

Sexist predator or drone predator?

Vote with your feet

By Teresa Gutierrez

Oct. 10 — This debacle 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 “shit-storm” 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



PHOTO: RODNE JEAN

Caravan from Fanmi Lavalas brings aid to survivors who lost everything. See page 8 for articles on Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and Cuba.

No matter who wins the election...

WHY WE MUST KEEP FIGHTING  
FOR SOCIALISM

Workers World Party  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE

Dr. Betty Shabazz

NOV. 11-13 2016

SHABAZZ CENTER

3940 Broadway @ W. 165<sup>th</sup>  
NEW YORK CITY

#1, A or C subway to 168<sup>th</sup>

Malcolm X

Moorehead-Lilly '16

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Harvard  
food workers

ON STRIKE!

3

Editorial: Sexist bosses

10

Nogales:  
Convergence at divided city

4

Kaepernick effect

6

Support for Charlotte Uprising

7

Editorial: Trump & war

10

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ 4 weeks trial \$4

☐ 1 year subscription \$30

☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program:  
workers.org/articles/donate/supporters\_/

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Workers World 212.627.2994  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011 workers.org



# In answer to new court ruling

# Standing Rock resistance continues

By Sara Flounders

Indigenous Peoples Day is an answer to the offensive 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 resisters to the Dakota Access Pipeline, being built by Energy Transfer Partners to transport half a million barrels of oil a day across four states. Solidarity actions were also held across the country.

On Oct. 9, a U.S. court, in clear violation of signed treaties, 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 \$3.7 billion pipeline.

The events that unfolded on the eve of Indigenous Peoples Day once again exposed the criminal role of state power to protect the ruthless capitalist drive for profits. The courts, police and U.S. military performed as they have historically, using military invasion, removal 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 100 protesters were at the construction site when the arrests were made.

But solidarity and determined resistance continue to find a way forward.

### Courts vs. Native rights

In an effort to push through the pipeline, the courts had given it fast-track approval in July. But then thousands of Indigenous resisters and their allies, using direct action, rallies and a growing encampment at Standing Rock, drew international publicity. In late August a federal court was pressed to grant a temporary injunction stopping construction on the section of the pipeline stretching 20 miles east and west 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 capitalist profit has again and again been considered more important than protecting the land, water and treaty rights of Indigenous nations.

The largest U.S. banks, such as Bank of America, are behind the pipeline construction and the dangerous practice of oil fracking and drilling. Billions of dollars are at stake.

The Dakota Access Pipeline had originally been planned to cross the Missouri River north of Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota. However, over concern for the city’s drinking water supply, the route was moved downstream to treaty lands of the Standing Rock Reservation.

Dave Archambault II, chair of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, responded to the court ruling: “The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is not backing down from this fight. We are guided by prayer, and we will continue to fight for our people. We will not rest until our lands, people, waters and sacred places are permanently protected from this destructive pipeline.” (indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com)

The court battle is continuing, with further legal appeals. And the struggle continues on the front lines.

Since an initial encampment began at Sacred Stones on April 1, thousands have joined more than 300 federally recognized American Indian Nations at Cannon Ball, N.D. — site of the Oceti Sakowin Camp — to protest the pipeline. Determined activists are now winterizing the encampment to keep a presence through the extreme arctic cold of North Dakota winters.

The fight to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline is a struggle for Native sovereignty and the right to control Indigenous land, water and other natural resources. The resistance organized at Standing Rock is also over defense of pure water as a human right of all people.

Cheyenne River Sioux community organizer Joye 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 vast majority of 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 2016 election campaign.*



## Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 57 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions. □

### Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**National Office**  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
wwp@workers.org

**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
atlanta@workers.org

**Baltimore**  
c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.221.3775  
baltimore@workers.org

**Bay Area**  
1305 Franklin St. #411  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.600.5800  
bayarea@workers.org

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.286.6574  
boston@workers.org

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
712 Main St #113B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.883.2534  
buffalo@workers.org

**Charlotte, NC**  
charlotte@workers.org

**Chicago**  
312.630.2305  
chicago@workers.org

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
cleveland@workers.org

**Denver**  
denver@workers.org

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
detroit@workers.org

**Durham, N.C.**  
804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
durham@workers.org

**Huntington, W. Va.**  
huntingtonwv@workers.org

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
houston@workers.org

**Lexington, KY**  
lexington@workers.org

**Los Angeles**  
5278 W Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
la@workers.org  
323.306.6240

**Milwaukee**  
milwaukee@workers.org

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
phila@workers.org

**Pittsburgh**  
pittsburgh@workers.org

**Portland, Ore.**  
portland@workers.org

**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585.436.6458  
rochester@workers.org

**Rockford, IL**  
rockford@workers.org

**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
sandiego@workers.org

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
tucson@workers.org

**Virginia**  
virginia@workers.org

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
dc@workers.org

## WORKERS WORLD

## this week

### ★ In the U.S.

Time to vote with our feet. ....	1
Standing Rock resistance continues. ....	2
Harvard U. strike! Trying to survive capitalism. ....	3
National ‘walk-ins’ reject attacks on public education. ....	3
Solidarity with migrants at U.S./Mexico border. ....	4
Lee Booth: A woman warrior and internationalist. ....	4
Sparked by Kaepernick – Sports protests pummel racism. ....	6
Hands off #CharlotteUprising! ....	6
Charlotte Uprising activists focus on Bank of America. ....	7
Rochester meeting on Syria. ....	9

### ★ Around the world

World unions meet in South Africa. ....	5
Cuba’s solidarity blunts Hurricane Matthew’s blow. ....	8
Haiti in urgent need after hurricane. ....	8
Washington’s threats to expand war in Syria. ....	9
Colombian plebiscite, a dangerous detour to peace. ....	10
Women strike in Poland for abortion rights. ....	11
Justice denied to Marshall Islands victims of nukes. ....	11

### ★ Editorial

Workers to sexist bosses: Hands off! ....	10
Trump, Clinton and Syria. ....	10

### ★ WWP Presidential Campaign

The Moorehead/Lilly campaign needs your donation now!..	4
---	---

### ★ Noticias en Español

Plebiscito colombiano. ....	12
EUA continúa subversión contra Cuba. ....	12

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: ww@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org  
Vol. 58, No. 41 • Oct. 20, 2016  
Closing date: Oct. 11, 2016

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,  
Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk;  
Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis,  
Bob McCubbin

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe,  
Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein,  
Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales,  
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash,  
Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer,  
Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci;  
Ramiro Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Donna Lazarus,  
Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2016 Workers World. Verbatim copying  
and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium  
without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly  
except the first week of January by WW Publishers,  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone:  
212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institu-  
tions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and  
edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to  
Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY  
10011. Back issues and individual articles are available  
on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing,  
Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A  
searchable archive is available on the Web at www.  
workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.  
Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011.





# Harvard U. strike!

## Trying to survive capitalism

By Phebe Eckfeldt  
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 \$37.6 billion endowment.

The 750 rank-and-file members of UNITE HERE Local 26 are striking because Harvard has refused to back down from its “take-away” cuts to workers’ retirement and health benefits.

The university has also refused to honor a previous HUDS contract agreement guaranteeing workers a \$35,000 minimum yearly wage. Nearly half are earning less than that now. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, even that salary is not adequate to support more than a one-person household in Boston. (STAT.com)

In addition, HUDS workers are fighting for the right to establish a task force to combat racism in the kitchens, stop management bias against hiring formerly incarcerated people and permit immigrant workers to take leaves of up to a year with job security.

