was arrested and placed in police custody after allegedly threatening a police officer. A 48-minute video released earlier in September shows several male officers in hazmat suits and feeding her to “stop struggling” even though she obviously is not, and eventually shooting her multiple times with a taser gun. McKenna died as a result of this abuse. Her last words, heard on the video, were, “You promised you wouldn’t kill me.”

Demonstrators included several spokespeople from the disabled community, a community that accounts for nearly 50 percent of victims of police brutality. Following the short rally, over 100 demonstrators marched to Love Park. There, a day earlier, members of the REAL Justice Coalition had joined homeless people to protest the city’s lack of plans to house and feed people who will be displaced by the shutdown leading up to the pope’s visit. Demonstrators took over the stage just outside the Visitors Center, welcoming women of color present to join them on the podium. Demonstrators then marched up Ben-
Forum on Syria crisis

By Workers World Boston Bureau

The Boston International Action Center held a forum on Sept. 19 in response to Syria's refugee crisis. It was attended by members of Team Solidarity: Voices of the United School Bus Union Workers of Local 8751, the Syrian American Forum and Mass Action Against Police Brutality. Workers World Party and the revolutionary youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together sponsored the event.

Two presentations highlighted imperialism's critical role in the massive migrations from Syria to Europe's imperialist countries. Danny Haiphong of WW and FIST focused on the relationship between imperialism's war on Syria and the crisis of capitalism. A critical aspect of this relationship is the antagonism between Syria's unrelenting, heroic struggle for self-determination and imperialism's incessant need to destabilize nations that resist its dictates.

Mathiowetz explained the victory: "We're worth more than what we're being paid now." (anni-stonstar.com, Sept. 28)

And her co-worker, Joe Etherton, spoke about the significance of the win, "I hope the workers of Alabama see this and stand up and speak for themselves."

Mathiowetz is a retired, 30-year General Motors assembly line worker and the producer and co-host of a weekly radio program, The Labor Forum, on WRFG 91.9 FM in Atlanta.

On Sept. 26, the first anniversary of the forced disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa, thousands marched in the streets in Mexico City to demand answers and justice. The students are seen to represent the more than 100,000 people who have been killed and 25,000 "disappeared" since the beginning of the narco-friendly Peña Nieto government. As usual, the U.S. government not only supports but also funds these neoliberal assassins throughout Latin America.

In San Francisco in the U.S., people also went into the streets, holding a rally and a march in the Mission District in solidarity with the parents and supporters of the missing students. The disappearance of the Mexican students is only the tip of the iceberg of injustices, assassinations and repression throughout Latin America. Part of the Ayotzinapa struggle is building unity in the U.S. with Latin America.

Solloum said SAF is dedicated to educating the U.S. public on the true nature of a war that threatens the sovereignty and stability of its members' homeland. Russia's recent moves to increase military aid to Syria, he explained, will help the Syrian people's cause of eliminating terrorism in their country so that Syria can begin the process of peace.

Solidarity is key

In the discussion, Local 8751 leaders extended solidarity to the Syrian people's struggle and invited SAF to speak at the bus yards. The SAF also expressed its eagerness to aid Local 8751's struggle against Veolia/Transdev.

Nino, a MAPB organizer, presented a video of transit police brutality against a young Black woman in Dorchester, Mass., and explained that the genocidal war on Black people in the U.S. stems from the same system terrorizing Syria. Others in the discussion linked the war on Syria to the capitalist crisis. Concerns stressed the importance of keeping migrant women's struggles at the forefront of the anti-war and anti-repression movements, and mentioned the attacks on women and Planned Parenthood in the U.S.

The bus drivers and the Syrian people share a common enemy: the capitalist class. Veolia's union-busting attempts and imperialism's efforts to destabilize Syria present evidence of capitalism's endless crises.
Imperialist wars cause migrant crisis

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Sept. 21 — Tens of thousands of migrants are living under precarious conditions in Hungary and Croatia as well as other states in the European Union. Police have used water cannon and teargas to beat down migrants in Hungary. Thousands have been forced into detention centers where they are treated in a manner which has sent shockwaves throughout Europe and the international community.

