Hotel workers unite in national strike

By Genevieve Lechat
Boston

Following the successful September strike of UNITE HERE hotel workers in Chicago, workers in ten cities with unionized hotel locations have taken near unanimous strike votes. These sites have recently been acquired by anti-union mega-chain Marriott International.

Five thousand workers in Boston, Detroit, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose walked off the job the week of Oct. 3. Strikes in Hawaii, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver are imminent.

This is an unprecedented national coordination by the union and for the whole working class against a behemoth that has obtained a new property every 18 hours by buying out dozens of hospitality companies around the world — from big chains like Sheraton and Westin to smaller brands and independent operations.

Since the purchase of Starwood and Protea, Marriott now owns 196 hotels in Africa and is constructing 65 more, for a total of holdings in 27 countries on the continent. Stateside, Marriott is out to bust the union and, like the Trump Organization, is the face of a complicated network of financiers and corporate interests that are mostly unknown to the public.

Workers take on behemoth Marriott

When housekeepers, cooks, bartenders and bellhops hit the picket line on Oct. 3, they knew there was much at stake. Marriott wants to outsource food service. Its deceptive “Green Choice” housekeeping program encourages guests to decline services, meaning fewer hours for workers. But in the end, they are cleaning dirtier rooms and getting more injuries, on top of seasonal layoffs during nonpeak months when their health insurance can be cut off.

And as the union’s campaign slogan, “One Job Should Be Enough,” suggests, the pay for workers isn’t enough as it is. According to Business Insider, the U.S. Labor Department reported in July 2017 that 7.6 million workers had to hold multiple jobs the month before. Hotel workers are barely able to pay for rent, food, daycare and health care, and often cannot make ends meet.

Meanwhile, Marriott International’s income more than doubled to $1.37 billion between 2013 and 2017. Meanwhile, UNITE HERE Local 26 workers are on strike. The Indigenous Peoples Day protesters joined the picket line to show solidarity and were met with great enthusiasm by the striking workers.

Chanting “City by city, town by town, We’re gonna tear Columbus Day down,” the marchers continued to a Christopher Columbus statue guarded by Boston cops. Later that afternoon, signs were hung on the statue and faced Boston Harbor. They spoke about how “Water Is Life” for everyone and called out blessings to the water, each in their own language.

The Indigenous Peoples Day action was called by United Americans of New England and IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org.

Children continued: “UNITE HERE has to win this struggle. The loss of this battle would be another blow to the union movement following several others. Janus v. AFSCME, the Supreme Court decision over the summer that effectively defunded the largest union in the U.S. right-to-work laws passed in former labor strongholds like Wisconsin and Michigan in the last few years that Wall Street and Washington want to see nationalized; and the attacks on immigrant union members through the termination of temporary protected status — these are a few of the weakening blows that have been aimed at our movement. UNITE HERE realizes unions

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Boston says, ‘Indigenous Peoples Day now!’

About 150 people participated in an Oct. 6 Boston rally and march demanding the city government end its celebration of Columbus Day and instead fully recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

After a rally near Boston Common featuring Indigenous and Black speakers, the protesters marched to the nearby Ritz-Carlton, Boston, one of seven Marriott-owned hotels in Boston where UNITE HERE Local 26 workers are on strike. The Indigenous Peoples Day protesters joined the picket line to show solidarity and were met with great enthusiasm by the striking workers.

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PHILIPPINES

Duterte’s misogyny

BRAZIL ELECTIONS

LABOR ON THE MOVE

Michigan

UPS strike

‘McStrike’ in Britain

MIGRANTS WIN

legal victory

STRUGGLE VS KAVANAUGH

Protests coast to coast

A legacy of fightback

HURRICANE FLORENCE

N.C. victims demand justice

TRIBUNAL ON

PUERTO RICO

Momentum builds

PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS EN FILIPINAS

PUT TO THE TEST: DUTERTE’S MISOGYNY

- Duterte’s patronage politics
- Venera Torres & Me, a survivor of rape
- Women in the Philippines, an ongoing struggle

Indigenous Peoples Day, Boston, Oct. 6

Indigenous Peoples Day now!

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

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Everyone listened intently as Odom gave a historical, well-researched, thorough perspective of the continuous radical resistance of the enslaved Africans in Haiti and their continued fight for freedom, which resulted in Haiti declaring independence in 1804 after defeating what was the most powerful arm of the day: the Grand Army of France.

Odom acknowledged all the organizations that supported this event, including Pillars of the Community, Unión del Barrio, the Friends of Malcolm X Library, HWP, WWP, the Party, the Committee Against Police Brutality, and students and community members who took the time to come on a Monday evening to participate in this important discussion.

Odom asked everyone to take a moment of silence for Paul Pablo Aceves, a longtime member of Unión del Barrio, who dedicated his life to the many struggles in San Diego. Pablo Aceves had joined the ancestors the previous weekend.

The last 45 minutes of the meeting were open for questions and comments.

Professor Odom’s research emphasis is in the history of Pan-African and Black internationalist social movements. He is currently working on a book manuscript entitled “From Southern California to Southern Africa: Trans-local Black Internationalism in Los Angeles and San Diego from Civil Rights to Anti-apartheid, 1960 to 1994.”
Black activists say: 'Shut Down AFRICOM!'

The following press release was issued on Oct. 1, 2018, by the Black Alliance for Peace, a group of Black anti-imperialist activists.

The family of Patrick Kimmons, Oct. 6.

At one point, a driver plowed through the march into a protester, pushing him around a park block. The protester was not injured. Police chased the car, screaming furiously at the driver.

Kimmons' death was the third police shooting of an African-American man in Portland this year, and the second fatal shooting. Portland, with a population that is 6 percent African-American, has a history of racial profiling.

Protesters are angry that police have not yet presented any forensic analysis or coroner reports on Kimmons' death. They are demanding the truth from the two cops, Sgt. Garry Britt and Officer Jeffrey Price.

The cops fired at least 12 rounds at Kimmons, who was shot nine times. They also shot and fired multiple times at a man who they say turned toward them holding a gun. The two cops are on paid administrative leave as police continue to investigate the shooting.

