Sexist predator or drone predator?

Vote with your feet

By Teresa Gutierrez

Oct. 10 — This decade of an election process is unprecedented, bizarre and absurd. And it is also dangerous.

Analysis of the latest election scandals and the latest debate uproar can tell us more about how to go forward when one of these two “predator” capitalist candidates is elected.

On Oct. 7, the Washington Post published a 2005 video in which today’s presidential candidate Donald Trump, at that time the reality show host of “The Apprentice,” can be heard making the most obscene, vulgar comments about women. That opened up a “shitstorm” for the Trump candidacy.

This past weekend the elections tragically came down to voting for either a “sexist predator” or a “drone predator.” A racist buffoon or a war hawk. A misogynist, corrupt idiot or a corrupt Wall Street lackey. A billionaire rogue thief or a billionaire establishment thief.

This scandal is another example that the two parties of the capitalist system are in crisis. The Republican Party is imploding. The Democratic Party had to resort to corruption to get its nominee in place, including shutting opponent Bernie Sanders out of funding and support.

Neither party can produce legitimate leaders because they represent an illegitimate system.

Trump’s bus a bust

Action in the just-released video took place on an Access Hollywood bus in 2005. A host of the show, Billy Bush — kinfolk to former Presidents Bush — can also be heard on the tape, going along with Trump, laughing lasciviously.

The lewd comments Trump made are not printable; they are so offensive. Women’s body parts are referred to as open season for Trump as he declares that because he is a “celebrity, he can kiss” or “grab” anything he wants and “get away with it.”

Trump’s comments amount to coarse verbal sexual assaults and to the gross objectification of women. Trump believes women are his property, second-class citizens that he can say or do anything to that he wants. His words then and his demeanor now speak volumes about unbridled white, straight, male privilege.

Imagine what might happen if a Black man had been caught saying such words. At the least his career would be over. He could end up in jail, or even worse.

The exposure created an immediate firestorm. Trump’s campaign was called into question. Republicans jumped ship in large numbers, and over 20 elected officials and other prominent Republicans withdrew their endorsement over the weekend. Both Trump and his vice presidential nominee were disinvited from a Wisconsin Republican event that included Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House.

On Oct. 10, Ryan basically disavowed Trump, saying

Continued on page 5
In answer to new court ruling
Standing Rock resistance continues

By Sara Flounders

Indigenous Peoples Day is an answer to the offen-
sive Columbus Day holiday that glorifies the European
conquest of the Americas. This year Oct. 10 was a day of
new arrests of the heroic Standing Rock resistance to
the Dakota Access Pipeline, being built by Energy Trans-
fer Partners to transport half a million barrels of oil
da day across four states. Solidarity actions were also held
across the country.

On Oct. 9, a U.S. court, in clear violation of signed treat-
as, had ruled once again in support of corporate power
and against Indigenous nations.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
Circuit rejected the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s motion for
a permanent injunction to stop the $3.8 billion pipeline.
The Missouri River flows through the Standing Rock Sioux
People’s Day once again exposed the criminal rule of state
power to protect the ruthless capitalist drive for profits.
The courts, police and U.S. military performed as they
historically, using military, removal, and abuse of the
people, themselves legislation, and racist policing.

Some 27 people were arrested after confrontations at
construction sites on Indigenous Peoples Day. The arrests
included “Snowden” film co-star Shailene Woodley, who
was charged with “trespassing.” About 300 protesters
were at the construction site when the arrests were made.

The court battle continues and determined resistance
doit to find a way forward.

Courts vs. Native rights

In an effort to push through the pipeline, the courts
given it fast-track approval in July. But then thou-
sands of Indigenous resistors and their allies, using di-
rect action and peaceful protest, put a stop to the encamp-
ment building on the banks of the Missouri River.

But on Oct. 9, the court reversed itself and refused a
permanent injunction. Fearful of growing support for the
resistance, the court also left open a way to reverse its
decision. The ruling acknowledged it was “not the final word,”
noting that the final decision lay with the U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers. This body is notorious for using its authority
over vast construction projects to benefit corporate power.

The Missouri River is the main water source for the
Lakota Sioux Nation at Standing Rock and for millions of
people in four states. Corporate pressure to protect capi-
talist profit has again and again been considered more
important than protecting the land, water and treaty rights
of Indigenous First Peoples.

The largest U.S. banks, such as Bank of America, are be-

The fight to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline is a strug-
gle for Native sovereignty and the right to control Indi-
nogenous land, water and other natural resources. The resis-
tance organized at Standing Rock is also defense of
pure water as a human right of all peoples.

Cheyenne River Sioux community organizer Joyce Braun
explained: “The dangers imposed by the greed of big oil on
the people who live along the Missouri River is astounding.
When this proposed pipeline breaks, as the various broken
pipelines do, over half the drinking water in South Dakota
will be affected. ... It must be stopped.” (lakotavoice.com)

Resistance and solidarity events continue under the
banner of “NoDAPL.” Flounders visited Standing Rock in September as part of a solidarity delegation of the Workers World Party election campaign.

— In the U.S.

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Harvard U. strike! Trying to survive capitalism

By Phoebe Eckefeldt
Cambridge, Mass.

It was 5 a.m. on Oct. 5 and Harvard University Dining Services workers were already marching on a strike picket line, rather than serving up eggs and bacon on a cafeteria breakfast line. The workers, many of them immigrants, half of them people of color, are going toe-to-toe with an elite Ivy League university with a $7.57 billion endowment to supply adequate and affordable health care to its workers.

At one of the rallies, a HUWS worker with Type 2 diabetes said she has a hard time even now, affording her insulin and testing supplies. If her insurance goes up, she could suffer kidney failure or a heart attack.