### ‘We aren’t budging!’

By midmorning, thousands of workers from 20 dining halls and 40 picket lines, along with supporters, converged and marched into Harvard Square chanting, “Hey, Harvard, you can’t hide! We can see your greedy side!”

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 chants so that even the remotest realms of Harvard’s ivory towers shook with the unstoppable surge. They were joined by Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steven Tolman. On Oct. 8, HUDS workers and supporters marched and rallied again at the Harvard/Cornell football game.

Local 26 Chief Steward Ed Childs told Workers World, “We aren’t budging!” on demands protecting the minimum yearly

wage, retirement and health benefits. He stressed that increased health care premiums and higher co-pays would be particularly devastating for the dining hall workers, who get laid off three months every summer, but as “seasonal educational workers” are not allowed to collect unemployment insurance.

Childs emphasized that the privatized health care system was in failure mode when a multibillion-dollar institution refuses to supply adequate and affordable health care to its workers.

At one of the rallies, a HUDS 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 without needed medications.

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, Darshali Vyas, told the press, “We now also know that more than half of HUDS 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 affordable health-care coverage is intimately tied to racial justice.”

“The cuts proposed by Harvard are anti-LGBTQ,” asserted Ted Waechter in his article, “The HUDS Strike Is So 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 HUDS workers fought for and won one of the country’s first sexual orientation nondiscrimination provisions, and are currently fighting for provisions based on gender identity.



Dining hall workers on militant strike against Harvard Corporation.

WWW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

### HUDS coalition battles corporate power

Workers at Harvard are up against an “education” corporation that is part of big business profit making and the 1%, in an interlocking relationship with the military-industrial complex and big banks like Goldman-Sachs, Bank of America and Citigroup. The governing body of the university is literally Harvard Corporation — “the oldest corporation in the Western Hemisphere,” dating back to the mid-17th century. (harvard.edu)

To do battle with this behemoth, the rank-and-file dining hall workers have put together a town-gown-community coalition that is a powerful model for how to win. Coalition members endorsing and organizing for the strike include the undergraduate Harvard School of Public Health, the Student Labor Action Movement, the Undergraduate Council and the Editorial Board of the famed student newspaper, the Crimson. Faculty and nonunion employees are supporting the strike, as they’re also having their health benefits cut.

Unity also comes from Harvard Law School students, who protested university racism by occupying their own college in February. Both the Cambridge City Council and the Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee have endorsed the strike.

And the dining hall workers have built wide solidarity over many years, from their opposition to South African apartheid to their support for Indigenous and Palestinian struggles.

Dedicated union solidarity comes from the “old-style” militant Boston School Bus Drivers Union, Steelworkers Local 8751; the custodians of Service Employ-

ees Local 32 B-J; and the IWW “Wobbly” Cambridge local. Teamsters Local 25 has pledged to honor the picket line and refuse to pick up trash or make freight and equipment deliveries.

This strike forcefully raises the class question: How can workers survive a capitalism that will not pay them a wage that they and their families can survive on, and that will not provide adequate health care — a matter of life or death?

In socialist Cuba, medical care is completely free to all citizens and has no links to profit. In Cuba there is, in fact, no need for “health insurance” or for having to pay out money monthly to have a safety net against for-profit medical or Big Pharma bills.

Harvard University is rich enough to provide affordable health care to all its workers, but it will not do so without a fight. It will not because, like Verizon or Veolia or any other capitalist corporation, it needs profits to survive. Paying health care or other benefits to workers is not profitable. As capitalism decays, corporations and banks are employing fewer workers to do more work at less wages with minimal or no benefits.

### HUDS workers have drawn the line.

The strike by the Harvard dining hall workers in their struggle for health care, for adequate pay, for what they need to survive is a new heroic battle in the centuries-old struggle of workers to take back our lives and our work.

*Steve Gillis, Martha Grevatt, Milt Neidenberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Gerry Scoppettuolo contributed to this article.*

# National ‘walk-ins’ reject attacks on public education

By Workers World Staff  
Milwaukee

More than 100,000 students, educators, parents and supporters participated in a National Day of Action for Public Education on Oct. 6. They represented 2,000 schools in more than 200 communities, reported the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association. A variety of actions took place, but most were “walk-ins” — where public school educators and their supporters gathered to picket and rally before entering their schools for work.

The protests demanded increased funding for public schools, expansion of community schools with added services, an end to the racist school-to-prison pipeline and a halt to the expansion of charter schools at the expense of

public schools.

In Milwaukee, educators, parents, children and community members at more than 100 public schools joined walk-ins sponsored by the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association. Wisconsin has faced severe austerity cuts to K-12 elementary and high schools, as well as in higher education.

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 legislature controlled by Wall Street and reactionary foundations.

But public educators’ resistance to attacks on self-determination for oppressed communities in majority-of-color cities is growing. Detroit teachers held a citywide sickout in the last school year. Chicago educators are gearing up for another strike. And in Milwaukee there have been mass walk-ins and other forms of resistance, including a rebellion by Black youth in August.

The same week in which the school walk-ins took place, mass labor and community resistance caused Milwaukee’s Board of Zoning to deny a special use permit to Right Step Inc., a military-style voucher school.

The school had plans to base itself in a vacant Milwaukee Public Schools building in the Riverwest community. The right-wing, racist Bradley Foundation has given hundreds of millions of dollars to the drive to privatize public schools and helps to fund the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, of which Right Step Inc. is a client. □



Milwaukee students participate in ‘walk-in.’

PHOTO: MILWAUKEE TEACHERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



# 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 Americas 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. Thousands 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



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

WWP presidential candidate Monica Moorehead, former Mexican political prisoner Nestora Salgado, and Los Angeles WWP leader John Parker at apartheid wall dividing Nogales.

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. □



WW PHOTO: ALAN POLLOCK

Lee Booth, March 14, 2009, Detroit International Working Women’s celebration.

## LEE BOOTH 1932-2016 A woman warrior and internationalist

By Debbie Johnson and Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

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 imperialist sanctions against those countries.

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.

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.

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.

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, ¡Presente! □

## The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign Needs your donation now!

Workers World Party candidates — Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have marched against the Republicans in Cleveland and the Democratic Party machine in Philadelphia. They have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about revolutionary socialism.

The candidates were really busy starting Oct. 7 through Oct. 9 at the Border Convergence in Tucson, Ariz. Next they go on to California Oct. 9 through Oct. 21, then to upstate New York and finally Baltimore. Visit our website: [workers.org/wwwp/campaign-news](http://workers.org/wwwp/campaign-news).

In the remaining weeks before the Nov. 8 election, we have a chance to reach millions more with ads, online voting, ballot access work and additional travel around the country.

### But we can’t do this without your support!

We are a working-class party and our only source of income is from people like you. Help us get out the voice for revolutionary socialism to counter the Clinton war machine and Trump’s racist, anti-people offensives.

Contributions are urgently needed, no matter how small or large. Please make a generous donation today at [workers.org/wwwp/donate](http://workers.org/wwwp/donate).

Mail checks to Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011.



Paid for by the Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee.



# Representing 92 million workers

## World unions meet in South Africa

By Martha Grevatt  
Durban, South Africa

The 17th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unionists, held in Durban, South Africa, from Oct. 5 to Oct. 8, drew over 1,500 militant unionists from over 100 countries on five continents. “Class-oriented” unionism, anti-capitalism 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, “Struggle, Internationalism, Unity,” showed the WFTU’s differences with another federation, the less struggle-oriented International Trade Union Congress.

