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WORKERS WORLD PARTY

U.S. escalates wars

Pentagon behind Yemen disaster

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Oct. 16 — The Navy destroyer USS Nitze fired “Tom-ahawk” cruise missiles on Oct. 13 at what Washington claimed were “Houthi-controlled radar sites” in Yemen. This was Washington’s first direct military strike in the escalating U.S.-Saudi war against the impoverished Middle Eastern state.

The U.S. attack was ostensibly in retaliation for missile threats against the USS Mason, as reported Oct. 10 by international news agencies. The Pentagon destroyer was deployed in the southern Red Sea.

The Pentagon quickly blamed these supposed missile threats on the Ansurallah movement (also known as the Houthis), which Washington has targeted as the principal enemy in Yemen since the religious group has taken control of territory in the country’s northern, central and southern regions, near the Gulf of Aden. Saudi-led airstrikes and ground operations have targeted the Supreme Revolutionary Committee, an Ansurallah-led alliance, since U.S. diplomatic and military personnel withdrew in 2015.

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesperson, said, “We assess the missiles were launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen.” He claimed the U.S. is committed to ensuring “freedom of navigation” everywhere, and “will ... take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of our ships and our service members.” (Washington Post, Oct. 10)

The war conducted by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council since March 2015 has killed over 10,000 Yemenis. Daily aerial bombardments have sought to neutralize and defeat the Ansurallah movement, which is accused of being politically supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ansurallah supporters have largely been Shiite-oriented adherents of Islam in Yemen who allied with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Military units still loyal to Saleh have fought a coalition of anti-Houthis forces, including ousted Saudi- and U.S.-backed President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. Islamist elements alongside GCC and allied special forces have reinforced Hadi.

Power stations and water supply lines have been deliberately destroyed in a desperate war to reclaim control of the country by political interests allied with Washington, London, Paris, Brussels and Riyadh. Numerous attempts to negotiate a political settlement involving major organizations and religious groups in the Middle East’s most impoverished state have been sabotaged by the Saudi monarchy, which is supported by the U.S. State Department.

World outcry at funeral attack

Saudi-GCC air forces struck a funeral Oct. 8 in the capital of Sana’a, killing over 140 people. Eyewitnesses

Continued on page 9



On strike
against
Harvard

Dining hall service workers commit civil disobedience, struggle with elite Harvard University for affordable health care, livable wages, Oct. 14. See p. 3.

Hundreds of Harvard students walked out Oct. 18 to support the HUDS workers’ strike, including these from neoliberal economist and former HU president Larry Summer’s guest lecture on “Principles of Economics.”

PHOTO: THE HARVARD CRIMSON



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Buffalo, N.Y.

Fans support Kaepernick’s knee against racism

By Ellie Dorritie
Buffalo, N.Y.

Oct. 16 — Not all fans of the National Football League’s Buffalo Bills booed or made vicious threats against the courageous African-American San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick before the game here today.

In fact, a large contingent of Bills fans was inspired by Kaepernick’s continuing protest of racism and of cops “getting away with murder” of Black people, as the quarterback has stated.

Kaepernick’s Buffalo supporters held a “tailgate party” before the game in the stadium parking lot. They displayed big signs protesting police brutality and murders of Black people and declaring that Black Lives Matter.

After that, their numbers grew as they marched, chanted and took a knee at the stadium gate during the playing of the national anthem. The people were intent on showing solidarity with and support for Kaepernick’s refusal to stand “to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color.”

Activist Harper Bishop said, “Buffalo ... is one of the poorest and most segregated cities in the country, with a deeply racist history. The action was meant to bring attention to local racial justice fights, support Kaepernick and inspire others around the country to continue demonstrations of support.”

Some of the group carried signs denouncing Buffalo Bills coach Rex Ryan, whose support for racist Donald Trump has angered many Buffalo team players and fans. Another sign showed Tommie Smith and John Carlos making their legendary raised-fist protest at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

Others carried signs supporting Buffalo’s Black City Councilmember Ulysses Wingo, who has stood silently with his fist raised during the pledge of allegiance at the start of council meetings since the Sept. 16 death of Terence Crutcher, an unarmed Black man who was killed by police in Tulsa, Okla. Speaking to local TV news, Wingo said, “Institutionalized racism is real.” An ever-growing group of supporters has turned out at council meetings to raise a fist with him in order to combat a sewer-load of criticism.

Another

WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE
Kaepernick supporters come out in Buffalo, N.Y., Oct. 16.



mobilization against racism

The action at the Bills game was sponsored by Buffalo groups Just Resisting and Showing Up for Racial Justice and supported by many others, including Workers World Party.

Only one day earlier, those same forces mobilized to protest the front-porch display of a noose by a racist Trump supporter, who told the Buffalo News the noose display was “not a statement of racism.” He previously had a confederate flag hanging from his porch.

One of the organizers, Dianne Britain, said, “We ... are here today to pay respect to the Black lives lost to lynching ... and those killed and brutalized ... by police.”