The British Broadcasting Corporation reported on Sept. 21 that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the migration of people from the Middle East, Africa and Asia threatens the borders of Europe. He called for concerted efforts to block any imposition of quotas for the intake of migrants. He is instead taking militarized and criminal justice approaches to the crisis, for which the European and North American imperialist states are largely responsible.

The BBC report continued: "Viktor Orban said migrants were ‘breaking the doors’ and that a united stance was required. Ministers from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia met to discuss an EU proposal for quotas, which they oppose.”

The article noted most importantly, “Some EU countries want migrants shared out more evenly across the EU. Germany and France are among those [that] back plans to share the burden of relocating 120,000 migrants from Greece, Italy and Hungary.”

Illustrating the hostility of the Hungarian government, Budapest placed ads in media outlets of countries from which many migrants originate. One that appeared in Lebanon’s newspaper Al Nahar on Sept. 21 warned people not to go to Hungary.

The full-page ad read, “Hungarians are hospitable, but the strongest possible action is taken against those who attempt to enter Hungary illegally. The illegal crossing of the country’s border is a crime punishable by imprisonment. Do not listen to the people-smugglers. Hungary will not allow illegal immigrants to cross its territory.”

A Hungarian legislative measure against migrants was passed recently with the support of the Jobbik party, which appears to be even further to the right than Orban’s center-right Fidesz party. The new measure passed by 151 to 12, with 27 abstentions.

Orban’s government also announced it would send the military to the borders and authorized the use of rubber bullets, pyrotechnical devices, teargas grenades and net guns. These weapons are being added to an already deadly arsenal that the police have not hesitated to use against migrants, including batons, teargas and water hoses.

In Croatia a similar situation is developing. Migrants have been trapped inside the country, unable to travel freely into Hungary or other neighboring states.

The New York Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines held a vigil in New York’s Union Square on Sept. 21 to honor three people executed by paramilitary forces in Mindanao, in the southern Philippines.

The vigil was called by the Solidarity Mission to the United Nations General Assembly, which meets in New York from Sept. 25 to Oct. 3. The vigil was part of the annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The vigil included the demand for freedom for Grigory Petrenko and imprisoned activists in Russia, recognition of the right of peoples to self-determination, and a call to end the state of occupation of Crimea by Russia.

The vigil was also an act of solidarity with the workers of Russia, who have been leading protests against the policies of the Russian ruling elite to restore the imperialist status of Russia.

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In a first, Raul Castro speaks to U.N.

By Cheryl LaBash

New York

On his first visit to the United States, Cuban President Raul Castro's full schedule at the United Nations General Assembly included speeches in forums on “Development Goals After 2015,” as well as “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.” Castro was also present at a vigil outside the United Nations Mission to the U.S. on Sept. 27, where for hours he warmly greeted Cuba’s many friends.

On Sept. 26 in the U.N. discussion on development goals, President Castro said:

“The re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, as well as the increased support by many countries and embassies and the policy changes announced by President Barack Obama with regard to our country constitute a noteworthy feat which has elicited the broadest support of the international community.”

“However, the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba persists, bringing damages and hardships on the Cuban people, and standing as the main obstacle to our country’s economic development, while affecting other nations due to its extraterritorial scope, and hurting the interests of American citizens and companies. Such policy is rejected by 188 United Nations member states that demand its removal.

“Nevertheless, Cuba fulfills the millennium development goals and offered its modest cooperation to other developing nations in various areas, something we shall continue to do to the extent of our limited capabilities.

“We shall never renounce honor, human solidarity and social justice, for these convictions are deeply rooted in our socialist society.”

Castro pointed out that 15 years after the millennium goals were adopted, progress was “insufficient and unevenly distributed.” The goals included cutting poverty and hunger, but “the data available tells us that the reality is the global food surplus is abundant enough to feed all of humanity.”

“Tens of millions of the landless poor are driven off the land because agribusiness and large landowners have the interest of increased indebtedness. These debts can only be paid later with austerity programs. Harsh structural adjustment programs. Harsh structural adjustment plans result in public school and hospital closings.