Harvard Medical School students backed up the workers In a StatNews op-ed, saying the university’s attack on workers’ health insurance is a matter of life and death: “As physicians in training, we cannot stand by as the world’s richest university forces its most vulnerable employees to choose between dinner and a doctor’s visit.”

A member of the Racial Justice Coalition at Harvard Medical School, Durshali Vyas, told the press, “We now also know that more than half of HUWS workers identify as people of color — a level of diversity not reflected elsewhere at the University — and that many of these workers represent minority and immigrant families living in Boston. Protecting their access to pay and insurance is intimately tied to racial justice.”

The cuts proposed by Harvard are anti-LGBTQ,” asserted Ted Waechter in his article, “The HUWS Strike Is No Gay,” in the student Crimson newspaper. He explained: “The proposed co-pay increases would devastate queer and trans workers in particular. When we make healthcare unaffordable, we keep queer and trans people from accessing gender-affirming treatments, like hormone therapy and gender confirmation surgery.”

Local 26 HUWS workers fought for and won other country’s first “pay parity” contract agreement for workers to choose between dinner and a doctor’s visit.

The next day, Oct. 6, close to a thousand workers and allies marched again, this time through Harvard Yard in a half-mile trek, banging drums and roaring with an elite Ivy League university with a 1.87 billion endowment to supply adequate and affordable health care to its workers.

The city of Milwaukee was used as a laboratory in the late 1980s and early 1990s to implement charter and voucher schools. It is now a majority Black and Brown city. Like Chicago and Detroit, the city is facing increasing racist attacks from a right-wing governor and a legisla-
Solidarity with migrants at U.S./Mexico border

By Monica Moorehead
Nogales, Ariz.

A U.S./Mexico Border Convergence took place Oct. 7-10 at Nogales, a city in both Arizona and the Mexican state of Sonora. Organized by the School of Americans Watch, the convergence promoted solidarity with migrants, who face many forms of violent repression when poverty and other conditions in their home countries force them to cross the border into the U.S.

Much of this repression comes from the racist U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, which has been given the green light by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to beat, imprison and kill migrants who attempt to cross the border into the U.S.

A statement from the organizers of the convergence read: “Over the past 26 years, SOA Watch has grown from a handful of people into one of the most dynamic multi-generational, cross-continental movements against militarization in the Americas. Millions have been educated and mobilized to take a stand against U.S. policies and to engage in nonviolent direct action. New layers of activists are joining the movement.

“The militarization of the border means the expansion of U.S. military strategies across the Americas. To speak of the border means naming the root causes of migration, as well as policies that criminalize and exploit communities of color inside and outside the United States. Today, we say enough!”

For many years, the SOA Watch protests took place in Fort Benning, Ga., attracting thousands of activists to oppose the U.S. military training there of Latin American troops from various countries to disrupt and destroy popular movements for liberation.

On Oct. 7, a vigil took place in front of the notorious immigrant detention center in Eloy, Ariz. The names of many immigrants who have suffered brutal deaths inside the center were read out loud. The next day, Oct. 8, Veterans for Peace led a march of hundreds to the border, where a rally with speakers and cultural performances took place. Marchers went between Nogales in Mexico and Nogales in Arizona. The two are really one city that has been separated by an ominous iron fence about 650 miles long and almost 30 feet high. Various workshops took place following the march in Nogales.

On Oct. 9, a vigil and rally took place at the border both to remember those who have lost their lives trying to cross over and to celebrate the resistance.

The U.S. Border Patrol admits that 6,000 human remains have been found in the southwest section of the border since 1998. That was just four years after President Bill Clinton signed the North American Free Trade Act, which destroyed local economies in Mexico and fueled deeper superexploitation of Mexican workers, while eliminating millions of jobs in the U.S. and Canada.

An all-day Indigenous People’s Day festival featuring speeches, spoken word and music is planned in Tucson on Oct. 10 to counter the racist myth of Christopher Columbus “discovering” the Americas.

LEE BOOTH 1932-2016
A woman warrior and internationalist

By Debbie Johnson and Cheryl LaBash
Detroit

Lee Booth was an eloquent, staunch and firm anti-racist and anti-Zionist. Whenever Zionist speakers appeared at the University of Michigan, she participated in demonstrations against them.

The lead poisoning of thousands of Flint, Mich., residents was the most recent cause that brought Lee out to protest, even after she sustained a stroke. She demonstrated outside the home of Rick Snyder, the racist Michigan governor who was responsible for the Flint catastrophe.

Lee was an eloquent, staunch and firm anti-racist and anti-Zionist. Whenever Zionist speakers appeared at the University of Michigan, she participated in demonstrations against them.

Content to be in the ranks, Lee’s leadership qualities and understanding of the class struggle were plain to see whenever she joined the struggle that was most important at the moment. She brought wisdom, understanding, determination and sensitivity to every activity in which she participated.

The Detroit branch presented Lee with the Warrior Woman award in 2013 in appreciation for her commitment to WWP and the struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

The Detroit branch of Workers World Party — and the whole party — recently lost comrade Lee Booth of Ypsilanti, Mich., whose spirit of commitment was exemplified by her 65-year relationship with Phil Booth, her surviving life partner. She died on Sept. 15 at the age of 84.

Lee and Phil together attended demonstrations and meetings for decades supporting Palestine and Cuba and opposing the war in Iraq and other imperialist wars. During that period, Lee also traveled to both Iraq and Cuba in defiance of the imperial sanctions against those countries.

Lee was Content to be in the ranks, Lee’s leadership qualities and understanding of the class struggle were plain to see whenever she joined the struggle that was most important at the moment. She brought wisdom, understanding, determination and sensitivity to every activity in which she participated.

Lee and Phil contributed for more than 30 years to the national Workers World Supporter Program to help publish this newspaper and regularly made financial contributions to the Detroit branch of WWP. They attended meetings there, although they had to travel for an hour to get to the office.

