

# Hurricane hammers Florida Gov't protects property, not people

By Devin Cole  
Pensacola, Fla.

Convoys of relief supplies provided by a left and community coalition effort headed from this city to Panama City, Marianna, Parker, Mexico Beach and other locations devastated by Hurricane Michael on both Oct. 12 and Oct. 14.

The Pensacola trans organization STRIVE (Social Trans Initiative) coordinated with the local NAACP chapter and with local members and candidates of Workers World Party, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Green Party of Mobile, Ala., to organize supplies.

With \$300 from STRIVE and another \$1,000 from an Oct. 12 fundraiser, the convoys were able to take desperately needed supplies — tarps, blankets, storage containers, bottled water and canned food, mosquito repellent, high SPF sunscreen, baby wipes and diapers, Depends, menstrual pads, toilet paper, hand sanitizer and other supplies.

The convoy also carried cooking grills and charcoal to set up stations to feed people since no power and no water have been available in destroyed areas. The convoy brought supplies on Oct. 14 to Glenwood, a lower-income, predominantly Black neighborhood where a local church and two nightclubs facilitated distribution.

This reporter, travelling with the convoys, witnessed first hand that city governments, the state of Florida and federal agencies are far, far from “handling” the catastrophe.

Panama City Beach and Panama City are completely devastated. The towns between Panama City and Mexico Beach are gone. Buildings and homes are flattened, powerlines snapped in half, roads are blocked by trees.

Category 4 Hurricane Michael is the strongest hurricane on record to

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## Getting *SERIOUS* about the environment *Editorial*

A fierce debate is raging within the environmental movement. It comes very late, but it is here now and that must be applauded. It was summed up by a large banner stretching across a boulevard in Paris during a recent demonstration: “Change the system, not the climate.”

This is not the first time that march-

ers at a large protest over climate change have denounced the capitalist system for the dangerous rise of heat-trapping carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere. Many of the hundreds of thousands who clogged Fifth Avenue in New York City on Sept. 20, 2014, for the huge People's Climate March carried signs and stickers

attacking the profit system.

But the main message from speakers or slogans for that event was not “change the system.”

They appealed to the capitalist government to take measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions. These measures were supposed to modify the market economy in

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## Puerto Rico

Ready to put the U.S. on trial 6-7



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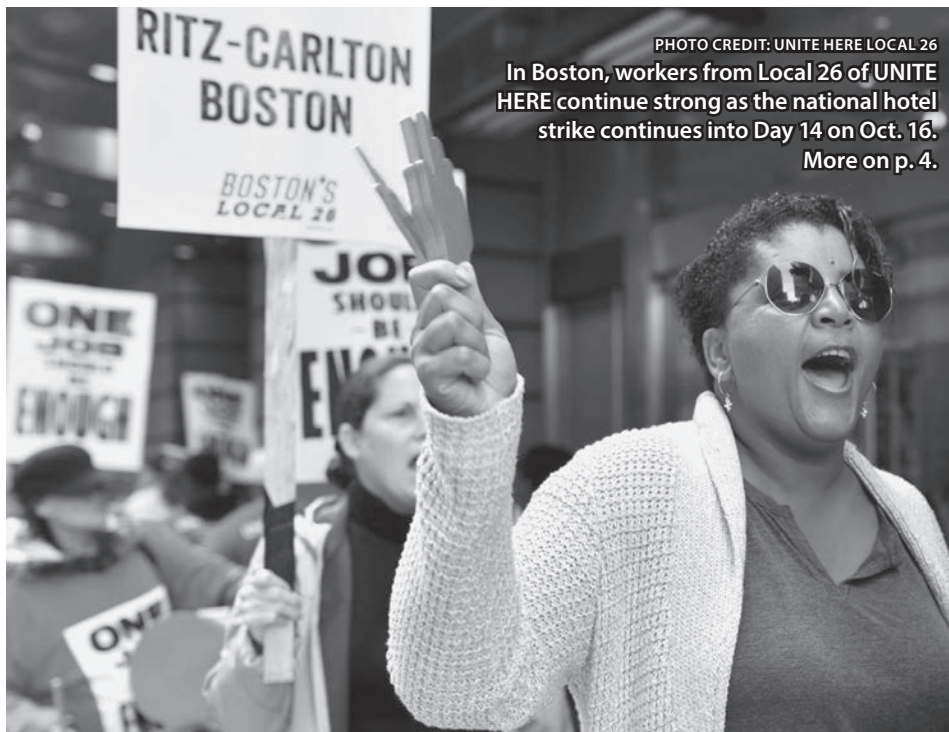


PHOTO CREDIT: UNITE HERE LOCAL 26  
In Boston, workers from Local 26 of UNITE HERE continue strong as the national hotel strike continues into Day 14 on Oct. 16. More on p. 4.

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BERLIN: A QUARTER MILLION ANTI-FASCISTS MARCH 11







# Disability, racist profiling and the cops

By Lyn Neeley  
Portland, Ore.

Police shot and killed Samuel Rice, a 30-year-old man with a history of mental disabilities, here on Oct. 10.

That's the third Portland police killing in just two months — two Black men, Jason Washington and Patrick Kimmons, and a person known by the cops to have mental health problems.

In 2012, the Portland Police Bureau was investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice and found guilty of using excessive force against people suffering from mental health problems. The DOJ made key recommendations to the police to minimize their use of force.

At an Oct. 4 reportback conference on the PPB's compliance with those recommendations, the DOJ found that improvements were made in the speed at which those events were "written up" and documented. But there were still many instances where police force could have been avoided or minimized.

Six days after the conference, Rice was fatally shot in the head by a police sharpshooter. Rice had been holding his female partner hostage in a local motel when he was killed. Witnesses said Rice had been



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

talking "nonsense" to the police, who had taken Rice and his partner to mental health treatment facilities in the past.

There are now several studies showing that Black men and people with mental disabilities are shot and killed by police at disproportionately high rates nationwide.

Since the dawn of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2013 and the murder of Freddie Gray in 2015, several studies have tracked the number of police killings in the U.S. Similar results from the Washington Post ("Fatal Force") and the Guardian ("The Counted") show that Black men are between 9 and 16 times

more likely to be killed by police than other people. In 2017, Black men, just 6 percent of the population, made up 22 percent of those shot and killed by police.

Nearly half of the police killings in the U.S. are of people with mental health or other kinds of disabilities, according to several reports, including those from the Ruderman Family Foundation and the Treatment Advocacy Center. They show that media coverage neglects to focus on disabilities and mental health considerations and that police use lethal force in cases where urgent care would be a better solution.

# Mass pressure cancels fascist speaker

By John Steffin

James O'Keefe, a fascist provocateur fueled by the Trump regime, was scheduled to speak at Columbia University on Oct. 10. Rumors had been flying for a while that the College Republicans wanted to host him. However, the official date for his appearance was announced only five days before the event. This seems to have been done to give protesters as little time as possible to organize.

Despite this move, flyers calling for a protest appeared on campus, but four days after the event was announced, O'Keefe's appearance was cancelled. This was a victory and a testament to the strength of anti-fascist organizing on the

Columbia campus.

After Trump's election, college campuses became a battleground in the struggle against fascism. Across the U.S., far-right groups, in an attempt to normalize fascist ideas, tried to host speakers on college campuses under the guise of "free speech."

The invitation to O'Keefe by the university's College Republicans was part of this project. The groups had already showed their fascist colors last year when they invited Tommy Robinson and Mike Cernovich to campus. These men are notorious for their white supremacist, male supremacist, anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish views. O'Keefe is no different.

O'Keefe's organization, Project Veritas,

claims it is dedicated to exposing corruption and misconduct in public and private institutions. But all his targets just happen to work for the benefit of working-class and oppressed people. Some of these include Planned Parenthood, ACORN and the New Jersey Teachers Union. In 2017, O'Keefe also played a role in the frame-up of left-wing activists who protested Trump's inauguration.

The fascist campaign to make beachheads on U.S. university campuses now appears to be failing. From California and Washington state to Michigan and New York state, fascist speakers have faced mass resistance from campus communities. Last year at Columbia, hundreds came out to protest Robinson



and Cernovich. Today, a fascist speaker didn't even show up.

The anti-fascist movement, however, cannot rest on its laurels. The university is just one front while fascist organizing continues. As anti-fascists were celebrating O'Keefe's cancellation, three left-wing activists were attacked in Manhattan on Oct. 12 by members of the Proud Boys, a fascist street gang.

Wherever they are, fascists must be stopped. □

# Immigrant family risks arrests to end deportation orders

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

After almost ten months of taking sanctuary in the basement of a Philadelphia church, Carmela Apolonio Hernández was ready to take direct action to stop deportation orders against her family.

On Oct. 10, Hernández and her 14-year-old daughter Keyri risked arrest and possible deportation to visit U.S. Sen. Bob Casey's (D-Pa.) office. The request to Casey was that he pressure U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to grant a stay of deportation and introduce a private bill in the Senate on behalf of the family.

Hernández refused to meet Casey's staff in a basement conference room because her family is tired of living "underground, in the shadows." Once in Casey's sixth floor office, instead of a plan to alleviate her family's desperate situation, she was offered candy.

These two refugees were not alone in risking arrest for im/migrant rights. Two Black women and longtime activists, Dr.

Wende Marshall, community organizer and Temple University professor, and the Rev. Renee McKenzie of the Church of the Advocate, joined them inside Casey's office. Other supporters, including Pastor Robin Hynicka of the Arch Street United Methodist Church, also conducted real solidarity by occupying the office with them. Over two dozen people participated simultaneously in the daylong action by occupying the building's lobby.

After sitting in at Casey's office for four hours with no satisfactory response from his staff, Hernández, her daughter and eight supporters went down to the building's main doors. These they blocked with a banner and their bodies, risking arrest again.

Standing before the banner reading: "Casey, whose side are you on? Introduce private bill now!" Pastor Hynicka was arrested first. Cops tried to arrest Keyri next. Hernández yelled, "You're arresting a child?" The crowd chanted, "Shame on Casey!" and some activists yelled, "Why



ing for votes. I'm fighting for my freedom, so that my family is well and safe. So that they can stay alive." (Full statement at [tityurl.com/y85yswa7](https://tityurl.com/y85yswa7).)