“Peasants and subsistence farmers are driven off the land because agribusiness is given the major role in food development. Tens of millions of the landless poor urban into central cities, many are forced to migrate.

“The reality is the global food surplus can meet all human needs. But food is still unaffordable to millions of people because corporate agribusinesses are not interested in developing locally grown and sustainable crops. Their only goal in processing, storing and shipping food is to get it to locations where it can be sold at a profit.

“Hand in hand with the 2015 summit’s goals go the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership; they create an international legal framework of corporate power that compounds all these problems. The capitalists’ ‘rights’ to reaps profits supersedes human rights and countries’ sovereignty.

“Sustainable development should mean planning for current human needs without compromising future generations. This is at odds with the global relentless drive to maximize profits everywhere.

People before profits

Missing from the goals of the past and present U.N. summits is the concept that food, clean water, education and health care are basic rights of every person. The U.N.’s plans omit any mention of more equitable distribution. Past international

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Studies have exposed how this alleged feat was accomplished by moving the goalposts back to 1990 and changing the methodology for estimating the number of hungry people. They included China’s and Vietnam’s progress—which accounted for 91 percent of the reduction of undernourishment since 1990—even though these countries had nothing to do with the Millennium campaign.

Canadian and U.S. scholars and leaders of organizations focusing on sustainable agriculture reported that, by looking at the actual data on global hunger, the real numbers of the underfed had risen from 868 million to 1.33 billion people. (Tufts University, "Framing Hunger: A Response to the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012,” June 2013)

Several questions arise: Why did this Millennium effort fail to meet its goals of ending world poverty and hunger or ensuring environmental sustainability at a time of the unprecedented growth of global productive capacity? Who is making the decisions? What policies are being implemented and in whose interests? Will another 15 years of using the same capitalist market approach yield better results?

There is clearly a political agenda behind the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. These goals rely on projections of neoliberal economic planners who espouse a so-called “trickle-down” economic approach. This capitalist view contends that economic growth in production and profits for capitalist investors will “trickle down” to improve the lives of millions. Their measurements are contrived to prove that capitalist policies are successful.

Schemes to privatize human needs

The 2000 and 2015 summits’ goals focus on outsourcing development to private sector financing — to corporations and banks. Their projects in developing countries are described as “public-private partnerships.” They impose privatization plans in education, health care, water, sanitation, mass transit, ports, airfields, and other areas. Each privatized service or industry must function first as a source of corporate profit and capital extraction. Maximum deregulation is then a matter of the internal market, an internal market in fact rob countries of their resources and destroy their ability to resist the domination of transnational capital.

Each privatized service is also a source of increased indebtedness. These debts can only be paid later with austerity programs. Harsh structural adjustment plans result in public school and hospital closings.

“Nevertheless, Cuba fulfilled the millennium development goals and offered its modest cooperation to other developing nations in various areas, something we shall continue to do to the extent of our limited capabilities.

“Unacceptable levels of poverty and social inequality persist and worsen, even in the industrialized countries themselves. The gap between North and South and the polarization of wealth in- crease.”

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Castro pointed out that 15 years after the millennium goals were adopted, progress was “insufficient and unevenly distributed.” The goals included cutting poverty and hunger, but “the data available tells us that the reality is the global food surplus is abundant enough to feed all of humanity.”

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Workers World stands in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of people who have demonstrated in Tokyo since late August to protest plans by current Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to change Japan’s Constitution to allow aggressive deployment of the well-trained and technologically advanced Japanese military.

The Japanese ruling class wants to increase its military flexibility for its own imperialist interests. At the present moment, however, U.S. imperialism fully supports and encourages this expansion of the Japanese armed forces. Washington wants Tokyo as a subservient force in Asia aimed especially against socialist North Korea and China.

The U.S. imposed the “pacifist” constitution on Japan because of its conquest of the country in 1945. Since then, the Pentagon has used Japan as a base for its wars against Korea (1950-1953) and Vietnam (1962-1975).