Lee Booth is an example of what it means to be a comrade — and what it is to join in the fight to build a Workers World. Lee Booth, iPreserve!
Representing 92 million workers

World unions meet in South Africa

By Martha Grevatt
Durban, South Africa

The 17th Congress of the World Federa-
tion of Trade Unions, held in Durban, South Africa from Oct. 7 to Oct. 8, drew over 1,500 militant unionists from over 100 countries on five continents. “Class-oriented” unionism, anti-cap-
italism and the need for socialism were stressed by speaker after speaker. Over 100 union leaders from every corner of the globe took the floor.

The theme of its 17th congress, “Strug-
gle, Internationalism, Unity,” showed the WFTU’s differences with another feder-
ation of white anti-struggle-oriented Inter-
national Trade Union Congress.

Many key struggles were represented, including the 180-million-strong general strike in India this September, the resist-
tance to the coup regime in Brazil and the continuing fight for labor and student rights in the Middle East.

Hundred of delegates from the Congress of South African Trade Unions — co-host of the Congress — energized the meeting by spontaneously bursting into song be-
tween speeches, sharing the revolutionary spirit of the heroic fight against apartheid.

On Oct. 8, COSATU and WFTU rallied together at Coca-Cola Park, to vote on the site where COSATU was founded in 1985. A monument to labor was erected, bearing the COSATU emblem and the slogan “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

COSATU held a nationwide general strike the day before. “We say to capital, ‘You are the loser,’” a spokesperson for COSATU said.

The WFTU, founded in 1945, is the world’s oldest trade union federation still in existence. It has grown since its last congress in Athens five years ago, with member unions now representing 92 million workers combined, up from 74 million. “Unions are real schools for the working class,” said WFTU Secre-
tary-General George Mavrikos at the fi-
nal session.

A more detailed report on the Con-
gress will follow in next week’s WTV.

Sexist predator or drone predator? Vote with your feet

Continued from page 1

he would not campaign for him. Worried about losing the House, Ryan opportu-
nistically advised other Republicans up for re-election to endorse or break from Trump depending on their situations.

NBC’s attempt to suspend Billy Bush after an avalanche of criticism on social media — a victory for women.

There was some speculation that Trump would not only cancel the second presidential debate scheduled for Oct. 9, but withdraw from the race altogether. But there is no stopping Trump. Not at this moment at any rate.

Debate/Debate #2

Political pundit after pundit advised Trump to be humble, to show compassion and empathy to get over the sexism storm.

Trump did just the opposite. In a taped message prior to the debate, he said his words did not reflect his true self. He shockingly added more sexism to the fire as he instead retaliated against Bill Clinton.

Newswoman after newswoman re-

Continued on page 2
Sports protests pummel racism

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Colin Kaepernick’s lone action condemning police brutality against Black people has multiplied into the most widespread mass protest against racism in U.S. sports history. Kaepernick, a San Francisco 49ers quarterback, has refused to stand for the national anthem since Aug. 10. Since then, 59 National Football League players from 13 teams have knelt, lifted a fist or sat down during the anthem. On three teams, all the players, of all nationalities, have either linked arms or held hands to show unity.

By Oct. 7, resistance had sprung up swiftly in other sports and related activities, including soccer, volleyball, swimming, cheerleading and band performances. Fourteen Women’s National Basketball Association players from three teams protested during their playoffs.

Eight men’s National Basketball Association teams, including the world champions Los Angeles Lakers, locked arms in protest. Lakers center Tarik Black said, “There needs to be equality.”

Anthem protests have occurred in at least 44 high schools, 21 colleges and two youth leagues in 34 states in the U.S. and three nations abroad. According to a Guardian database, U.S. police have killed 156 people since Kaepernick’s protest began. Between 20 to 25 percent of these were Black, a number far exceeding the proportion of Black people in the U.S. population.

Racism against the protests has been horrific, so the bravery of those continuing to act must be acknowledged. On Oct. 1, at a game against the University of North Carolina, 19 East Carolina University band members knelt as the national anthem was played. They were booted, spied on and had bottles thrown at them. The school threatened to rescind their scholarships, and a faculty member said the band members’ protest was as unacceptable as a student making a political statement in a classroom.

The ECU student government came to the band members’ support. A hundred students, Black and white, gathered for the Black Student Union’s die-in, complete with Black Power salutes, at the center of campus. Right-wingers are jeering, “Keep politics out of sports.” But many athletes, coaches and even referees have given forceful accounts of being subjected to racist profiling, having guns pulled on them by cops, or losing family and friends to cop killings.

Guard DeMar DeRozan of the Toronto Raptors basketball team has related how a close friend was killed by police recently — shot 17 times.

Big money interests are trying to enforce allegiance to status quo racist “America” as a “condition of employment” on students earning scholarship money through athletic or band performance or on more mature athletes who are formally workers for their “owners.”

Kieran Shanahan, vice chair of ECU trustees, who is leading athletic boosters in a $55 million fund drive, is on the record as saying that band members’ protest was as unacceptable as a student making a political statement in a classroom. (New York Times, Sept. 30)

While the protests roll on. As first-ranked University of Alabama played Kentucky on Oct. 1, about 30 students stuck to their seats in opposition as the anthem played. Alabama has won four of the last seven national college football championships, and protesters faced down over 100,000 fanatic fans in Denny Stadium. In an interview with Crimson White, the UA student newspaper, junior Dwyer Freeman said the action was in solidarity with those “harmed under the flag that’s supposed to represent them.”

HANDS OFF #CHARLOTTEUPRISING!

CharlotteUprising.com

issued the following statement on Sept. 29:

** ** URGENT ACTION NEEDED ** **

We demand an immediate end to repression of demonstrators in Charlotte!