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

Hundred of delegates from the Congress of South African Trade Unions — co-host

of the Congress — energized the meeting by spontaneously bursting into song between speeches, sharing the revolutionary spirit of the heroic fight against apartheid.

On Oct. 8, COSATU and WFTU rallied together at Curries Fountain Stadium, 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 Secretary-General George Mavrikos at the final session.

*A more detailed report on the Congress will follow in next week’s WW.*



Some of the delegates to the WFTU Congress. Martha Grevatt is in second row, center.

## 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 opportunistically advised other Republicans up for re-election to endorse or break from Trump depending on their situations.

NBC was forced 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/Debacle #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 reminded viewers that it was not Bill Clinton who was running for president. But to no avail. The day of the debate Trump not only paraded before a Facebook news conference four women who had at one time accused Bill Clinton of assault, but he brought them to the presidential debate.

Like a four-year-old, Trump’s defense of his sexism was how Bill’s was worse!

### Who’s the sexist of them all?

As Republicans denounced Trump over the weekend, as many of them declared, “That’s it. This is the last straw,” one has to wonder: Why now?

Why did it take this ultra-sexist tirade for them to say, “Enough”? Why not be as outraged at Trump’s painting Mexican migrants as rapists? Why not be outraged over his continued lies and demonization of the innocent and freed Black teenagers known as the Central Park Five? What about his constant vilification of Muslims? How can other Republicans support a presidential candidate who makes fun of the physically challenged?

Indeed, why “circle the wagons” regarding women? Could it be the Republicans’ own misogyny and ideas of patriarchy? Could it be that white women who are mar-

ried to white men are the line in the sand, while oppressed people are disposable and are to be reminded of “their place”?

How insulting it was to hear male after male, Republican and Democrat alike, talk about how offensive Trump was to “our women.”

“Our daughters, our wives, our mothers” should not be talked about the way Trump talked about women, they said.

But women are not the “ours” of anybody, as the women’s movement must remind them. Women are not property to be reviled. Nor are they property to be cherished either. They are not property at all.

After the debate, news outlets declared that it is almost guaranteed that Hillary Clinton will win the election. Women are polling heavily against Trump after the latest scandal.

One of Trump’s constant defenses was “that was just locker room talk.” Trump must be reminded that from many a campus locker room, many a male has come out to rape and assault women as they walk home from studying.

But it would be wrong to blame all male athletes or assume some of them are the only ones participating in this foul language and behavior.

Sexist attacks of all kinds permeate capitalist society. Sexism, woman-hating, misogyny are institutionalized under capitalism. A woman cannot go to Starbucks without fear of hearing the “C” word thrown about against her or around her, and we don’t mean “coffee.”

Women’s oppression is the oldest oppression of all, and it cannot be eradicated without abolishing capitalism.

### What to do this election year?

The Access Hollywood bus scandal overshadowed other important news over the weekend. On Oct. 10, Counterpunch commented how “providential” (or not) it was for Clinton that Trump’s sex tapes were released by the Washington Post the same day as Wikileaks dumped damning emails about her.

Some e-mails disclosed speeches Clinton made to Wall Street where she endorses trade policies that benefit the 1%. Others spilled a memo revealing the Clintons’ “strategic goal” of elevating Trump as a “poison pill” for the GOP: “Trump was their preferred candidate and they worked frantically to help launch his campaign and fuel his ascent, knowing he would detonate prematurely like one of those SpaceX rockets.” Be careful what you wish for!

From the Bernie Sanders’ side came an Oct. 8 Washington Post article by Annabel Park, the Korean-American documentary filmmaker and political activist, headlined “I don’t like Hillary Clinton or the Democratic Party. I’m voting for them anyway.” Park explains her decision came after witnessing first-hand the violent behavior of white Trump supporters at a Virginia rally where they cursed a crowd of Muslim, Latinx, Black, Asian and white people protesting Trump. Attempting to film the incident, Park was attacked by a Trumpite woman.

Park writes, “It finally hit me. ... Trump has a playbook for power that includes targeting journalists and activists, branding dissidents as enemies ..., fostering a culture of violence and bullying against minorities, controlling women through sexual humiliation ... and blocking a democratic path ... by undermining ... voting rights. ... These tactics have made a cultural impact. ... Violent hate crimes against Muslim Americans are escalating, and teachers are reporting that there’s more bullying in schools.”

Park admits fears about Clinton: “She is a war hawk. She sold fracking to the world ... [and] sees no path for single-payer health care. She will probably try to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, though she’s promised not to.” But Park concludes that now she sees Trump “as the dangerous intruder with a gun threatening America” and calls for “fellow Bernie supporters” to join her in

“fighting off the intruder.”

### Lesser evil is still evil

Honestly, Annabel Park is spot-on in her descriptions of both Trump and Clinton.

The dangerous by-product of Trump’s candidacy is real. Those right-wing, violent, backward, racist, white supremacist misogynists who attend Trump rallies have indeed been galvanized by his candidacy. They will not easily go back into the woodwork if Trump does not win.

But the danger of Hillary Clinton, while different, is just as real. The Clinton election emboldens those in the Pentagon who already have raised the fearsome possibility of a war with Russia. It guarantees more forced refugees. She has proven to the Pentagon that she can carry out a coup in Honduras and Haiti and come out smelling like a rose. She has proven to Wall Street she can steal an election and still get her opponent to support her candidacy.

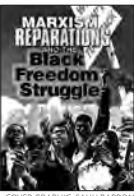
Either a Trump or a Clinton administration will mean continued war at home and abroad because that is the nature of the capitalist system, a system both are beholden to.

There is clearly only one choice for the workers and the oppressed. Build a revolutionary movement to show the Trumpites, the Clintonites, Wall Street and the Pentagon who is the real power in society: the workers.

On Jan. 20, whoever wins the White House must be met by a powerful counter-inaugural protest. Masses of people should descend on Washington to demand an end to police terror, no war on Russia or Syria or anywhere, no to the Dakota Pipeline, yes to a raise in the minimum wage and a union, and much more.

After this past weekend, women, who are already spearheading today’s struggles against the police, will surely be in the forefront of saying “No” to both parties of the capitalist class.

*Gutierrez is the campaign manager for the Moorehead/Lilly campaign.*



## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

**Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes • **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy

**Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani Dowell • **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead

**Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal • **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!**

Saladin Muhammad

Available at all major online booksellers.



# Sparked by Kaepernick – 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 game day 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 famous 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.

Racist reaction to 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 booed, spat on and had bottles thrown at them. The school threatened to rescind their scholarships, and a faculty member said she'd bring her gun to school to exercise her "constitutional rights."



Eli Harold, Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid, Oct. 2.

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, said the band members' protest was as unacceptable as a student making a political statement in a classroom.



Above, East Carolina State band members kneel during national anthem. Greenville, N.C., Oct. 1. Left, students refuse to stand during national anthem at first-ranked University of Alabama football game. Tuscaloosa, Oct. 1.



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 strictly 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 pregame and halftime propaganda at sports events. DOD gave money for huge flags and military honor guards, 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. 30)

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." □

## 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:**  
office phone 980-314-5550;  
email [Karla.Gary@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Karla.Gary@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

Public Information Manager

**Anjanette Flowers Grube:**

office phone 980-314-5170;

cell phone 704-634-5072;

email [Anjanette.Grube@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Anjanette.Grube@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

**Mayor Jennifer Roberts:**

phone 704-336-2241;

email [mayor@charlottenc.gov](mailto:mayor@charlottenc.gov)

**Gov. Pat McCrory:**

phone 919-814-2000

or 919-733-4240;

email [governor.office@governor.ncmail.net](mailto:governor.office@governor.ncmail.net)

**Attorney General Roy Cooper:**

phone 919-716-6400;

email [info@roycooper.com](mailto: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 Mills), who many around the country and the world know for his on-the-ground livestreams 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.



