After hurricane destruction

‘Cancel Puerto Rico’s unjust debt!’

By J. White
Orlando, Fla.

Dozens of Puerto Ricans in Orlando, whose families are suffering on the island after Hurricane Maria, gathered on Oct. 4 with community allies in front of Merrill Lynch, one of the island’s debt holders, to demand immediate and sufficient aid to relieve and rebuild Puerto Rico. They also called on Congress to cancel the island’s $72 billion debt burden so that Puerto Ricans can focus on rebuilding their communities instead of having to first pay the vulture funds.

The protest, which included a moment of silence for the people lost due to the hurricane, was part of a national day of action in 13 U.S. cities: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, Hartford, Conn.; Newark, N.J.; Oakland, Calif.; Orlando, Fla.; and Washington, D.C.

“While families are struggling to survive, the hedge fund vultures have continued to go to the courts to make sure they get paid,” said Ruben Sanchez, a Service Employees Union retiree. “Puerto Ricans have already been suffering for decades, first from a long recession and then from the public service cuts that came with the debt crisis. That left the island especially vulnerable to a storm like Maria. It’s time to recognize that the debt is unpayable.”

The demonstration was initiated by Vamos4PR, a network of stateside organizations including SEIU and others supporting the struggle for a “fair economy for all Puerto Ricans.” (vamos4pr.org)

This crisis is sparking a resurgence of the movement for independence from the U.S., with demands not only for canceling the debt, but for reparations for the damage and exploitation done to the people and the island.

Solidarity spurs action

Across the country and around the world, the devastation in Puerto Rico and lack of government response is sparking working people to take relief into their own hands. Unions are collecting funds and sending members to help. The Teamsters and AFL-CIO are working together to recruit truck drivers to travel to Puerto

Continued on page 11
Le has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, under capitalism. The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one seems to have a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Workers World Party is out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and thus wealth should remain in their hands, not stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Join us in the fight for socialism!
While the very rich may be experiencing an "era of good feeling," the multination working-class is facing attacks at every turn.

The 1957 establishment of the Civil Rights Act and the 1964 Civil Rights Act have repeatedly been undermined by the right wing. In 2010 the administration posted studies about this anti-woman violence at the White House website, with the goal of reducing it, but this effort has been undermined without explanation. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has outrageously stated that federal education dollars will be tied to the perpetration, and will be withdrawn.

The White House suspended on Aug. 29 an Obama-administration regulation aimed at narrowing the gender pay gap. Women earn 80 percent of what men make, and even less for women of color, who are doubly exploited by employers' racist and sexist wage policies. Afri-

These reactionary laws have been held-

While this law fell far short of socialized medicine, it nevertheless enabled over 20 million working-class individuals to obtain health insurance. Many low-income workers accessed coverage through the ACA's provisions for Medicaid expansion and federal subsidies, which the right wing is now trying to sabotage.

Since attempts to "repeal and/or re-

Corporate pressure continued. So on Oct. 6, Trump obliged his right-wing millionaire cronies by issuing an execut-

Affirmative action, which many companies use to diversify their workforce, could become a non-issue should these programs be eliminated.

This directive circumvented public debate about a benefit that 68 percent of the population supports. The White House alleges that low-income women can ob-

What they are actually doing is building class struggle, the most important issue affecting women — campus sexual assault. The previous administration posted studies about this anti-woman violence at the White House website, with the goal of reducing it, but this effort has been undermined without explanation. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has outrageously stated that federal education dollars will be tied to the perpetration, and will be withdrawn.

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Racism, sexism, xenophobia and an-

The march arrived at Boston's water-

The march was observed on the second Monday in October by Bos-

The mobilization brought out partici-

March through downtown Boston demands "Indigenous Peoples' Day Now!"

The White House suspended on Aug. 29 an Obama-administration regulation aimed at narrowing the gender pay gap. Women earn 80 percent of what men make, and even less for women of color, who are doubly exploited by employers' racist and sexist wage policies. Afri-

The group also decried practices in

Boston march demands Indigenous Peoples' Day

The march arrived at Boston's water-

A fired-up crowd gathered outside Bos-

Boston march demands Indigenous Peoples' Day
Farmworkers get Ben & Jerry’s to sign

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

In a dramatic development on Oct. 3, Migrant Justice/Justicia Migrante annon-
counced cancellation of a national dairy industry company to sign on, the real ground breaking news is that all standards of the Milk with Dignity plan were worker-developed and work-
er-driven, and that the legally binding agreement mandates Ben & Jerry’s to ac-
quire its milk solely from farms adhering to those standards. The agreement will
impact 1,200 to 1,500 workers, many un-
documented immigrants, at 90 farms.

Lead Migrant Justice organizer, En-
rique Balcazar, a former dairy worker,
noted at the signing: “One of the biggest
issues was housing conditions, the need
for workers to be provided with basic
amenities, like electricity, water, and
housing that is free from pest infesta-

The terms of the agreement dissolve
how brutal working conditions are.
Milk with Dignity guarantees that workers
under the protection of the agreement will
have the right to one day off a week; earn
at least the state minimum wage, presently
$8.20 an hour; be guaranteed at least eight
consecutive hours to rest between shifts;
and receive housing that includes a bed,
access to electricity and clean running
water. The agreement is protected
against sexual assault, forced labor and
physical violence toward workers.
The Milk with Dignity campaign, which
began in 2010, included national actions
in 2015 in front of Ben & Jerry’s popu-
lar “scoop shops.” Though the company
that time publicly committed to sign-
ing on, nothing happened. This spring,
hundreds of farmworkers relaunched the
campaign with a 25-mile march to Ben &
Jerry’s most visible Vermont shop. When
still no CEO signed the agreement, anoth-
er national action was called for October —
and the company finally caved.

Milk with Dignity was modeled on the
groundbreaking Coalition of Immokalee
Workers’ Campaign for Fair Food, be-
gun in 2001, which forced Florida toma-
to farm owners and agribusiness to stop
placing Black and Brown farmworkers
under conditions of virtual peonage and
sometimes actual captivity.