Call/email the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff, Mayor Roberts, Attorney General Roy Cooper and Gov. Pat McCrory:

Jail Liaison Karla Gary:
on phone 980-314-5550;
email Karla.Gary@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Public Information Manager
Anjanette Flowers Grube:
office phone 980-314-5170;
cell phone 704-634-5072;
email AnjanetteGrube@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Mayor Jennifer Roberts:
phone 704-336-2241;
email mayor@charlottenc.gov

Gov. Pat McCrory:
phone 919-787-1870
or 919-733-4240;
email governor.office@governor.ncmail.net

Attorney General Roy Cooper:
phone 919-716-6400;
email info@roycooper.com

Since demonstrations began against the police murder of Keith Lamont Scott, the police in Charlotte have been mass arresting protesters and legal observers, using chemical weapons against them and violating their most basic rights.

Jamil Gill (aka King Millz), who many around the country and the world knows for having been arrested in violent street clashes from the first nights of protest, has been a particular target of police repression ever since the protests began. He was arrested and issued an outrageous bond of $320,000, which the movement fought and got reduced to a still obscene amount of $162,000.

Gill was bonded out on the morning of Sept. 28, and subsequently rearrested by police as he ate lunch! This is a clear attempt to intimidate and harass Gill, and an attempt by the state to silence and create a chilling effect on the rest of the movement.

Florida State University students sit during national anthem, Oct. 8.

Not grasping the concept of academic freedom any better than constitutional freedom of speech, Shanahan also disclosed his bedrock belief that working students were in an “employ at will” status to the university’s big business trustees.

Seattle Seahawks receiver Doug Baldwin recently revealed that at least one owner of an NFL team has fiercely forbidden players on “his” team to protest. In an interview with HBO’s “Any Given Wednesday,” Baldwin said the owner told players, “You’re going to stand on the line with your hand on your heart and you’re going to sing the national anthem because this is my stage.” There is no Black owner of an NFL team.

Corporate media blame the protests for an almost 20 percent decline in NFL viewing ratings this season. Savvy insiders are saying the decline is due to the stranglehold that NFL business heads exert over all aspects of the sport to try to maximize profits.

The widespread protests break with the myth that U.S. “democracy” offers “equal rights for all.” To prop up fading working-class allegiance to dead-end capitalism in the U.S., the Department of Defense has paid millions for pro-game and halftime shows for marching bands and flyovers to 18 NFL teams, eight NBA teams and six NHL teams. The Buffalo Bills received $650,000, while their coach Rex Ryan spouts support for racist, woman-hating Donald Trump.

New York Knicks center Joakim Noah highlighted the connection between U.S. racism and U.S. imperialism in his recent decision not to attend a team dinner at West Point, the U.S. Military Academy, because of his anti-war stance. Noah is on record as supporting Kaepernick’s anti-racist resistance. (New York Times, Sept. 20)

Meanwhile, the protests roll on.

As first-ranked University of Alabama played Kentucky on Oct. 1, about 30 students stuck to their seats in opposition as the anthem played. Alabama has won four of the last seven national college football championships, and protesters faced down over 100,000 fanatic fans in Denny Stadium. In an interview with Crimson White, the UA student newspaper, junior Dwyer Freeman said the action was in solidarity with those “harmed under the flag that’s supposed to represent them.”
By Kris Hamel

From New York to Los Angeles and other cities in between, activists came out on Oct. 4 to show solidarity with the Charlotte Uprising and to echo its demands for justice and an end to racist police brutality and killings.

Many of these actions centered on Bank of America locations, highlighting the role BOA plays as part of the ruling elite in Charlotte, which supports the police in its repression of the people, especially Black and Brown people. The city is known as the “Wall Street of the South.” The latest outrage was the videotaped murder of Keith Lamont Scott by Charlotte cops on Sept. 20 and the ensuing repression of the community that rose up in rebellion after Scott’s killing. The police murder of protester Justin Carr on Sept. 21 intensified the rebellion. Arrest warrants for 95 people have been issued.

People gathered in front of Bank of America in Center City Philadelphia to show solidarity with the Charlotte Uprising. The rally, called by Workers World Party, demanded justice for Scott and Carr, as well as other demands of the Charlotte Uprising. Speaking for WWP, Mike Wilson emphasized the urgency of defending the Charlotte Uprising as well as the growing threat of police repression against Black Lives Matter organizers across the country. Many speakers connected Bank of America’s racism and exploitation to the police murder of Scott and Carr. Activists from the Philly Coalition for REAL Justice and the Brown and Black Workers Collective, as well as other forces, spoke at the spirited rally. Showing their real role in society, the police closed the bank during the protest and brought in hundreds of officers to protect the financial institution.

In Detroit, activists are very familiar with protesting at Bank of America. BOA, along with its former subsidiary Countrywide Loans, was a major predatory lender that caused the destruction of Detroit’s neighborhoods in the subprime mortgage disaster which began in earnest in 2007. This deliberately racist scheme targeted Black and Latinx homeowners, women and seniors across the country. Detroit lost one-quarter of its residents because of the actions of BOA and other financial institutions. The Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs; MECAWI (Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Imposition of Sanctions); and Fight Imperialism, Stand Together called the protest and demanded BOA stop its support of racist killer cops.

Charlotte Uprising. The protest was coverage by the Times Herald, the local newspaper, causing a racist backlash from many readers. The youth vow to remain strong.

With only hours’ notice, Buffalo, N.Y., activists gathered to show support for Charlotte prizing protesters and to demand justice for Scott, Carr and the ever-growing number of those murdered by police. The demonstration was held in front of Bank of America in the city’s busiest shopping area. Cars swarmed almost continuously in solidarity as the group chanted, “No justice, no peace, no racist police!” and handed out leaflets on the repression of Charlotte protesters and BOA’s role. Activists reported the protest received good television coverage on Time Warner Cable News.