# After Charlotte Uprising

## Solidarity activists focus on Bank of America

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 Injustice); and FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) called the protest and demanded BOA stop its support of racist killer cops.



WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE



WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD



WW PHOTO, ABOVE, JOE PIETTE  
PHOTO: BRUCE EMMERLIN



In **Port Huron, Mich.**, about an hour north of Detroit, revolutionary youth organized a demonstration in solidarity with the

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 #CharlotteUprising 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 honked 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.



PHOTO: JEREMY COLLIN

In February Roanoke County police shot 18-year-old Kionte Spencer multiple times. To date, no dash-cam video or the officers’ names of who killed Spencer have been released to the public.

For over an hour, the protesters at City Market raised up the names of Spencer, Scott, Carr and others killed by police and demanded justice. Leaflets describing how supporters of the Charlotte Uprising can help that struggle were distributed to many participants and passersby. Other demands included living-wage jobs and money for real community resources, not for police and jails. After the protest, a banner drop took place over Interstate 581.

People took to the streets of **Harlem, N.Y.**, in solidarity with the uprising in Charlotte to demand an end to repression against protesters and justice for Scott and Carr. Following a rally at the Harlem State Office Building on 125th Street, protesters marched, zig-zagging through police lines to seize the streets and spread their message throughout the neighborhood: “What do we want? Justice! If we don’t get it? Shut it down!” Onlookers and motorists cheered and honked their horns in solidarity. At one point, New York Police Department goons tried to ram protesters with their motorcycles. Thanks to the discipline and street tactics of the protesters, no one was seriously hurt.

The march ended at a Bank of America branch. Protesters noted that BOA is intimately tied with the police occupation and gentrification of African-American and other oppressed communities from North Carolina to New York. They urged calls to Charlotte officials to demand they drop the 95 arrest warrants against protesters. For details, go to [charlotteuprising.com](http://charlotteuprising.com).

In **Los Angeles**, the Black and Brown Students for Social Justice club of the LA Trade-Technical College, BAYAN-USA, the International Action Center and others held a Solidarity with Charlotte Emergency Press Conference. Activists demanded the jailing of killer cops from Charlotte to LA and an immediate end to police and National Guard repression in Charlotte.

Joe Piette, Ellie Dorritie, Greg Butterfield and John Parker contributed to this article.



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.

**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 (*see list above*). 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!**



# Cuba’s solidarity blunts Hurricane Matthew’s blow

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 municipality 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 smaller communities of Imías, San Antonio del Sur, Yateras, Cajobabo, Maisí and Moa in neighboring Holguín province. Winds denuded hillsides, removing all trees. High winds and rain destroyed crops. The storm left only 50 feet of the critical 200-foot bridge over the Toa 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 conserving both personal and socialized economic resources. The residents of the affected area were confident they would be secure and would have plenty of support 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 people at risk to relocate. This personal outreach reinforced the messages Cuban meteorological scientists broadcast on television and radio.

Neighbors inland from the coast welcomed some of the 380,000 evacuees to ride out the storm in their homes, while others went to relatives or shelters. No one was abandoned.

Cuba’s preparations included evacuating livestock and pets from low-lying areas, assembling food supplies and water. They even dismantled 9,000 solar panels and protected the remaining 1,000 in place at the Photovoltaic Park Solar Energy Research Center.

This contrasts with U.S. society, which is based on maximizing profit for the capitalist ruling class. There were 18 deaths in the United States, not including the man police shot on Oct. 5 after he sped out of a South Carolina evacuation checkpoint.

For three days Cuban President Raul Castro reviewed pre-storm preparations centered in Cuba’s second-largest city, Santiago de Cuba. This continued the tradition, set by the Cuban Revolution’s historic leader Fidel Castro, of taking personal responsibility at the front lines in a time of crisis.

### No one abandoned

In Ciego de Avila province, some 700 electrical and telecommunication line workers mobilized, bringing equipment and supplies into the hurricane-damaged area. In the aftermath of the storm, the olive-green-clad Revolutionary Armed Forces cleared the impassable highways.

Raul 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 construction materials by 50 percent for people whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the hurricane.

Omar Cantillo Rodríguez, secretary



Above, Maisí, a municipality of 29,000 in Guantánamo Province, Cuba, after Hurricane Matthew.

Cuban President Raul Castro talks with residents of Baracoa. Poster quotes Fidel Castro’s May 1, 2000 speech enumerating what revolution is.



general of the Cuban Workers Central Union (CTC) in Maisí, said there is much 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 on the recovery of each labor collective. The other task these days is to visit the homes of our workers, comfort them and explain to them that what the country is doing to re-establish all those services ... is synonymous with love.” (tinyurl.com/j259qbj)

Cuba’s international medical brigades also serve in island nations impacted by Hurricane Matthew. According to an Oct. 5 article in Granma 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 bri-

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 collaborator 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 remain in contact.”

Cuba reinforced its 648 medical and other professionals 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 700 family members and pets to Pensacola, Fla. The 61 remaining prisoners and 2,800 U.S. troops stayed to face the storm. □

## Haiti in urgent need after hurricane

By G. Dunkel

Oct. 10 — The monumental disaster confronting Haiti, the first Black republic in the Western Hemisphere, continues to unfold. Beyond the 1,000 or so Haitians killed by flying debris, floods, collapsed buildings or being swept out to sea by Hurricane Matthew, 13 have already died of cholera in remote, inaccessible areas in southwest Haiti. In Bombardopolis, a very poor town in northwest Haiti, four people have died of cholera since the storm swept through. (Miami Herald, Oct. 9)

Cholera produces severe diarrhea and rapid dehydration. It can kill within hours if untreated. It is spread through contaminated water and has a short incubation period. Rapid outbreaks are common. Cholera was introduced into Haiti by Minustah, the U.N. occupying force, in 2010.

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 roads, with some towns like Randel in the southwest inaccessible even by four-wheel drive or motor bike, this produces an obvious undercount.

The Reuters’ estimate, which uses reports from local officials and as of Oct. 10

has set the casualties at 1,000, has been widely accepted by the media in both Haiti and elsewhere.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs published an emergency alert Oct. 9, reporting that out of the 2.1 million people affected by the storm, 1.4 million people are in need of assistance. There are 61,537 evacuees in 191 temporary shelters. More than 200,000 houses were severely damaged.

Vast scenes of desolation can be viewed on Flickr photographs posted by Minustah. Farmers’ fields along the coast are filled with salt, silt and gravel. It will take a long time and much work before they are productive again. Banana and mango orchards are now toppled trees, bare sticks at best. It will take long and hungry years before they start bearing fruit again. In many communities — even in major cities like Jérémie and Les Cayes — a large proportion of houses have lost roofs, and some are simply piles of splintered wood.

Cuba is sending a brigade of medical specialists in disasters and epidemics to work alongside the 600 Cuban medical personnel already in Haiti, according to Granma. French television reports that Cuba and Venezuela are both sending food and water.