For more on the conditions and orga-
nizing of farmworkers, read the informa-
tive narratives gathered by the Workers’
Center of Central New York: “Milked: Im-
migrant Dairy Farmworkers in New York State.” (milkedny.files.wordpress.com)

Calling out lies on the minimum wage

By Jim McMahan

Seattle workers won a boost in the mini-
num wage three years ago, from $9.47
to $13 an hour for most workers at compa-
ies with 500 or more employees. This
came as part of the movement that has led
to minimum wage increases in dozens of
cities across the country. Many are now
earning the $15 per hour, with more to
come, due to the national struggle.

Since July, however, a new study by Uni-
versity of Washington (UW) researchers
has brought the opponents of a $15 mini-
um wage out of the woodwork. The study
actually claims that low-wage workers
were hurt by the higher wage! The study
says the minimum wage increase caused
bosses to reduce the hours of minimum wage
workers by 9 percent — and that the
new minimum wage only raised their wag-
ens by 3 percent. But how could this be?

This UW study has been grabbing
headlines across the country.

Another study, however, this one by the
University of California Labor Cen-
ter, came out around the same time as the
UW study. It points out that the UW study
excludes workers at businesses that have
more than one location. In other words,
only stand-alone small companies show
up in its results.

Workers at Starbucks, McDonalds and the
other big chains aren’t included! The
UC Labor Center says the UW report
leaves “48 percent of Seattle’s low-paid
workforce out of the study.” Workers at
small companies are also covered by the
new minimum wage law, but their raise
to $15 an hour is more gradual.

There’s another problem with the UW
“study.” Its lead researcher, Jacob Vigdor,
is an opponent of the minimum wage who
wrote in a post in 2014: “The minimum
wage is a lousy anti-poverty program.”

Seattle’s unemployment rate is now 2.6
percent. Big business opponents of mini-
um wage increases had long warned it
would result in restaurant closings, lay-
offs and other significant problems. None
of these outcomes have come to pass,
as the bosses scramble to come up with
“alternative facts.”

Workers World newspaper has a point of view. Unlike
the corporate press, we report events from the perspec-
tive of the workers and the oppressed. But you know
that. That’s why you choose to read this newspaper.

But what you may not be aware of is that our purpose
goes beyond passive reporting. Our Marxist-Lenin-
ist principles and beliefs. If you agree with us, then it’s

FIGHT THE POWER! BUILD WORKERS WORLD
By Deirdre Griswold

Enthusiasm for revolutionary change that can bring down capitalism and replace it with socialism is energizing a new generation in the United States. It’s no secret why this should be happening. A thousand fault lines are becoming not just visible but dangerously threatening in the existing economic and political systems. This behavior makes a danger to the people of the world and a liability even to many in their own class.

At one time, beginning more than a century ago, many workers in Europe and even the United States understood that capitalism meant exploitation, robbing them of much of the product of their labor. They also understood that the bosses had a conscious strategy to split the working class into pieces, divided by race, national origin, language, religion, gender, and any other differences that could be leveraged by constant propaganda and pressure.

Many workers resisted all this, and political parties that put socialism on their banner and called for solidarity were strong among the working class and provided leaders of many organizing struggles.

But it’s been a long time since those early reds, radicals, revolutionaries were hounded out of the labor movement, the schools, the arts and so on in the United States. They were pilloried by the powerful, capitalist media. The perception that there could be revolutionary change, especially in the U.S., was ridiculed and condemned by the whole stable of bourgeois intellectuals and politicians, who posed as “they,” as opposed to the “us” that there would be gradual improvement in the conditions of the masses, but only if they worked within the system.

The forces that attack on socialism and communism was the Soviet Union. As soon as the Bolshevik Revolution took power in 1917, the bourgeoisie mustered all its resources to demonize them and denigrate the simple tools they had, it took cooperation and sharing to ensure that the group survived. There was no surplus to fall back on.

But as survival techniques and tools gradually improved, there came a time when the conditionally leisure class that did not have to work but could appropriate to itself, usually by force, the fruits of others’ labor.

As surpluses grew and human societies became more stratified, slavery emerged, then feudalism and finally capitalism — different forms of this oppression made possible by the growing productivity of labor.

Capitalism in Europe was revolutionary in relation to feudalism. It unleashed science and technology from the fetters of mysticism. As a result, productivity improved greatly. By the time Marx developed his dialectical materialist view of social development, it was already clear that poverty and ignorance were being reduced in the victorious workers’ state and the industrial wealth of the world was no longer utopian; it could be realized given the high level of productivity.

Most assumed that the revolutionary impetus to make this possible would come first in the countries of Europe and North America, where scientific-technological development in the means of production was the highest. What we have seen since then is something very different.

Revolutionary energy shifts to oppressed countries

Beginning with the Bolshevik Revolution, and continuing with the Mongolian, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese revolutions in Asia, the liberation movements in Africa and the Cuban Revolution in Latin America, it was the masses of people in oppressed countries who avidly responded to the ideas of socialism and communism. They rose up to defend their interests, to break the leadership effect revolutionary change and begin to liberate themselves from class oppression.

This is the development of the means of production that makes socialism possible. But the consciousness needed to actually fight for socialism has so far been greatest in those countries where the means of production have been stunted and even obliterated by the imperialists.

This is where Lenin’s deep understanding of imperialism has so much to offer us. He demonstrated quite micturably how at a certain stage of monopoly capitalism, the accumulation of surplus capital in the hands of the ruling class drove them to find new areas for investment. This was not just the old colonial expansion of the commercial and industrial capitalists looking for new sources of raw materials or, in the case of the United States, for people to enslave who then had to toil in cotton fields tied to the world capitalist market.

Imperialism was an even more compelling, expand-or-die stage of capitalist expansion, one that has led to two enormous destructive wars and the unimaginable growth of the military-industrial-banking complex.

World War I was a terrible expression of the imperialist era. From 1914 to 1918, some 65 million troops were mobilized. By the war’s end, more than half of them — between 4 million and 25 million, were missing or taken as prisoners of war. Millions more civilians died of war-imposed famine or disease.

Lenin’s ‘Imperialism’ a breakthrough

Lenin’s book “Imperialism” was not just about economics. It was also about class consciousness and the effect that imperialism had on the thinking of workers in both the oppressed and the oppressor nations.

Remember, he wrote this book when what was then the world’s most destructive war had been raging for two years. At this point, there had already been a dynamo in the economic system but relatively few colonies compared to Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and the U.S. To survive in the dog-eat-dog world of global capitalism, Germany had to become aggressive and try to grab territories that were already being exploited by other imperialist powers. It was a recipe for world war.