In downtown Roanoke, Va., mostly Black and Brown youth protested at City Market. Standing their ground against continual police harassment, youth hoisted a banner declaring “Roanoke to Charlotte: Stop Killing Black People.” Numerous passersby joined the protest.

During demonstrations on Sept. 21, the police attacked. Protesters say the police killed Justin Carr, a 26-year-old Black man. Continuing their targeting of Black and Brown people, and with a total lack of transparency, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is falsely accusing Raquan Borum for Carr’s death.

The authorities have continued to violate arrestees’ legal rights in several ways: by instructing the National Guard and police to blockade the jail — at least three times since the uprising began — to prevent the release of arrestees whose bond was paid; by using Bogus excuses like fire drills, “suspicious packages,” and even characterizing the jail solidarity team gathering at the jail as a “protest” in order to lock down the jail for hours; and by intentionally delaying the release of arrestees.

They have not published arrestees’ names online, impeding our ability to provide them legal support.

**After Charlotte Uprising**

**Solidarity activists focus on Bank of America**

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They have not published arrestees’ names online, impeding our ability to provide them legal support.

**We need you to call and email the jail, Charlotte and state officials, and demand that they stop violating arrestees’ rights!**

Script for call or email:

*Hello ___________________. My name is ___________________ and I am a resident of ___________________. Can I speak to ___________________? I am calling to demand that you stop the repression of demonstrators in Charlotte. We demand an end to the attacks on Jamil Gill! Stop the arrests of all protesters! We demand an independent investigation of the killing of Keith L. Scott and of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept! We demand that you stop purposefully obstructing the release of arrestees! We demand that all the charges against those who have been arrested be dropped!*

**Hands off #CharlotteUprising!**

The whole world is watching. We won’t stop until our demands are met and the people get justice!
By Cheryl LaBash

Oct. 10 — Category 4 Hurricane Matthew swept north from Haiti and smashed into the easternmost tip of Cuba’s Guantánamo province on Oct. 4. Photos from the coastal municipalidad of Baracoa, Cuba’s oldest Spanish colonial settlement dating from 1511, show buildings without roofs, streets clogged with chunks of collapsed walls and other debris.

The violent seas pushed in huge rocks that blocked the roads to the smallest of the 1,000 or so classified as “inhabitants of imperial, San Antonio del Sur, Yateras, Cajabobo, Maisi and Moa in neighboring Holguín province. Winds desolated hillside, removing all trees. High winds and rain destroyed crops. The storm left only 50 feet of the critical 200-foot bridge over the Tora River.

The damage in Baracoa looked catastrophic, but as of Oct. 10, no deaths have been reported on the island. Despite the fact that it still suffers from a U.S.-imposed economic blockade, Cuba’s preparation for Hurricane Matthew vividly demonstrates the superiority of organizing society on socialist principles.

In socialist Cuba, extensive pre-storm preparations aimed at prioritizing the protection of human life and consciously coordinated both personal and socialized economic resources. The residents of the affected area were confident they would be secure and would have plenty of water and solidarity both to confront the terrifying storm and rebuild after it passed.

By going door-to-door as well as making announcements from sound trucks, those organizing the evacuation convinced residents of the danger from the approaching hurricane. Then they helped those who were evicted from their homes and sent out personal outreach reinforced the messages Cuban meteorological scientists broadcast on television and radio.

Donations needed — give to Haiti-affiliated groups

As the Red Cross actively solicits donations, many Haitian groups and professionals in the U.S. feel they have been underserved. But many organizations, many Haitian groups and professionals, have not been contacted. The Gates Foundation has been implicated in a Big Pharma scandal over shoddy. The Gates Foundation has been also a supporter in the 1996, not including the 2010 earthquake.

The storm left only 50 feet of the critical 200-foot bridge over the Tora River. The damage in Baracoa looked catastrophic, but as of Oct. 10, no deaths have been reported on the island. By going door-to-door as well as making announcements from sound trucks, those organizing the evacuation convinced residents of the danger from the approaching hurricane. Then they helped those who were evicted from their homes and sent out personal outreach reinforced the messages Cuban meteorological scientists broadcast on television and radio.

The U.S. and France, both rich imperialist powers, were never built or were constructed to be done to “re-establish electrical service, communications and other essentials for the population, to provide water and food, these are the priorities at this stage, then we can take care of the responsibility of each labor collective. The other task these 380,000 evacuees to Pensacola, Fla. The 61 re-

Cuba reinforced its 648 medical and other professional services serving in Haiti with the deployment of an additional 38 members of the Henry Reeve International Contingent of doctors who specialize in disaster situations and serious epidemics. At Guantánamo Bay, the U.S. illegally occupies a naval base that is the site of its notorious torture center and prison. The U.S. military evacuated 500 family members and pets to Pensacola, Fla. The 61 re-

The overall death total is likely to be double or more than what has been reported so far. The Haitian government is using a slow, cumbersome procedure for registering deaths; it only accepts a death caused by Hurricane Matthew if the body is examined by an official. Since large areas of Haiti are still cut off from accessible information, the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency satellite imagery shows that the southwestern census tract is inundated by water, food and fuel reserves for a minimum of 10 days, as well as other supplies such as flashlights, candles, matches and phone credit, in order to re-

There are clear signs that the U.S. is implementing a campaign to legitimate the natural disaster in order to encourage the panic that is being orchestrated against the people and their government. (www.francesvinfo.fr)

The U.S. and France, both rich imperialist powers, were never built or were constructed to be done to “re-establish electrical service, communications and other essentials for the population, to provide water and food, these are the priorities at this stage, then we can take care of the responsibility of each labor collective. The other task these 380,000 evacuees to Pensacola, Fla. The 61 re-

Cuba’s international medical brigades also serve in island nations impacted by Hurricane Matthew. According to an Oct. 5 article in Gramma International, the person responsible for the brigades at the Health Ministry confirmed that a hurricane watch had been issued and “close communication has been maintained every six hours with the heads of the medical brigades” in Haiti, the Bahamas and Jamaica.