The U.S. and France, both rich imperialist countries with vast resources — and both responsible for keeping Haiti desperately poor — are sending some aid,

but nowhere near what is needed. The U.S. Navy amphibious transport ship Mesa Verde with 700 sailors and support personnel is bringing blankets, kitchen supplies, water and plastic sheeting for temporary roof replacement, enough for 100,000 people. (NPR, Oct. 8) France has sent 25 tons of aid and water purification equipment with 28 soldiers to run it. (www.francetvinfo.fr)

### Donations needed — give to Haiti-affiliated groups

As the Red Cross actively solicits donations, many Haitian groups and progressives in the U.S. feel the real character of the Red Cross can be seen in how it operated after the massive 2010 earthquake. Though the Red Cross raised \$500 million, it put up only six permanent housing units to replace the tens of thousands destroyed.

Besides the Red Cross with its dubious record, other groups soliciting aid for Haiti on the Internet have solid ties to the Clinton and Gates foundations and should be avoided. The Clinton Foundation received billions in Haitian disaster relief funds after the 2010 earthquake meant for housing and schools — that were never built or were constructed shoddily. The Gates Foundation has been implicated in a Big Pharma scandal over efforts to stop disease caused by lack of access to clean water.

Some in the U.S. have Haitian friends

or neighbors who plan on bringing aid to Haiti in the immediate future. But for those who don’t, there are alternatives. The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund is recommended by Haiti Action and has a tax identification for tax deduction purposes. Donate through PayPal online at haitiemergencyrelief.org or send a check to Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, c/o East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, 2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

It is also possible to donate to Haiti through IFCO/Pastors for Peace, which assisted after the 2010 earthquake by sending a delegation of Latin American School of Medicine graduates to serve side-by-side with Cuban doctors, and has continued to provide support and aid to Haiti in the years since. Online at ifconews.org click on the donation icon, bottom right, and add a comment that the donation should go to Haiti.

Fanmi Lavalas is also accepting donations through its candidate for president, Dr. Maryse Narcisse. On her French-language web page, marysenarcisse.ht, click on the button on the lower-right corner, “Faire un don,” which links to a PayPal page.

Hurricane Matthew was a terrible catastrophe for Haiti. All progressives should make every effort to avoid it becoming a bonanza for NGO bandit capitalists who made millions-upon-millions when Haiti suffered the shattering 2010 earthquake. □



# Washington’s solution to conflict in Syria

## Threaten world with 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 106 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 retook the territory. Thus 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 reactionary terrorist 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 denied 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 offensives 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-Qaida branch in Syria. Washington condemns 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 “moderate” rebels are and despite the U.S. having taken responsibility for their separation from al-Nusra Front terrorists as part of the sabotaged ceasefire deal.

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 Syrian 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 S-300 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. president takes 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 and Iraq for the third year 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 Kurdistan 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 blowback 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 targeted 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. □



# 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 on Oct. 4 to hear 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 area and a leading member of the United National Antiwar Coalition, joined a U.S. Peace Council fact-finding peace delegation in Syria. Bello's delegation met with people from many walks of life: business people, government workers, nongovernmental organization workers and clerics, and high level officials.

Bello, the key speaker at the meeting, reported that Syria is a modern country, which provides many benefits to its citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnicity, including free education through college, free health care and food subsidies. However, she said, the country is being systematically destroyed by the

U.S. and its allies, among them Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies that directly support mercenary terrorists like the Islamic State group and Jabhat al-Nusra, the al-Qaida affiliate in Syria.

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 impose these sanctions as part of their attempt to carry out regime change.

Excluded from the international banking system, Syria finds it impossible to trade. Its factories cannot obtain raw materials, and finding 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

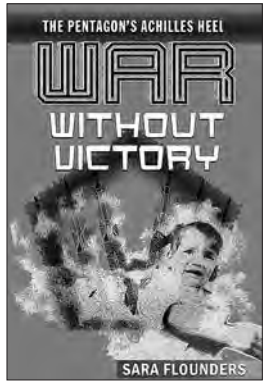
them amnesty, security and economic aid.

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 ques-

tion-and-answer period which was both informative and positive. Basem Ashkar, 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, Rochester Peace Action and Education, the Downtown Presbyterian Church Peace Action Team and Upstate Drone Action. □



## WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

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.”*  
– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann,  
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;  
Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Available at all major online booksellers.

PentagonAchillesHeel.com



# Workers to sexist bosses: HANDS OFF!

We have heard from Donald Trump's own mouth his disgusting, unrelenting, unrepentant commitment to hating, degrading and sexually abusing women. It could be the last straw for his presidential campaign.

Now, on to the other anti-woman, anti-worker bosses!

That's what Fight for \$15 is saying and doing in a campaign against sexual harassment that began on Oct. 5 against McDonald's, the fast food chain employing 1.9 million low-wage workers worldwide. Fight for \$15 is best known for organizing to raise the minimum wage and secure a union for low-wage workers.

Fast food workers are notoriously underpaid and overworked. Like a growing preponderance of U.S. workers, they are mostly young, largely women and people of color, often LGBTQ, perhaps disabled, with fewer resources to fall back on if they lose their jobs. That makes them especially vulnerable to abuse of all kinds, including sexual harassment and rape.

Research shows that fast food workers are 60 percent more likely to be sexually harassed than workers elsewhere. And 42 percent of them have had to endure that harassment for fear they'd lose their jobs if they fought back.

Now these workers are saying: No more! Fifteen McDonald's workers, under the banner of #Fightfor15, have filed charges against the burger chain through the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. They assert they were subjected to "inappropriate — and illegal — sexual contact, innuendo and propositions" while working for the corporation. Those abstract words mask the horri-

fyng stories flooding in, overwhelmingly from female workers, about managers who offered them money for sex or ignored their pleas when male co-workers showed them photos of their genitals. Needless to say, appealing to the "parent" corporation yielded no help.

The struggle against sexual harassment and rape began millennia ago, when patriarchy arose at the same time as classes, and women and gender-nonconforming people were subjected to male ruling class privilege. In the U.S., sexual terror — and the fightback against it — has been a fact of working women's lives, from enslaved African women to domestic workers, from farmhouse to assembly line, in blue collar, pink collar and white collar work, from South, North, East to West.

It took a campaign as recently as the 1960s by women's liberation and civil rights activists to get sexual coercion at a job recognized as "illegal." That enabled workers to go to the federal EEOC for some protection.

Now a new front of struggle has opened up at actual workplaces, as McDonald's fast food workers in 30 cities picketed against sexual harassment at their job sites on Oct. 6.

The class struggle is rapidly accelerating with the intertwining of working-class organizing, LGBTQ leadership, women's liberation issues and the fight to make Black and Brown lives matter.

Bosses, you are being served notice: No more grabbing. No more rape or sexual coercion. No more racism. No more LGBT-phobia. No more anti-disability.

We mean it: We're going to take your hands off our bodies and our lives! □

# Colombian plebiscite, a dangerous detour to peace

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Colombia's Oct. 2 plebiscite rejecting the Final Agreement that the FARC-EP [Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo] and the Colombian government signed after four years of difficult peace talks in Havana, Cuba, dangerously rerouted the peace process in that country.

It must be stated that the narrow rejection — 49.77 percent for "Yes" and 50.22 for "No" — in no way reflects the will of the Colombian people. By itself, although "legal," the vote is illegitimate. Why?

First of all, only 37 percent of those registered exercised their right to vote. There were regions in the northern coast where people could not even get to election booths because of flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew. These were places where the "Yes" vote was expected to predominate.

How legitimate can this result be when the regions on the periphery — which have the most victims of the armed conflict — voted "Yes" to the accord? Yet the plebiscite was decided by the zones less impacted by the war and with fewer victims, those in the center of the country.