The Bolsheviks of Russia had opposed the war long before it even started. Other socialist parties in the Union of Soviet Socialist International also passed resolutions calling for solidarity of the workers of all countries against their exploiters and the coming war. But once the shooting started, they helped the parties capitulated to the ruling class inside “their” countries under the intense war frenzy. Members of these parties in their parliaments and parly pressions for war credits — the funds to wage war. That was the end of the Socialist International in all but name as the intelligent countries followed the ruling classes’ orders to shoot each other. And millions died.

In response to this assault on working-class internationalism, Lenin and a few dozen co-thinkers from other countries met in the Swiss town of Zimmerwald in September 1915 to denounce the war. Lenin called for a class war against the rulers who were taking a whole continent into a slaughter.

When, during the first part of 1916, he wrote “Imperialism,” it was partly to show the material basis for the disastrous collapse of the social democratic parties that had occurred in western Europe. The imperialists, rolling in the super-profits they had extracted from their colonies, could not be moved to support workers at home in order to buy their loyalty. A privileged “labor aristocracy” arose within the working class. This did the development drained the revolutionary energy from their struggles.

Imperial Russia was not imperialist in name alone. The war only recently emerged from outright feudalism, and its economy was still overwhelmingly agrarian and feudal in character. But in a few key cities, tens of thousands of workers toiled under the most oppressive conditions — the men in heavy industry, the women in garment factories.

Once the war came, these workers rubbed shoulders in the trenches with impoverished peasants who hated the landlords as much as the workers hated the bosses. Other workers became forced laborers on the czar’s warships. All of them hated the ruling class that had forced them into the bloody war and they were ready to turn their guns around given an opportunity to get rid of their tormentors. Lenin understood that the most profound revolution that the world had yet seen. It validated the Marxist view of social evolution, and the role of the proletariat as the instrument to bring about this world and a liability even to many in his own class.

PART 1

Life is full of contradictions. It is the development of the means of production that makes socialism possible. But the consciousness needed to actually fight for socialism has so far been greatest in those countries where the means of production have been stunted and even obliterated by the imperialists.

Next: Isolated and poor, the young USSR nevertheless surpassed the West in many areas of social development.
NFL protests and FBI attack on Black Lives Matter

By Monica Moorehead

Bulletin: Jemele Hill, the African-American ESPN Sports Center reporter who rightfully labeled Donald Trump a white supremacist on Sept. 11, has been suspended for two weeks for a “second violation of our social media guidelines,” according to espn.com on Oct. 9. The suspension occurred after Hill asked Dallas Cowboys fans to boycott the team’s advertisers in light of Cowboys owner Jerry Jones’ threat to bench players if they protest during the anthem. In response to her suspension, Hill posted on Twitter: “Just so we’re clear: I’m not advocating a NFL boycott. But an unfair burden has been put on players in Dallas & Miami w/ anthem directives.”

Oct. 8 — Prior to the kickoff of week five of the National Football League season, the billionaire team owners, including notorious Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, threw down the political gauntlet by issuing an ultimatum to players who sit or kneel during the national anthem: stand or risk not playing or being fired. These are the same owners who locked arms with players in a phonny public display of solidarity on Sept. 24 in response to Donald Trump’s calling protesting players “SOB’s” two days before.

Vice President Mike Pence left in protest prior to the Oct. 8 game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Indianapolis Colts, after witnessing over 20 San Francisco players take a knee during the national anthem. Many saw Pence’s brief appearance as a publicity stunt by him and Trump to try to change the narrative of the protests.

Pence stated on his Twitter feed: “@PO-TUS [Donald Trump] and I will not dignify any event that disrespects our soldiers, our Flag, or our National Anthem. It is no surprise that Pence and Trump were silent when neo-Nazi terrorists rallied in front of the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Va., on Oct. 7.

The 49ers are former teammates of Black quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who ignited a sportswide protest in 2016 against police brutality by taking a knee during the anthem. Kaepernick, a free agent, has not been signed by another team since the end of the 2016 season, even though he has let it be known that he is ready to play.

Eric Reid, a 49ers safety who has protested alongside Kaepernick since last season, responded to Pence’s tweet: “This is what systemic oppression looks like. A man with power comes to the game, tweets a couple of tweets out of context and leaves the game with an attempt to thwart our efforts.” (politico.com, Oct. 8)

Terrelle Pryor, a Washington receiver, was called the N-word by a white Kansas City fan after an Oct. 2 game. He responded that what happened to him is “the exact reason why guys are kneeling during the anthem.”

These NFL players and others have made clear that they will not remain silent about institutionalized racial inequality. This fundamental issue is reflected in the owners’ attempt to place their quest for profits above the fight for racial equality.

These players have evolved as integral components of the overall Black Lives Matter movement. That movement began as a Twitter hashtag by three Black women activists, including one transwoman, following the vigilante murder of 17-year-old Black youth Trayvon Martin in 2012. BLM is latest COINTELPRO target

In the midst of this political backdrop, the Federal Bureau of Investigation issued a report, released by foreignpolicy.com on Oct. 6, dubbing the BLM movement a “terrorist threat.”

The report states in part: “The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence.”

This report harkens back to the days when this same FBI, run by J. Edgar Hoover, targeted Black Liberation groups like the Black Panther Party for extirpation with its Counter Intelligence Program or COINTELPRO.

The report was released 11 days before the official opening of the 2017-18 National Basketball Association season. Star players such as Stephen Curry, LeBron James and others have expressed solidarity with Kaepernick and the struggle that has caused him to be unemployed so far this season.

A day after his attack on NFL players, Sept. 25, Trump disinvited Curry’s team, the defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors, from visiting the White House this coming February. He did so after Curry and other teammates stated that they weren’t interested in such a visit as long as Trump is in office. Unlike NFL players who are not contractually obligated to stand during the anthem, the opposite is true of NBA players.

In fact, NBA players are required to stand in a straight line on court during the anthem. J.R. Smith of the Cleveland Cavaliers recently stood a few steps behind this line during the anthem before a preseason game. So far, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has not responded with a fine or warning.