The health ministry updates the briga
gade members’ families in Cuba as well as keeping brigade members informed of the impact of the storm and recovery in the affected parts of Cuba.

Dr. Regla Angulo Pardo, director of the health ministry, “noted that every single collective has been contacted, all of whom have water, food and fuel reserves for a minimum of 10 days, as well as other supplies such as flashlights, candles, matches and phone credit, in order to re-

No one abandoned

In Ciego de Avila province, some 700 electrical and telecommunication line workers were busy bringing equipment and supplies into the hurricane-damaged area. In the aftermath of the storm, the olive-green-club Revolutionary Armed Forces cleared the impassable highways. Raúl Castro returned again on Oct. 9 to personally meet with the people of Baracoa, observe the damage and reconstruction underway, and evaluate the need for further assistance. The revolutionary government has reduced the price of commercial and agricultural products and personal outreach reinforced the messages Cuban meteorological scientists broadcast on television and radio.

In a time of crisis.

The people of Fanmi Lavalas are also accepting donations through its website. Fanmi Lavalas is also accepting donations through its website.
**Washington’s solution to conflict in Syria**

**Threaten world with bigger bigger war**

By Joe Mchahwar

Oct. 10 — With the last few weeks of intense escalation of its genocidal war against Syria’s sovereignty, the U.S. military has crossed the Rubicon. This transition began Sept. 17 as U.S.-led coalition airstrikes massacred 59 Syrian soldiers who had seized a hill in the eastern province of Deir ez-Zur, held by the so-called Islamic State group (IS) for well over a year. It was reported that within minutes a ground offensive by IS against the position was underway.

The U.S. bombing aided IS.

The Sept. 17 air raid came five days into a ceasefire brokered by the U.S. and Russia. Less than 48 hours after this provocation, the ceasefire was set to enter a new phase of cooperation between the U.S. and Russia in fighting the reaction- ary opposition group. Then on Sept. 27-28, the U.S.-led coalition bombed two bridges spanning the Euphrates River in Deir ez-Zur.

The Sept. 17 raid made two things abundantly clear to the world: The Pentagon directly supports IS in a bid to destabilize Syria, and Washington has no interest in any diplomatic solution.

Though this attack marked the true end of the ceasefire, a humanitarian aid convoy was bombed two days later. Washington hastily blamed that on Russia and accused Moscow of sabotaging the ceasefire. Russian officials deny these allegations and publicly stated that the U.S. is directly supporting terrorism in Syria.

The United States claimed the strikes against Syrian soldiers were unintentional, but simultaneously renewed its call for the destruction of the Syrian state.

**Syrian offensive**

Following the collapse of the ceasefire, the Syrian army and its allies have embarked on a new offensive across the nation with help from Russian airstrikes. The focal point of this push has been Aleppo, Syria’s largest city, which has been torn between the government and reactionary terrorist groups for four years.

Aleppo is a stronghold of the al-Nusra Front, the al-Qaeda branch in Syria. Washington denounces the Syrian army’s attacks against the al-Nusra Front, claiming that the “moderate” opposition fighters need time to separate from al-Nusra. U.S. spokespeople stipulate this precondition for an agreement, without specifying who having taken responsibility for their separation from al-Nusra Front terrorists as part of a peace process.

Aleppo has also become the crux of the U.S. media propaganda campaign against the Syrian state. Every day in the corporate media someone sheds crocodile tears for Aleppo and falsely portrays the situation as Syria jets bombing “civilians” and “freedom fighters” starving for democracy. Meanwhile, Washington can’t name a single such group on the ground except for the phantom “Free Syrian Army.”

**U.S.-Russia confrontation?**

Russia has doubled down on its public commitment to Syrian sovereignty. Moscow deployed 3,000 air defense systems in Syria following the end of the ceasefire and said Russia will not hesitate to use them against any aircraft threatening Syrian or Russian soldiers. On Oct. 7 the Russian State Duma unanimously approved an agreement between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation allowing the indefinite deployment of Russia’s air force in Syria.

The U.S. State Department’s open threats against the Syrian state have led to a new level of brinkmanship with Russia.

Many analysts ask if recent Syrian offensives with Russia’s help aim at capturing key territories before the next U.S. presidential taken office. Even if this isn’t the case, the Syrians are clearly trying to beat the clock of Pentagon war preparations.

**Turkey’s role**

Under the radar of most corporate media, on Oct. 1 the parliament of NATO member Turkey, Syria’s northern neighbor, extended its mandate allowing the Turkish army to send ground troops into Syria. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a row. Turkey has played a key role in the destabilization of Syria by facilitating training, border crossing, oil trade and many other services to the reactionary terrorists, with IS as the key beneficiary.

In spite of this role, the Turkish regime claims to be in Syria to fight IS. But the Turkish army has mainly targeted the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which carries on an armed struggle in defense of the Kurdish people and which has been among the strongest fighters against IS.

Turkey’s contradictory role in Syria has led to bickering within Turkish society, causing instability and threatening civil war. Turkey has been plagued by terrorist attacks, apparently by IS, within its borders. And the Turkish army has taken ethnically Kurdish areas in the southeast of the Turkish state with brutal destruction.

Complicating this further, a failed coup in Turkey in July was followed by massive purges of public institutions, with tens of thousands of soldiers and government workers arrested. Further steps to partition the war-torn Syrian nation have the potential to bring both states toppling down — and perhaps others.

**Role of anti-war movement**

Above all else right now, it is imperative that anti-war activists around the world defend Syria’s sovereignty in the face of this heightened aggression from the United States. The world can expect new escalations of U.S.-backed forces on the ground in Syria, along with sophisticated propaganda campaigns in corporate and social media.