Why the 'No' vote won

Polls taken before the election announced a 70 percent vote for "Yes." That

caused some people who were originally planning to vote "Yes" to stay home, considering their vote unnecessary.

Most important was the nasty disinformation campaign led by ex-president Álvaro Uribe's right-wing Democratic Center (DC) — a fiercely pro-paramilitary party opposed to the peace process. Juan Carlos Vélez, the head of Uribe's "No" campaign, exposed the DC strategy in an Oct. 5 interview with the newspaper La República:

"We discovered the viral power of social networks. For example, on a visit to Apartadó, Antioquia, a counsellor gave me a photo of [President Juan Manuel] Santos and [FARC commander] 'Timochenko' with a message of why would you give money to the guerrillas if the country was in the pot [i.e., poor]. I posted it on my Facebook and last Saturday had 130,000 [people] sharing it, reaching six million people. ... The strategy was to not explain the agreements [and instead], focus the message on the outrage." (larepublica.co) This strategy was devised with different deceptive messages to appeal to different regions and social strata.

Then there was the religious sector that actively organized against the agreement because it raised questions of gender and women and because the LGBTQ community actively participated in the development of the Final Agreement,

# Trump, Clinton and Syria

Our regular readers know this paper considers Donald Trump a racist, xenophobic, Islamophobic misogynist, a billionaire capitalist who inflated his inherited fortune by building casinos, manipulating real estate and short-changing workers. The worst fascists worldwide are drawn to his campaign, hoping to grow in its wake.

What about when Trump talks peace? It's just demagoguery. His alleged opposition to the invasion of Iraq came long after it happened. He is as apt as his rival to push the war button.

We want to make our position clear, because the corporate media have spun some of the comments in the Oct. 9 presidential debate in a perverse way: They attack Trump for lashing out at Hillary Clinton's warmongering.

In the framework of the debate, Clinton was identified with voting for the war on Iraq, pushing the war against Libya — she revealed over Moammar Gadhafi's murder — leading the charge against Syria and casting Russia as U.S. enemy No. 1.

Trump said that Iraq was a disaster. (It certainly was for the Iraqis.) He said Libya was a "failed state" where al-Qaida-like militias run the show. He said that the Islamic State group and al-Qaida were the opposition in Syria. He suggested an accord with Russia to fight these "terrorists."

which led to some progressive positions on gender questions.

On the other side, the "Yes" campaign failed to launch a successful campaign explaining the accord in detail and defending it.

Despite Uribe's reactionary actions to sabotage the agreement, President Santos invited him to the presidential house to "negotiate" and promised to listen to DC's proposals. That really means to renegotiate the agreement.

Renegotiation represents a danger to the peace process since the DC's changes will be aimed at punishment of the guerrillas and prohibiting the legal and public political role of demobilized FARC-EP members.

We should remember that when Uribe was president, he negotiated for amnesty for demobilized paramilitaries who had committed proven crimes against humanity. Uribe himself is a known criminal responsible for massacres, drug trafficking, illegal phone tapping, displacing thousands of poor people and killing innocent people in the zone of Soacha. There, youth were killed and then dressed up in FARC uniforms.

Now Uribe is a senator in Colombia's legislature, enjoying complete impunity.

Divisions in the oligarchy

The plebiscite result actually underscores divisions within the Colombian oligarchy. Uribe represents the big landowners and cattle-raising wealthy class, who are afraid of the impact on their businesses of the Final Agreement. What impacts them is the part of the Agrarian Pact that calls for distribution of land to small peasants and compensation to the victims of the conflict.

Santos, on the other hand, represents the segment of the oligarchy that wants to establish the mining megaprojects and the industrialization of the Colombian economy. This sector needs the "peace of the cemetery" to attract foreign companies.

Up to now, the armed insurgency, both the National Liberation Army (ELN) and

Clinton, other Democratic politicians and the bulk of the corporate media leapt all over Trump for being too close to the Russians, too soft on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, etc.

Here is where the danger exists. The insistence of these media — which for the most part support Clinton against Trump — can lead to two possible political errors for those who are both anti-racist and anti-imperialist. We should avoid these errors.

One is to condemn Russia and Syria because you think this pig Trump is with them. No. He isn't. Russia and the Syrian government are defending Syria's sovereignty against what is really a concerted imperialist attack. (See article page 9.) Trump sees an opportunity to profit from people's weariness with a costly, unpopular war.

The other is to believe that somehow Trump is the "lesser evil" because on Sunday he exposed Clinton's warmongering. That would be completely wishful thinking and would destroy solidarity with those in the U.S. who are resisting racism and Islamophobia — who will be the best fighters against the next war.

Neither of these candidates is a "lesser evil," and whichever of them wins the election will have to be battled in the shops, schools, hospitals, plants and streets. □

the FARC, has been the most important impediment to the profit-hungry transnational corporations' takeover of the Colombian people's land and wealth.

This was illustrated by a casual conversation this writer had on Sept. 19 with the owner of a small souvenir stand in Bogotá. The owner, a woman from one of the coastal regions, said that she was going to vote "Yes" because she wanted peace in her country. She said that she was no friend of the FARC because she had relatives who were victims of the insurgency. She, nevertheless, acknowledged the role of the FARC in preventing the transnational corporations from stealing land.

Massive protest backs agreement

At this point, it's not only the oligarchy that decides which route for the peace process. Outraged by the result of the plebiscite, a group of young people immediately took to the streets demanding the establishment of the Final Agreement. Under the hashtag of #PazAlaCalle, they started organizing through social media to demonstrate support for the signed agreement in the streets.

By the thousands, people in Colombia on Oct. 5 held what has been called the largest protest in years. Sixteen cities participated. A permanent — and growing — encampment has been established in the centrally located Plaza Bolívar in Bogotá.

Juan David Ojeda, one of the protesters, told teleSUR, "We invite young people to set aside the social networks and come to Plaza Bolívar, to parks and other scenarios of public use, to enforce an agreement soon; we do not need more war."

Protests and events on behalf of the agreement have, since then, occurred in different places in the country. Medellín, Uribe's stronghold and one of the cities with almost 63 percent "No" votes, held a massive mobilization on Oct. 7 under the slogan: "Peace belongs to us." Youth called the action, which many civic groups, university people, women, war victims and members of the LGBTQ community supported. □



# Women strike in Poland for abortion rights

By Sue Davis

Black flooded the streets of Warsaw and 60 other Polish cities on Oct. 3. It is estimated that upwards of 6 million women, dressed in black to symbolize mourning for their reproductive rights, marched to strike against a law that would ban all abortions.

“I have never seen such huge protests,” wrote Krystyna Kacpura, director of the Federation for Women and Family Planning in Poland in an Oct. 6 Guardian op-ed. “Something snapped in Polish women; we are empowered and we won’t stop. The protests were so spontaneous: with barely a few days’ notice thousands of women were walking out of work, and if they couldn’t get the day off, many told me, they said to their bosses they would not return because they could not work alongside people who did not believe in their rights.”