In a recent incident in Bethel Park, Pa., when three members of an all-Black youth football team took a knee in solidarity with Kaepernick, people in the stands began shouting racial slurs at them, eventually becoming so aggressive that police were called. Their coach said that, as the game proceeded, some of his 12- and 13-year-old players told him they heard the same thing from the opposing team. (Washington Post, Oct. 13)

In September, members of a youth football team in Beaumont, Texas, received death threats and remarks about lynching in online comments after they took a knee during the anthem, local media reported.

Kaepernick has reported he has received countless racist threats and insults, including death threats, as a result of his choice to try to keep racist police brutality and murder an out-front issue.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in an interview published Oct. 10, dismissed the protests by Kaepernick and a growing number of others as “dumb and disrespectful.”

“It is disappointing to hear a Supreme Court justice call a protest against injustices and oppression ‘stupid, dumb,’” Kaepernick thoughtfully responded. On Oct. 14, in a statement released by the court, Ginsburg apologized to Kaepernick and said her comments were “inappropriately dismissive and harsh.” □



Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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WORKERS WORLD
this week

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With affordable health care the issue Students, workers support Harvard strike

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

Workers around the world are watching as Harvard University Dining Service workers take on the multibillion-dollar institution, demanding “No cuts in health care” and “Health care is a human right!”

The 750 workers represented by UNITE HERE Local 26 walked out on Oct. 5. Since then, calls, emails, letters and articles of support have poured in from students, workers and faculty in South Africa, Japan, Brazil, Ireland, Russia and other European countries, as well as the U.S.

Ed Childs, chief shop steward of Local 26, who has worked at Harvard for 43 years, explains why: “Health care is a civil rights issue. The Harvard Corporation and Board of Overseers who run Harvard University are pushing an agenda to undermine preventive medical care. This is about austerity.

“It would cost very little for Harvard to retain our current health insurance plan, as we are asking. But Harvard wants deductibles and increased fees for visits to emergency rooms, doctors and hospitals, as well as tests. This stops people from consulting a doctor when they have a cold or need diabetic testing, or when their children have a fever, since they can’t afford it. Then, they have to be hospitalized, ending up costing more. Capitalism has no interest in the long-term perspective of health care for the workers.”

Some 60 percent of HUDS workers are immigrants and an equal percentage are women. Luisa Mosso comes from Cape Verde and has worked in the Kennedy School of Government dining hall for nine years. She told Workers World: “I

have asthma. I spent all day this past Friday going to four doctors for treatment. It cost me \$60. I can’t afford this and HU wants to increase co-pays and fees even higher each time we see a doctor. We do not get paid during the summer. People are forced to choose between eating or going to a doctor. How can we work if we are not healthy?”

Student support for workers

Students from Harvard Medical School and the School of Public Health have been active and vocal in support of the strike. Two of them wrote: “As medical students at Harvard, we were deeply troubled to learn that our university was proposing changes to dining workers’ health plans that would make essential health care unaffordable. ...

“The affordability of health insurance plans comes down to two factors: premiums and out-of-pocket costs. How affordable are employer plans? A team of Harvard medical students compared the plan Harvard proposed for the dining workers to what would be available on the Massachusetts health exchange [set up under the Affordable Care Act to facilitate the purchase of health insurance by individuals and families].

“For a family of three earning \$30,000, the Harvard plan requires an employee to contribute a premium of \$233 a month, while the health exchange has plans that require no premiums at all. Harvard Medical School faculty and the World Health Organization have defined any health spending over 10 percent of annual income as a catastrophic expenditure. The Harvard plan comes perilously close to this with premiums alone. The rotten cherry on the top? Harvard’s plan also has higher co-pays than the ex-



WW PHOTO: PHEBE ECKFELDT

Food service workers arrested in civil disobedience during Harvard University strike.

change plans.

“It is shocking that these low-income workers would be better off financially if they were not offered employer-sponsored insurance.” (StatNews, Sept. 30)

The Harvard Corporation and Board of Overseers have ties to Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Merck, Google, Abbott Labs and CVS, among others. Striking workers have confronted them in their offices and on campus.

Nine strikers arrested in Harvard Square

On Oct. 14, some 500 strikers and their supporters marched on Harvard Square during rush hour and shut it down. As the crowd chanted, banged drums and blew whistles, nine women strikers sat down in the middle of the street and were arrested. Also arrested were the head of Local 26 and the chief negotiator.

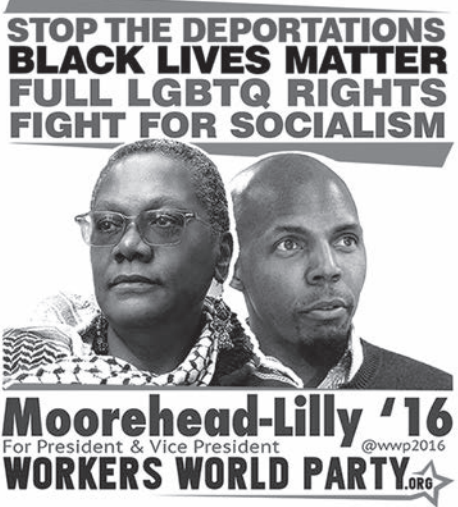
One of the women arrested told WW that she direly needs a knee replacement

and is in constant pain from standing on her feet all day. But she cannot afford the operation. When she struggled to sit down in the street, the crowd roared.