**Taking sanctuary to avoid deportation**

Hernández and her children — Fidel, Keyri, Yoselin and Edwin — took sanctuary in the Church of the Advocate, a historic Black church in the heart of North Central Philadelphia, on Dec. 13, 2017. "I am taking sanctuary to fight for my family, to protest our deportation orders and the injustices of the immigration system. Everybody deserves to live with dignity and safety," explained Hernández on her GoFundMe page: <https://bit.ly/2CaSUnc>.

Hernández and the children were issued a family order of deportation after their asylum petition was denied in 2017 by Judge John B. Carle. He has a denial rate 64 percent higher than the average

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# Striking hotel workers strategize to win

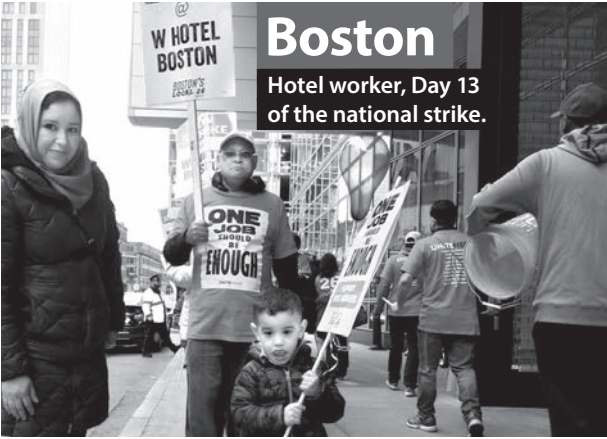


PHOTO UNITE HERE LOCAL 26

By Workers World Boston bureau

Oct. 12 — Chanting “7 a.m. wake-up call!” and “Don’t check in, check out!” 500 Boston hotel workers on the tenth day of the national strike against Marriott International shut down rush hour traffic for half an hour tonight. Represented by UNITE HERE Local 26, housekeepers, cooks, bartenders and bellhops walked off the job as part of a now 7,800-work-er-strong national strike.

Workers also walked out Oct. 3 in San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland and San Jose, and on Oct. 7 in Detroit, while Waikiki, Maui and Seattle workers struck the morning of Oct. 8.

As in Boston and many places it op-erates, the five Hawaii hotels owned by Kyo-ya were bought out by Marriott, the world’s largest hotel company that netted

\$1.4 billion in 2017. Accord-ing to today’s Boston Globe, the city’s largest hotel, Sher-aton Boston, generated \$28.4 million in operating profit in the last year, while Westin Copley made \$31.5.

Amid all this wealth, hotel workers are among the 7.8 million workers across the country forced to hold mul-tiple jobs to barely keep their heads above water. They are demanding: “One Job Should Be Enough.” (MadameNoire. com, October 2016)

Marriott is cutting back hours by hir-ing temps and using technology to replace workers. It is shutting down restaurants, bars and room service to increase profits and outsource jobs to the gig economy. Uber, Lyft and UberEats have cut into the livelihoods of tip-dependent hotel food service workers and door workers who traditionally secure cabs for customers.

An often-discussed issue on the pick-etline is Marriott’s deceitful “Make a Green Choice Program.” Cashing in on people’s genuine desire to help save the environment, the program gives points and rewards to customers for refusing housekeeping services. UNITE HERE in its report, “Marriott’s Dirty Choice,” said the program reduces housekeeper hours and leads to more injuries.

Housekeepers report that this pro-

gram results in rooms filled with days of filth that require backbreaking labor and heavy lifting as well as use of stron-ger cleaning chemicals. As UNITE HERE Local 26 President Brian Lang put it: “This is a labor-reduction program mas-querading as an environmental program. Union housekeepers have seen their hours reduced 15 to 20 percent because of the program.”

This deceptive marketing has also been followed with outright lies by the company that posted an anti-union letter claiming to have met worker demands. Management’s effort to cut union power and divide workers has been met with determined effort and loud picket lines in front of empty lobbies and in the streets.

## Strategies to win

To win this struggle, however, UNITE HERE workers need more support now, especially from communities. Concrete solidarity came this week in Boston from the local progressive Asian Amer-ican and Pacific Islanders community who swelled the union’s picket line at the Westin hotel. AAPI is fighting to protect affirmative action for Black and Latinx students at Harvard University. They were outraged that the right-wing, an-ti-affirmative-action think tank Students for Fair Admissions and their cronies had crossed the picket line.

“The strike is coming to a dangerous point as it ends its second week,” Harvard Local 26 Chief Steward Ed Childs ex-plaind to Workers World. “Marriott owns 10 percent of its market in the world, so this is a fight not just in the U.S. But in this country, the attack against UNITE HERE is a national effort from Washington and Wall Street, along with National Right to Work, eased by the Janus v. American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees court decision; the termina-tion of temporary protected status [for Car-ibbean and Central American workers]; DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Ar-rivals]; and attacks on affirmative action —

all stacked against workers. UNITE HERE has responded with a national campaign, and we’re fighting not just for our union but for workers in general.”

Childs advised: “Mobilize yourselves. Raise this in your union meetings. Talk about it with your co-workers. We’ve nev-er faced anything like this. This is an at-tack on you, too.”

Childs cited the Wisconsin protests of 2011 as a source of valuable inspiration and important lessons: “When Governor Scott Walker brought right-to-work leg-islation to this historically union-strong-hold state, it provoked a strong defense that united all unions, the Black and Latinx communities, campus activists and the Occupy movement. Hundreds of thousands protested daily throughout the winter. They ultimately seized and occupied the State House for weeks with rank-and-file union members chanting ‘General Strike!’ in the capitol.

“Although the unions had built the power to do that, the Democrats sold them out, convincing union leadership to await a recall effort, but then running the racist, pro-life mayor of Milwaukee as their can-didate. That split the movement.”

Childs observed that people in Madison at the time were very responsive and sup-portive, easily seeing through the deceptive “rights” rhetoric that like “Green Choice” is just a foil for corporate take-backs.

“Unfortunately, we never made it to the offense,” Childs added. “A general strike in Wisconsin would have been taking the offensive and could have defeated the right-to-work campaign. Continuing the campaign to contemplate a general strike may be what is needed today to defeat the attack on the unions by Wall Street, Mar-riott and the Trump forces.”

“Bring the hotel strike to your unions and community. Let them hear from workers that it’s important for the whole workers’ movement to train leaders. Show up at the line. Give any support they can. But the unions then need to go on the of-fense and call for a general strike.” □

## Detroit joins Marriott strike

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

Some 160 hotel workers, includ-ing bartenders, servers, cashiers, bellhops, front desk workers and housekeepers at downtown Detroit’s Book Cadillac hotel joined the strike against Marriott on Oct. 7. Since then, members of UNITE HERE Lo-cal 24 have been walking the picket line round the clock. Altogether there are over 7,800 workers on strike against the Mar-riott chain, which operates Book Cadillac.

“I’ve been here for almost nine years. In that nine years, I received a 60-cent pay raise,” bartender David Frassetto told demonstrators at a rally Oct. 9. “That was six years ago. Six years ago!” (Detroit News, Oct. 10)

The theme of the strike is “One job should be enough.” Other union mem-bers at the rally explained that the pay at Book Cadillac is so little they have to work a second job. They complained that the Renaissance Center Marriott, tied to General Motors world headquarters, pays



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Defiant Detroit hotel workers on strike, Oct. 15.

its workers \$2 more an hour for essential-ly the same work.

With room rates starting at over \$500 a night, this hotel can well afford to pay workers enough money to allow them to get by with just one job.

These Detroit workers are carrying on a long tradition of hotel workers on strike. In 1937, after the victory of the Flint sit-down strike against GM, workers at the Book Cadillac and other swanky down-town hotels won union recognition by employing this militant tactic. The boss-es had to post a notice in the newspapers stating that the sit-downs had forced them to close their hotels.

Strikers are determined to stay out un-til their demands are met. □

## Hotel workers strike

Three Latinx workers from Stationary Engineers Local 39 (shown here) are striking at the Oakland Airport Hilton as part of the nationwide hotel work-ers’ strike. One of the workers, Javier, told this reporter that the Hilton bosses only offered their union a 50-cent raise without any face-to-face negoti-ations! This is outrageous, con-sidering that Hilton is a worldwide con-glomerate that brings in billions annually.

This “offer” is an insult to all workers. Javier also stated that his rent went from \$600 a month to \$2,600 in the Bay Area, which is experiencing wholesale gentrifi-



Oakland, Calif.

cation that pushes out poor and working people.

While Workers World was interviewing these workers on Oct. 15, many drivers going by honked in solidarity.

— Story and photo by Monica Moorehead

## Immigrant family risks arrests

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in the Philadelphia court system.

Should Hernández and her children be deported, their lives would be in immi-nent danger.

They came to the U.S. in 2015, fleeing the violence of the U.S.-backed drug wars in Mexico. These had claimed the lives of three of her closest family members, and led to physical assaults on Hernández and her oldest daughter.

While Sen. Casey claims he supports the immigrant struggle, he ignored the

Hernández family’s request for concrete action for over nine months.

So, after ten months in sanctuary in the church’s basement, Hernández and her daughter Keyri took a chance to confront Casey to stay their deportation and gain the private bill to protect them-selves. They left the church with the help of members of the support group, the Sanctuary Advocate Coalition.

Deportations continue to wreak hav-oc in immigrant communities across the U.S. The Trump administration has

increased immigration arrests by 45 percent. The federal administration ex-plicitly targets “sanctuary” cities such as Philadelphia.

The current administration has stripped young people, refugees, asylum seekers and other populations from conditional relief programs. Temporary protected sta-tus (TPS) and Deferred Action for Child-hood Arrivals (DACA), even when applied to their full extent, do not protect the lives of people displaced from their countries of origin by violence and poverty exacerbat-ed by U.S. foreign policy.

Casey and the Democratic Party blame Trump for the dire situation im/migrants

find themselves in.

Hernández and the Sanctuary Advo-cate Coalition, in a Oct. 10 press release (<https://bit.ly/2PDtJNG>), say, “Blaming Trump is not enough.” They demand Ca-sey use his congressional powers to take actions that would “mean the difference between family separation or unity, and even life or death, for Carmela and her children.”