Proposed by the ruling Law and Justice party (PiS) and supported by the Catholic Church (87 percent of Poles belong to it), the law would criminalize all abortions, punishing women who have them and the doctors who perform them with up to five years in jail. Not only could miscarriages be investigated, but doctors would be unable to perform prenatal tests, do Caesareans or treat women with conditions like pre-eclampsia for fear the fetus might die and they would go to jail. (Washington Post, Oct. 3)

Even under the current law, abortions are allowed only for women who are



Oct. 3, Warsaw, Poland.



pregnant due to rape or incest, whose health and life are at risk, or if the fetus is severely deformed. Because the law is among the most restrictive in Europe, with the exception of total bans in Malta and the Vatican, only about 2,000 legal abortions are performed yearly. However, it is estimated that 50,000 are performed illegally, while up to 100,000 Polish women seek the procedure in other European countries. (Reuters, Oct. 3)

### When abortion was legal in Poland

But that was not always the case. After the Soviet Red Army liberated Eastern Europe from Nazi rule at the end of World War II, governments were set up whose stated goal was socialism and gender equality. Abortion eventually

became legal in Poland, several decades before that happened in Western Europe and the U.S. The April 8, 2011, Guardian reported abortion “was available on demand by the 1960s.”

But after capitalism was restored in Poland in the 1990s, workplace childcare and all kinds of state support for family care were cut, so that today 42 percent of Polish women don’t work outside the home or those who do must work part-time. According to the Guardian, “In 1993 the church was suddenly re-emboldened and managed in concert with the rightwing to change the abortion law from the world’s most open to one of the most restrictive.”

Truth be told, the resurgence of the Catholic Church was hardly “sudden.” The church had been fighting tooth and nail against socialism ever since liberation from the Nazis. Beginning in 1980, it supported the anti-communist leader of “Solidarity,” Lech Walesa, who led a delegation in 1981 to meet with Pope John Paul II — born Karol Wojtyla in Poland. The “Polish Pope” was highly favored by U.S. imperialism, bolstering its plan to kick communism out of Poland and the rest of Eastern Europe.

But this sudden uprising of Polish women has disrupted the church’s plans. Immediately before the parliamentary vote on Oct. 6, three days after the women’s strike, the bishops’ conference issued a statement supporting “life from con-

ception to natural death,” adding, “But we do not support rules that would punish women who have an abortion.” The Polish parliament then overwhelmingly rejected the ban — 352 to 58. Prime Minister Beata Szydlo announced plans for more “modest” restrictions later this year and for more money to help families with disabled children. (The Guardian, Oct. 6)

### Access to abortion is a basic human right

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 cities in France, Taiwan, Russia and globally in the “Twittersphere.”

There was a ripple effect in the U.S., where the right to legal, accessible abortion is under attack from Republican candidates Donald Trump and Mike Pence. The quote from Krystyna Kacpura was posted on the Center for Reproductive Rights’ website (crr.org) on Oct. 7. CRR noted that it had worked with Kacpura’s organization in the past and hoped to continue in the future.

The right to abortion is a basic human right. That was validated last March by Juan E. Méndez, U.N. special rapporteur on torture, who defined denial of access to abortion as “torture.” The rising of Polish women has affirmed that right. □

## In ominous move Justice denied to victims of nukes

By Chris Fry

On a Sunday after church in 1946, a Navy commodore met with the people of Bikini Atoll and told them they were like the Israelites, a chosen people, and that perfecting the atomic bomb would deliver humankind from future wars. Within one month of that conversation, Bikinians boarded U.S. ships for relocation. Within five months, the first two tests had been conducted. “We located the one spot 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 nation 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 decided that its isolated position made it the ideal location to test nuclear bombs: first atomic bombs and then hydrogen bombs.

On March 2, 1954, the U.S. detonated the “Castle Bravo,” a 15-megaton hydrogen bomb on Bikini Atoll. The blast was 1,500 times more powerful than the bomb the U.S. had dropped on Hiroshima. Its flash could be seen in Okinawa, 2,600 miles away.

Every year, the Indigenous people of the Marshall Islands mark March 2 as “Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day.”

Between 1946 and 1958, the U.S. detonated 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands, 23 of them on Bikini Atoll. Residents had been moved to neighboring is-

lands that could not sustain increased population, so many starved. The people were told they could return to their islands when the tests were completed, but the radioactive fallout made those islands permanently uninhabitable. Many of the people also suffered from a huge increase in cancer and birth defects.

In 1983, the Marshall 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 Court of Justice, demanding that all countries possessing nuclear weapons, such as the U.S., abide by their obligations under the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, particularly the treaty’s Article VI.

Article VI commits nuclear weapon states like the U.S. to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, 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

The Marshall Islands suffered 67 nuclear tests between 1946 and 1958.

Now it's suing all nuclear-armed states over their failure to disarm.



that many countries favored drafting a convention to ban nuclear arsenals, much like the treaties that prohibit chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction.” (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’s difficult to understand that it finds no jurisdiction even when the parties have ‘opposite views,’” said lawyer Phon van den Biesen, citing a definition that the court uses for cases it hears.

In fact, the U.S government had already signaled it would ignore any court decision that might impede its military buildup. At the same time that it is trying to bully the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea out of testing nuclear weapons to defend itself from a threatened U.S. attack, the Pentagon has announced a \$1 trillion program to “modernize” its vast arsenal, which currently contains 7,100 nuclear bombs. (armscontrol.org, Aug. 1) □

## WORKERS WORLD MUNDO OBRERO

### EUA continúa subversión contra Cuba

Continúa de página 12

cado en Granma señala que estos proyectos están “dirigidos a la creación de supuestos líderes y agentes de cambio que no tienen nada en común con el proyecto social de la Revolución cubana ...

“El Presidente de la [Federación de Estudiantes Universitarios], Abel Mayea, afirmó categóricamente: “No hay motivos ocultos en las becas otorgadas. Está claro que nos quieren someter. Cuba no se opone a los intercambios, las cuales deben llevarse a cabo con respeto y con total apego a la institucionalidad. No serán capaces de ofrecer más de lo que la Revolución nos ha dado en 58 años.”(29 de septiembre)

La constitución cubana garantiza el derecho a la educación, y el 23 por ciento del presupuesto nacional de Cuba está dedicada a ella. Una pronto-a-ser licenciada en ingeniería civil señaló que “en estos cinco años nuestra Revolución ha garantizado todos mis estudios, de forma gratuita, por lo que no necesitamos ninguna beca de los EUA.”

La Directora de Asuntos estadounidenses en Cuba, Josefina Vidal, dijo durante una sesión de Preguntas y Respuestas en Twitter, “Insistimos una vez más que la financiación de los programas destinados a provocar un cambio interno en Cuba debe ser eliminado, lo que sería un paso esencial hacia una relación normal”.

Por el año 25avo consecutivo, la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas va a votar a favor de la resolución de Cuba: “La necesidad de poner fin al bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los EUA contra Cuba”. □





# Plebiscito colombiano, un desvío peligroso para la paz

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

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 después de cuatro años de difíciles conversaciones de paz en La Habana, Cuba, pueden peligrosamente desviar el 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 voluntad del pueblo colombiano, y aunque “legal”, no es legítimo.

¿Por qué?

En primer lugar, 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 votación debido a las inundaciones causadas por el huracán Mateo. Estos eran lugares donde se esperaba que el voto Sí predominara. ¿Qué legitimidad tiene este resultado cuando las regiones periféricas y la mayoría de las víctimas del conflicto armado votaron Sí, y sin embargo, el plebiscito fue decidido 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 alguna gente que tenía previsto votar por el Sí se abstuvieran, pensando que su voto no sería necesario.

Luego, y lo más importante, fue la terrible campaña de desinformación dirigida por el derechista Centro Democrático (CD) del ex presidente Álvaro Uribe - un feroz pro-paramilitarista opuesto al proceso de paz. El pasado 5 de octubre, Juan Carlos Vélez, gerente de la campaña del

## Una evaluación inicial

No, expuso su estrategia en una entrevista con el diario La República:

“Descubrimos el poder viral de las redes sociales. Por ejemplo, en una visita a Apartadó, Antioquia, un concejal 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”. (Larepublica.co) Esta estrategia fue ideada con diferentes mensajes engañosos para atraer a las diferentes regiones y estratos sociales.