Kimmons' mother, Letha Winston, asked why police had to shoot her son in- stead of arresting him. She has launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for his funeral and other expenses.

Portland, Ore., cops kill another Black man

By Lyn Neely

Portland, Ore.

Police here shot another young Black man, Patrick Kimmons, about 10 times in the back on Sept. 30, killing him.

After the shooting, police repeatedly said 26-year-old Kimmons had been killed in self-defense.

But with the U.S. and NATO attack on Libya that led to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Africa, “Africoramic” quedales in the real reason behind AFRICOM’s existence. AFRICOM is a dangerous structure that has only increased militarism.

When AFRICOM was established in the months before Barack Obama assumed office as the first Black president of the United States, a majority of African nations — led by the Pan-Africanist government of Libya — rejected AFRICOM, forcing the new command to instead work out of Europe.

But with the U.S. and NATO attack on Libya that led to the destruction of that country and the murder of its leader Moammar Gadhafi, U.S. military leaders began to allow AFRICOM forces to operate in their countries and establish military-to-military relations with the United States.

The military-to-military relations have resulted in 46 various forms of U.S. bases as well as military-to-military relations between 53 out of the 54 African countries and the United States.

U.S. Special Forces troops now operate in more than 10 African nations.

Vice Adm. Robert Moeller, first and former deputy of AFRICOM, declared in 2008, “Protecting the free flow of natural resources from Africa to the global market is one of AFRICOM’s guiding principles.” (www.pambazuka.org, Nov. 6, 2010)

We say AFRICOM is the flip side of the domestic war being waged on Black and poor people in the United States.

In the U.S. Out of Africa: Shut Down AFRICOM campaign, we link police violence and the domestic war being waged on Black people to U.S. interventionism and militarism abroad.

“Not only does there need to be a mass movement in the U.S. invasion and occupation of the African continent,” Beck said. “In the African continent, the total withdrawal of U.S. forces from Africa, the demilitarization of the African continent, the closure of U.S. bases throughout the world, and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) must oppose AFRICOM and conduct hearings on AFRICOM’s impact on the African continent.

We ask the public to join us in demanding an end to the U.S. invasion and occupation of the continent of our ancestors by signing this petition that we will deliver to CBC leaders.

This campaign is BAP’s effort to help shut down all U.S. military bases in Africa. The U.S. and NATO bases in Africa are a major cause of the militarization of police departments as counterparts.”

It costs $267 million to fund AFRICOM in 2018, according to Vanessa Beck, BAP research team lead and Coordinating Committee member.

“The money is stolen from African/Black people in the U.S. to terrorize and steal resources from our sisters and brothers on the African continent,” Beck said. “Instead, that money should be put toward meeting our human needs in the U.S. and toward reparations for people in every African nation affected by U.S. imperialism.”

BAP makes the following demands:

* the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Africa
* the demilitarization of the African continent, the closure of U.S. bases throughout the world, and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) must oppose AFRICOM and conduct hearings on AFRICOM’s impact on the African continent
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Black activists say: ‘Shut Down AFRICOM!’

By M. Matsemela-Ali Odom

Anerae Brown, a 44-year-old rapper from Sacramento, Calif., was finally granted parole in September after 26 years behind bars. Brown is better known by his stage name, X-Raided. In 1992, at the age of 17, Brown and four other defendants were convicted for a gang-related shooting that left one woman dead.

In the early 1990s, at the dawn of Pete Wilson’s governorship, Sacramento, the capital of the state of California, was the home of a burgeoning gang epidemic. There was arguably nowhere with more gang activity than the South Sacramento neighborhood of Meadowview, where the local Crips and Bloods gangs battled each other.

It was during this moment that draconian “tough on crime” measures became common. Gang enhancements, mandates that support their conviction and even mandatory sentencing and even municipal neighborhood of Meadowview, where the capital of the state of California, was the home of a burgeoning gang epidemic. There was arguably nowhere with more gang activity than the South Sacramento neighborhood of Meadowview, where the local Crips and Bloods gangs battled each other.

But with the U.S. and NATO attack on Libya that led to the destruction of that country and the murder of its leader Moammar Gadhafi, U.S. military leaders began to allow AFRICOM forces to operate in their countries and establish military-to-military relations with the United States.

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Michigan labor on the move

By Martha Grevatt

Almost six years ago, Michigan became a “right-to-work” state. The bill, passed by the state legislature and signed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2012, was a big setback for organized labor in a state historically

among drivers. The union did not back down. In the end, the governor offered to bring in the Michigan Nurses Association, were working without a contract since June. The MNA-affiliated University of Michigan Professional Nurses Council held a number of solidarity rallies. UMPCN lobbied a protest in August at a certain meeting of the Michigan Medical License Board. The American Medical Association and the American College of Physicians are still in September when the Michigan Industrial and Transportation Association forced members of Operating Engineers Local 324 out on strike, because the unions and the company advocates are stepping up the resistance in Michigan.

Road construction projects, brought to a standstill in September when the Michigan Industrial and Transportation Association forced members of Operating Engineers Local 324 out on strike, are a big issue in the driving public. This is a big relief to the class collaborationist “labor lieutenants of the driving public.”

The writer is a 30-year UAW Chrysler worker.

APWU counters Trump plan to privatize U.S. Postal Service

The U.S. Postal Service is once again under attack. In August, the White House Office of Management and Budget proposed totally privatizing the public postal service. The American Postal Workers Union moved quickly at its national convention Aug. 20-23 to counter this attack, which would seize $70 billion in USPS public revenue for private profit. This would eliminate services and kill thousands of well-paid union jobs, many of which are filled by African Americans and women.

This is the first time an attack has been launched on the USPS. A move to cut jobs by shifting postal services to Staples was started in 2013, but the struggle by postal unions stopped it.

Anti-worker Trump has called USPS’ current business plan “unsustainable,” pointing to debt caused by $5.6 billion yearly prepayment of future retirees’ health care costs imposed by Congress in 2006. Without that mandate, unique to USPS, the Postal Service runs in the black. The APWU stresses that the system does not need more “corporate welfare.” The mail employs over 500,000 workers, plays a critical role in the growing e-commerce industry and enjoys high favorability ratings. In addition to eliminating the prepayment mandate, one solution APWU says it will offer is to have the USPS resume postal banking, available during World War II.