The Japanese, working five and seven days in general, while chafing under the U.S. occupation, welcome restrictions on Japanese militarism. The massive demonstrations in Japan starting Aug. 30 — which called Abe “Public Enemy” — illustrate this attitude. (Deutsche Welle, Sept. 4)

The peoples of other nations in the Pacific region hate Japanese imperialism just as they hate U.S. imperialism. Korea, north and south, was a Japanese colony from 1910 to 1945. Parts of China were done in by the Japanese. The Japanese Imperial Army carried out mass atrocities there and during shorter periods in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Southeast Asia. Abe still honors the emperor and refuses to acknowledge forcing young women from Korea and other Asian countries into sexual slavery to the conquering Japanese army.

Workers World stands with the people and workers of Asia and the Pacific, including Japan itself, in opposing Abe’s militarist initiatives just as we oppose all threats to the region from Washington and Moscow.

Disarm the Japanese “Self-Defense Forces.” Disarm the Pentagon! (RT, Sept. 24)

New York City

Report on Mumia’s health crisis

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Auto workers are saying ‘No’

By Martha Grevatt

Detroit

Since Sept. 22, United Auto Workers members have been voting on a new, four-year contract with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA). So far the contract is being rejected roughly by a 2-to-1 margin. Only one plant local passed the contract, and with over half the membership votes counted, some plants are showing only “no” vote as high as 80 percent. Workers at four of five major assembly plants are among those still to vote; the final results should be known by the time this contract is meet.

The biggest objection members have to the tentative agreement is that it institutionalizes the divisive two-tier pay system, which created a wide gap between the wages of workers hired after October 2007 and those with more seniority. Second, introduced when Ford, General Motors and Chrysler were having cash flow issues in 2007, has come under increasing fire now that companies are accumulations billions in profits. CEO Sergio Marchionne — who once said UAW members had to get used to “a culture of survival” — earned $72 million in compensation last year.

While the new contract gives second-tier workers a raise, it takes eight years of service to reach the top pay, and even then there is a $5-per-hour gap between the highest and lowest-paid workers. The contract creates new, lower-paid tiers in some facilities as well as for temporary workers.

There is widespread outrage over the company’s refusal to raise the percentage cap on the number of second-tier workers. When the previous four-year contract expired in 2011, workers were told that at the end of the four years, a percentage of workers would move up to top pay. Now that the rug has been pulled out from under them, these workers — 22 percent of production workers — are furious.

UAW Vice President Norwood Jewell is justifying this betrayal by claiming that the union had to let FCA eliminate the cap to raise pay for all second-tier workers and give “traditional” workers, whose pay has been frozen for nine years, a raise. In fact, for the entire cost of the entire contract package, including the pay raises, comes to about $300 million a year — a fraction of the company’s $8.3 billion in profit last year.

Organizing opposition to the contract has united first- and second-tier workers. A “Contract Lowdown” leaflet, produced by the rank-and-file group Autoworker Caravan, circulated via social media and mail and word of mouth to workers who has no contacts. After walking out on an “informational” meeting, members of UAW Local 7 at Jefferson North Assembly Plant relayed to the UAW’s Detroit headquarters and picketed.

Toledo Jeep workers held a rally outside the contract “roll-out” meeting. One of the signs read, “Vote no to a culture of poverty.” At a parts depot in California, where the contract went down 2-0-1, both first- and second-tier workers wore shirts with a unifying slogan, “Solidarity, No More Titans, Vote No.”

Beside attacking the union standard of living, the contract “roll-out” meeting undermines the eight-hour day. On multiple pages the contract reinforces the doctrine of “Alternative Work Schedule,” which allowed the company to pay straight time for 10-hour days and Saturdays. AWS puts workers on one of three “multi-shift” rotations making them work five days, every Saturday as a regular workday. In addition, the C crew rotates back and forth from evening shift to days every week.

The company gets 120 hours of production every week on the cheap, but the schedule wreaks havoc on a worker’s health and family life. The new contract gives AWS workers time-and-a-half on Saturdays, but no reprimise from the schedule.

Job worries add to contract objections

In the contract summary and at meetings, the UAW leadership has boasted of having a deal that means investment in U.S. plants. The details involve a massive retreading and relocating of assembly work to the U.S. — Dodge Dart and Chrysler 200, currently built in Belvidere, Ill., and Sterling Heights, Mich. — is exiting the U.S., leaving UAW workers with a plant that presumably will be used for the production of trucks and SUVs alone will be enough to secure jobs. This business plan is environmentally irresponsible and economically unviable, yet puts jobs at risks. Job worries are also putting the contract’s passage in jeopardy.