The Sanctuary Advocate Coalition includes Decarcerate PA, the Free Mi-gration Project, Juntos, the Media Mo-bilizing Project, Reclaim Philadelphia, Stadium Stompers and the Youth Art & Self-Empowerment Project. □



# On the Mass. ballot

## Voting YES for worker rights, trans rights

By Workers World Boston bureau

Three Massachusetts ballot questions this November need a YES vote. They present an unusual opportunity for people to mobilize through the political process in practical defense of progressive aims — even if people can’t push the Democratic Party machinery to drive this struggle.

Many workers and oppressed people in Massachusetts are cautious about political participation that starts and ends with voting for politicians. This is true despite the much-touted promise of “change” Democrats insist will result from a big turnout for midterm elections.

The Democratic Party has a tight statewide grip on the electorate here, even though the governor is Republican and there have been notable mutinies in the heart of Boston’s significant Black and Latinx communities. In those neighborhoods, incumbent Democratic Party elites were ousted in this year’s primaries by progressive young Black women candidates with grassroots community support.

In the majority of the state’s congressional districts, candidates are cookie-cutter careerist politicians, who appeal much more to their corporate donors than to the people.

Though voters are right to feel cautious about participating, the three ballot questions call out for a YES vote.

### Patient safety and union rights

Question 1 is a proposal, drafted by the largest union representing nurses in the state, Massachusetts Nurses Association, to improve patient safety by establishing requirements that limit the number of patients assigned to nurses in various types of care environments. It’s also an important example of workers demanding to have input and offer solutions to a crisis in their working conditions.

Union nurses should be able to achieve these solutions through the collective bargaining process, rather than through a highly politicized statewide referendum.



Yet because of the erosion of union rights, including measures that have eliminated the nurses’ right to withhold their labor as a bargaining tool, they must instead use the ballot and appeal to the whole population.

An overwhelming YES vote on question 1 should be a no-brainer in Massachusetts, a “blue state.” Yet hospital CEOs, nursing management and corporate health care lobbyists have poured unprecedented resources into the campaign to defeat the question. Nursing executive managers, donning scrubs (nurses’ work clothes), which they would never wear in their corporate office suites, appear in television ads and spread the lie that “real nurses say NO to question 1.”

The MNA and thousands of rank-and-file nurses are fighting a hard battle to defeat the campaign of confusion about Question 1. They explain that a YES on 1 is a vote for safe staffing of nurses in hospital and health center units, which are plagued with daily incidents directly related to understaffing and overstressed, overworked, overtired nurses.

It is also a vote for evidence-based research on patient care.

Politically, a YES vote is a vote against

corporate health care for profit. It is also a vote for union rights — especially the right of workers who best understand the life-and-death risks of their work to offer solutions to fix unsafe conditions. That’s much better than having those conditions subject to management whims.

### People power v. ‘Citizens United’

Question 2 challenges the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision. That ruling extended First Amendment free-speech protections to corporations, allowing them to spend unlimited resources to influence elections and lawmakers.

Question 2 aims to create a commission of unpaid volunteers to help better understand and challenge the ever-growing behemoth of corporate political power. Recent statewide polls show there is overwhelming support for such a people’s commission to design, draft and propose state laws and a federal constitutional amendment to limit corporate money and influence in the political process.

A YES vote on Question 2 is a vote against corporate dictatorship over the vast majority of people.

### Nonnegotiable rights for trans and nonbinary people

Question 3 is aimed to defend an already in-place Massachusetts law that provides some basic protections against discrimination for transgender people using public accommodations like restaurants, hotels, restaurants and gyms.

Opponents of Question 3 want to overturn the existing anti-discrimination laws and instead rely on draconian definitions of who is a woman and who is a man. Overturning the laws would allow any bigot to complain to a manager or call the cops when they encounter people in public facilities whose appearance or gender expression makes the bigot uncomfortable.

Keep MA Safe — the ballot question’s primary opponent — tries to hide its backward ideas about trans, nonbinary

and gender-nonconforming people behind a false claim that they are protecting women from sexual predators. This virulent fearmongering is as patently misogynist as it is transphobic.

The righteous outrage that has been boiling up to the surface about rape, sexual assault and other misogynistic abuse and misconduct in the wake of the Kavanaugh hearings shares deep historical roots with the trans liberation struggle as well as to the struggle against racism.

Centuries ago, the patriarchal system of rule developed among agricultural societies. This system relegated women to reproductive labor and sexual objectification in order to enable the new exploiting class of male property owners to accumulate wealth and power and doubly reinforce their class rule.

Colonialism, rooted in Europe, furthered this violent exploitation by subjugating whole peoples across the oceans. Colonial rule drove into death and obscurity the existing gender-crossing and gender nonbinary practices and identities in non-European societies.

The legacy of this patriarchal and colonial abuse is at the root of today’s relentless rate of homicide of trans women of color. This persists in the sexist, racist and anti-immigrant behavior and micro-aggressions that make many institutions, workplaces and interpersonal relationships a minefield for most women and oppressed people.

Class patriarchy and colonialism are the source of all the reactionary ideas that sow mistrust of trans and nonbinary people among cisgender people. They also sow disregard of LGBTQ people by straight people. Ballot Question 3 attempts to reverse this mistrust.

The right of any historically marginalized or oppressed group to protections from discrimination should never need to be up for public debate or referendum. And yet, once again, this is the reality in the U.S. That is why a YES vote on Question 3 is a vote against long-standing discrimination and the rising tide of reaction and fascism. □

## Philadelphia

# Protest of draconian state prison policies

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is backing draconian measures to restrict mail, books and periodicals available to prisoners. On Oct. 10, over 100 protesters in Philadelphia demonstrated against the new policies, which were adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections last month. Gathering outside the Yards Brewing Company, where Wolf was holding a campaign fundraiser, several demonstrators managed to get inside the venue. They directly challenged Wolf before they were forcibly removed.

The protest was called by Books Through Bars, the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration, the Amistad Law Project, Life Lines Project, the Human Rights Coalition PA, Decarcerate PA and the Youth Art and Self-improvement Project.

The new PADOC policies will cost over \$15 million, while at the same time the state has cut back on funding for education, claiming budget shortages. The



In Philadelphia on Oct 10, prisoner solidarity groups protested new harsh, exploitative regulations in Pennsylvania prisons.

measures represent yet another avenue for corporations to profit off the suffering of prisoners and their families, who already pay excessive prices for phone calls and commissary purchases. “Health care” for the PADOC has been supplied by for-profit interests for years.

The new policies also increase the violation of prisoners’ rights, restrict access to educational materials and interrupt people’s correspondence with loved

ones on the outside. Under the regulations, prisoners’ mail is being sent to a private company in Florida, where it is opened, scanned and emailed to the prisons before copies of the mail are printed and delivered to prisoners. Originals are destroyed, while scanned copies are kept in a searchable database by the PADOC. Legal mail is copied and given to the recipient, with original — highly sensitive — documents kept on file for 15 days.

New regulations require that prisoners must order ebooks through a prison-controlled kiosk and can only access them by purchasing an expensive ereader. Free books sent by family or programs such as Books Through Bars are denied, forcing prisoners and their families to pay high rates for electronic substitutes chosen from a limited, censored range of books.

The fate of access to newspapers and

other periodicals remains in question. The ability of over 300 Pennsylvania prisoners to receive free subscriptions to Workers World newspaper could be threatened by the new rules. Since early 2017, the PADOC has frequently banned issues of Workers World that they consider “too subversive,” including an issue that urged support for the fight against white supremacy. Several members of the Philadelphia branch of Workers World Party joined the Oct. 10 protest.

Some of the activists who had spent the day inside Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey’s office protesting his failure to protect immigrant rights joined the demonstration for prisoners after the occupation ended. They carried several “Melting ICE cube” signs.

Both Wolf and Casey are up for re-election in November. While they face little challenge from their Republican opponents, protesters drove home the message that their Democratic party affiliation matters little while they are both making concessions to right-wing, for-profit forces. □



# RAMONA AFRICA: *Harriet's granddaughter*

Workers World Party joins thousands around the world in the call to help our sister, Ramona Africa, fight for her life.

Ramona Africa is the last survivor of the 1985 firebombing of the MOVE home in Philadelphia on May 13, 1985. She was severely burned, arrested immediately after the bombing and falsely charged in the incident. She served seven years in prison. After being released, she returned to Philadelphia and continued to work with MOVE as minister of communications.

Ramona was diagnosed with lymphoma after she suffered a stroke that left her unable to walk in early August.

Ramona is a revolutionary who speaks about freedom and equality for life for all living things. She speaks of a better

world: a world not based on violence and domination, but a world based on dignity and respect for all people of all backgrounds.

Ramona has respect for life, clean water, fresh air, natural food and shelter, all of which are needed for quality of life. Not only does she speak about the principles of freedom, she lives, breathes and fights for the freedom she speaks of.

In Mumia Abu-Jamal's audio commentary celebrating "Sister Warriors, Harriet's Daughters: Ramona Africa, Pam Africa, and Monica Moorehead," Mumia said, "These three women, Ramona, Pam, and Monica, are like Harriet [Tubman]

because they fight for freedom every day against great odds and they keep on pushing no matter what."

Mumia Abu-Jamal had this to say in a recent audio commentary: "Saving Mona"



PHOTO: DOMINIQUE DIPRIMA

posted on Prison Radio, Sept. 2: "The woman who hit the ground running, who suffered a foul and unjust imprisonment, who showed an uncanny strength, who spoke up for justice all around the world has been forced to rest and recuperate. MOVE needs your help to support her in this rest and recuperation that she needs."

Ramona has been there for us. Now it is time for us to be there for her.

To make a gofundme donation to help pay for Ramona Africa's medical expenses, go to [tinyurl.com/y8zklo3d/](https://tinyurl.com/y8zklo3d/).

**OnaMove  
Workers World Party**

## Philadelphia



### 'Night for Ramona'

At Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books in Philadelphia on Oct. 12, around 100 people attended a "Night for Ramona" to honor, celebrate and raise money for civil rights icon Ramona Africa. Speakers

included (left to right) Gabe Bryant, Pam Africa, Johanna Fernandez, Eleanor Johnson (Ramona Africa's mother), Mike Africa, Tony Monteiro and Marc Lamont Hill.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## New York

# Celebrating Ramona Africa

Over 100 activists attended an Oct. 13 cultural fundraiser in New York City for Ramona Africa, a leader of the MOVE family in Philadelphia. She is the only adult survivor of the bombing of the MOVE house on May 13, 1985, by the Philadelphia police and federal agencies. Africa suffered a stroke in August 2017 and now faces tens of thousands of dollars for medical care and rehabilitation.