Players in the Women’s National Basketball Association have actually taken a more progressive and visible stand against police violence than their NBA counterparts. However, due to the still-prevailing male dominance in U.S. sports, reflected in the huge gender-bias gap in salaries and TV revenue, WNBA

Protests and mass arrests continue in St. Louis

By Lyn Neely

Protests against racism and police murders are continuing in St. Louis nearly a month after the first outpouring of the Black community and its supporters in mid-September.

Hundreds of people blocked four lanes of heavy traffic on Interstate 64 on Oct. 3 as part of a “400 Days for Justice” campaign. Police “kettleled” (surrounded) the crowd, ordered them to back up, forced them to the ground and then indiscriminately arrested 143 people, including reporters, legal observers, clergy and at least one elected official. These massive arrests received little national media attention.

More than 300 people have been arrested in nonstop protests since Sept. 15 when a not-guilty verdict was announced for Jason Stockley, a white cop who had fatally shot 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith in 2011. A white judge acquitted Stockley, who had rejected a trial by jury.

Human rights groups and community activists have criticized the brutal force and indiscriminate arrests by St. Louis police. Missouri state Rep. Bruce Franks, who represents St. Louis, has challenged the police, asking how they expected demonstrators to back up, since they were surrounded and had nowhere to go.

The American Civil Liberties Union is suing St. Louis police for “unlawful and unconstitutional actions” against demonstrators. The suit charges cops with overusing chemicals on the crowd without warning and preventing people from filming the cops while they are letting and violating people’s rights.

WORKERS WORLD PARTY FORUM

features Takiyah Thompson & Loan Tran

OCT 14 Saturday 4 pm – 8 pm

135 West 23rd St. Between 6th and 7th Aves. in Manhattan

Please note special location:

Thompson is a North Carolina Central University student who climbed the Confederate statue in Durham on Aug. 14 to begin the act of taking it down, two days after white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia attacked anti-racist activists. Thompson was subsequently arrested for the action, along with Loan Tran and 12 others, who face felony and misdemeanor charges.

Come hear and meet these two heroic freedom fighters, both members of Workers World Party. Discussion will include how to continue to support the Durham activists and carry on the struggle against all forms of white supremacy, including police repression.

#DoItLikeDurham #DefendDurham

Program will include solidarity greetings and cultural performances. Dinner to follow meeting for small donation.
Protests and mass arrests continue in St. Louis

The FBI report should be viewed as a ploy to weaken sectors of the multinational working class who identify with BLM, including Black athletes who refuse to be silenced by racism, Trump or team owners who view them as mere commodities.

Not only is this FBI report outrageous and bogus, but it comes at a crucial time in the BLM struggle. In addition to the growing number of outspoken athletes taking center stage, there have been ongoing shut-down actions by BLM activists.

Most notable is the weeks-long uprising in St. Louis to protest the Sept. 15 racist acquittal of white cop Jason Stockley, who shot and killed a young Black man, Anthony Lamar Smith, in December 2011.

Clearly, the FBI along with NFL and NBA hierarchies, which represent the interests of the team owners, want these protests to go away. At the same time they don’t want to ignore or make activists in either of these leagues, where 70 percent and 75 percent of the players are of African descent, respectively.

The FBI claims that the BLM movement has a “false perception” or an overblown view of police killings of people of color. What do statistics say about this “false perception”? A Washington Post database states that since Oct. 8, 750 people have been shot and killed by the police so far in 2017, and that number is growing day by day. This particular database also shows that mental illness played a role in one out of every five killings.

The last U.S. census showed whites making up 65 percent of the general population and African Americans 13 percent. That’s almost five whites for every African American. But the 750 people killed by the cops this year include 335 whites and 168 African Americans. What this boils down to is that the police are killing Black people at more than twice the rate they kill whites. Substantial numbers of Latinx, Asian and Indigenous peoples also have been killed by police this year, reflected in the 750 total.

According to newsweek.com, fewer than 30 cops have been shot and killed in 2017. (Aug. 7) Statistics don’t lie when it comes to showing the police carrying out a racist war against Black and Brown people and people with disabilities.

This FBI report is the latest attempt to divert attention from the war on the oppressed while white supremacist terrorists are being shielded under the guise of “free speech.” The righteous anger that this report is creating, far from suppressing the struggle, will instead intensify resistance in the streets and on the playing field.

**Struggle wins change of high school’s racist name**

By Eddie Barrera
San Antonio

San Antonio residents have finally won after nearly three years petitioning and beseeching the local school board of San Antonio North East Independent School District (NEISD) to change the name of Robert E. Lee High School.

They are asking for a name that reflects values and history that don’t celebrate two centuries of racism and racial prejudice.

The arduous undertaking began with a single brave and determined student, Kayla Wilson, now an alumna of the school.

In 2015, Wilson, then a senior, began a petition requesting a name change for the school. She was prompted by comments made by former San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro after Kentucky’s removal of a Confederate memorial to Jefferson Davis from the state Capitol.

Early on, Wilson’s requests for a name change to the school were shot down by residents, mostly white and Latinx, saying that this move was a lone student’s vendetta and that there is no reason to change the city’s history because of a single student being offended by the name. They ignored, however, the nearly 11,000 signatures on two petitions over two years and the fact that the high school has had a lower Black student population than most other schools in the district.

Other opponents have gone so far as to claim that the request for a name change is a purposefully divisive endeavor to increase racial tensions in the school and district. They say the school has always been a “safe place” for people of all ethnic backgrounds. They claim that there haven’t been racial tensions in the school historically, though that conveniently overlooks that the majority of the students at Robert E. Lee High School are white.

For Black students, the name is a constant reminder of the more than 200 years of slavery and Jim Crow treatment of their ancestors. There is speculation that this is the reason for the low rate of African-American students going to the school, in comparison with other schools in the district.

Other residents showed support. Some said that as long as 30 years ago they wondered why the district was glorifying the playing field.

It also stated that it would prefer a name that is “whole some” and “wel coming and identi fiable to the general public.” We applaud Kayla Wilson and her fellow residents on their resolve not to allow these monuments to racial prejudice to retain their prominence, and we gladly stand in solidarity with their struggle against more than 200 years of racial injustice.

Why U.S. and Saudi Arabia back Rohingya

By Sara Flounders

Demonstrations, protests and on-line petitions have already appeared worldwide to defend the struggle of the Rohingya people who have been driven from Myanmar into exile. What is of concern is that political forces with no history of or interest in defending the rights of these oppressed people, including the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, have joined this movement.