During the 2009 bankruptcy in which the Detroit-based Chrysler Corporation emerged, the company sold off assets worth $2 billion to save itself. Since then Chrysler has gained a foothold in foreign markets while simultaneously expanding its profits. Chrysler’s 2014 profits last year.
After more than two years of dialogue over ending the armed conflict between the FARC-EP revolutionaries and the Colombian government, an important decision was reached that marks the fighting while establishing a legal framework for social justice.

On Sept. 23, for the first time, the leader of the FARC-EP insurgent, Cmdr. Timoleón “Timoshenko” Jiménez, and the president of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, signed a Joint Communiqué in Havana, Cuba, to announce an agreement to create a Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). The JEP’s importance is that it provides the legal framework to prosecute those involved either directly or indirectly in the armed conflict, who may have committed crimes, so that they do not go unpunished. Above all, it allows prosecution for the crimes committed by state forces and paramilitaries. Impunity is what has so far allowed state and paramilitary forces to rape and murder the population, especially the Indigenous and African descendants, human rights activists, trade unionists and students who have fought for social justice in Colombia.

An example of impunity could be the injustice that occurs during the peace talks. In fact, the former leader of the Álvaro Uribe government allegedly demobilized paramilitary groups. In a recent interview in the Colombian periodical Anncol, Enrique San- trozo, a former civil servant from the Dutch finance ministry, is heading the EU task force on Greece. According to Santiago Romero, there can be no final agreement for peace unless the paramilitaries are eradicated. This JEP can be seen as a victory for the left, as the Santos government had unilaterally imposed a Transitional Justice Act, where most prosecutions aimed to punish the revolutionaries. The JEP is an important achievement because it was conceived completely by the Santos government without any intervention of the insurgency, even though it was done during peace dialogues. In addition, the law ignored the crimes committed by the state and the paramilitaries.

Hence, it should be noted that a report of the International Criminal Court in Colombia in November 2012 found that the greatest killers in the armed conflict were state agents and paramilitaries. At a press conference following the signing of the accord on Sept. 23, Cmdr. Timoshenko announced that “in Colombia, there are no words, there is war and all friends of peace in Colombia. He said: “Today I bring you, in addition to our fraternal embrace, a part of our collective conscience, the joint communiqué of the legal subcommittee, we managed to remove many of the obstacles that made the path toward our reconciliation more difficult.”

This would imply that “the crimes” of the insurgency, which are classified as political, arising from rebellion, would involve a broad amnesty. Furthermore, the statement added that, “in any event offenses defined in national law corresponding to crimes against humanity, genocide or serious war crimes, among other serious crimes, will not be subject to amnesty or pardon.” The JEP will have two types of procedures, “one for those who acknowledged truth and their responsibility, and one for those who do not agree to it. It will impose a sentence on the former” and “the latter will face an adversarial trial before the Tribunal. The sanctions the Tribunal imposes will have an essential aim satisfying the rights of victims and consolidating peace and should have as their main function repairing damages and applications for reparations.”

Those who voluntarily acknowledge their crimes will face lighter penalties leading to compensation for their victims; very serious offenses will incur sentences of five years to a maximum of eight under special conditions. “People who refuse to acknowledge their responsibility for such crimes and who are found guilty will be sentenced to imprisonment (jail) up to 20 years, in ordinary circumstances.”

The statement concludes: “In the case of the FARC-EP, participation in the peace process is a requirement for the reintegration of weapons, which should start no later than 60 days after the signing of the Final Agreement (which is expected to be accomplished in six months). And the transformation of the FARC-EP into a legal political movement is a shared goal, which must be completed within the framework of the peace process.”

According to International Humanitarian Law regarding armed conflicts, “the Colombian State shall grant the possibility of trial and the right of appeal to those participating in the armed conflict, who may have committed crimes.”