Cultural artists and activists paid tribute to Ramona Africa throughout the evening as she watched from her hospital bed via a web link. Following the program, deejays provided music for dancing. □



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## Emergency Int

# Put the for col PUER Saturday



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Puerto Rico T

120 years of U.S  
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## Wanted posters:

On her wanted poster, Julia Keleher is described as a 'ruthless mercenary hired to kill public education; proven to be completely ignorant about the Puerto Rican values, culture, history, literature and language of the children under her mandate.'



David A. Skeel: 'A board appointed by congressional mandate could get away with attacking public employee unions and cutting programs, jobs and benefits.'



# Wanted posters target Fis

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated Puerto Rico in September 2017. But over a year earlier, in June 2016, President Barack Obama unleashed economic devastation in the island/archipelago when he signed into law PROMESA — the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act. The legislation triggered a new phase in class struggle on Puerto Rico, and eliminated any doubt that it is a colony of the U.S.

In essence, PROMESA is a collection agency to serve Wall Street bondholders. For that purpose, it created a dictatorial Financial Control Board referred to as the "Junta" by Puerto Ricans. The FCB is headed by insurance broker José Carrion III. Board members include Andrew G. Biggs of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington; financier Carlos M. García and banker José R. González, both with connections to Santander Bank; Arthur J. González, retired chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York; and David A. Skeel, Jr., a professor of corporate law at the University of Pennsylvania.

Skeel, who teaches bankruptcy law, lives and works in Philadelphia. Philadelphia native Julia Keleher was hired by the FCB to serve as Puerto Rico's "Education Secretary" despite her lack of education experience. Both have been targeted by a "wanted poster" campaign in Philadelphia exposing their service to rich Wall Street bondholders.

In summer 2018 the wanted posters began to appear on the University of Pennsylvania campus, including one posted on Skeel's office door. Demonstrations were held there to call attention to Skeel and Keleher's roles in the theft of Puerto Rico's resources.

Skeel responded in a Sept. 13 op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal. He noted the posters claimed he was a "mercenary" who

"demands the blood of Puerto Rican people to pay rich Wall Street bondholders."

Skeel's defense? Simply that "PROMESA instructed the oversight board to help 'achieve fiscal responsibility and access to the capital markets.'"

But the record of Skeel, a legal bankruptcy specialist, shows why the posters describe him as a "mercenary." In a 2014 Wall Street Journal article, he argued that management of the debt crisis in Puerto Rico could be a test case for attacking workers' rights. He cited parallels to U.S. states facing similar hardships, such as Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and cities like Philadelphia.

In the article Skeel noted that, unlike local officials reluctant to make drastic cuts because they are subject to reelections, a board appointed by congressional mandate could get away with attacking public employee unions and cutting programs, jobs and benefits.

He wrote: "There may be a silver lining in these financial clouds."

## All-out class war on workers and poor

So who gets to line their pockets with that silver, obtained through the "restructuring" of Puerto Rico's debt? The members of the FCB, appointed by the U.S. president and chosen by leaders of the House and Senate, were given broad powers to serve the interest of bondholders, with no accountability to the people of Puerto Rico.

The FCB's powers include instituting automatic hiring freezes and reducing the minimum wage of workers under 25 years old from \$7.25 to \$4.25.

Layoffs, cuts in basic services and increases to the cost of living then exacerbated hunger and poverty, worsening after Maria struck. Foreclosures of mortgages on homes and repossessions of automobiles became widespread.

Under the pretext of "stimulating the economy," the Labor Transformation and Flexibility Act, passed in 2017, stripped workers of hard-won gains, including the



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## #DecolonizePuertoRico

# Tribunal will be viewed across the U.S.

By Cheryl LaBash

In a little more than a week on Oct. 27, voices from Puerto Rico will testify to the colonial crimes imposed on their island for 120 years in an emergency International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes Against Puerto Rico at Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz in Manhattan.

As hurricanes continue to batter the mainland U.S., witnesses and participants will recall the devastation of Hurricane Maria a year ago and expose how that is being used by the U.S. in its century-long, continuing occupation and exploitation of the Puerto Rican people.

The tribunal has become so compelling

that satellite audiences have organized themselves in California to get up bright and early so they can view the live-streamed appearance of so many notable witnesses.

Beginning at 6 a.m. in Los Angeles at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, breakfast will be available as viewers watch the testimony unfolding on the other side of the continent.

In San Diego, a screening and free brunch are planned at 6443 Imperial Ave. (The zip code is 92114 if you're searching for directions to get there!) Donations for Puerto Rico relief efforts will be accepted and welcomed. The Brown Berets, Unión del Barrio and Bomba Liberté have been

invited to participate. Bomba Liberté is an ensemble of cultural workers in San Diego that performs Puerto Rican and Caribbean song and dance.

Other viewing parties are planned in Austin, Texas; Atlanta and Chicago, with more being scheduled, including in Puerto Rico.

Delegations to witness the tribunal in person are coming from California by air; in cars and vans from North Carolina; from Philadelphia, Boston and Hartford, Conn.; and by public transportation from all corners of New York City.

For more information or to list your event, go to [PuertoRicoTribunal.org](http://PuertoRicoTribunal.org) or to [Facebook.com/PuertoRicoTribunal](https://www.facebook.com/PuertoRicoTribunal). □



Lawrence Reyes

WW PHOTO: REECE EVANS

## iscal Control Board 'mercenaries'

eight-hour day, while cutting wages, vacation and sick days, reducing bonuses and extending workers' probation periods.

The passage of the 2017 Single Employer Act impacted public sector workers by establishing the government as a single employer that could move workers from one agency to another, even to the private sector. Workers who are moved face the loss of protections won under collective bargaining agreements including seniority.

In addition to the draconian attacks on workers' rights, the FCB also imposed more taxes and increases in fines and tolls across the board, while cutting municipal subsidies and allocations for art, culture and sports programs and programs protecting women.

PROMESA opened the way for the sale of profitable public properties so private capital could grab windfall profits in the millions. Profitable public possessions were bankrupted and sold "at fire sale prices."

On the environmental front, PROMESA proposed the "transfer" of responsibility for cleanup of massive contamination of Vieques from the U.S. Department of the Interior to the government of Puerto Rico. The pollution on that island municipality came from 60 years of U.S. Navy bombing practice. This plan would limit the Puerto Rican government, the municipality and individuals from claiming damages resulting from contamination from the Navy's operations.

Other FCB cuts included \$1 billion from health care, a 10 percent reduction in pensions, a cut of more than \$600 million in the budget of the University of Puerto Rico, and the closure of hundreds of schools under the tenure of Keleher, a consultant paid \$250,000 to work as education secretary.

### Dismantling public education

On her "wanted poster," Julia Keleher is described as a "ruthless mercenary hired to kill public education; proven to be completely ignorant about the Puerto Rican values, culture, history, literature and language of the children under her mandate."

Hired in January 2017, Keleher intro-

duced an unpopular strategy to close public schools. The local Department of Education budget was cut by half a billion dollars. In 2018 the Junta demanded an additional \$200 million in cuts, including \$80 million from special education.

Following Hurricane Maria, parents and teachers came together to repair schools and juggle classroom lineups due to many families departing to the mainland. Things were slowly moving back toward normal until Keleher struck. Teachers were laid off, hundreds of schools were closed, and children, including those with special needs, were packed tightly into classrooms. When they protested these "reforms" in street demonstrations, teachers and students were brutally attacked by police.

A month after Hurricane Maria, Keleher tweeted a recommendation that "islanders use the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina 'as a point of reference' and an 'opportunity to create new, better schools.'" Following Katrina, New Orleans fired most teachers, closed almost all public schools and replaced them with charters.

In an October 2017 interview with Education Week, Keleher approved of U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' proposal that Congress waive funding requirements for adult and special education in districts recovering from natural disasters. DeVos had just released funding reduction guidelines for states and regions, including Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. ([tinyurl.com/ycpwq2j7](http://tinyurl.com/ycpwq2j7))

The 120 years of U.S. occupation of Puerto Rico will be brought to trial at the International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico on Oct. 27 in New York City. PROMESA will definitely be in the list of criminal activities to be indicted. Testimony will be livestreamed direct from Puerto Rico — from activists fighting against the mercenaries of capitalism like Skeel and Keleher.

Community activists, students and workers in the states Skeel cited should take notice of what he and other FCB members

have engineered in Puerto Rico and learn from the protests there since June 2016. When the FCB held its first conference on Aug. 31, 2016, youth, labor and social organizations demonstrated against PROMESA and blocked access to the conference until police had to clear the way. □

## Exposing U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico



Attendees at the meeting sing the revolutionary Puerto Rican anthem with raised fists.

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

By Workers World Boston bureau

Sept. 29 — Puerto Rican independence activists and allies gathered in Boston for a forum hosted by the Boston chapter of Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere (FIRE) on the history of Puerto Rico and its continued status as a U.S. colony. A delegation from Western Massachusetts, Boricuas for the Liberation of Puerto Rico, travelled several hours to build unity in the movement for Puerto Rican liberation.

Roberto Torres of Latinos for Social Change spoke to the need for the upcoming International Tribunal on Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico in New York on Oct. 27, relating the devastation of Hurricane María to the austerity imposed by

the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico and 120 years of U.S. colonialism.

Alberto Barreto of Workers World Party noted the economic aspect of colonialism, leading countries to "consume what they do not produce and produce what they do not consume." He also spoke about the destruction of culture and language as a tool of the colonizer to suppress resistance. But, he noted, this tactic has failed in Puerto Rico.

Other speakers included Bishop Filipe Teixeira, a longtime immigration activist, and Sam Ordóñez of FIRE. Both focused on the need to link the Puerto Rican struggle with struggles in Latin America and Africa, especially with the struggle of migrants displaced by U.S. imperialism. □





By Deirdre Griswold

Lately, great interest and support for the idea of socialism has developed in the U.S., especially among younger generations — a marked departure from the fearful and stultifying days of red baiting ushered in by the Cold War of world imperialism against the then-existing bloc of countries trying to build socialism. But how can socialism be achieved?

The Paris Commune of 1871 and the Shanghai Commune of 1927 briefly showed the world what workers’ governments might look like.