While he was threatening People’s Korea, Iran and Venezuela in his United Nations speech, U.S. President Donald Trump also demanded that the U.N. Security Council take “strong and swift action” to end violence against Myanmar’s Rohingya ethnic group.

U.S. government officials, including U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Vice President Mike Pence, have called for immediate action and delivery of humanitarian aid to the Rohingya.

Since Washington and Riyadh are inflicting a murderous war on millions of people in Yemen, not to mention in other parts of the world, working-class movements and anti-imperialist forces around the globe are asking what is behind their sudden concern for a small ethnic group in Southeast Asia. Could it have something to do with the group’s potential use as an instrument to manipulate and project and other economic plans are attracting great interest.

U.S. policy is increasingly geared toward disrupting these development plans with vastly expanded militarization and regional wars. This is the strategy behind the Pentagon’s “Pivot to Asia.” A Western network of nongovernmental organizations and Saudi-backed extremist groups are part of the disruption.

Myanmar and the Rohingya

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is a formerly colonized, underdeveloped and extremely diverse country with a large Rohingya population. It has 135 distinct ethnic groups among its eight nationalities.

Myanmar experts, strategically important country bordering China, Bangladesh, India, Thailand and Laos. It’s important to Wall Street banks and international arms manufacturers as a major exporter of natural gas, and there are plans to make it a conduit for oil.

Within Myanmar, the Rohingya people are mostly concentrated in Rakhine state, which borders Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In 2016, the Pentagon in the region.

Fears for the safety of the Rohingya have also been driven by a coordinated attack on 30 military bases and security, nutritional assistance, health care, education, livelihoods, social inclusion, non-food items, disaster risk reduction, restoring family links and protection to over 400,000 displaced persons in Myanmar and in Bangladesh.

The group carrying out armed resistance in Myanmar, known as Harakah al-Vaqi’aa (HA, Faith Movement in Arabic) and now called the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, is headquartered in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Atatullah abu Jurnuji, a Pakistani national who lived in Saudi Arabia, is the leader of ARSA. This group led a coordinated attack on 30 military bases in May 2013.

The group has an estimated 150,000 fighting men, 10,000 in the area, 40,000 in Bangladesh and 50,000 in India. It has a main base in the Rakhine state, 80 km from the Bangladesh border.

The Pentagon in the region.

Meet the Pentagon in the region.

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More oil imperialism as
U.S. warships threaten Iran

By Kathy Durkin

The imperialist-in-chief in the White House is ramping up hostility against Iran. He is threatening to pull the U.S. out of a 2015 nuclear deal made between that sovereign country and the P5+1 countries — members of the United Na-
tions Security Council plus Germany. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Ac-
tion requires Iran to roll back its nuclear program in exchange for ending some, but not all, U.S./U.N.-imposed sanctions. According to rules made by Congress, the Trump administration has to re-
tify on Oct. 15 that Iran is complying with the JCPOA. But because that was a U.N.-sponsored deal, it actually does not require congressional ratification. The International Atomic Energy Agency has the sole responsibility for validating Iran's compliance. The IAEA has certified eight times that Iran is fulfilling its obligations under the agreement. The other signatories to the pact have concurred.

But Trump has repeatedly denounced the agreement, and in August imposed new sanctions against Iran. If he does not re-certify that Iran is meeting the pact’s requirements, then Washington can levy more horrific economic sanctions on Iran’s 80 million people.

Now, U.S. hard-liners are seeking to stop Iran from developing even conven-
tional missiles, an issue not covered in the nuclear capability-related JCPOA. Gholamali Khanzadi, Iran's ambassador to the U.N., wrote in the New York Times on Oct. 8: “My country is not seeking to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.” He stresses the JCPOA, which prohibits Iran from making ballistic missiles to deliver nuclear weapons, “does not restrain us from developing conventional military deterrence technology that so many other countries possess.”

Solidarity with Iran needed

Where should anti-war activists and other progressive forces stand on Iran’s right to develop defensive weapons? At the crux of the matter lies the oil-rich na-
tion’s right to sovereignty and to protect its people from imperialist aggression, whether economic sanctions, political at-
tacks or military actions.

As right-wing hawks in Washington sound ever more bellicose and target spe-
cific countries, including Iran, with in-
creasing threats, such as military action, a brief look at U.S. intervention in Iran shows why the country’s right to defend itself should be supported.

The U.S. CIA, along with British intel-
ligence, overthrew Iran’s democratically-
elected prime minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, in 1953. He nationalized the oil industry, with 60 percent of proceeds enriching U.S. com-
panies. U.S. and European governments remained mum about the shah’s orches-
trated murders of thousands of Iranians opposing his regime.

Following a 1979 revolution in which the Iranian people overthrew the hat-
ed shah, the U.S. government imposed, and later intensified, economic sanctions against Iran — allegedly due to the coun-
try’s nuclear development program. In 2006, the U.N. levied further sanctions and later strengthened the economic war against Iran.

Meanwhile, former President George W. Bush, who called Iran part of an “axis of evil,” threatened to use military force against the country.

The U.S. Navy’s Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet has stationed two naval battle groups in the Persian Gulf off Iran’s west coast. Led by two carriers loaded with millions of pounds of missiles and bombs, these include 20 ships, 130 strike aircraft and 20,000 marines and sailors. U.S. warships frequently fire warning shots at Iranian ships in the Gulf and in the Strait of Hormuz, through which passes one-third of the world’s sea-transported oil.

After a U.S. Navy ship fired flares at Iranian ships in April, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted, “Breaking: Our navy operates in — yes, correct — the Persian Gulf, not the Gulf of Mexico. Question is what the U.S. Navy was doing 7,500 miles from home.” (Guardian, April 26)

Given how the U.S. has installed mili-
tary might off Iran’s coast, and given the warmongering from the White House, Iran’s right to defend its people must be strongly supported.

Today, as Washington’s far-right hos-
tility escalates against Iran, progressive forces in the U.S. and worldwide need to unite in saying: “U.S. hands off Iran!”

Co-chairs Danica Pagulayan and Taryn Fives at a rally held in the aftermath of Puerto Rico’s hurricane.