The workers know that the struggle for quality health care is global and united. Local 26 strikers have supported and spoken at rallies to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day, in support of Standing Rock and against pipeline spills and water poisoning. In turn, Native students at Harvard have spoken at strike rallies.

HUDS strikers are holding the line for quality, affordable health care, and they’re doing it for workers and oppressed the world over who suffer from the brutalities of capitalist and imperialist profit making in sweatshops and factories, fields and fast food restaurants.

Victory to the HUDS strike! Health care is a human right! □



The 750 Harvard University Dining Service workers lovingly cook for and feed people from around the world, serving 25,000 meals a day. The HUDS workers are African American, African, Latinx, Asian, and white; many are immigrants. Some of them are just out of high school, others are holding out for retirement.

By throwing down the ladles and hitting the bricks, these courageous strikers are holding the line and fighting back for tens of millions of workers across the country and worldwide who face corporate and government attacks on their health, welfare and living standards. In their militant strike, the Harvard workers are fighting for all workers.

The HUDS strikers are facing off scab deliveries of frozen foods and halting construction at vaulted halls. They are banging drums and proclaiming through bullhorns, “¡Sí, se puede!” (“Yes, we can!”), as they rally in prestigious Harvard Yard for the justice they have earned and deserve — and which every-

Victory to striking Harvard University workers!

**Victory to the striking HUDS workers! • A living wage and quality health care are rights!
End racism and discrimination in Harvard’s kitchens now!**

The Workers World Party presidential campaign of Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly is proud to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers at Harvard University who are on strike against the wealthiest Ivy League school in the U.S. They are members of UNITE HERE Local 26.

one knows the university can afford.

Harvard’s plan to cut back its food service workers’ health insurance coverage, while keeping annual wages for many below \$35,000, is clearly an imposition of austerity. This political and economic policy is in line with austerity programs being inflicted by the capitalist class on the U.S. and international working class.

Harvard University’s endowment of \$38 billion puts this corporation at the top of the wealthy Ivy League schools, with a larger treasury than many countries. Giants of finance capital like Goldman Sachs, Bank of America and Citigroup are writing its contract proposals, while titans of the U.S. military, diplomatic, economic and technocratic corps are running its Kennedy School of Government.

To add insult to injury, the pro-corporate tax code allows Harvard to avoid paying taxes, including for unemployment insurance. This means that for several months a year during school breaks, these workers are laid off with no income, and are forced to fend for themselves.

Inspired by Black Lives Matter movement

The strikers were inspired by the his-

toric Black Lives Matter movement at Harvard last semester, when students won victories to abolish the racist “house master” title and discard a law school coat of arms depicting its founder’s slaves at work. Their demands include the establishment in the collective bargaining agreement of a task force to combat racism and discrimination in the kitchens.

We applaud UNITE HERE’s groundbreaking language that will strengthen gender identity protections, stop management discrimination in hiring formerly incarcerated people, and permit immigrant workers to take up to a year’s leave with job security and other rights not protected by federal law.

Contrary to Harvard’s vicious propaganda, the strikers have been enthusiastically joined on the picket lines by hundreds of students, faculty members, clerical and technical workers, and groundskeepers. Supporters have come from across Boston; the city’s communities view this fight as their own and consider the HUDS workers to be family members who are being threatened — and must be defended by every means necessary.

Harvard has not only gouged its own students, demanding a king’s ransom for tuition, bringing them a lifetime of debt

peonage, but the school has moved to turn faculty into part-timers, too. The university has also forced huge concessions on some of its other workers and retirees.

Harvard’s sprawling real estate empire has caused spiraling neighborhood rents and forced mass dislocation throughout Cambridge and Boston communities. Its business conglomerates in charter school administration, public health and government consulting have pushed privatization, “uberization” and militarization to new levels.

It is the HUDS workers who are teaching Harvard and its neoliberal masters a profound lesson — that “an injury to one is an injury to all!” There is no power greater than workers who unite in direct action and demand, “If we don’t get it, shut it down!”

We stand with the HUDS strikers and concur with their vision that a better world is in birth.

A living stipend for layoffs!

A minimum \$35,000 yearly wage for Harvard workers!

Hands off HUDS workers’ health insurance!

Follow and support the HUDS strike at twitter.com/UNITEHERE26 and facebook.com/uniteherelocal26 □

Chicago

Teachers’ union wins tentative agreement

By Jeff Sorel
Chicago

The Chicago Teachers Union and the city reached a tentative agreement overnight on Oct. 11. The union was prepared to strike, but its leadership was satisfied with the agreement.

The tentative agreement must be approved by the CTU’s membership and board. The union got most of what it sought, a striking achievement in the face of the city’s massive budget problems. Most important, the city will continue to cover the teachers’ 7 percent pension payment.

In addition, the city agreed to smaller class sizes for kindergarten through second grade, built-in salary increases for teachers hired in 2017 who won’t be getting a pension pick-up, and more financial support for tenured teachers if they are laid off.