Back in the 19th century, capitalist development in Europe and the United States skyrocketed, much of it fed by the ruling classes’s superexploitation of workers in the colonized parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America and, in the U.S., of Black people still subjugated, even after the abolition of chattel slavery. The consolidation of political power by an immensely wealthy class of merchants, manufacturers and bankers led to intolerable conditions for the growing working classes at home.

In Part 2 of this series, we described attempts by earnest utopians almost a century and a half ago to build socialism by setting up model communities, which vastly improved the workers’ lives and pioneered in liberating working women from household drudgery. But these utopian experiments were overwhelmed by the boom-and-bust cycles of the capitalist world order surrounding them.

Even as the utopian socialists were unable to gain ruling-class neutrality, let alone support, for their reforms, another ideological current was developing. As early as 1848, the need to overthrow the capitalist ruling class was advanced by two young Germans, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. They wrote in “The Communist Manifesto”: “The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones.”

Marx and Engels not only gave voice in stirring language to the aspirations of the workers, but they fought on the barricades in the German revolution of 1848. While that struggle was basically for democratic rights against the repressive bourgeois state and the remnants of feudalism, it already strongly reflected independent demands of the working class.

#### Paris Commune of 1871

It would be another 23 years, however, before the working class had the opportunity — even if for only a brief period — to show what it could do if it took power. The Paris Commune of 1871 lasted only a few months, but in that time the workers of Paris, women and men, upended the pillars of bourgeois rule. You could say that they showed the world “this is what workers’ democracy looks like” as they dismantled the repressive organs of the bourgeois state and replaced them with armed workers’ defense committees.

Marxism, as it was already called by then, was based not on speculation and wishful thinking but on a materialist analysis of the existing state of human society. Thus, it was with great excite-

ment and enthusiasm that Marx and Engels studied the Paris Commune and its achievements.

The Commune took power against a backdrop of chaos and suffering inflicted on the masses by the Franco-Prussian War and the Prussian Army’s siege of Paris. The Commune lasted less than three months, but in that time valuable lessons were learned on what the workers needed to do in order to transform society from one based on class oppression to one with the potential to abolish class privilege and divisions.

On March 18, 1871, the Central Committee of the Commune had issued a manifesto: “The proletarians of Paris, amidst the failures and treasons of the ruling classes, have understood that the hour has struck for them to save the situation by taking into their own hands the direction of public affairs. ... They have understood that it is their imperious duty, and their absolute right, to render themselves masters of their own destinies, by seizing upon the governmental power.” And they did hold power, for just over two months — enough time to show what workers’ power could do.

In May 1871, shortly after the Commune was crushed by the combined strength of both the Versailles government of France and its adversary, Prussia, Marx wrote that it had demonstrated: “[T]he working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes.”

That “centralized state power,” he wrote, “with its ubiquitous organs of standing army, police, bureaucracy, clergy, and judicature,” had originated “in the days of absolute monarchy, serving nascent middle class society as a mighty weapon in its struggle against feudalism.” But once the capitalists had replaced the feudal lords and the class struggle between workers and capitalists heated up, the bourgeoisie “now used that state power mercilessly and ostentatiously as the national war engine of capital against labor.”

#### New political organs of power

The workers of Paris had to create new organs of power. And they did.

They effectively defended Paris from the Prussian siege of the city in the fall of 1870 by establishing a National Guard made up mainly of workers. One of the first decrees of the Commune was for the suppression of the old standing army and its replacement by the armed people.

The Commune was made up of municipal councillors from all the city’s wards, chosen by universal suffrage. Their short terms could be revoked if the people weren’t satisfied. It was a working body with both legislative and executive powers. All officials, including the police, magistrates and judges, were to be agents of the Commune, could be recalled at any time and were paid the same wages as regular workers.

The Commune forgave all housing rents accumulated from October 1870 to April 1871. If these rents had already been paid, that was to be deducted from future payments. It also stopped all sales of items held in the city’s pawnshops.

Having gotten rid of the standing army and police, the Commune then severed the connection between church and state, ending endowments and material privileges for the Catholic Church, still unofficially the state religion. The priests, said

### Part 3

# Lessons of the Paris and Shanghai communes

Marx, “were sent back to the recesses of private life, there to feed upon the alms of the faithful in imitation of their predecessors, the apostles.” The Commune’s newspaper, *Mot D’Ordre*, exposed the church’s crimes against nuns who had been incarcerated and even tortured by priests. Church control over schools was ended, science triumphed over dogma, and education was made free of charge.

Engels, in his introduction to the German edition of Marx’s “The Paris Commune,” wrote that on April 6: “[T]he guillotine was fetched out by the 137th battalion of the National Guard, and publicly burnt amid loud popular applause. On April 7, the Commune ordered the triumphal column on the Place Vendome, which had been constructed by Napoleon I after the war of 1789 out of captured cannon, to be overthrown, as it was a symbol of chauvinistic and mutual hatred among the nations. This was accomplished on May 16. It has since been restored.

“On the 16th of April, the Commune issued an order for a statistical account of all factories and workshops which had been closed by the employers, for the elaboration of plans for their management by the workingmen hitherto engaged in them, who were to be formed into cooperative societies for the purpose; and, also, for the federation of these societies into one great cooperative organization. On the 20th it abolished the night work of bakers.”

Engels added that the German apologists for capitalism had “lately been thrown once again into wholesome paroxysms by the expression ‘dictatorship of the proletariat.’ Well, gentle sirs, would you like to know how this dictatorship looks? Then look at the Paris Commune. That was the dictatorship of the proletariat.” Yes, it was a dictatorship, but one wielded by the majority, having overthrown the dictatorship of a wealthy few.

#### Women at the barricades

At a time when women had few rights of any kind, the Commune was strengthened by the formation of a Women’s Union — *Union des Femmes* — spearheaded by women socialists. They demanded the right of women to take up arms in defense of the revolution and fought heroically on the barricades when the French bourgeoisie, in collusion with the Prussian military that had Paris under siege, attacked the Communards.

The *Union des Femmes* demanded equal pay for women, the right to divorce, education for girls and recognition of all children as “legitimate.” Widows of killed National Guardsmen were to receive pensions for themselves and their children, whether “legally” married or not. On the day before French troops entered Paris — with Prussia’s assistance — to crush the Commune, the Commune officially declared equal pay for women and men workers.

While women in other “enlightened” capitalist countries were still decades away from winning even the right to vote, the working-class women of Paris were on the cutting edge of fighting for social equality.

#### Shanghai Commune of 1927

The establishment of workers’ rule in the form of a Commune resurfaced in China in 1927. A search of English-language books on China reveals little about what the workers’ rebellion in Shanghai was

able to carry out during its short life, but Agnes Smedley, in her biography of the leading military figure of the Chinese Revolution (“The Great Road: The Life and Times of Chu Teh”), gives a detailed account of how the Commune was defeated.

The establishment of the Commune took place during a tempestuous turning point in the long struggle against foreign domination and domestic reaction. Sun Yat-sen, leader of the Kuomintang, which had been a bourgeois nationalist party fighting against the warlords and their colonial patrons, had died. Under its new leader, Chiang Kai-shek, the Kuomintang suddenly broke its alliance with the Communist Party of China and would soon drown the workers’ movement in blood.

The city of Shanghai was notorious for the brutal treatment meted out by the occupying foreign powers, particularly Britain, against the impoverished working class. The racism of the imperialists was so blatant that Chinese of any class were barred from the foreign-controlled sections of that key port city and could be murdered on the spot if they violated the imperialists’ sanctions.

Starting in February of 1927, wrote Agnes Smedley, “[A] special British expeditionary force, together with American, French and Japanese marines, landed at Shanghai, on which Chiang Kai-shek’s forces were converging. On February 19, three days after their landing, the Shanghai workers walked out in the first of three general strikes, all of them organized by Chou En-lai. General Sun Chuan-fang, warlord ruler in the lower Yangtze, struck with everything he had at the first and second general strikes, crushing them and beheading hundreds of workers as a bloody warning to others.

“Undismayed, workers called their third general strike, which paralyzed the city in late March, as Chiang’s forces drew near Shanghai. Spearheaded by 300 men armed with pistols, the workers stormed police stations, garrison headquarters and, finally, the arsenal. With captured arms they fought and drove warlord Sun’s troops from the entire Shanghai area, then sent out a delegation to welcome Chiang’s troops to the city.”

The workers, not realizing that Chiang had betrayed the alliance, expected support from the Nationalist army. Instead, it mowed them down.

#### Bloodied but not defeated

Smedley quotes Chu Teh as telling her: “By mid-1927, the Great Revolution was finished ... rivers of blood were flowing, generals were changing sides, and there was chaos and confusion everywhere. Chiang Kai-shek was rising to power, drawing old and new warlords to him and playing them off one against the other to keep himself on top. ... Chiang was being propped up by the combined forces of foreign imperialism, the Chinese bourgeoisie, and the feudal landed gentry. ... Chiang was proclaimed by foreigners as a patriot, a statesman, a great administrator, and the one strong man capable of holding China together.”

The Chinese Revolution had suffered a terrible blow, but it was not defeated. The struggle for socialism went on and eventually new leaders — Mao Zedong chief among them — made a strategic retreat to the deep countryside.

Many of the thousands who joined in

*Continued on page 9*



# First imperialist world war ends, November 1918

## Part One The Revolt of the Kaiser’s Blue Youths

By this time 100 years ago, World War I — fought mainly among the imperialist powers in Europe and rightfully called “The Great Slaughter” — was finally drawing to a close, its end accelerated by the 1917 Russian Revolution a year earlier. There was no “good side” in this war that brought death to 20 million people. The major states on both sides of the 1914-18 war — Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary — were all oppressor nations, as was the United States, which did not enter World War I until April 1917.

This article focuses on developments in Germany, especially the events in the first nine days of November 1918, when an uprising of sailors of the North Sea Fleet ended the war and forced the German ruler, the Kaiser, to abdicate. The text is from the book: “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto.

When Germany declared what was to become World War I, its rulers promised that the war would last only a few months. Kaiser Wilhelm II and the German General Staff said that the army’s rapid and glorious victory would allow Germany to annex parts of Belgium and France and increase its colonial rule in Africa and the Middle East. They told this to the ruling class — the industrialists, bankers and landowning nobility — and they told it to the masses of workers and farmers.

Germany lacked access to the resources that would allow it to maintain the living standards of its population and field a mass army during a long war of attrition. It needed a quick victory. The German rulers may even have believed that their promised rapid results would come true. This self-deceit left their politicians and generals unprepared for what became four years of grinding slaughter.