APWU President Mark Dimondstein noted that “privatization threats are not new. But we have never faced outright plans to sell the entire Post Office. ... Postal privatization is about the profits of a few at the expense of the many — period!”

FLOC beats back racist N.C. law

A North Carolina federal court ruled Sept. 8 that a 2017 law Gov. Roy Cooper signed, which stripped the Farm Labor Organizing Committee of the right to automatically collect dues from farmworkers’ paychecks, was illegal.

FLOC, in unity with the Southern Poverty Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as two individual farmworkers charged that the North Carolina Farm Act of 2017 discriminated racially since it targeted Latinx workers, who make up over 25 percent of North Carolina farmworkers. (Payday Report, Sept. 20)

This is a paramount victory. Because North Carolina is a “right-to-work” (for less!) state, only individual workers can choose to have dues deducted. Because many FLOC members are guest workers who lack access to bank accounts, credit cards and other means of paying union dues regularly, they rely on dues being transfer and withheld.

“We’re happy that the federal court saw clearly that this racist law was an effort to stop farmworkers from having the resources to fund their own institution and fight for a more fair workplace,” said APWU President Baldoz Velásquez. (ACLJ of NC, Sept. 20)

Chicago hotel workers’ strike wins year-round health care coverage

After nearly a month on strike, hotel workers at 17 of 26 hotels in Chicago had ratified contracts by late September. In addition to higher wages and better working conditions, the primary issue, which galvanized more than 6,000 service workers represented by UNITE HERE Local 1, was having year-round health care coverage. It’s employed to about 50,000 workers, plays a critical role in the growing e-commerce industry and enjoys high favorability ratings.

This is not the first time an attack has been launched on the USPS. A move to cut jobs by shifting postal services to Staples was started in 2013, but the struggle by postal unions stopped it.

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Black activists demand justice in aftermath of Hurricane Florence

By Zachary Richardson
Raleigh, N.C.

As the North Carolina General Assembly met Oct. 2 in the Capitol in Raleigh to debate official responses to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Florence, a coalition of Black activists convened only a few miles away, holding a press conference at the Anarchist art space to explain why they are uniting to fight for racial, economic and environmental justice in recovery efforts.

Under the aegis of A Just Florence Recovery, representatives of organizations and communities from all across Eastern North Carolina called upon state legislators to release resources — including a $2 billion "rainy day fund" — to help those communities and communities of color, which are already burdened by decades of environmental degradation in Eastern North Carolina aren't let off the hook for their role in the disaster.

Activists promulgated a set of political demands, including a legislative override of the restrictions on the full use of the rainy day fund; that companies such as Smithfield Foods, Duke Energy and others pay aren't let off the hook for their role in the destruction responsible for decades of environmental damage; and communities from all across Eastern North Carolina created by these companies be moved away from vulnerable populations; that large corporate tax cuts scheduled to go into effect in 2019 be rolled back; and for a lot of individuals. We need housing. We need environmental changes. When later that day the state Gener- al Assembly authorized $50 million in emergency funds for counties, state lawmakers added that it will only be for a miniscule fraction of available monies. Disbursements from the fund, established in 2016 after the state was hit by Hurricane Matthew, cannot amount to more than 10.75 percent of the previous year's state operating budget. As several speakers pointed out, however, the damage inflicted by hurricanes does not honor such restrictions.

When Hurricane Florence made landfall in mid-September, it brought unprecedented rainfall and unleashed destructive forces on the people and communities of Eastern North Carolina. "Sou'wester 2018," as Hurricane Florence is often Sprayed on to near-by land, already over-flowing during heavy rains. The amount of water brought by a weather event like Florence is far in excess of the vast tracts. Thirteen lagoons breached with Florence, adding to additional nine flooded.

Federal worker communities, primarily Latinx, face a dual danger. The storm itself, of course, posed a direct threat to life and limb, but once it passed came a new complication: accounting for work that's no longer there to be done. Florence's floodwaters will likely ruin the 2018 sweet potato crop, whose harvest brought thousands of workers to North Carolina under the H-2A visa work program. H-2A visas lack workers into contracts with specific employers and legally prohibit them from searching for alternate arrangements. If a farmer/corporation decides to file an insurance claim rather than harvest a crop, workers must take a loss on a season's work and instead use their limited resources to get home.

North Carolina proved to be in an even more tenuous position, as reports of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents circulating through damaged communities, and even standing guard over emergency shelters, have filtered out of affected areas.

Federal and national disaster relief organ- izations like the Federal Emergency Management and the Red Cross have a poor track record when it comes to effectively providing aid to intentionally marginalized populations, leaving a gap to be filled by local partners and nontra- ditional actors.

But Florence Recovery net- work has made efforts to direct resources to those who need them most, it is clear that community organizers must re-quire sustained efforts and tremendous funding — and that state actors will need to grapple with obstacles, both manmade and natu- ral, to develop effective solutions.

Activists speak truth to power

"I am a survivor of Florence," said Kayla Rosea Willis. "Where I was, it rained almost 50 inches on us. So if there is a rainy day fund, I'm here to tell you that it's already raining. We need your help."

"We need a recovery, people... We don't need to put a Band-Aid on this. We need a long term recovery," echoed the Rev. Ty- rone Watson, the president of the United Robeson County NAACP. "What do they define as a rainy day? Because it's because it's raining on Robeson County and Columbus County for a long time... The hurri- cane is gone but the storm has just begun for a lot of individuals. We need housing. We need environmental changes."

"So clearly the communities that were most impacted by this destruc- tion are disproportionately low-income communities and communities of color, which are already burdened by decades of pollution," said Friends of the Earth's La'Meshia Whittington-Kaminski.