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Syria re-elected in Greece as EU runs economy

By John Catalinotto

Shortly before the Sept. 20 national elections in Greece, it became clear that a European Union bureaucrat from the Netherlands would be running the country’s economy. Economist Maarten Verwey, a former traditional pro-capitalist parties a great advantage. Shortly before the Sept. 20 national elections in Greece, it became clear that a European Union bureaucrat from the Netherlands would be running the country’s economy. Economist Maarten Verwey, a former civil servant from the Dutch finance ministry, is heading the EU task force on Greece. According to the Greek financial newspaper Agora, “The Greek government will be placed under the strict supervision of Brussels to ensure that all agreed reforms will be implemented.”

The September election brought little change in parliament. Syriza again came in first with 145 seats in the 300-seat body, only four fewer than they had held since January, with 35.5 percent of the vote. This is no longer confronting the EU. Instead, it has become a vanguard of the world’s anti-capitalist parties.

Syria re-elected in Greece as EU runs economy

By John Catalinotto

The Syriza leadership, after calling for and winning the “No” vote in July, quickly moved to accept the EU-imposed austerity measures to meet all conditions. It is likely that the struggle against the EU will continue under unfavorable conditions. Regarding total votes, however, since participation was much smaller, it meant that the KKE attracted 36,000 fewer voters. The KKE has a loyal base in the industrial working class and was able to win 3 percent minimum, so it won no seats in parliament.

The Communist Party of Greece (KKE) won about the same percentage of former KKE voters and the KKE role in promoting militarization and violence in Colombia to benefit major U.S.- based corporations.

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six plants were closed, many workers ac-
cepted buyout packages, shrinking the Chrysaor workforce from 26,000. The sales rebound that followed led to a hiring spurt, bringing many African-American youth into the plants. The union, which braced itself in its civil rights tradition, should be upholding the basic principle of equal pay for equal work for these new workers. The UAW is the only union that accepts the principle of equal pay for equal work for these new workers. The UAW must fight to make "solidarity."
Por Martha Grevatt

Durante más de dos años, el Sindicato de Conductores de Autobuses Escolares de Boston, Steelworkers Local-8751, ha estado en una feroz batalla contra el gigante corporativo Veolia/Transdev, la empresa creada cuando la empresa francesa de 150 años escoldió su división de tránsito. Los conductores están hartos de Veolia/Transdev y la falta de voluntad de los patronos a negociar un contrato digno. Están furiosos que cuatro dirigentes sindicales efectúen falsamente acusados de liderar una huelga no autorizada en finales de año, un evento que nunca ocurrió. Transdev rechazó reincorporar a los cuatro sindicalistas despedidos legalmente. Aunque sindicalistas, el presidente André François, vicepresidente Steve Kirschbaum, secretario de finanzas Steve Gillis y presidente de quejas Gary Marchindo, están trabajando duro a través del Equipo de Solidaridad organizando las bases para resistir las atroces exigencias de concesiones de Transdev. Cuando no estaban, nuestras agitadoras sesiones de reclamos, este sindicato de justicia social está en las calles, luciendo hombro a hombro con las comunidades de Boston. De hecho, “sindicalismo de derechos” no es una frase en blanco y negro; hay que estudiar las experiencias solidaristas lideradas por las/os conductores/solidaristas de trans, y los sindicatos anti racistas liderados por inmigrantes de la anterior CIO, es lo que define la historia de la L-8751.

Local 8751 lucha por justicia

El 18 de septiembre, en una desaceleración racial de 1972 en Boston, cuando los grupos racistas y fascistas, bajo la farsa de “luchar contra la transportación forzada” instigaron ataques por turbas de linchamiento contra las escuelas de las comunidades afroamericanas, los conductores llevaban a las/os niños de manera segura a la escuela. El 18-8751 ha participado en to- das las luchas por la justicia en Boston: por viviendas segura a la escuela. El L-8751 ha participado en to- dos los conductores llevaban a las/os niños que viajaban en los autobuses escolares, instigaron ataques por turbas de linchamiento contra el liderazgo negro de Boston y el liderazgo sindical pre- dominante blanco de la ciudad para apoyar al L-8751, que es por ciento menos personal de color. Todas estas fuerzas están dispuestas a apoyar una huelga de las/os conductores si es necesario. La soli- midad puede vencer a Transdev.