While the Syrian state faces this unprecedented colonial onslaught from Western powers, their allies and proxies, it is the duty of anti-war activists in the United States to expose U.S. imperialism’s role and stand firmly in solidarity with Syria’s self-determination.

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**Eyewitness Syria**

**U.S., Saudi Arabia systematically destroy’**

By Gene Clancy

Rochester, N.Y.

Anti-war activists and their supporters packed the Shaw Room of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester for a reading of a powerful refutation of the propaganda barrage being conducted by the U.S. and its allies against Syria.

This past July, Judith Bello, a longtime peace activist in the upstate New York city of Rochester, N.Y. By Gene Clancy

This past July, Judith Bello, a longtime peace activist in the upstate New York city of Rochester, N.Y.

Bello’s report focused on illegal U.S. trade sanctions against Syria, which are very much like the embargo placed on Cuba. In both cases, they damage the people’s living conditions. Washington and its NATO allies impede these sanctions as part of their attempt to cut off regime change.

Excluded from the international banking system, Syria finds it impossible to trade. Its factories cannot obtain raw materials, food, and medical supplies is a challenge.

Still, despite the devastation caused by the war, the Syrian government continues to struggle to provide its citizens with free medical care and education as well as food subsidies.

An important focus for the Syrian government is a reconciliation agency which tries to rescue Syrians trapped in territory controlled by the terrorists, offering them amnesty, security and economic aid.

Bello contrasted the Syrian government’s efforts with those of groups like the so-called White Helmets, which are tools of U.S. policy. Contrary to their claims of being “independent” and “neutral,” the White Helmets cooperate with terrorist groups and have received over $200 million in support from the U.S., Britain, Netherlands and various overseas billionaires.

Bello’s talk was followed by a question-and-answer period which was both informative and positive. Basmeh Addar, a local Palestinian, thanked Bello for her trip and report, and reminded everyone that the U.S. and the Zionist state of Israel are directly responsible for the war in Syria.

The Oct. 4 meeting was co-sponsored by Workers World Party, the International Action Center, the Rochester Peace Action Team and the Downtown Presbyterian Church Peace Action Team and U.S. State Department. At an event called “Without Victory” and “Of War and Victory.”

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*By Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”


Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

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Colombian plebiscite: a dangerous detour to peace

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Colombia’s Oct. 2 plebiscite rejecting the FARC-EP-PACT that calls for distribution of land to small peasants and compensation to the criminal responsible for massacres, drug trafficking, illegal phone tapping, diverse groups of people who are afraid of the impact on their businesses of the Final Agreement. What impacts them is the part of the Agrarian Reform that is the FARC negotiation will have to be battled in the shops, schools, hospitals, plants and streets.

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Innominate move

By Chris Fry

On a Sunday after church in 1946, a Nacy commodore met with the people of Bikini Atoll and told them they were like the Israelis, a chosen people, and that perfecting the atomic bomb would deliver humankind from future wars. Within one month of that conversation, Bikini- bards used ships for relocation. Within five months, the two tests had been conducted. “This time we put some on Earth that hadn’t been touched by the war and blew it to hell,” Bob Hope reportedly once said. (washingtonpost. com, Nov. 27)

Bikini Atoll is a string of islands in the territory of the Marshall Islands – a na- tion in the Pacific Ocean of some 55,000 Polynesian people. The thriving Polynesian culture for hundreds of years spread from Tahiti to Hawaii, spanning many thousands of miles. At the end of World War II, the U.S. took control of the Marshall Islands as a “trust territory” — in other words, a colony. The Pentagon de- cided that isolated position made it the ideal location to test nuclear bombs: first atomic bombs and then hydrogen bombs.

On March 3, 1954, the U.S. deton- ated 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands. 23 of them on Bikini Atoll. Resi- dents had been moved to neighboring is- lands that could not sustain increased population, so many starved. The people told they could return to their is- lands when the tests were completed, but the radioactive fall- out made those is- lands permanently uninhabitable. Many of the people also suffered from a huge increase in cancer and birth defects.

In 1983, the Mar- shall Islands finally- won its independence. And in 2014, mindful of the terrible consequences of the Pentagon’s nuclear testing on their people, the Marshall Islands government filed suit, first in U.S. federal court and then in the United Nations International- al Court of Justice, demanding that all countries possessing nuclear weapons, such as the U.S., abide by their obliga- tions under the 1968 Nuclear Nonprolif- eration Treaty, particularly the treaty’s Article VI. Article VI commits nuclear states to the U.S. to “pursue negotia- tions in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarm- ment, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.” armscontrol.org

Lawyers for the Marshall Islands said the goal of the suit was “to persuade the court to order serious disarmament talks that were long overdue. They also said that many countries favored drafting a convention to ban nuclear armars, much like the treaties that prohibit chemical, biological and other weapons of mass de- struction.” (nytimes.com, Oct. 6).

By a vote of 9 to 7, the International Court of Justice, the U.N. court in The Hague, ruled on Oct. 6 that it did not have jurisdiction to hear the case. It stated that it finds no jurisdic- tion even when the parties have ‘opposite views,’” said lawyer płon van den Biesen, citing a definition that the court uses for “jurisdiction.”

The women organizing the protest called it a strike, inspired by the Icelandic strike for women’s rights on Oct. 24, 1975, which involved 90 percent of the adult female population. In addition to solidarity actions in Iceland, women demonstrated in Berlin, Brussels, Dusseldorf, Belfast, London and Paris, as well as in other cit- ies in France, Taiwan, Russia and global- ly in the “Twittersphere.”