Luego estaba el sector religioso que organizó activamente contra el acuerdo debido al enfoque de género del convenio - las mujeres y la comunidad LGBTQ participaron activamente para el desarrollo de un resultado sumamente progresista del Acuerdo Final.

La campaña del Sí, por otro lado no pudo lanzar una campaña exitosa para explicar el acuerdo en detalle.

A pesar de estos hechos, el presidente Juan Manuel Santos invitó a Uribe a la casa presidencial para “negociar” y escuchar las propuestas del CD el cual propone renegociar el acuerdo. Esto representa un peligro para el proceso de paz ya que se basa principalmente en el castigo de la guerrilla y la prohibición de que tengan un papel político legal y público lxs desmovilizados de las FARC-EP.

No hay que olvidar que cuando Uribe fue presidente, negoció por la amnistía de los paramilitares desmovilizados que cometieron crímenes probados de lesa

humanidad. El propio Uribe es un criminal responsable de masacres, tráfico de drogas, escuchas telefónicas ilegales, desplazamiento de miles de personas pobres y de la muerte de personas inocentes en la zona de Soacha donde jóvenes eran asesinados y luego vestidos con el uniforme de las FARC. Ahora Uribe es un senador en la legislatura de Colombia, disfrutando de total impunidad.

El resultado del plebiscito realmente pone de relieve las divisiones dentro de la oligarquía colombiana. Uribe representa los grandes terratenientes y ganaderos que temen el impacto en sus negocios del acuerdo definitivo 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 segmento de la oligarquía que quiere establecer los megaproyectos mineros y la industrialización de la economía colombiana por lo que necesita la “paz de los cementerios” para atraer a las empresas extranjeras. La insurgencia armada, tanto el ELN y las FARC, hasta ahora han sido el obstáculo más importante que impide la total toma de control de las tierras y las riquezas de las/os colombianos por parte de la sed de ganancias de corporaciones 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 quería la paz en su país. Afirmando que ella no era amiga de las

FARC porque tenía parientes que fueron víctimas de la insurgencia, sin embargo, reconoció el papel de las FARC en la prevención del robo de la tierra por empresas transnacionales.

### Movilizaciones en las calles

Pero ahora no le corresponde únicamente a la oligarquía decidir cuál es la ruta del proceso de paz. Indignados por los resultados del plebiscito, un grupo de jóvenes inmediatamente salieron a las calles para exigir el establecimiento del Acuerdo Final. Bajo el hashtag de #PazAlaCalle, empezaron a organizar a través de las redes sociales para demostrar el apoyo en las calles para el acuerdo firmado.

Por miles, el 5 de octubre, las y los colombianos se manifestaron en lo que ha sido la mayor protesta en años recientes. Dieciséis ciudades participaron y un permanente - y creciente - campamento se ha establecido en la céntrica Plaza Bolívar en Bogotá.

Juan David Ojeda, uno de los manifestantes, declaró en una entrevista con Telesur, “Invitamos a los jóvenes a que dejen a un lado las redes sociales y vengan a la Plaza Bolívar, a parques y otros escenarios de uso público para exigir un acuerdo pronto, no necesitamos más la guerra”.

Las protestas y eventos en pro del acuerdo desde entonces se han producido en diferentes lugares del país. En Medellín, la fortaleza de Uribe y una de las ciudades con más votos por el No - casi el 63 por ciento - llevó a cabo una masiva movilización el pasado viernes 7 de Oct. bajo el lema “La paz nos pertenece” iniciado por la juventud y con el apoyo de muchas otras organizaciones cívicas, universitarias, de la mujer, de víctimas y miembrxs dela comunidad LGBT. □

# EUA continúa subversión contra Cuba

Por Cheryl LaBash

A pesar de las discusiones bilaterales en curso y acuerdos de beneficio mutuo entre EUA y Cuba después del anuncio del 17 de diciembre del 2014, por ambos países que restablecieron las relaciones diplomáticas, EUA ha continuado fondos y programas que promueven la intención de socavar y revertir las relaciones económicas socialistas elegidas por el pueblo cubano.

El programa de radio haitiana wpf-wfm.org Konbit Lakay reportó el 24 de septiembre, sobre la creciente crisis en la frontera mexicana, debido a la decisión de la administración Obama para rechazar a miles de refugiadas/os haitianos allí y para intensificar las deportaciones. El anfitrión comparó estas acciones hostiles a la condición preferencial concedida a los cubanos que entran a EUA.

La Ley de Ajuste Cubano de 1966 considera automáticamente a todas/os los cubanos ser refugiados, se les ofrece beneficios sociales y estatus de residencia legal permanente después de permanecer un año en EUA. En 1995, EUA instituyó la política de pies secos/pies mojados,

que establece que si las/os cubanos llegaron a la costa de Estados Unidos en barco serían considerados refugiados. Los que son interceptados en el mar serían devueltos a Cuba. La aplicación de la LAC y pies mojados/pies secos se aplica tanto a la discreción del presidente de EUA.

Como Presidenta de Mujeres Haitianas de Miami, Marlein Bastie señaló que las condiciones en Haití son peores que las condiciones en Cuba.

Otra constante violación de la soberanía de Cuba es el programa de Libertad Condicional Médica Cubana Profesional en vigor desde el 2006. (tinyurl.com/CMPPPprogram) Totalmente a discreción del presidente, esta fuga de cerebros atrae a las/os profesionales de la medicina que disfrutaron de una educación gratuita en Cuba, a abandonar las misiones internacionalistas y venir a EUA. Muchas/os de los que aceptan el cebo encuentran que es muy difícil conseguir la licencia médica de Estados Unidos. (Newsweek.org, 24 de marzo)

Los dólares fiscales de Estados Unidos que se necesitan con urgencia para las necesidades humanas desde Flint-Michigan a las Apalaches, se asignan a los

programas de subversión en Cuba, sin la aprobación o consentimiento de Cuba. La Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional informa: “el congreso de Estados Unidos asignó \$55 millones para programas de Cuba, entre los años fiscales del 2009 al 2011; USAID manejó cerca de \$31 millones de este monto, mientras que el Departamento de Estado manejó el resto. También, \$20 millones han sido asignados para el año fiscal del 2012.” (1 de abril de 2011) La llamada Fundación Nacional para la Democracia asignó más de \$3 millones en el 2015 solo. (Ned.org)

Estos programas incluyen uno dirigido por el contratista de la USAID Alan Gross, que instala dispositivos de comunicación de grado militar en tres ciudades cubanas; la desaparecida operación de EUA de un sistema de comunicación de tipo Twitter, promovida a través de fachadas de negocios en terceros países para ocultar a los títeres estadounidenses; programas destinados a hip-hop cubano; y un programa de educación sobre el SIDA, que usa a

jóvenes latinoamericanos para tratar de identificar a la juventud cubana abierta a la propaganda pro-capitalista.

La juventud cubana se reunió para exponer el Programa de Aprendizaje Mundial-que suena inocente y el Programa de Liderazgo de Verano para la concesión a la juventud cubana, que es financiado por el Departamento de Estado de EUA. El 28 de septiembre los estudiantes en Santiago de Cuba y en Ciego de Ávila condenaron las maniobras del gobierno de Estados Unidos que intentan manipular a la juventud cubana. Un artículo publi-

Continúa a página 11



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!