"Many of these flooding and winds have filtered out of affected areas. Thousands of workers to North Carolina are no longer there to be done. Florence's floodwaters will likely ruin the 2018 sweet potato crop, whose harvest brought thousands of workers to North Carolina under the H-2A visa work program. H-2A visas lack workers into contracts with specific employers and legally prohibit them from searching for alternate arrangements. If a farmer/corporation decides to file an insurance claim rather than harvest a crop, workers must take a loss on a season's work and instead use their limited resources to get home.

"Activists speak truth to power. Anarchist art space was used to explain why they are uniting to fight for racial, economic and environmental justice in recovery efforts. Under the aegis of A Just Florence Recovery, representatives of organizations and communities from all across Eastern North Carolina called upon state legislators to release resources — including a $2 billion "rainy day fund" — to help those communities and communities of color, which are already burdened by decades of environmental degradation in Eastern North Carolina aren't let off the hook for their role in the disaster.

Activists promulgated a set of political demands, including a legislative override of the restrictions on the full use of the rainy day fund; that companies such as Smithfield Foods, Duke Energy and others pay aren't let off the hook for their role in the destruction responsible for decades of environmental damage; and communities from all across Eastern North Carolina created by these companies be moved away from vulnerable populations; that large corporate tax cuts scheduled to go into effect in 2019 be rolled back; and for a lot of individuals. We need housing. We need environmental changes.

"It's clear to see that communities that were most impacted by this destruc- tion are disproportionately low-income communities and communities of color, which are already burdened by decades of pollution," said Friends of the Earth's La'Meshia Whittington-Kaminski.

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"I am a survivor of Florence," said Kayla Rosea Willis. "Where I was, it rained almost 50 inches on us. So if there is a rainy day fund, I'm here to tell you that it's already raining. We need your help."

"We need a recovery, people... We don't need to put a Band-Aid on this. We need a long term recovery," echoed the Rev. Ty- rone Watson, the president of the United Robeson County NAACP. "What do they define as a rainy day? Because it's raining on Robeson County and Columbus County for a long time... The hurri- cane is gone but the storm has just begun for a lot of individuals. We need housing. We need environmental changes."

"So clearly the communities that were most impacted by this destruc- tion are disproportionately low-income communities and communities of color, which are already burdened by decades of pollution," said Friends of the Earth's La'Meshia Whittington-Kaminski.

"Many of these flooding and winds have filtered out of affected areas. Thousands of workers to North Carolina are no longer there to be done. Florence's floodwaters will likely ruin the 2018 sweet potato crop, whose harvest brought thousands of workers to North Carolina under the H-2A visa work program. H-2A visas lack workers into contracts with specific employers and legally prohibit them from searching for alternate arrangements. If a farmer/corporation decides to file an insurance claim rather than harvest a crop, workers must take a loss on a season's work and instead use their limited resources to get home.

"Activists speak truth to power. Anarchist art space was used to explain why they are uniting to fight for racial, economic and environmental justice in recovery efforts. Under the aegis of A Just Florence Recovery, representatives of organizations and communities from all across Eastern North Carolina called upon state legislators to release resources — including a $2 billion "rainy day fund" — to help those communities and communities of color, which are already burdened by decades of environmental degradation in Eastern North Carolina aren't let off the hook for their role in the disaster.

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No to Brett Kavanaugh
Widespread resistance continues despite Senate OK

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

At the vote confirming Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 6, woman after woman screamed in protest from the Senate gallery and was carried away by guards. Reactionary press Vice President Mike Pence hammered for “order,” while at one point there were so many disruptions the voting had to be paused. People were pounding in outrage on the closed entrance to the Senate floor.

U.S. Capitol Police said a total of 164 people were arrested that day for “crowding, obstructing, or incommoding.”

By Washington Post, Oct. 6

The main focus of protest was Kavanaugh’s confirmation hearings, which had he sexually assaulted three women, including Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. Dr. Ford testified extensively to the Senate Judiciary Committee about Kavanaugh assaulting her when she was 15.

Hundreds arrested in D.C. protests

Protests of Kavanaugh have ranged from coast-to-coast and into the U.S. heartland, including those in Kalamazoo, Mich.; Austin, Texas; Topeka, Kan.; and New York City.

The depth of opposition to Kavanaugh was revealed when on Oct. 4 a thousand people from throughout the country, mostly women, demonstrated on Capitol Hill. Hundreds even Peppered in from Alaska.

Someone had rented a truck with a movie screen in order to play and demonstrate President Trump as “an ‘Access Hollywood’ tape in which he boasted of sexually assaulting women.

At the Senate Hart Office Building, crowds saying “NO” to sexual assault and to the reactionary agenda that Kavanaugh represents flooded the atrium and every floor. Over 300 chanting, militant protestors were arrested that day.

Hundreds of people organized by Miss and Murdered Indigenous Women marched through downtown Seattle Oct. 4 to remind those watching of the centur- ies of U.S. colonizer rape and violence toward Indigenous women and peoples.

On the same day, in upstate New York, many of those still in classes in protest at Syracuse University, built on the land stolen from the Onondaga Nation. One student asserted: “Brett Kavanaughs don’t come out of nowhere — that the cul- ture develops abusers. Another student, reading from a letter to her sexual abuser, said, “This has been going on for forever, and you can call it an unapologetic Brown girl.”

There were too many acts of indigna- tion and outrage at Kavanaugh’s nomina- tion to list them all.

The ultra-right ruling class represent- ed by President Trump have swept aside even the possibility of Kavanaugh’s sexual assaults and endorsed him wholeheart- edly for his proven judicial record, which is racist, anti-woman, anti-worker, an- ti-Black and anti-LGBTQ liberation.

Trump tried to discredit the women who brought forward their assaults by tweeting they must have been paid for their testimony. Trump viciously parallels a defamation used against justice seekers over and over in U.S. history — the lie that any women who change their story are an “outside agitator” or have been “put up to it” for money. The NAACP even had to fight that smear in 1997 against the nine women in the famous Million Man March.

Trickly walked through downtown Seattle Oct. 2 when Ana Maria Archila, co-executive director for the Center for Popular Democracy, and Maria Gallagher, both sexual assault survivors, confronted Sen. Jeff Flake of the Judicia- ry Committee in an elevator.