CTU President Karen Lewis said: “We ended up with something that’s good for kids, good for clinicians, good for paraprofessionals, for teachers, for the community. We’re very pleased we were able to come to this tentative agreement.” (Chicago Tonight, Oct. 11)

The union victory was secured by the threat of a massive strike and support for the strike from parents, students, and community and labor groups. The CTU was able to take advantage of the weakened position of Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s administration, which has been on the defensive for months after disclosure of its efforts to cover up widespread police brutality and racism.

Teachers have been working without a contract for more than a year and were prepared to strike. A major goal of the strike was to stop an effective 7 percent pay cut being pushed by union-busting Mayor Emanuel and his unelected school board.

Union demands aid community

The union is seeking smaller class sizes, an end to teacher and staff layoffs, and well-funded, high-quality schools throughout the city. The union also wants expanded counseling services, reduced classroom sizes in early grades, rehiring of social workers for troubled schools and restoration of previously cut library services.

Winning these demands helps not only the teachers but also the students, who in Chicago are a majority Black and Latinx, and their communities.

Mayor Emanuel and billionaire Gov. Bruce Rauner contend that city and state budget crises mandate education cutbacks. But there are numerous means to fix the budget without slashing public education, including a proposed financial transaction tax, ending privatization schemes and directing Tax Increment Financing (a mayoral slush fund) to schools instead of developers.

The school board also could renegotiate toxic bank loans. Earlier this year, the board approved an additional \$725 million in high interest bond debt and is in the process of incurring \$850 million more. The banks get their interest while teachers get shorted and classrooms deteriorate.

As Bill Iacullo, president of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 143, which supports the teachers, said: “Schools are suffering because hundreds of millions of dollars are being diverted every year from the classrooms to



Students, families and community turned out to support the Chicago Teachers Union.

for-profit contractors.” (Chicago Tribune, Oct. 3)

Since last January, there have been more than 1,200 teacher layoffs, with 200 more announced in early October. As a result, education is being disrupted, and special education, wrap-around services and bilingual programs have been cut.

The CTU’s House of Delegates met Oct. 5 to review negotiations and discuss the organization of a possible strike. CTU President Karen Lewis told the delegates that solidarity is the key to winning this battle and called on parents to join them on the picket line to educate their children in the importance of fighting for their rights.

The next day, the CTU staged “walk-ins” at selected schools to garner support and protest budget cuts.

Support grew for teachers

The union was joined by members of the Chicago Teachers Solidarity Campaign, a coalition of dozens of parent, labor and community groups that is supporting the teachers and would join the teachers’ picket lines in the event of a strike.

This support has its roots in widespread protests against Mayor Emanuel’s closure of 50 schools in 2013, which hit the Black and Latinx communities particularly hard and failed to produce the educational and efficiency gains promised by the city.

In April of this year, Chicago teachers staged a one-day walkout and held a rally at which they were joined by Black Lives Matter and Fight for 15, as well as an array of other labor and community groups united to fight the austerity program of Rauner and Emanuel.

The CTU recognizes that its members’ fight for justice is part of a broader fight against racism, poverty and social injustice. A report issued by the union details “the intimate connection of health, housing, jobs, segregation and funding to education” and “demonstrates that challenges in housing, employment, justice and health care relate directly to education [and] require a narrowing of the opportunity gap brought on by poverty, racism and segregation.” (ctunet.com)

V.I. Lenin, in one of his last writings, recognized the “really high calling” of the schoolteacher and urged his Soviet colleagues to “improve [the teacher’s] position materially.” (Pages from a Diary, Selected Works, Vol. III, p.757. Progress Publishers, 1975).

No less today, the struggle of the Chicago Teachers Union for a fair contract was beginning to become a rallying point for social activists at a time when united struggle against austerity and for economic and racial justice is urgently needed. □

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Seattle educators to teach ‘Black Lives Matter’

Many hundred Seattle teachers, counselors, instructional assistants, paraprofessionals, custodians, nurses and other educators will wear T-shirts to school on Oct. 19 that read “Black Lives Matter.” On this Seattle Education Association-sponsored day the focus will be on the school-to-prison pipeline and institutional racism in the U.S. Already over 700 educators have ordered shirts!

The idea was initiated at John Muir Elementary school when teachers decided to wear T-shirts on Sept. 16 that read “Black Lives Matter. We Stand Together. John Muir Elementary.” This was to coincide with an event organized by Black Men United to Change the Narrative to celebrate Black students. However, after a white supremacist issued a bomb threat, the event was cancelled. Yet dozens of Black community members came to high-five the students, and the staff wore the shirts anyway!

At a subsequent Seattle Education Association meeting, Social Equality Educators introduced a resolution calling for educators city-wide to wear Black Lives Matter T-shirts on Oct. 19. The resolution specifies that the SEA Representative Assembly will address institutional racism by “showing solidarity, promoting anti-racist practices in schools and creating dialogue in our schools and communities.” Solidarity actions are being organized in other cities; participants are asked to post pictures on Facebook at tinyurl.com/husb5gg. (iamaneducator.org, Oct. 11)

After valiant strike, nurses accept ‘compromise’

A 17-hour negotiating session on Oct. 10 led to an agreement between the Minnesota Nurses Association and five Allina Health hospitals in the St. Paul area. The majority of the members ratified it Oct. 13, returning to work Oct. 16.