Without organized opposition to the war from Germany’s powerful Social Democrats (unlike in Russia where from the beginning the Bolsheviks fought against the war), the German workers offered little resistance to the ruling class’s enthusiasm for conquest as the war began.

Many Germans were caught up in a chauvinistic war fever in the summer of 1914 that was mirrored in France and Britain. Millions of young German men volunteered not only to join the military but also to go to the front. They imagined war would be an ennobling opportunity to exhibit one’s courage and skill in battle.

Ernst Toller, a socialist leader and writer, in the book “A Youth in Germany,” provided his personal experience to illustrate how the mood of large sections of the German population changed between 1914 and 1918 as the German war effort collapsed.

Toller was a German Jew who grew up in East Prussia in a town whose working class was mostly of Polish origin. Like nearly all his contemporaries, he volunteered for the army and for the front. He aimed to prove his heroism in battle.

At the front, all it took was one morning spent in a ditch in a French town in the company of some uniformed German cadavers to erode Toller’s patriotic fantasies. He was not the only German, French or British soldier to have his fairy tales laid to rest after a few weeks in the grim trenches on the Western Front.

Instead of glorious contests of skill and courage, what they experienced was the overbearing damp, cold, hunger and boredom of trench warfare, broken only by the occasional thud of artillery and the fear of a sudden or, worse, a lingering death. Any glory-seeking commander who ordered his troops forward out of the trenches saw them mowed down by withering gunfire or poison gas.

In the infamous battle of the Somme in France, for example, fought from July to November 1916, there were 420,000 British, 200,000 French and 500,000 German troops killed, wounded or missing.

### Life grows more miserable at home

Meanwhile, life at home grew steadily more miserable for most Germans. The British fleet imposed a tight blockade, which cut the German population’s access to food and warmth. According to German war propaganda, a glorious victory was near. Always. Each year it was harder for the German population to believe in victory, and this lie fell apart completely in the summer of 1918.

Ralph Haswell Lutz, a member of the American Military Commission in Berlin in 1919 and a historian, wrote about how the German Army attempted a last-ditch offensive on the Marne River in April



Soldiers Council (Soviet) in Kiel, set up after the mutiny in the North Sea Fleet.

1918 that collapsed and then succumbed to a French counteroffensive in July: “The failure of the Germans in the second battle of the Marne is the first cause of the German revolution.”

Lutz described the organized political opposition to the war: “More important than the enemy propaganda was the attempt of certain groups of Independent Socialists to undermine the fighting power of the army. Since the failure of the general strike in Germany in January 1918, these groups worked systematically for the overthrow of German militarism. Thousands of strikers who were sent to the fighting lines helped to spread this propaganda among the troops.”

The German state sent the unionized workers to the front to punish them, but the workers struck back by organizing inside the army.

Germany’s allies began to desert and sign separate peace agreements; Bulgaria signed on Sept. 30, 1918. By the first week of November, Germany’s Austria-Hungarian ally had signed a peace treaty with Italy and Austria’s Kaiser had abdicated.

By this time, according to Toller: “Want in Germany is growing, the bread gets worse, the milk thinner, the farmers chase the city dwellers from the fields, the city food gatherers come home with their pockets empty, the soldiers at the

front, bitter about the debauchery and indulgence of the officer staff, about the misery at home, are tired of the war. ‘With equal food and equal pay, the war’d not last another day,’ sing the soldiers.”

One might expect that the rebellion would hit first among the vast infantry forces that had suffered so much and with little recognition or glory. On the contrary, it was the cream of the Kaiser’s forces, the sailors, who were to lead the way. They had first rebelled in 1917, but the final revolution began at the end of October in 1918. Toller continues:

“The sailors of the fleet, the Kaiser’s blue youths, are the first to rebel. The High Seas Fleet is set to sail on a suicidal mission; the officers would rather ‘die with honor than accept a shameful peace.’ The sailors, who were in 1917 already pioneers of the revolution, refuse; they put out the fires powering the ships. Six hundred men are arrested. The sailors leave the ships, storm the prisons, take over the city of Kiel, then the shipyard workers team up with them, and the German revolution has begun.”

Part 2: Workers and soldiers councils seize German cities. To read all three parts of Chapter 16, “The Revolt of the Kaiser’s Blue Youths,” reprinted from “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto, go to [workers.org](http://workers.org).

## Lessons of communes

Continued from page 8

the 4,000-mile Long March to the hinterlands were workers and intellectuals who had survived the crushing of the Shanghai Commune and other mass struggles in the coastal cities. There they won the support of millions of peasants who joined the rebellion against the hated landlords, bloodsucking usurers and capitalists.

They were confident of the justice of their cause — enough to sustain them for two more hard decades of fighting the landlords, bosses, bankers and Japanese imperialists, until the great day in 1949 when Mao, standing in Tienanmen Square in Beijing, was able to proclaim to the world the establishment of the People’s Republic of China with the words: “The Chinese people have stood up.” □

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# Getting *SERIOUS* about the environment

Continued from page 1

ways that would make carbon-based energy less profitable.

That appeal and approach have proved fruitless, especially with the Trump administration’s withdrawal from the Paris Accords on climate change, a weak agreement to begin with, and the virtual destruction of the Environmental Protection Agency, putting top executives from the polluting fossil fuel companies in key government positions.

It’s now four years since that big march and, despite the impassioned efforts of many sincere environmentalists, there has been no improvement in the forecast. On the contrary, the world’s leading scientists have come up with their most dire scenario ever for what the future will be like.

In a recently released U.N. report on climate change, scientists say that unless drastic changes are made to the world economy within the next 12 years, we will be doomed to live on a permanently hotter and much more dangerous planet.

This message resonates with the hundreds of millions of people who have suffered from increasingly powerful hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, floods, mudslides, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis all over the globe.

Yes, scientists now believe that the increased intensity of all these “natural” disasters is related to climate change.

We already knew about the dangers from storms. But now they say that the melting of the great glaciers and polar ice caps, along with rising sea levels, is shifting the weight on the earth’s surface, causing the tectonic plates to move and trigger earthquakes, which in turn can cause tsunamis like the one that just killed thousands of people in Indonesia.

From Puerto Rico to Haiti to the Carolinas and the Gulf Coast of the United States, from Nepal and Bangladesh to the islands of the Pacific, tragedy is striking, and it is always the poorest who suffer the most. Rich owners of beachfront estates may lose property, but they can save their skins by jetting away from the howling winds and raging waters.

### ‘Capitalism will not safeguard our planet’

Neither the rich nor a “kinder, gentler capitalism” will save the planet or the people living on it.

Do the capitalists know this? Here’s a quote from Masoud Movahed, an economist from New York University whose paper on “Does capitalism have to be bad for the environment?” was presented to the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of some of the world’s biggest capitalists. After describing how “the private-profit motif lies at the core of capitalism,” he concludes: “In short, the market mechanisms under capitalism do not provide incentives for preserving the environment.”

Movahed continues: “Firms are constantly threatened by market competition to cut costs and optimize profit. The environment thus falls prey to the compulsive market behavior of the capitalist mode of production. Without the

intervention of non-market entities such as the state, international organizations and social forces, capitalism as an economic system simply will not safeguard our planet.”

Very well put. But appealing to such a group as the World Economic Forum is like asking tigers to be vegetarians!

Capitalists, whether educated about the grave dangers facing humanity or not, are still capitalists, driven by the need for profit at any cost.

Instead, what is needed is to alert the working class that the planet — and the people — will die under capitalism. The working class is the only social force with the capability of bringing down capitalism and building socialism — the alternative to capitalist destruction.

Though workers in many countries are already anti-capitalist, huge sections of the working class in this country have never heard anything positive about socialism.

Right now, workers are being told that China is the world’s biggest polluter and that proves socialism is no better than capitalism. Left out of this narrative is that China has more than four times the population of the U.S, which means that its greenhouse gas emissions per capita come to about one-third those of the U.S. population. This is happening even as China has grown exponentially in productive capacity, while the U.S. for several decades has been in a process of deindustrialization — shedding millions of jobs with little protection for fired workers.

China is now the largest manufacturing country in the world and by far the biggest exporter of manufactured goods. Despite this, it has been able to reduce its emissions in recent years because China has an infrastructure based on state ownership and planning and controlled by the Communist Party.

China’s five-year plans have been shifting the economy away from coal in favor of renewables, while at the same time building up a more efficient infrastructure for transmission of energy.

On March 1, 2016, Reuters reported that China had drawn up plans to cut 500 million tons of coal production over the next three to five years and was allocating \$23 billion to retrain and resettle the workers. “The Ministry of Finance said in January it would also collect 46 billion yuan from surcharges on coal-fired power over the coming three years in order to resettle workers. In addition, an assortment of local government matching funds will also be made available.”

The U.S. capitalist class is historically responsible for the lion’s share of global emissions. And ever since the rise of the Rockefellers, Standard Oil and their affiliated banks, the fossil fuel polluters have run this country politically.

The environmental movement needs to turn its face to the workers, the only class that can unseat the exploiters and transform society. It must demand not only the shutting down of polluting industries but the funds to move and retrain laid-off workers. Take the money from the budget of the U.S. Department of Defense, the biggest polluter in the world! □



WW PHOTO: DEVIN COLE  
On Oct. 12, (left to right) Jamil Davis [Jamal Steele], Pensacola rapper; Ieshia Koko, Pensacola activist; Dr. Gloria Horning, environmental activist; and Mary Williams, NAACP, organized with STRIVE members to sponsor fundraising and collect materials for a convoy of disaster relief supplies.

## Historic hurricane hammers Florida

Continued from page 1

ever hit the Florida Panhandle, and the fourth-strongest landfalling hurricane in the contiguous U.S. in terms of wind speed.

People are posting Facebook appeals for help for their neighbors trapped in their homes with no food or water. One message noted: “Chainsaws haven’t been enough to allow them to get out. ... If anyone is heading that way with supplies (or some way of moving this tree).”

Yellowhammer Alternative sent a Facebook alert: “[D]ozens of people are being thrown out of condemned, hurricane-damaged housing in Panama City. Tenants are not being refunded rent moneys paid eight days ago and [are being] given ONE day to leave. These are folx with no power, no internet, limited access, and are survivors of a historic hurricane that has devastated this area completely.”