To cover himself, Flake then called for an additional FBI “investigation” of some assault claims against Kavanaugh, which unsurprisingly failed to back the women up — a reminder that the FBI is first and foremost an arm of state power.

The reactionary impact of Kavanaugh’s confirmation is acknowledged widely at the national level. “The stakes could not be higher,” said Sherrilyn Ifill, Direc- tor-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She named in particular his threat to voting rights, fair housing, affirmative action, the right to health care and the right to “equal justice under the law” (Essence, July 12)

An AFL-CIO statement on the occasion of Kavanaugh’s nomination was clear: “Judge Kavanaugh has a dangerous track record of protecting the privileges of the wealthy and powerful at the expense of working people.” (July 6)

All progressive U.S. organizations are calling for the energized fight to continue. Without doubt, there will be many more protests to come, as the people mobilize and organize to stop the woman-hating, racist, anti-LGBTQ prejudice and the anti-worker agenda of those in seats of power. As the struggles of the past have taught, the people cannot depend on the courts or on capitalist elections to bring justice. The people must depend on sol- idarity and the power they win arm-in-arm with each other.

Durham Pride
Revolutionary queerness

By Enzo Moretti

Durham, N.C. — The struggle for LGBTQ liberation in the South has its roots in strong resistance to the constant onslaught from reactionaries. The queer community in North Carolina has fought to return LGBTQ Pride to its roots by be- ing outspoken and political — which is sorely needed to defend our communities.

North Carolina is among states that still have anti-sodomy laws on the books, despite those laws having been declared unconstitutional at the national level.

In addition, North Carolina joined with several other states in passing anti-trans “bathroom bills” in 2016. The law, which excludes trans people from legal protec- tion, was only half repealed in 2017.

Any celebration of Pride in North Car- olina should be a fight against the reac- tionary attacks and a fight for LGBTQ liberation — not based on pinkwashing white supremacy.

That is why Workers World Party-Durham branch organized an anti-capi- talist contingent to march in the Sept. 29 Durham Pride parade — and focused its chants and placards on the fight for queer liberation.

But for a while this year, it wasn’t clear that Pride would even take place. In June, NC Pride, the organization previously in charge of Pride in Durham, announced that the event — set to happen in three months — was cancelled.

Quickly, the local queer community, including the LGBTQ Center of Durham, rose to the challenge of reclaiming Pride and hosted the event on Sept. 29. The for- mer leaders in NC Pride had been mostly white cis gay men.

The shift in leadership at Durham’s Pride opened up opportunities to reclaim the day from corporations and white su- premacy. The most notable win was a ban on uniformed police officers marching in the parade.

While this was a win, uniformed cops were still present, providing “security” for the event, so it is clear that many strugg- gles still need to be opened. Wells Fargo was still a sponsor, and lots of businesses sought to capitalize and co-opt our community. Pride was still held on Duke Uni- versity’s campus and marched through an area that has contributed to the gen- eralization of the neighboring Black commu- nity, Walltown. According to an event organizer, the event was only held there because the space was already reserved
The following testimony was presented by Joan May Salvador at the Sept. 18-19 International People’s Tribunal in Brussels, Belgium, on the violations of women’s rights and misogyny in the Philippines. Salvador is Secretary General of GABRIELA Philippines, a mass women’s organization.

As a Filipino woman activist and human rights defender, I recognize the oppression and injustice against the many in our society — the marginalized, voiceless, nameless, underserved sectors, the farmers, workers, rural and urban poor, Indigenous people and women. My work constantly seeks to contribute toward the elimination of oppression and injustice against our people.

For many Filipino women like myself, every day under the presidency of Rodrigo Roa Duterte is a day of fierce resistance amidst waves upon waves of attacks on our rights.

I cannot stand idly by while President Rodrigo Duterte, the highest elected official in our land, serially violates women’s rights with his sexist and misogynistic statements and deeds. I cannot stand idly by while the most powerful man in the country — whose words are easily translated into policy directives — contributes heavily to reinforcing a feudal and patriarchal culture that treats women as inferior, as they are as properties, which includes a whole range of sexist customs, practices and ideas.

President Duterte has disregarded, demeaned and abused women of the Philippines. This is not, and will never be, acceptable to me and to the many fierce and hearty supporters of women. By way of presenting evidence of President Duterte’s serial sexism and misogyny, I will show this Honorable Court a short video clip of some of the most abominable displays of his misogyny from the time he was campaigning for the presidency up until today as the president of the Republic of the Philippines.

Ladies and gentlemen of this International People’s Tribunal, President Duterte has repeatedly displayed ingrained prejudice against women. He has contributed immensely to reinforcing inequality, not simply between men and women, but in a larger context between the powerful and the powerless.

Duterte: ‘Misogyny personified’

President Duterte has spewed rhetoric that pushes women to conform to certain standards and to make them feel inadequate. He has promoted discrimination and violence against women in its various forms. Indeed, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is misogyny personified.

Filipino women continue to be treated as sources of cheap labor, as commodities, as mere properties. Against a backdrop of a feudal and patriarchal culture systemic within Philippine society, President Duterte’s blatant display of misogyny correlates well with the troubling persistence of violence against Filipino women and children.

President Duterte often tells rape jokes, despite constant insistence by women’s rights activists that rape is no laughing matter — especially so because during the first year of Duterte’s presidency in 2016, the number of reported cases of rape totaled 9,943. There were 3,463 more rape cases that year than the annual average of 6,480 for the prior decade. This was an increase of 53 percent.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police’s Bantay Krimen Web-Based Monitoring System showed 8,461 rape cases were reported in different police stations in the country in 2017. That total is still a lot higher than the average annual number of reported rape cases prior to Duterte.

Meanwhile, about 15 cases of rape nationwide have been reported every day during the current year. Ironically, Duterte’s hometown of Davao City — where he served as mayor — is ranked as the city with the highest number of reported cases of rape.

Similarly, reported cases of other forms of violence against women and children — including domestic and partner abuse, sexual harassment, prostitution and sex trafficking — are also on the rise. Poor women are consistently more vulnerable to abuse. For example, the Philippine Statistics Authority reports that the rate of spousal or partner violence committed against women is 31.6 percent in low-income households, as compared to 18.3 percent in highest-income households.