After six weeks of an unfair labor practice strike beginning on Labor Day, Sept. 5, plus an earlier one-week strike in late June, the 4,800 nurses won improved procedures for safe staffing and better staffing ratios, as well as workplace safety guarantees. However, they were unable to stop Allina’s ultimatum to replace union-based health care plans with hospital plans, which will raise nurses’ out-of-pocket costs. But they did win a “no diminishment” clause guaranteeing benefits will not be reduced through 2021.

As MNA Executive Director Rose Roach stated, “This contract represents compromise. While it’s nowhere near what nurses deserve, they can hold their heads high. ... Nurses are determined to keep speaking up for their patients and their profession as they return to the bedside.” (mnnurses.org, Oct. 13)

Locked-out Honeywell workers battle corporate greed

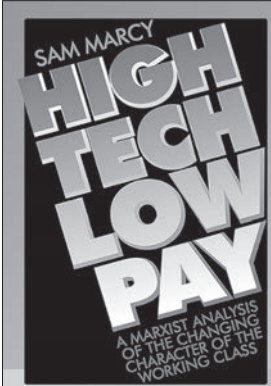
Federally mediated talks resumed this month between Honeywell and about 400 aerospace parts workers the company locked out in May. After voting overwhelmingly to reject a contract that would force them to pay more for their health care plans, lowering pay below \$15/hour for many workers, United Auto Workers Local 9 in South Bend, Ind., and Local 1508 in Green Island, N.Y., found themselves replaced by scab labor. Increasing its profits 152 percent over the past five years, Honeywell pulled in record profits of \$4.8 billion in 2015. (paydayreport.com, May 27)

Over four months into the lockout, however, the workers remain steadfast. Local 1508 has maintained round-the-clock pickets outside the Green Island plant. Some 100 workers and supporters demonstrated outside an Albany federal building Sept. 21 to protest a federal contract awarded to Honeywell during the lockout. “It’s basically corporate greed,” said Local 9 worker John Suher Sr. “[Honeywell wants] to eliminate the middle class.” (theguardian.com, Oct. 4) Stay tuned.

Voting to unionize is their cup of tea

Two hundred workers who make and package teabags at Lipton’s factory in Suffolk, Va., voted to unionize with the Food and Commercial Workers, UFCW announced Aug. 29. Though management described the workers as “happily nonunion” in 2013, factory equipment upgrades that year resulted in layoffs of a quarter of the workforce. Since then the workers were forced to work 12-hour shifts for 13 days in a row. Despite this grueling schedule, workers missing more than eight workdays a year were automatically fired.

“We decided we deserved more than what we were getting,” said Anita Anderson, a 10-year line worker. In early 2016, several workers contacted the UFCW. According to Philip Surace, a 15-year mechanic, Lipton quickly changed its tune: “Once the word ‘union’ was mentioned, suddenly they started to hire people.” In addition to easing the harsh schedule, Lipton fired the plant manager and the head of human resources. The workers will seek to protect and expand these victories as they enter contract negotiations with Lipton. (labornotes.org, Sept. 27) □



High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis
of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by
Fred Goldstein

author of *Low-Wage Capitalism*

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In Philadelphia, the cry is freedom for Indigenous peoples and descendants of enslaved ancestors, Oct. 12.

Philadelphia protesters demand end to colonialism

More than 200 activists from diverse movements joined together in a March to End Colonialism on Oct. 12 in Philadelphia. The Indigenous Peoples’ Day protest began with a rally at Independence Mall featuring danzantes [dancers], mu-

sic and speakers and ended with a rally at 2nd and Market three hours later.

Annually honored between Oct. 10 and Oct. 12, this year’s protest emphasized unity of struggle, as exemplified in the Standing Rock struggle against the con-

struction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. That theme was reflected in the diversity of the speakers and endorsers, which included #PhillyNoDAPLSolidarity, Taino (Taíno Council Guatu Ma Cu a Borikén) Philly-Camden Boricua Committee,

Oglala Lakota Tribe, Jatiboniku’ Taíno Tribal Nation, Ollin Yoliztli Calmécac, International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Philly Coalition for Real Justice and Deep Green Philly.

— Photo and story by Joe Piette

West Virginia celebrates Indigenous Peoples’ Day

By Benji Pyles
Huntington, W. Va.

This year, for the first time, Marshall University welcomed an event celebrating the colonized people of this continent instead of the criminal colonist Christopher Columbus. Students and community members gathered Oct. 12 outside the Memorial Students Center at Marshall University to celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

In previous years, the Marshall University Native American Students Organization had held protest demonstra-

tions against Columbus Day. That group, as well as MU Students for a Democratic Society and Workers World Party, attended this year’s event.