### Cops guard property, people go hungry

As the convoy pulled into Panama City on Oct. 12, grown people who had lost everything were running in the streets to the convoy cars, asking for food because they couldn’t feed their children.

But cops were parked at every single grocery store still standing, ensuring that “looters” couldn’t get to the food and water that’s desperately needed. In fact, cops and military police are patrolling the streets, arresting anyone out past the curfew. On social media, people identified with both major capitalist parties, Democrats and Republicans alike, are calling for “looters” to be shot.

One of the convoy members commented later on Facebook: “Seeing cops outside of a grocery store that was destroyed, so people couldn’t take food they needed. ... All of that food [can be] written off as a insurance thing. It’s just going to be thrown away — but even if it wasn’t, the survival of people should be most important, not money.”

Someone had raised a U.S. flag high above the ruined landscape where nothing is being done to help the poor and suffering, while rich politicians and corporation owners shrug their shoulders and say, “Panama City Strong!”

The opening for far-right-wing re-

actionary abuse and violence is great. While on the ground, this reporter received word that the Border Patrol had been spotted doing surveillance in Altha, Bayview and Panama City. As the Altha police gave out food, the Border Patrol was parked across the street, ready to grab people.

The League of the South, a white supremacist group, has posted social media announcements that it is sending a “team” into the disaster area to “help out” in predominantly “white areas.”

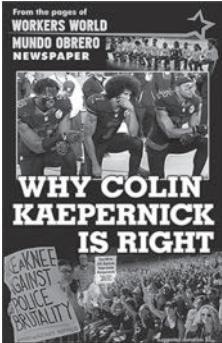
STRIVE issued a Facebook alert about the League: “As we know, cops and Klan work hand in hand, so [the League] will be assisting police in working against ‘looters.’ We need to be extra vigilant and do what we can to prevent their entry.”

At the year’s anniversary of Hurricane María that ravaged Puerto Rico and intensified U.S. oppression there, a broad swathe of the southeast U.S. also struggles to recover after the impact of two monumental hurricanes. As we confront the economic system that both causes and profits from catastrophe, the words of Black Panther and prison activist George Jackson are instructive: “[The capitalist economic system] is perpetuated beyond the stage of decadence in spite of its own outrageous disorder. Its seemingly remarkable ability to return from crisis is not proof of natural durability. Rather it is proof of a destructive will to power at any cost.”

Socialist Cuba weathers hurricane after hurricane with planning and compassion, usually with no loss of life and with preservation of basic systems for survival, but the capitalist U.S. wrings its hands over “chaos” it allows and then profits from.

In this context, the words of Mao Zedong, the great Chinese communist revolutionary, are also helpful: “What we need is an enthusiastic but calm state of mind and intense but orderly work. ... To link oneself with the masses, one must act in accordance with the needs and wishes of the masses. All work done for the masses must start from their needs.”

Serve the people! STRIVE is continuing to coordinate relief supply efforts with the left coalition. Contributions can go to paypal.me/strivepensacola. □



Learn more. Available online at: [www.workers.org/books](http://www.workers.org/books)

## WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero

**Excerpt:** ‘Last October, Colin Kaepernick, the African-American former quarterback for National Football League’s San Francisco 49ers, was asked after a game why he was wearing a Muhammad Ali t-shirt. He said, “To pay homage. [Ali] fought a very similar fight and was trying to do what’s right for the people.”’



# Germany: 250,000 people reject racism, march in solidarity with immigrants

By Kathy Durkin

Anti-racists marched in Berlin, 250,000-strong, in a show of force against the German far right on Oct. 13. They came from all over the country — people of all ages, nationalities and political affiliations — to show solidarity with immigrants against restrictive government policies and racist, neo-Nazi attacks, which have escalated in recent months, causing an emergency situation in parts of Germany.

Aerial photographs showed the demonstrators filled a three-mile, tree-lined stretch in the city center. Banners led contingents with slogans reading, “Indivisible: Solidarity instead of exclusion” and “We are for a free and open society” and “United against racism.” The key word “indivisible,” said participants, made it clear that they would not tolerate divisiveness or any form of discrimination against refugees.

An alliance of organizations issued the call to action and mobilized. Some 10,000 groups and individuals signed the appeal, representing labor unions, churches, Muslim associations, migrants, tenants, social service and secular sectors, women, the LGBTQ community, human rights groups, environmentalists, moderate, socialist and communist parties — and other anti-fascists. (Read appeal at the-coalition.berlin website.) Demonstrators came from these varied groupings and many more.

The declaration begins: “A dramatic political shift is taking place: racism and discrimination are becoming socially acceptable. What yesterday was considered unthinkable and unutterable has today become a reality.” Stressing that humanity and human rights are being openly assailed, it states, “This is an attack on all of us.”

“We will stand in resistance when fundamental rights and freedoms are in danger of being further restricted,” the document continues. “We stand against all forms of hatred and discrimination. Together, we confront anti-Muslim racism, anti-Semitism, [anti-Roma bigotry],



PHOTOS: GABRIELE SENFT  
Berlin on Oct. 13. At the rally, immigrant rights activist Rola Saleh’s message was ‘Solidarity: For everyone’s right to stay!’

antifeminism and LGBTQ phobia. There are already many of us.” The declaration stresses the movement’s activism: “In many places, people are actively defending themselves and others against discrimination, criminalization and exclusion.”

The statement criticized the growing nationalism in different countries in Europe and the rising income gap between rich and poor. It emphasized the need for inclusion. Significantly, in a dig at capitalist globalization, it contrasted the billions of dollars being made in profits, while massive numbers of low-wage workers and impoverished people live on the continent, lacking essential services.

Rola Saleh, a social worker who aids refugees in the city of Chemnitz, site of recent neo-Nazi assaults on immigrants, told the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle at the rally that refugees and those who assist them are being “criminalized” and put under surveillance, with more restrictive laws on the horizon. She ex-

plained that since the physical attacks, immigrants are frightened and the police won’t help them.

However, Saleh said, “There are people here who want to show that they don’t support what is going on in Germany, including from established politicians, all this hate, this whole debate about immigration.” (dw.com, Oct. 13)

Saleh was not the only demonstrator to criticize politicians. The complicity of leading capitalist politicians with anti-immigrant reactionaries was not lost on the protesters. Many of them criticized the major parties, Christian Social Union, Christian Democratic Union and Social Democratic Party, for not defying the xenophobes and strongly supporting immigrants.

### Background on anti-immigrant campaign

The right-wing, xenophobic political party, Alternative for Germany (AfD), has led a vitriolic, racist propaganda campaign against immigrants since it

was formed in 2013. It has seized on the migration crisis to whip up racism and bigotry. With an influx of asylum seekers fleeing U.S./European-backed wars and impoverishment and unemployment caused by imperialist exploitation in their countries, the AfD has scapegoated particularly Arab, Muslim and African refugees.

In August, AfD members and other neo-fascists physically attacked primarily Arab and African immigrants in Chemnitz. At their rallies, they yelled, “Close the borders!” while greeting each other with heinous Hitler salutes. Other assaults have taken place in Dresden, Kothen and elsewhere in the east. There have also been local mobilizations protesting the fascists and confronting them, notably in Chemnitz.

One region where the AfD has picked up supporters is Bavaria, which since World War II has been a bastion of the conservative Christian Social Union. Immigration, which has been at the heart of the struggle facing Chancellor Angela Merkel’s coalition government, was the key issue in Bavaria’s parliamentary election on Oct. 14.

The CSU is the Bavarian-allied organization of Merkel’s CDU. Given its position for closing the borders and turning away refugees, the CSU came in first with 37 percent but lost seats. The moderate Green Party, which campaigned under the slogan of “open borders,” gained 18 percent of the vote and came in second.

The Social Democrats (SPD), usually opposed to the CDU/CSU, is currently in their national coalition government. The SPD got just under 10 percent of the vote in Bavaria, coming in fifth. The arch-racist AfD also garnered 10 percent, allowing it to enter the Bavarian Parliament for the first time.

The neo-fascists have not gone unchallenged and opposition to them is growing. A quarter of a million people at the Berlin rally totals 8 times the AfD membership. Importantly, many of the protesters are organizers and activists — a hopeful sign. The struggle continues as solidarity grows. □

## En NYC 27 de octubre Notables anticoloniales obtendrán audiencia en Tribunal sobre PR

Continúa de página 12

venezolana respaldada por EUA. ¿Tu comentario?

**Joubert-Ceci:** Históricamente, el gobierno de Puerto Rico facilita la dominación de PR por parte de los EUA. Ese es el papel de un gobernador en una colonia.

Estados Unidos quiere reconquistar a Venezuela. Primero vino la campaña de desestabilización. Luego, la OEA se concentró en Venezuela, Estados Unidos impuso sanciones y Trump declaró que una invasión militar es una opción.

Hay muchas teorías. Algunos especulan sobre un acuerdo entre Rosselló y Trump para avanzar una agenda pro-estadista. Creo que eso es irrelevante.

Rosselló está respondiendo a pedidos de EUA. Tuvo el descaro de convocar una conferencia de prensa con Antonio Ledezma, un terrorista venezolano, para anunciar esta acción. Este es otro ejemplo de Rosselló trabajando contra el pueblo de Puerto Rico.

La gente está en contra de lo que está haciendo el gobernador. La indignación contra esa conferencia de prensa vino primero del movimiento progresista, y luego otros se dirigieron inmediatamente a las redes sociales diciendo que se oponían a la declaración y la acción del gobernador. Se realizó una manifestación en solidaridad con la Venezuela bolivariana. La indignación continúa expresándose en programas de radio, en conversaciones y en las redes sociales en contra de poner los intereses de los Estados Unidos por encima de las necesidades de Puerto Rico.

Venezuela no es el enemigo. Estas hermanas y hermanos ofrecieron alivio de huracanes que fue rechazado por el gobernador debido a la condición de PR como colonia de EUA. Venezuela ofreció un carguero de diesel gratuito para los tan necesitados generadores. Uruguay, México y Cuba ofrecieron solidaridad, que también fue bloqueada.



Puerto Rico siempre ha sido un laboratorio de EUA para muchas cosas: experimentar con píldoras anticonceptivas; un laboratorio de militarización, como Viques para las invasiones de Santo Domingo, Granada, Panamá. Lo que sucede en Puerto Rico no se queda en Puerto Rico.