De las Vidas Negras Importan, a la lucha de clases

El ataque de Veolia/Transdev ha unido a la mien- bría multirracial, latino, afroamericano, caboverdiana, latina, indígena y a las/os conductores antirracistas blancos. La mayoría de conductores/os haitianos contaron su propia historia — cómo los/es escasos haitianos de origen africano se liberaron a sí mismos al expulsar a los coloniales fran- ceses. Confinan en que pueden venir a esta empresa fran- cesa anti sindical y racista.

El resultado de esta lucha tendrá repercusiones de largo alcance. Ahora más que nunca, hay una necesidad de resistencia de las/os conductores de autobuses escolares, y de aquellos que quieren un justicia el liderazgo negro de los/la de Boston y la lucha contra el racismo. La opción nacional es el instrumento principal utilizado para dividir nuestra clase — pero al mismo tiempo es el talón de Aquiles del capitalis- mo. Esto es lo que hace que los horrores del capi- talismo queden más agudas expuestas, desde Gaza hasta las calles de EUA y Canadá con la epidemia genocida de asesinatos policiales.

El capitalismo está en una crisis incurable. La clase dominante se ve amenazada por este modelo de división de la fuerza laboral y de los derechos civiles: el Sindicato de Conductores de Autobuses Escolares de Boston.

El 18-8751, desde el punto de vista de la clase tra- bajadora, este ejemplo debe ser replicado. Hasta aho- ra, el movimiento sindical estadounidense carece de una posición clara de solidaridad con el movimiento Vidas Negras Importan. Por ejemplo, el presidente internacional del sindicato de Trabajadores Automo- biles Unidos (UAW) Dennis Williams, todavía no ha pronunciado las palabras “Vidas Negras Importan”. Esta es el sindicato que se jacta de haber creado uno de los dos sindicatos que endosaron la manifestación de 1963 en Washington donde Martin Luther King pro- nunció su famoso discurso “Tengo un sueño”.

En la década de 1940 hubo “huelgas de odio” por trabajadores autónomos raciales blancos — a menudo incitados por la dirigencia — que querían mantener a los trabajadores negros segregados en los puestos de bajos sueldos. El UAW fue duramente criticado por los/ras- tas cuando enfrentaron disciplina. El sindicalismo de derechos civiles debe ser revivido.

Por todo lo que hacen los cuatro sindicalistas, han ganado el apoyo de diversas fuerzas como los Círcu-ulos Bolivarianos, la comunidad palestina, Fanni Lavall, Orgullo Gay en el Trabajo, y de líderes de la comunidad negra como el concejal Charles Yance, el ex concejal Chuck Turner, el líder Mel Rey, y el locu- tor de radio/TV Charles Clemons. Recientemente, una nueva e histórica relación ha surgido entre el liderazgo negro de Boston y el liderazgo sindical pre- dominante blanco de la ciudad para apoyar al L-8751, que es por ciento personal de color. Todas estas fuerzas están dispuestas a apoyar una huelga de las/os conductores si es necesario. La soli- midad puede vencer a Transdev.

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Ahmed Mohamed es un estudiante de noveno grado de ascenden- cia sudanesa que asistió a la escuela superior MacArthur en la ciu- dad de Irving-Texas. Cuando el 14 de septiembre él trajo a su salón de clases un reloj Digital hecho por él mismo que había comprado para él mismo al expulsar a los colonialistas franceses. La pape- la administración de la escuela lo expulsó por tres días.

Por qué este traumático evento ocurrió a un joven considerado como muchos por un brillante inventor? Según los informes iniciales, funcionarios escolares, incluyendo su profesor de inglés, dijeron que el reloj parecía una “bomba”. Decirle a los maestros que no era una broma fue incomprensible. En última instancia, Ahmed llevó a la verdad empezó a salir en cuestión de días – este muchacho de 14 años fue atacado debido a su nacionalidad y su fe musulmana.

Más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun- do, más recientemente, a sindicalistas colombianos tendido su solidaridad a trabajadores de todo el mun-