It is important to bear in mind that these are conservative numbers. In the Philippines — and globally — only one in every three women who are victims of violence report the abuse to authorities (U.N. National Demographic and Health Survey data). This is particularly true when their own family members are the perpetrators, as in cases of incest, and they are powerful men. It is also due to the prevalent culture of victim blaming, as police officers, media personalities and even President Duterte himself exemplify.

Police abuse of women

Alarmingly, Duterte’s drug war against the poor and his continued imposition of martial law in Mindanao have provided more fertile ground for rampant abuses by state security forces. On several occasions, the president addressed them with the same misogynist and sexist language.

From 2017 — or since the start of the Philippine National Police’s campaign against illegal drugs — 13 policemen have been involved in eight rape cases, 13 acts of lasciviousness, and one case of sexual harassment and physical assault against innocent women.

It is contemptible that while the police try to justify the war on drugs as a way to curb the prevalence of rape in the country, members of the PNP are raping women and committing other forms of sexual abuse under a regime that blatantly dis

by the previous organizers and may change next year.

Durham WWP branch’s anti-capitalist contingent raised the issue of police brutality by reading out the reading of Cops out of Pride. As in fuck the police.” Signs also raised the demand for the parade to proceed and chant, “Be loud! Don’t drop. WWP presence, white liberals were also part of the WW Durham branch’s anti-capitalist contingent at Durham, N.C. Pride, Sept. 29.

WW PHOTO

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So far, Duterte has committed — and by extension through the actions of Philippine state security forces — grave violations of women’s human rights obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Philippine laws, such as the Magna Carta of Women, the Women Development Code of Davao and about 20 other national laws. This is demonstrated by the dangerous rainbow capitalism and police abuse of women.

The Philippines is a signatory to CEDAW, which is also called the International Bill of Women’s Rights, and there is a duty to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to respect, protect and fulfill women’s rights.

In line with its above-mentioned commitments and obligations under CEDAW, the Philippine Constitution enshrined a state policy that recognizes the role of women in nation-building and the fundamental equality of women and men before the law.

Women activists fight back!

Women activists, feminists and women’s organizations, myself and GABRIELA included, have also played a crucial role in the adoption by various local governments of units of gender and development codes, such as the Women Development Code of Davao City, which was approved on Oct. 14, 1997, by President Duterte, then the mayor of that city.

The law supposedly affords special protection to women, particularly in regard to the following concerns: ensuring that women are treated equally in law and in fact; that women enjoy the same rights and privileges as men; and that women are not subjected to threats or harm by human beings whose dignity the state values and whose human rights are guaranteed and afforded by all laws. The law also affirms that all forms of violence and discrimination against women are eliminated; that women are treated as equal partners of men in development; and that they are provided the same spaces in governance and public service.

Thus, any violation of women’s rights — and when, as women repeatedly and repeatedly committed by the highest official in the land — must be seen not only as an attack on women, but on the following concerns: ensuring that women are treated equally in law and in fact; that women enjoy the same rights and privileges as men; and that women are not subjected to threats or harm by human beings whose dignity the state values and whose human rights are guaranteed and afforded by all laws. The law also affirms that all forms of violence and discrimination against women are eliminated; that women are treated as equal partners of men in development; and that they are provided the same spaces in governance and public service.

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Round two of Brazil elections
Ultra-rightist takes lead in face-off with Workers Party

By John Catalinotto

Oct. 8 – The first round of elections in Brazil took place yesterday and, as expected, left the ultra-rightist Jair Bolsonaro facing the Workers Party (PT) candidate, Fernando Haddad, in the run-off election on Oct. 28.

What was less expected from polling during the last week of the campaign was that Bolsonaro would come as close as he did to being a near sure-thing to win in the first round. He got 46 percent, Haddad, with 29.3 percent, finished a strong second, but was still far behind Bolsonaro.

In terms of electoral politics, this leaves the Workers Party and their allies in an uphill battle in the three weeks before the second round. The PT needs to hang on to their votes and win nearly all the votes of the center, center-right and leftist parties. The other possibility is that the ultra-rightist candidate exposes his weaknesses on how his economic program will hurt workers and poor people who may have voted for him as a sign of protest.

Brazil’s class struggle goes beyond electoral politics, so the Brazilian left must organize in the streets as well as for the voting booth.

Left-wing coalition

For the left, Haddad, a university teacher of Lebanese ancestry who was once mayor of São Paulo, is representing the PT. Running for vice president with him is former general in the Brazilian Army. As totalitarian candidate is Gen. Antônio Mourão, a military captain who served seven terms in the army, has waged a vicious austerity offensive that has left the economy shrunk, this ruling class — support Bolsonaro’s candidate.

Brazil’s super-rich ruling class tolerated the first PT governments under Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva (2003-10) in a period of unprecedented prosperity. At that time the PT passed laws aiding tens of millions of Brazil’s very poor. Once the price of raw materials collapsed, and the economy shrunk, this ruling class has waged a vicious austerity offensive against all of Brazil’s working people.

Bolsonaro — his supporters even attacked O Globo reporters for alleged “fake news” — its genocidal war in Yemen. This was a solid rejection of the ultra-rightist presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro, an ex-military candidate who has campaigned on a misogynist, racist and anti-poor platform disguised as reform. Bolsonaro is considered to be the Brazilian military version of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Vermelho reported that there were demonstrations of 200,000 people in both São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, with smaller but still significant demonstrations in dozens of other cities. The latest polls show Bolsonaro neck-and-neck with Fernando Haddad for the first round of the election, set for Oct. 7. Haddad is the candidate of a coalition supported by the Workers Party and the Communist Party of Brazil. Each has about 20 percent of the votes in the polls, and they are expected to face each other in the Oct. 28 run-off election. There are also elections for the National Congress and the State Assemblies.

The massive mobilization of women, led by Women United Against Bolsonaro, indicates growing hostility to the ultra-rightist Brazilian military version of U.S. President Donald Trump.