Guy Jones, Hunkpapa Lakota elder and activist, was the featured speaker. Jones came to Marshall after spending time in North Dakota with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Jones linked the struggle of African Americans/Blacks/New Africans and the Indigenous Nations against Euro-American settler colonialism and capitalism. He told the crowd: “This country today

Marshall University celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day, Oct. 12. From left to right: Genenahgeheh Lee, Haudenosaunee, president MU Native American Students; Guy Jones, Hunkpapa Lakota, activist and elder; and Matt Adkins, Cherokee, MU Native American Students.

WW PHOTO



still profits on the labor of Africans who were enslaved. ... A lot of you don’t realize that the land that you walk on, the land that you live on, the land that you call ‘America,’ this is our land. This is an

occupied country. ... People today can’t grasp that understanding. This is an occupied country. It may be [claimed by] your government. But the land still belongs to the original people.” □



Buffalo YES to Indigenous People, NO to racism

People from many Buffalo, N.Y., organizations and communities gathered on Oct. 10 to call for replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day. They also demanded an end to the Dakota Access Pipeline and rallied in solidarity with the resistance at Standing Rock, N.D.

People then demonstrated at the Buf-

falo School Board meeting on Oct. 12 against local millionaire developer and school board member Carl Paladino. Not for the first time Paladino had rushed to defend Donald Trump, this time declaring that Trump’s sexist behavior and language are something that “all men do, at least all normal men.” Community ac-

tivists immediately came together to reject Paladino, and to say that his openly racist and sexist record has made it clear that he is unfit to be on the school board. Paladino was met with signs, chants and a large crowd determined to be heard rejecting his bigotry.

— Photo and story by Ellie Dorritie

Labor struggles for Standing Rock

By Carl Lewis

The struggle of the Sioux Nation at Standing Rock, N.D., and its allies to prevent the building of the Dakota Access Pipeline has generated a dispute within the AFL-CIO and its affinity organizations. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka issued a statement Sept. 15 in support of building the pipeline, alleging that it will “provide over 4,500 high-quality, family supporting jobs.” (aflcio.org)

Members and allies of the Sioux Nation have been nonviolently protesting a real threat to not only their sacred burial grounds, but also the potential pollution of their water resources, as well as the emission of greenhouse gases that have a direct bearing on climate change. The protesters include environmentalists as well as non-native people from the surrounding areas of North and South Dakota and other states.

Individual unions have expressed strong opposition to the building of DAPL, and its encroachment on Native American land, and anger at the disrespect and marginalization of the Native American people and protesters. (See WW article “Labor groups strengthen solidarity,” Oct. 6)

A group calling itself Labor for Standing Rock has initiated a “coordinated labor mobilization” on Oct. 29-30, including actions at Standing Rock and throughout the country. For more in-

formation, visit tinyurl.com/FBlabor4standingrock.

The AFL-CIO support for the pipeline followed a long, vitriolic five-page letter from Sean McGarvey, president of the AFL-CIO-affiliated North American Building Trades Union, which includes 14 building and construction unions. The letter, dated Sept. 14, was sent to all the AFL-CIO’s affiliates at the height of mass opposition to the pipeline.

McGarvey’s letter states: “Due to organized protests and misinformation by environmental extremists, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, professional agitators, and now the vocal support and encouragement from the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), the National Nurses United (NNU), the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) ... AFL-CIO members are having their lives placed on hold, their employment prospects upended and have been subjected to intimidation, vandalism, confrontation, and violence both on their job sites and in the surrounding communities.” (tinyurl.com/NABTUletter)

In fact, the violence has been emanating from security guards employed by the construction company; Energy Transfers Partners, the pipeline company; and local police, who have used dogs, pepper spray and mace against the protesters. North Dakota Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple mobilized the National Guard.

Most construction workers have been off-site during the conflict. The only “workers” present have been ETP supervisors assisting and directing the onslaught against the defenders.

Reactionary old guard rears its head

McGarvey also cryptically expressed his opposition to some of the changes brought about by the leadership of Trumka and former AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. In order to distance itself from the more conservative business unionism of the old guard leadership, the national union federation has attempted to reach out and include people of color, beginning with the Justice for Janitors campaign in 1985.

McGarvey’s letter is unprecedented in its denunciation and attacks on labor unions and AFL-CIO constituency groups that united under the umbrella of the Labor Coalition for Community Action, which includes the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Asian Pacific Labor Alliance, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and Pride at Work.

“For years during Executive Council meetings,” McGarvey stated, “we have heard the ideas, non sequiturs and dubious pronouncements regarding the future of the labor movement and how to make it stronger by these union ‘leaders’ and even their predecessors. We may or



may not agree on the theories about the 21st century labor movement.”

McGarvey’s letter represents the historical rift between conservative business unionism and the dire necessity for social and class-conscious unionism. McGarvey actually demanded that the pro-Standing Rock unions and their affiliated organizations issue “a public apology for ... uninformed public opposition” to the pipeline work.

Revolutionary socialists and the communist movement, as exemplified by Vladimir Lenin in his germinal work, “What Is to Be Done?” emphasize that the union movement must be a “tribune of the people” and not focus on the narrow economic issues of the working class. As a beacon against injustice and oppression wherever and whenever it exists, the movement should be true to the statement, “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

In our own historical epoch — the age of capitalism at a dead end — this means fighting for the rights of the most oppressed sector of the working class and oppressed people of color. And that means militant labor support for the Indigenous struggle at Standing Rock. □

Solidarity caravan reaches flooded areas

By Peter Gilbert
Kinston, N.C.