Rally unites struggles against racism & war

Continua de página 12

vez que un desastre sucede aquí: hay miles de voluntarias/os que quieren ayu-
dar a sus vecinas/os. Salen en pequeños botes durante las inundaciones, o ayu-
dan a las personas a encontrar refugio durante los vientos intensos. Bucan a aquellas/os que pueden quedar atrapa-
dos en sus hogares o son arrastrados por una inundación.

El cambio social debe venir

Los sistemas meteorológicos de nuestro planeta han sido profundamente afectados por el desarrollo capitalista, que pone a las ganancias antes que cualquier otra cosa.

Al mismo tiempo, los grandes avances de la ciencia y la tecnología nos han pro-
porcionado el conocimiento y los medios para planificar nuestra economía sobre una base racional y poner las necesi-
dades de las personas en sintonía con nuestro medio ambiente.

Y sin embargo, estamos atascados con un sistema social y político que puede planear evasas a los “lideres” como Trump y sus semejantes, pero no puede obtener agua y electricidad para las per-
sonas trabajadoras que lo necesitan.

Aunque crecen las severas amenazas del clima, los fracasos de FEMA subrayan la necesidad de con-
struir un movimiento revolucionario de la clase obrera y todas/os los oprimidos contra la clase millonaria de explotado-
dores. Debemos liberar la riqueza que nues-
trro trabajo ha creado y utilizarla para el beneficio de la humanidad, no para res-
catar a los especuladores belicistas.
**On the 50th anniversary of his death: Che lives!**

Ernesto “Che” Guevara — the great internationalist, guerilla and martyr — died 50 years ago on Oct. 9, 1967, at the hands of Bolivian soldiers who were trained, equipped and put in motion by U.S. military and CIA operatives.

His killers posed with his body to boast and prove his death. But Che’s last words proved their defeat and his victory: “You are only going to kill a man.”

Because Che still lives.

Immortal after his death, protests against Che’s murder at the behest of the U.S. erupted worldwide, from Mexico to Algeria, from Cairo to Calcutta. In France, on Oct. 9, 1967, people demonstrated toward the 1968 general strike and student uprising that brought the country’s economy to a virtual standstill.

In Cuba, a 62-member U.S. delegation declared the Year of the Heroic Guerrilla, beginning the still ongoing travel by Cubans and Africa to Latin America and Cuba internationalist missions originating in Che’s example.

Fifty years later, murals of Che and his words still inspire people in the U.S., from Los Angeles to Chicago to an obscure side street in Syracuse, N.Y.

Bourgeois writers argue that the millions who wear Che T-shirts, or engrave his name on their bodies or t-shirts, are doing so as a fashion fad or a romantic fantasy. They say people do not really know that Che represents.

A stone-cold answer to that came, amazingly, at a 2016 graduation ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. Documented in social media, a cadet pulled aside his formal uniform vest — and revealed Che’s imprinted face underneath. “We want ... Che lives. How and why?”

Che was an Argentine physician with a lifelong disability, a husband and father, guerrilla leader and military tactical genius, an economist and minister of industries in revolutionary Cuba — and a Marxist-Leninist communist to his dying breath.

At what he said at his end, “You will only kill a man,” those words were imbued with his absolute understanding of the interconnectedness of the worldwide struggle against imperialism and capitalism, which he knew would continue after his death, without fail.

Imprinted on the hearts and minds of those who have come to understand Che’s passionate devotion to the world’s oppressed, best known perhaps in his words: “At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolution is guided by a great feeling. It is the only irrefutable proof that it is possible to think of a genuine internationalist analysis, rooted in Marxist materialist analysis, is equally crucial to understanding his continuing vitality into the 21st century. In 1965, remarks to the Afro-Asian Conference in Algeria, Che said: “There are no borders in this struggle to the death. We cannot be indifferent to what happens anywhere in the world, because a victory by any country over imperialism is our victory.”

From his guerrilla camp in Bolivia, the April before his assassination, Che sent a strong internationalist message to the Tricontinental Solidarity organization in Havana: “We must bear in mind that imperialism is a world system, the last stage of capitalism — and it must be defeated in a world confrontation. The strategic end of this struggle should be the de- struction of imperialism. Our share, the responsibility of the exploited and under- developed of the world, is to eliminate the foundations of imperialism.”

Che lives on in Bolivia. There Manuel Cortez, farming next door to the school where Che was assassinated, said: “It’s like he is alive and with us, like a friend. We say, ‘Che, help us with our work or with this planting, and it always goes well.’” (Knight-Ridder News, Aug. 17, 2004)

Che lives on throughout Africa. There Thomas Sankara, a Marxist revolution- ary, pan-Africanist and president of Burkina Faso, said: “Che Guevara taught us we could dare to have confidence in ourselves, confidence in our abilities. He instilled in us the conviction that strug- gle is our only recourse. ... That is why we say that Che Guevara is also African and Burkineph” (Akiniyemi Adeyeye, “We Are Heirs of the World’s Revolutions: Lessons from Thomas Sankara,” 2010)

The oppressed of the world continue to embrace Che — because Che embraced them in the struggle.

Fidel Castro said on the 40th anniver- sary of Che’s death: “Why did they think that by killing him, they would be closer as a fighter’...? Today he is in every place, wherever there is a just cause to defend.”

Che lives in the works of the great Cub- an poet Nicolás Guillén, as quoted in Granma on Oct. 8:

* We want ... to live like you have died, to live like you live, Che Comandante.

Another outrage lie from Washington: ‘Sonic attack’

By Chris Fry

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ordered the removal of the third-FBI had “notch-Cuban Embassy staff in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 3. Cuban Embassy staff mem- bers were given seven days to leave the country.

This comes after the State Department in September ordered 60 percent of its embassy staff in Havana to return to the U.S. At the same time, it issued a “trav- el advisory” stating that U.S. tourists should not visit Cuba for “safety reasons.”

The idea that agents of a third country, like Russia or North Korea, could ‘lug special ray-gun technology around Havana, aim it at diplomats’ homes and tourist homes undetected and unidentified, and get away with it all,” according to Armstrong, ap- pears equally implausible.