— Report by John Catalinotto

Brazil’s women say:
No to Bolsonaro

According to reports on Sept. 30 in the Brazilian web newspaper, Vermelho, about a half-million women and their supporters demonstrated in cities large and small in Brazil on Sept. 29, marching under the slogan #EleNão (not him, meaning not Bolsonaro).

Brazil’s women say:
No to Bolsonaro

The PT. Running for vice president with PT President Dilma Rousseff from 2010-14, has already moved PT President Dilma Rousseff from the Social Liberal Party. His vice presidential candidate is Gen. Antônio Mourão, a former youth leader. The PT, the PCdoB and the small Party of Social Order make up “The People Happy Again” coalition on the ballot.

The first to bring the struggle to the streets were a half million to a million women and their supporters, who demonstrated in Brazilian cities large and small on Sept. 29, marching under the slogan #EleNão (not him, meaning not Bolsonaro).

Ciro Gomes, candidate of the Democratic Labor Party (PDT), has already thrown his support to the #EleNão movement for the second turn.

Guilherme Boulos, the leader of the Workers Party’s candidate for the leftist Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL), wrote, “Now we will be in the streets to defeat fascism and elect the candidate who represents democracy on the second round: Fernando Haddad. #EleNão.” (Vermelho, Oct. 8)

Oppo, the political section of the military and many members of the evangelical churches — about a quarter of Brazil’s population — support Bolsonaro’s candidate. Winning the election for the PT is an important goal, but it is only the first step to defending the Brazilian working class and the unemployed in the first step in defending democratic rights.

Who is Bolsonaro?

The ultra-rightist, a former army captain who served seven terms in the PT. Running for vice president with him in the run-off election, set for Oct. 7.

Haddad is the candidate of a coalition of leftist parties. The other possibility is that the ultra-rightist candidate exposes his weaknesses on how his economic program will hurt workers and poor people who may have voted for him as a sign of protest.

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The right wing first impeached and removed PT President Dilma Rousseff from office with a parliamentary coup in 2016. The succeeding government of current President Michel Temer started rolling back the social security programs.

They have especially attacked Brazilian workers of African descent — who are half the population — and the remaining Indigenous peoples. They have also attacked women’s rights on the job and elsewhere and have been targeting of LGBTQ people, even before Bolsonaro’s rhetoric took it a few steps further.

When it became apparent earlier this year that Lula was the leading candidate in the presidential election and might well win, the judiciary framed him to keep him in jail and off the ballot. The media giant O Globo kept up a continual campaign against the PT and its leaders and railed against “delinquency” in the poor neighborhoods, while it attacked “corruption” of all politicians.

U.S. imperialism has been lined up with those in Brazil who want to remove the PT from office and keep them out.

While O Globo did not support Bolsonaro — his supporters even attacked O Globo — there has been a similar effort to discredit its genocidal war in Yemen. This was a solid rejection of the ultra-rightist presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro, an ex-military candidate who has campaigned on a misogynist, racist and anti-poor platform disguised as reform. Bolsonaro is considered to be the Brazilian military version of U.S. President Donald Trump.

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Stop U.S. wars across the globe

On the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan, activists gathered in Her- ald Square in New York City to oppose U.S. military occupations, violence and imperi- alism across the world. Groups representing anti-imperialist members in Yemen, Syria, Palestine, Iran, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, the Philippines, Korea, Okinawa and Japan spoke to a growing audience before marching to the U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Station in Times Square. The action ended with a Yemeni child speaking out against the U.S.-funded Saudi war on the Yemeni people.

— Kayla Popuchet and Cosmia Bohannan-Blumke

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We plan to keep issuing a printed edition to hand out to people we meet on demonstra- tions, picket lines and street corners. We invite you to sign up today.

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The Emergency International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico will take place Oct. 27 in New York City. Workers World reporter Chery Leighlash interviewed Berta Joubert-Ceci, a proud Boricua and central organizer for this historic event, for an update.

Workers World: What is the reaction in Puerto Rico to the Tribunal?

Berta Joubert-Ceci: The reaction has been tremendous. People feel this is very important. They have been silenced for so long. They want to have their voices heard on an international level when so many lies and misrepresentations have been put out on what is really happening there.

Participants from many parts of Puerto Rico in Puerto Rico, we are talking about crimes being committed right now.

A major water tribunal would be needed to detail all 120 years of U.S. colonial crimes. The people in Puerto Rico are viewing this as an emergency tribunal to expose the tip of the iceberg. Puerto Rico radio stations have requested interviews about the Tribunal.

WW: Who are some of the people coming from the mainland to testify?

Joubert-Ceci: Ava Ayala, a father of the tuition and lovers, is a leader of the new generation. Mariana Nogales, the lawyer, speaks on the human rights case.

Also testifying about repression are the anti-colonial notables to get a hearing in NYC. These include Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World newspaper, author of “Indonesia: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century,” chair of the 1966 Public Information Board, of the 1966 Public Information Board, of the 1966 Public Information Board.

There are many theories. Some speculate the U.S. wants to reconquer Venezuela. The U.S. views Puerto Rico as a laboratory, and will try to impose fiscal control boards, a laboratory of militarization, like Vieques; invasions, like Santo Domingo, Grenada, Panama. What happens in Puerto Rico doesn’t stay in Puerto Rico.

Right-wing governments now installed across Latin America are part of the environment in which the colonial government of Puerto Rico is being used against Venezuela. The U.S. views Puerto Rico as a laboratory, and will try to impose fiscal control boards, like the one they are trying out in Puerto Rico, in other places.

The Emergency Tribunal is a step in building solidarity to close down the imperialist laboratory.

Put the U.S. on trial for colonial crimes in Puerto Rico Saturday - Oct 27 - 9 am all day until verdict Holyrood Church/ Iglesia Santa Cruz 715 W 179 St • New York City • 10033 [A Train to 181st]

For more information or to reserve seats to the Oct. 27 Tribunal, go to PuertoRicoTribunal.org.
Struggle against Kavanaugh: A legacy of fightback

The confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court was, as usual, a double-edged win — for the moment — for the U.S. capitalist class seeking to keep its grip on repressive state power. That he was approved despite the extremely powerful and undeniable evidence that he sexually assaulted several women also strengthens the shameless brutality of this ruling class.