As the Neuse River crested in the wake of Hurricane Matthew on Oct. 15, leaders from the Charlotte Uprising joined members of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NC EJN) in solidarity caravans to some of the worst flooded areas of eastern North Carolina.

The caravans' purpose was to document and investigate conditions while bringing needed relief supplies. One group traveled to Duplin and Sampson counties in the Cape Fear River basin. Another traveled to Kinston and Princeville, two towns with heavy flooding caused by the Neuse and Tar rivers. The Tribal Council in Lumberton, out of safety concerns, warned a third delegation not to come.

Residents up and down the coastal regions, even in areas that were not flooded, have been told their water is unsafe to drink. Even boiling the water will not remove coal ash contaminants.

The solidarity contingents arrived Oct. 15, their vehicles loaded down with water, food, clothing, first aid kits, diapers, tampons, sanitary pads, baby wipes and blankets. Most of these items had been donated to the Charlotte Uprising to support the rebellion, but the Charlotte organizers saw an even greater need for the goods in eastern North Carolina.

In Kinston, the contingent met with leaders of the Kinston-Lenoir County Justice Coalition, a group formed about four months ago in response to the police killing of Deriante Miller in March.

Two of the coalition leaders, Ms. Carolyn Dawson — a longtime anti-racist fighter who forced Sears-Roebuck and the local hospital to integrate their work forces — and Pastor Nancy Wade took the delegation to the most impacted neighborhoods to distribute relief supplies directly to the communities. Large groups gathered on main streets, outside community stores and by a ballpark to accept needed supplies.

Community members from Kinston groups like Same Sunday and 606 organized themselves to cook meals and distribute water and clothing. Meanwhile, there was no sign of any Red Cross or government assistance near the flood waters. Instead, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and government agencies were gathered at Kinston High School, north of the town.

Police block relief supplies

Police stopped the delegation at the door to the school. They refused relief supplies. The parking lot was empty except for one family, who accepted diapers and water from the delegation. No one else appeared to be staying at the shelter.

In the last month, North Carolina's governor declared a "state of emergency" twice. Once was to protect windows at



WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

Members of the Solidarity caravan with Carolyn Dawson and Pastor Nancy Wade and Pastor Wade's family at the edge of floodwaters in East Kinston, N.C. Ms. Dawson's home is just beyond the trees.

the Bank of America and the Ritz Carlton in Charlotte during the Charlotte Uprising, and now in response to Hurricane Matthew.

In Charlotte, the state deployed National Guard soldiers, chemical weapons, rubber bullets and military vehicles to intimidate and silence the outrage over the police killings of Keith Lamont Scott and Justin Carr. The National Guard lined up in front of the Omni, Ritz Carlton and other expensive hotels to make sure their guests were not inconvenienced.

In Kinston and Princeville, soldiers told residents they had to leave their homes, but gave them no way to travel or a place to go.

The Charlotte delegation could not

even get into the town of Princeville, which remains completely flooded. Police stopped everyone at the bridge from Tarboro. Residents gathered in despair at the bridge.

One man said he was waiting for a boat to take him to his house to get medical equipment he needed. Another stared at the rising river. He, like many survivors, was staying with family outside of town, but did not know yet whether his house still stood.

Hog farms and two hurricanes

Duplin and Sampson counties are home to some of the greatest concentration of industrial hog production worldwide. These hog "farms" — more correctly termed Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) — often enclose thousands of hogs in narrow buildings.

Dangerous hog waste is first allowed to accumulate in "lagoons," which are huge open cesspits. It is later sprayed into the air over fields and farms as "fertilizer." The Environmental Protection Agency is currently investigating the NC EJN's civil rights complaint against the state of North Carolina for allowing these CAFOs and hog lagoons to be located disproportionately in Black communities.

In 1999, Hurricane Floyd started out like Matthew. Both Category 4 storms weakened to Category 2 before coming ashore near the mouth of the Cape Fear River in southeastern North Carolina. In both storms, heavy rains caused the greatest damage, hitting after the ground

Charlotte Uprising in solidarity with Eastern North Carolina

The following is a lightly edited letter of solidarity from the Charlotte Uprising (charlotteuprising.com) to the disaster-stricken communities of Eastern North Carolina. Activists urge "grass-roots organizations and other communities to sign onto this letter by e-mailing charlotteuprising@gmail.com."

The Charlotte Uprising Coalition and signatories extend our solidarity with the communities of Eastern North Carolina who are being devastated by the unnatural flooding of Hurricane Matthew. We oppose and condemn the state's continued environmental racism and the neglect of the Black, Indigenous, Brown, rural and poor white communities for which these issues have heightened impact in Eastern North Carolina.