Even the U.S. government admits that, based on “intelligence intercepts” — wiretaps — Cuban officials had no involvement at all with these supposed sonic attacks. In fact, it is U.S. mili- tary and police who have researched and created an array of sonic weapons. Some were used on protesters after the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. “The ones used in Ferguson are called LRAD sound cannons, or Long Range Acoustic Device, to create a very serious crowd control.” (state. com, Aug. 14, 2014)

U.S. imperialism has a long and sordid history of spotters to enable wars and other attacks on countries and people, from Lyndon Johnson’s Gulf of Tonkin “attack” on U.S. warships in Vietnam that never happened to George W. Bush’s “weapons of mass destruction” in Iraq that were never there. Fernando Raves- berg, a leading Cuban columnist, has accused the CIA of creating “an acoustic Mainhe.” The explosion and sinking of the battleship USS Maine in Havana harbor in 1898 was the excuse used by the U.S. to launch a war of colonial expansion and take over Spain’s former colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

“Havana: “We must bear in mind that im-perialism is our victory.”

These measures are all designed by the Trump regime to damage the Cuban econo- my and hurt its people. Visa applications for Cubans living in both the U.S. and Cuba will not be processed, preventing family visits. The gang in Washington obviously hopes to stop U.S. tourists from visiting Cuba, reducing much-needed revenue to a country severely damaged by devastating Hurricane Irma in September.

As an excuse for this outrage, the U.S. government claims that 22 of its diplo- mats, nearly all “intelligence officers” — spies — began suffering from a mys- terious illness just after Trump’s election victory. The supposed symptoms includ- ed dizziness, hearing loss and “cognitive issues.” Providing no material evidence, the U.S. claimed that its diplomats were victims of some kind of “sonic at- tack” from an unknown device used to generate inaudible sound waves into their homes and hotel rooms.

The Cuban government immediately denied they had any attacks on U.S. personnel.

It sharply increased security around the U.S. diplomats’ homes and called for a joint U.S.-Cuban investigation, after launching one of its own. It even invited the FBI to enter Cuba to investigate. The Nation of Oct. 5 reported that a Senate staffer whose office had received classified briefings on the sonic attacks said the FBI had “seen nothing” and was “not even investigat- ing that points to anyone.” In Tillerson’s Sept. 29 statement, the secretary of state conceded that “investigators have been unable to determine who is responsible or what is causing these attacks.”

Continued on the next page
Rally blasts FEMA, demands zero debt for Puerto Rico

By Workers World Boston bureau

A lunchtime crowd gathered outside the JFK Federal Building in Boston’s Government Center Oct. 4 to express strong solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico and outrage over the inadequate — and downright deadly — federal relief efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency following the two devastating hurricanes that hit the island in September.

Rally-goers also raised high the demand to permanently end the Jones Act and cancel all Puerto Rican debt. The Jones Act of 1920 keeps activity in Puerto Rico’s ports under tight U.S. economic control, limiting maritime traffic and especially strangled the inflow of international commerce during times of disaster. The debt crisis, as many who rallied nationwide in coordinated actions could attest to, has been growing more and more critical over the last decade.

On the picket line, organizers chanted into bullhorns, “Puerto Rico, no se vende!” The crowd responded, “Puerto Rico, se defiende!” (“Puerto Rico, not for sale. Defend Puerto Rico!”)

The rally was organized by VanossPR, a national coalition of labor and community groups dedicated to coordinated efforts that address the needs and struggles of those living in Puerto Rico.

Union locals sent representatives to the rally, including Service Employees Union Local 521B, Building and Janito-

ry Workers; UNITE-HERE Local 26; Hotel and Restaurant Employees; United Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers; among others. Labor activist Olivia Figueroa-Duran held his Puerto Rican national baseball team hat proudly in the air as he spoke to the crowd: “The vultures have been circling Puerto Rico for decades, and in 2006 the country went into a downward spiral of economic depression. They de-

stroyed the Puerto Rican economy. They forced the island government to sell its schools and close hospitals — people have been dying before Hurricane Maria because of the big banks and the vulture funds.”

Individuals and community groups from the Puerto Rican diaspora in New England, which goes beyond Boston, turned out as well. Many expressed spir-

ited anger toward the federal government for its neglect of their families and loved ones back home and vowed to continue struggling to defend Puerto Rico safety and sovereignty.

Sonic pretext vs. Cuba

Continued from page 1

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez unleashed strong criticism of the alleged incidents or the causes or origin of the health conditions reported by the U.S. official who spoke to reporters on Tuesday, calling them ‘science fiction’ and ‘empty rhetoric.” (miamiherald.com, Oct. 3)

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Carmen Yulín Cruz, mayor of San Juan, was doubtful about the government’s official death-toll figure of 16. She spoke to dozens of doctors, adminis-

trators, museum directors and funeral di-

rectors and, after going public, finally got Puerto Rico’s public safety secretary to confirm that there have been dozens more deaths than the official statistic reflects.

Omaya Sosa Pascual, a presenter with the Center for Investigative Journalism in San Juan, was doubtful about the gov-

ernment’s official death-toll figure of 16. She spoke to dozens of doctors, adminis-

trators, museum directors and funeral di-

rectors and, after going public, finally got Puerto Rico’s public safety secretary to confirm that there have been dozens more deaths than the official statistic reflects.

Susa Pascual was told: “[T]he dead are at the hospital morgues, which are at capacity, and in remote places where the government has yet to go. In many cases, families are unaware of the deaths.” (vox.com, Oct. 3) The brother of a friend of this writer flew to the island to search in the mountains for their parents, but have not been heard from.

Initially power was knocked out of al-

most all hospitals, leading to life-threat-

ening emergencies. Those facilities that are now running on generators have seri-

ous issues due to lack of fuel distribution. These days, just about every interaction within health care systems involves elec-

tricity, including hemodialysis machines and ventilators.

No electricity means no power to pump water into homes, no water to bathe or flush toilets. On Sept. 30, FEMA reported that only 45 percent of people have access to clean, potable water in their homes.

Stranglehold of U.S. banks

In May, Puerto Rico, which has a $70 billion economy, declared bankruptcy. It has since been trying to restructure more

than $70 billion in debt. The island’s fi-

nances are currently controlled by a fed-

eral board, which has made just $1 billion available for relief.

Just before Maria struck, a horrific austerity plan for Puerto Rico, which would plunge many more people into poverty, was imposed on the people. Part of it includes the privatization of state en-

tities such as the PR Electric Power Au-

thority, especially its electricity-gener-

ating capacity, which produces the most profits. (Workers World, Oct. 4)

Certain U.S. policies have contributed to Puerto Rico’s economic deterioration.