Los gobiernos de derecha instalados ahora en toda América Latina son parte del entorno en el que el gobierno colonial de Puerto Rico se usa contra Venezuela.

Los Estados Unidos consideran a Puerto Rico como un laboratorio e intentarán imponer juntas de control fiscal, como la que están probando en Puerto Rico, en otros lugares.

El Tribunal de Emergencia es un paso en la construcción de la solidaridad para cerrar el laboratorio imperialista.

Para obtener más información o para reservar espacio en el Tribunal del 27 de octubre, vaya a PuertoRicoTribunal.org. □



# En NYC 27 de octubre

# Notables anticoloniales obtendrán

# audiencia en Tribunal sobre PR

Por Cheryl LaBash  
12 de octubre

*El Tribunal Internacional de Emergencia sobre Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico se llevará a cabo el 27 de octubre en la ciudad de Nueva York. La reportera de Workers World/Mundo Obrero Cheryl LaBash entrevistó a Berta Joubert-Ceci, una boricua y organizadora central de este evento histórico, para saber los últimos acontecimientos.*

**WW/MO:** ¿Cuál es la reacción en Puerto Rico ante el Tribunal?

**Berta Joubert-Ceci:** La reacción ha sido tremenda. La gente siente que esto es muy importante. Han sido silenciadas/os durante mucho tiempo. Quieren que sus voces se escuchen a nivel internacional para refutar tantas mentiras y conceptos erróneos sobre lo que realmente está sucediendo allí.

Participantes de varias partes de Puerto Rico vienen a testificar a Nueva York. El Tribunal es visto como un vehículo para denunciar los crímenes del colonialismo, ya sea por parte del ejército, las compañías farmacéuticas o la compañía de energía AES. Cuando hablamos de crímenes de los Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico, estamos hablando de crímenes que se están cometiendo en este momento.

Se necesitaría un tribunal mucho más prolongado para detallar los 120 años de crímenes coloniales de los Estados Unidos. La gente en Puerto Rico está viendo esto como un tribunal de emergencia para exponer la punta del iceberg. Las estaciones de radio puertorriqueñas han solicitado entrevistas sobre el Tribunal.

**WW/MO:** ¿Quiénes son algunas de las personas que vienen de la isla para testificar?

**Joubert-Ceci:** Eva Ayala, profesora del sindicato EDUCAMOS, habla sobre la lucha por la educación pública.

Mariana Nogales, la abogada de Nina Droz, hablará sobre su caso. Droz es una joven que fue arrestada el 1 de mayo de 2017, acusada de intentar incendiar el edificio - de concreto - del Banco Popular con un fósforo. Es un cargo ridículo, pero ella está en una prisión federal de los EUA como un ejemplo para intimidar a la resistencia en Puerto Rico.

También atestiguan sobre la represión activistas de #SeAcabaronLasPromesas, quienes están en la vanguardia de la oposición a la Junta de Control Fiscal.

El gobierno ha hecho que sea un crimen resistir, luchar contra el imperialismo y el colonialismo. El caso de Nina Droz es un ejemplo de las/os muchos presos políticos puertorriqueños encarcelados o asesinados por luchar por la independencia. Los EUA lucharon por su independencia, pero nos la niegan a Puerto Rico.

Representantes de varias ciudades del sur de la isla, como Guayama y Peñuelas, testificarán sobre las cenizas tóxicas de carbón y el papel de la AES en la contaminación ambiental que ahora afecta a 14 municipios de la región. Salvador Tió testificará sobre la contaminación de las empresas de bioingeniería, como el famoso Monsanto.

Ismael Guadalupe, líder de la lucha de Vieques, testificará sobre las consecuencias del bombardeo de Vieques por EUA y las enfermedades que resultaron. Carlos Zenón, cuya familia fue la primera en ser desalojada para construir la base militar de los EUA en Vieques, declarará por video.

La investigadora Ana María García, productora de un documental muy conocido sobre la esterilización forzada de mujeres puertorriqueñas, “La Operación”, también declarará en video.

**WW/MO:** ¿Quiénes son los fiscales? y jurados?

**Joubert-Ceci:** Los cargos contra Estados Unidos serán presentados por el fiscal Dr. Augusto Zamora, un

abogado internacional nicaragüense. Él llevó el caso sobre violaciones de la soberanía nicaragüense por EUA ante la Corte Internacional y ganó una sentencia en contra del imperio.

Un panel de jurados examinará el testimonio y emitirá un veredicto: incluyen a Nieves Moreno, una mujer chilena exiliada política que fue torturada por la dictadura de Augusto Pinochet y testificó en el juicio de éste dictador chileno instalado por los EUA; Bernadette Ellorin del capítulo de Nueva York de la organización filipina BAYAN-USA, que lucha contra la dominación de los EUA en Filipinas; Ajamu Baraka de Black Alliance for Peace, un líder internacionalmente reconocido del movimiento de derechos humanos de los EUA que ha trabajado para aplicar el marco internacional de derechos humanos a la defensa de la justicia social allí; André François, presidente de Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Union y líder de la comunidad haitiana local.

Otras/os incluyen a Deirdre Griswold, editora del periódico Workers World, autora de “Indonesia: El se-

## La lucha contra Kavanaugh

Editorial WW-Mundo Obrero  
10 de octubre de 2018

La confirmación de Brett Kavanaugh ante la Corte Suprema el 6 de octubre fue sin duda una victoria, por el momento, para la clase capitalista de los Estados Unidos que busca mantener su control sobre el poder represivo del estado. El hecho de que ganó la votación a pesar de la evidencia creíble y poderosa de que agredió sexualmente a varias mujeres, enfatiza la descarada brutalidad de esta clase dominante.

Millones de personas experimentaron esta victoria reaccionaria como una agonía, ya que las audiencias evocaron sus propias experiencias de trauma: mujeres, especialmente mujeres de color, mujeres no conformes con su género, mujeres jóvenes y mayores, mujeres con discapacidades, personas trans de todos los géneros. Y otras también, mujeres y hombres agredidos cuando eran niñas/os por quienes tenían autoridad sobre ellas/os.

Y millones han sido llamadas/os a la rabia y a la lucha renovada, a medida que se revelaba la profundidad de la violencia sexual hacia las mujeres.

A medida que la lucha continúa, quienes están listas/os para actuar tienen poderosos ejemplos de historias de resistencia organizada. La marcha de Mujeres Indígenas Desaparecidas y Asesinadas en Seattle el 4 de octubre es un recordatorio de cómo los pueblos originarios han luchado contra los ataques colonizadores, incluida la violación, durante siglos, con mujeres y personas de dos espíritus en el liderazgo.

Para las mujeres negras en los EUA, las luchas contra la violación, el asalto sexual y muchos otros crímenes de racismo, liderados por Ida B. Bells, Anna J. Cooper y otras, están íntimamente relacionados. Quizás el registro más antiguo de los EUA de un esfuerzo organizado contra la violación proviene de 1866, cuando un grupo de mujeres afroamericanas declararon ante el Congreso que una mafia blanca, incluida la policía, las había violado y a su comunidad durante el disturbio de Memphis. (tinyurl.com/gny47ox)


Este legado de resistencia nos recuerda que una lucha contra la violencia hacia las mujeres debe ser simultáneamente una lucha contra el racismo y la opresión nacional, y una lucha para derrocar el sistema de relaciones de propiedad privada que históricamente dio origen a las ideas y prácticas de la supremacía patriarcal y la su-

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gundo crimen más grave del siglo”, presidenta de la investigación pública de 1966 sobre las masacres de Indonesia y una de las organizadoras del Tribunal de Crímenes de Guerra Bertrand Russell sobre el papel de los EUA en Vietnam; Gerardo Cajamarca, un organizador sindical colombiano ahora en el exilio después de amenazas de muerte; y el Reverendo Luis Barrios, profesor en el Colegio de Justicia Criminal John Jay y pastor de la Iglesia Holyrood/Iglesia Santa Cruz, que es el lugar del Tribunal y proporciona un santuario y un centro de organización para muchas comunidades de Nueva York.

**WW/MO:** El gobernador de PR, Ricardo Rosselló, acaba de anunciar que permitiría que la ciudad de Ponce se use como área de preparación para una oposición

Continúa a página 11

premacia blanca que permean todos los aspectos de las relaciones de clase en los Estados Unidos de hoy.

En “El origen de la familia, la propiedad privada y el estado”, Friedrich Engels escribió que la caída de la sociedad matriarcal en la prehistoria había sido una “derrota mundial de las mujeres”. Se refirió a la división de la sociedad en clases cuando los hombres de la clase dominante ejercieron el control sobre los recursos excedentes, sobre los hombres que eran trabajadores y sobre los cuerpos de las mujeres, que eran trabajadoras y las únicas personas que podían producir más personas.

Ahora, a medida que la ira se ha acumulado de nuevo por la exposición del maltrato de las mujeres y su trato como propiedad, existe la posibilidad de crear solidaridad e interrelación de las luchas por justicia.

Como señaló Dorothy Ballan en su libro “Feminismo y marxismo”, Engels entendió que el patriarcado no era eterno. Si el patriarcado se estableció al mismo tiempo que la sociedad de clases, también podría desmantelarse junto con la sociedad de clases.

Nos inspira el surgimiento de la reciente huelga de trabajadoras/es de McDonald’s con salarios bajos en los EUA. Dirigida por mujeres de color, declararon una huelga el 18 de septiembre contra el desenfrenado abuso sexual en sus trabajos. Apoyadas por aliados obreros masculinos, las mujeres exigieron tanto sus derechos como trabajadoras como su liberación como mujeres, para terminar con que sus cuerpos fueran utilizados como propiedad de la compañía al capricho de propietarios, gerentes y clientes.

Marx y Engels, en el Manifiesto comunista, dijeron que el objetivo de las/os comunistas era un mundo en el que las mujeres se liberaran de ser “artículos de comercio e instrumentos de trabajo”.

En el Partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero, luchamos por la liberación de todas las mujeres de todas las formas de violencia sexual y explotación. Estamos luchando por un mundo en el que todas las personas de todos los géneros, sexualidad, edad, nacionalidad, capacidad y discapacidad, estén libres de abuso y explotación, y se puedan desarrollar de forma brillante y bella en todos sus muchos aspectos. Estamos luchando para construir un camino socialista hacia ese mundo. Debemos estar dispuestas/os a enfrentar todos los desafíos para que eso suceda. □