Moreover, this experience of reactionary victory as agony, as the hearings called up their own experiences of trauma — women, especially women of color, gender nonconforming women, young and older women, women with disabilities, trans people of all genders. And others also — women and men assaulted when they were children by those who held power over them.

And millions have been called to fury and renewed fightback, as the depth of sexual violence toward women and other genders was revealed.

As the struggle continues, those ready to act have good reason to expect a varied resistance to draw on. The march of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Seattle on Oct. 4 is a reminder of how native peoples have fought colonialism, including rape, for centuries with women and two-spirit people in leadership.

By Kayla Popchuk

The U.S. and its proxies in Latin Amer-
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vention against the Bolivarian gov-
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port for a coup. And President Donald Trump re-
prompted this rhetoric in his attempt to con-
sider a U.S. intervention.

What has turned this country on the
northern coast of South America, which possesses the single largest oil reserves
in the world, into a prime target of U.S.
imperialism?

Since the first victory of the late Hugo
Chavez 20 years ago in Venezuela’s pres-
idential elections and the process of the
Bolivarian Revolution, Venezuela’s estab-
ishment as a sovereign state aiming to
end socialismo y libertad (socialism and
liberty) has made it the target of aggression.
The oil reserves make it a valuable target.

The U.S. has continued to follow the
racist and chauvinistic 1823 Monroe
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war aims.

Continued from page 3

Rappers have used their own record-
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in
2017	that
he	“takes	these	over	these
to	tell	his	story.”

He was spared his music to maintain his innocence, attack the
inhumanity of mass incarceration and ad-
vance his developing political worldview.

Brown is not a politician, and his works maintain his identity on his Instagram page, Brown has expressed joy at his early release and commitment
to bettering his community. Brown has im-
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dio, but has also displayed his struggles with shifting to small responsibilities he had not prioritized as a teenager, such as washing his own clothes.

Though Brown is not a partner, his per-
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We should remember that during a time in which liberals and Democratic Party candidates were working in the stu-
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Thus, Washington blantly intervened
against a sovereign nation.

What this means for Latin Americans
Poverty in Venezuela has been reduced significantly under the Bolivarian Revo-

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percent, compared to 26.5 percent in
1996, 70.8 percent of Venezuelans lived in
poverty. By 2010, this figure was re-
duced to 21 percent. During his 13 years
in office, Chavez initiated a program called “Misiones,” an anti-poverty pro-

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against exploitative conditions. You can
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these countries try to pay for the oil, be-

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Framed-up rapper

Continued from page 19

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20 years in the gun sights of U.S. imperialism

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Chicago forum highlights anti-colonial struggles

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Chicago forum highlights anti-colonial struggles

Continued from page 20
Detener ataques a pueblos indígenas Bangsamoro instigados por régimen Duterte/EUA

Por Monica Moorehead

El siguiente testimonio fue presentado en el Tribunal Internacional de los Pueblos sobre delitos económicos, políticos y sociales contra el pueblo filipino. El tribunal se llevó a cabo del 18 al 30 de septiembre en Bruselas, Bélgica. Para leer sobre el tribunal, comuníquese con la SJD. 

Soy una Igorot de la tribu Bontok en Mt. Tawo-Tawo, en la región de Mindanao. Soy Pya Macliing Malayao, miembro del consejo de líderes de SANDUGO, el Movimiento de los Pueblos Moro e Indígenas. Soy también vocero de Katribu, la alianza nacional de organizaciones de pueblos indígenas en Filipinas. Sigo siendo miembro de la Fuerza Táctica de la Defensa de los Pueblos Indígenas de Luzón y las Visayas. Los moros son también conocidos como Lumad; el resto están en diferentes partes de Mindanao, denominados colectivamente Moros. La población total del país es aproximadamente el 15 por ciento de la población total del país. Están compuestos por más de 100 grupos principales, la mayoría de ellos que viven en Mindanao, denominados colectivamente Lumad; el resto están en diferentes partes de Luzón y las Visayas. 

Los moros y los pueblos indígenas enfrentan persecución por la opresión nacional, la negación sistemática e institucionalizada y la violación de nuestro derecho a la autodeterminación para alzar libremente nuestro desarrollo social, económico y cultural y determinar nuestro estatus político. 

La opresión nacional instigada por el estado y las elites gubernamentales incluyen la negación de nuestros derechos territoriales, la falsa representación y subvención de nuestros sistemas sociales y políticos, la discriminación ecológica, ecológica y la violación de nuestra cultura. 

Mediante la “neutralización” de nuestras comunidades, las Fuerzas Armadas de Filipinas (FARPA) han promovido el asesinato, el secuestro, el espionaje y las agresiones militares. 

Hemos estado afirmando nuestro derecho a la autodeterminación y lo hemos sostenido como una necesidad. Hemos lanzado una campaña internacional de derechos humanos para poner fin a la explotación y a la opresión. 

Los moros y los pueblos indígenas tenemos derecho a exigir un gobierno que sea justiciero, que sea multicultural, que sea democrático y que sepa respetar los derechos humanos. 

Para asegurar el control completo sobre estos territorios ancestrales y sus recursos, el presidente Duterte ha continuado implementando la guerra contra el “terrorismo” impulsada por EUA contra los pueblos indígenas y bangsamoro. 

Hemos tomado la posición clara de que estas acciones son ilegítimas, y que llamamos a la comunidad internacional para tomar medidas firmes contra el gobierno filipino. 

El régimen EUA-Duterte ha decidido destruir cualquier forma de resistencia. 

Enfrentándose a estos ataques de EUA, los pueblos moro e indígenas están aún más determinados a elevar nuestra lucha por los derechos colectivos a los territorios ancestrales y la autodeterminación – llevarán finalmente el etnocidio, la guerra, y la desintegración de nuestras vidas, cultura e identidad. 

Las comunidades indígenas, especialmente las pueblos indígenas, son el principal foco de nuestro conflicto. 

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