One of them is the Jones Act, an anti-

quated law that forces Puerto Ricans to pay nearly double for U.S. goods through various tariffs, fees and taxes. The act stipulates that any goods shipped from one U.S. port to another must be on U.S.-made-and-operated ships.

Other Caribbean islands are going through similar crises after being hit by hurricanes Maria and Irma. The island of Barbuda has been completely aban-

doned, and residents still can’t return home. Twenty-seven people died in Dom-

inica. (vox.com, Oct. 3)

Ninety percent of the 100,000 res-

idents of the U.S. Virgin Islands are without power and drinkable water. The airport and only hospital were badly damaged.

In Puerto Rico, Gov. Ricardo Roselló

lo issued a blanket moratorium on pub-

lic rent payments until January 2018. A spokesman for the Virgin Islands Ter-

ritorial Emergency Management Agency, however, said no such arrangement was in place there. (theguardian.com, Oct. 8)
Por Deirdre Griswold

Primero vino la devastación de los huracanes Harvey en Houston e Irma en Florida. Ahora, un desastre aún más terrible se desarrolla en Puerto Rico y en el Caribe. Los viejos planes para la evacuación de una ciudad nuclear, de aparato estatal más grande y caro del mundo, han dejado un organismo gubernamental preparado supuestamente para manejar desastres –la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias. Fracaso en 2005 después de que el huracán Katrina golpeara Nueva Orleans, ha tenido 12 años para mejorar.

¿Por qué no lo ha hecho?

La verdad es que FEMA nunca fue establecida para mitigar los efectos de los desastres naturales. Originalmente fue una agencia diseñada para coordinar la evacuación del gobierno de Estados Unidos en caso de una guerra nuclear.

Y eso era todavía una gran parte del presupuesto de FEMA, según una exposición muy detallada de la agencia, “El Secreto Historia de FEMA” (“La historia secreta de FEMA”), de Garrett M. Graffe, (Wired, 3 de septiembre).

Herramienta de la Guerra Fría

Creada originalmente bajo la presión de la Guerra Fría, hasta como la Administración Federal de Defensa Civil, fue renombrada en 1979 y eventualmente terminó como parte del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional en 2003. Sus planes secretos para la “continuidad” del gobierno debían ser minimizados una vez que se convirtió en responsable de hacer frente a los desastres naturales.

Sin embargo, “La mayoría de su financiamiento y un tercio de su fuerza de trabajo de hecho estaba escondida en el presupuesto negro clasificado de la nación. El enfoque real de la agencia y su presupuesto real era conocido por sólo 20 miembros del Congreso”. FEMA todavía mantiene “un bunker en las Montañas Blue Ridge como una pequeña cosa. Este no. El próximo año, el huracán Katriona golpeó Nueva Orleans, y el gobierno federal demostró que era enteramente desprevenido para responder a este catástrofico desastre.

‘Continuidad’ de la opresión de clase

Graffe escribe que “hoy, FEMA está más allá de las decenas de millones de programas de continuidad- la parte no secreta de ese presupuesto es de alrededor $300 millones al año. El Monte Weather, cuyos costos anuales de operaciones son más de $30 millones al año, está en medio de lo que FEMA llama “una importante actualización de infraestructura” para reemplazar la vieja infraestructura, corregir los elementos de vida/seguridad, mejorar la TI y desarrollar una instalación más resistente capaz de apoyar la tecnología del siglo XXI y los actuales requisitos del departamento de operaciones y agencias federales”.

“Los ‘programas de continuidad’ están destinados a proteger a los funcionarios en la Casa Blanca y el Congreso, así como a los principales jefes militares en cualquier situación en que la capacidad para ser reasignada se vea amenazada.”

FEMA es una agencia casi-civil, pero está totalmente integrada con el ejército. Cuando ocurre un desastre, no existe una verdadera infraestructura civil para hacer frente a las consecuencias mortales.

En cambio, en un país socialista como Cuba, el pueblo se organiza bloque por bloque para ayudarse mutuamente cuando un huracán golpea y el gobierno provee transporte para evacuar a quienes están a lo largo de la costa.

Pero las/os trabajadores y las/os pobres en las zonas afectadas de los Estados Unidos están por su cuenta. Cuando ocurre un desastre, no existe una verdadera infraestructura civil para hacer frente a las consecuencias mortales.

En el caso de las vidas de los/piezas del pueblo, las/os negros son deshumanizadas diariamente. El movimiento de Las Vidas Negras Importan refleja el hecho de que cuando se trata de discriminación racial por parte de la policía o vigilantes, las vidas negras y mayores se pierden en manera drástica.

Cuando dos huracanes golpean Puerto Rico en un periodo de dos días, devastando virtualmente toda la isla y dejando a las/os residentes por poca o ninguna agua portable, electricidad, suministro de alimentos, Trump accedió a la alcaldeza de San Juan, Carmen Yulín Cruz, de tener un “pobre liderazgo”. Esto fue después de que ella amonestó a su administración por no responder inmediatamente a la crisis de 3,4 millones de ciudadanas/os estadounidenses. Cerca de 60 vidas se han perdido hasta la fecha en Puerto Rico y probablemente muchas más, muchas más, se pierden a la falta de medicamentos y otros tipos de carencias.

Días después de que el huracán María azotara Puerto Rico, Trump visitó la isla por un día, el 3 de octubre. Después de afirmar que visitaría otro territorio estadounidense destruido por el huracán, las Islas Vírgenes que tiene población predominantemente negra, decidió no visitarlas.

En contraste, Trump estaba programado para visitar Las Vegas, donde las víctimas de la masacre eran en su mayoría blancas, el 4 de octubre, apenas tres días después de que el huracán golpeara el continente. Cuando Trump estuvo en suelo estadounidense en la historia reciente, se espera que colonos de la Isla Inmenso se enfurezcan con el gobierno.

La verdad es que FEMA nunca estuvo diseñada para proteger a los pobres en las zonas afectadas de los Estados Unidos. Muchos dicen que las armas son un problema social cuando en realidad, el capitalismo –un sistema que depende de la violencia y de poder sobre las vidas humanas– es el verdadero problema que debería erradicarse.