There was a ripple effect in the U.S., where women organized, accessible abor- tion is under attack from Republican can- didates Donald Trump and Mike Pence. The quote from Krystyna Kapcure was posted on the Center for Reproduc- tion Rights’ website (crr.org) on Oct. 7. CRR noted that it had worked with Kapcure’s organization in the past and hoped to continue working together.

The right to abortion is a basic human right. That was validated last March by the European Court of Human Rights in a case about a woman who was arrested on torture, who defined denial of access to abortion as “torture.” The rising of Pol- ish women has affirmed that right.
Los resultados del plebiscito del 2 de octubre en Colombia respecto a la aceptación o no del Acuerdo Final firmado por las FARC-EP y el gobierno de Colombia hace más de cuatro años de difíciles convenciones de paz en La Habana, Cuba, pusieron en evidencia el desvío del proceso de paz en ese país.

Es preciso señalar que el voto, 49,77 por ciento para el "Sí", y 50,22 para el "No", de ninguna manera reflejan la volunta-dad del pueblo colombiano, y aunque "legal", no es legítimo.

¿Por qué?

Por un lado, sólo el 37 por ciento de las/os votantes registrados ejerció ese derecho. Hubo regiones de la costa norte, donde la gente no pudo incluso ir a la cabina de voto debido a las inundaciones causadas por el huracán Mateo. Estos eran lugares donde se esperaba que el voto Sí predominara. ¿Que legitimidad tiene este resultado cuando las regiones periféricas y la mayoría de las víctimas del conflicto armado votaron Sí, y si, el plebiscito fue dictado por las zonas menos afectadas por la guerra y con el menor número de víctimas, el centro del país?

¿Cuáles fueron las razones?

Las encuestas antes de las elecciones anunciaban una victoria del 70 por ciento para el Sí. Lo que hizo que ninguna que tenía previsto votar por el Sí se abstuvieran, pensando que su voto no sería necesario.

Luego, y lo más importante, fue la ter-cerización de desinformación dirigida por el derechista Centro Democrático (CD) del ex presidente Álvaro Uribe - un ferviente anti-comunistas opuesto al proceso de paz. El pasado 5 de octubre, Juan Carlos Vélez, gerente de la campaña del No, expuso su estrategia en una entrevista con el diario La República: "Descubrimos el poder viral de las redes sociales para hacer una visita a Apartado, Antioquia, un concejo que me pasó una imagen de Santos y "Timochenko" con un mensaje de por qué se le iba a dar dinero a los guerrilleros si el país estaba en la olla. Yo la publiqué en mi Facebook y al sábado pasado tenía 130.000 compartidos con un alcance de seis millones de personas... la estrategia era dejar de explicar los acuerdos para centrar el mensaje en la indignación". (León Montoya). Este utilizando como argumento fundamental, la idea de que el gobierno de la administración Obama para rechazar a miles de refugiadas/os haitianos allí, debía ser socavado y revertir las relaciones y programas que promueve la intención de convertir a Cuba en un senador en la legislatura de Colombia, disfrutando de total impunidad. El resultado del plebiscito realmente podría deberse a las maniobras de la estrella de la oligarquía colombiana, Uribe represente a los grandes terratenientes y ganaderos que son los que han beneficiado con el acuerdo definitorio entre las FARC y el gobierno. En particular, la parte agraria de los acuerdos que llama a la distribución de tierras para las/os pequeños campesinos y la compensación a las víctimas del conflicto.

Santos, por el contrario, representa el sentido de la oligarquía que quiere establecer los megaproyectos mineros y la internacionalización de la economía colombiana, pero no necesita la "paz de los cementerios" para atraer a las empresas extranjeras. Su administración, aunque el ELN y las FARC, hasta ahora han sido el objetivo más importante que impide la total toma de control de las tierras y las riquezas de las/los colombianos por parte de la mayor parte de las empresas transnacionales. Esto quedó ilustrado por una conversación casual que esta escritora sostuvo el 19 de septiembre con una comerciante de un pequeño puesto de suvenires en Bogotá. La propietaria, una mujer de una de las regiones costeras, dijo que iba a votar Sí porque quiere la paz en su país. Afirmando que ella no era amiga de las FARCs porque tenía parientes que fueron víctimas de la insurgencia, sin embargo, reconocía el papel de las FARC en la prevención del robo de la tierra por empre-sas transnacionales.

Movilizaciones en las calles

Pero ahora no le corresponde única-mente a la oligarquía decidir cuál es la ruta del proceso de paz generada por los resultados del plebiscito, un grupo de jóvenes inmediatamente salieron a las calles para exigir el establecimiento de la "izquierda" para proteger a las/os cubanos que están en peligro de ser deportados de la oligarquía colombiana. Uribe representa a los grandes terratenientes y ganaderos que son los que han beneficiado con el acuerdo definitorio entre las FARC y el gobierno. En particular, la parte agraria de los acuerdos que llama a la distribución de tierras para las/os pequeños campesinos y la compensación a las víctimas del conflicto. Santos, por el contrario, representa el sentido de la oligarquía que quiere establecer los megaproyectos mineros y la internacionalización de la economía colombiana, pero no necesita la "paz de los cementerios" para atraer a las empresas extranjeras. Su administración, aunque el ELN y las FARC, hasta ahora han sido el objetivo más importante que impide la total toma de control de las tierras y las riquezas de las/los colombianos por parte de la mayor parte de las empresas transnacionales. Esto quedó ilustrado por una conversación casual que esta escritora sostuvo el 19 de septiembre con una comerciante de un pequeño puesto de suvenires en Bogotá. La propietaria, una mujer de una de las regiones costeras, dijo que iba a votar Sí porque quiere la paz en su país. Afirmando que ella no era amiga de las FARCs porque tenía parientes que fueron víctimas de la insurgencia, sin embargo, reconocía el papel de las FARC en la prevención del robo de la tierra por empresas transnacionales.

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