In Charlotte, we continue to fight for justice for Keith Lamont Scott, a 43-year-old Black man with disabilities killed on Sept. 20 by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. We have received reports that [on Oct. 10], state troopers in Lumberton killed a man amidst the flooding — claiming to have seen him armed with a gun while in water that had risen 3-4 feet high. ... [W]e want to uplift the name of Deriante Miller, a 18-year-old Black teen, killed by a state trooper in Kinston as he was leaving his sister's birthday party. No officer was charged and the department continues to lie about the murder.

The misplaced priorities of our state brought on this disaster. While Gov. Pat McCrory called the National Guard into Charlotte to protect the windows of Bank of America and the Omni Hotel, he also redirected disaster relief funds to defend his anti-trans and anti-worker HB2 law. He has been unable to develop a plan

for communities in the East for whom continued flood waters are anticipated. In both scenarios, lives are at risk and stolen because our state does not value Black and Brown lives.

Environmental justice is more than forests and rivers; it encompasses our workplaces, public facilities, neighborhoods and schools. Our environments are under constant threat — if not from climate change, pollution or other climate disasters, then from police, corporations and politicians who prioritize profit and property over human needs.

We believe in the right of historically marginalized communities to determine their destinies and build futures that are free from the violence of climate change, corporate greed and exploitation. We will stand with our community in Eastern North Carolina to reject any attempt made to repress the people's organizing in response to this crisis; to reject any attempt by the state to use this moment to continue to push through the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline because communities and infrastructure have been wiped out; to reject any attempt to isolate us from each other in the movement for Black lives, working-class people and all oppressed people. The struggle for environmental justice is also a struggle against racism, sexism, homophobia, capitalism, xenophobia and more.

We send our solidarity with the organized communities and the communities getting organized to take care of each other. In Charlotte we have been saying, "We keep us safe," and in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, nothing could be truer. We say we keep us safe; we say Black Lives Matter; we say our liberation

is intertwined; and we say justice for the communities in Eastern North Carolina is long overdue.

Signatories: Trans Queer People of Color Collective Charlotte, Tribe Charlotte, Southern Vision Alliance, Ignite NC, Youth Organizing Institute, NC Environmental Justice Network, Witness For Peace Southeast, Workers World Party, Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia, UE Local 150 NC Public Service Workers Union, The Greensboro Mural Project, Cakalak Thunder, Jewish Voice for Peace-Triangle, Customer 49.



The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign Needs your donation now!

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

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

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

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

But we can't do this without you

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



NORTH CAROLINA

Raising up a people’s agenda

was already saturated from prior large rainfalls.

Floyd dropped over 19 inches of rain in just a couple of days. Some 51 people died in the state. More lost all their property as Floyd’s flooding submerged their homes and farms.

After Floyd’s water receded, poor and Black communities were left to face on-going environmental destruction. Hog lagoons overflowed onto surrounding communities, poisoning the soil and the water. Residents of Princeville were displaced to Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers that were placed directly on top of coal ash fill.

This year, Matthew dropped over 20 inches in some places and killed 26 people in North Carolina alone. The Neuse and Cape Fear rivers, which many Black communities depend on for water and fishing, are still polluted by the bacteria from the overflowing hog lagoons.

The environmental justice impact of Matthew is just beginning to be understood. In some areas, Matthew unleashed even more rain than Floyd. The Lumber River in Lumberton crested at a record 24 feet. The Neuse in Kinston also reached its highest level ever of 28 feet, a foot higher than during Floyd.

Duke Energy has admitted that a coal ash pond on the Neuse River near Goldsboro, upstream from Kinston, has been breached, but the company denies that any coal ash contaminated the river. Hog lagoons have once again flooded over and thousands of drowned animals are in the flooded waters. □

Ben Carroll
Durham, N.C.

A spirited demonstration of activists from nearly a dozen organizations was held Oct. 11 outside the North Carolina gubernatorial debate between Pat McCrory and Roy Cooper. They raised up a people’s agenda during the protest.

The coalition — known as the Triangle May Day Unity coalition — raised the following people’s demands: 1) Stop police violence and murders! 2) End cooperation with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement]! 3) Welcome Syrian refugees, end Islamophobia! 4) \$15/hour minimum wage and collective bargaining rights for all workers!

The coalition pointed out how both McCrory and Cooper have opposed the interests of the people and acted to advance a program that serves the 1% as well as all other racists and bigots:

“The record implicates both candidates as representatives who are not for the people. McCrory’s House Bill 2 targeted transgendered people, limited the ability for local governments to enact minimum wage standards and took away protections for certain forms of employment discrimination. By signing into law HB318, McCrory signed an anti-immigrant bill that does not protect workers, and instead restricts the ability for communities to get ICE out of their cities and sets restrictive limits on jobless workers’ ability to receive food assistance. HB972 bars public access to police [camera] footage without [a judge’s] approval and cre-



Protesters at the North Carolina gubernatorial debate, Oct. 11.

WW PHOTO: BEN CARROLL

ates an additional barrier for communities fighting for a more transparent and accountable criminal justice system.”

The coalition decried Attorney General Roy Cooper’s refusal to retry the cop who shot and killed Jonathan Ferrell, a young unarmed Black man, on Sept. 14, 2013. So far in 2016, 29 people have been killed by law enforcement in North Carolina. Under Cooper’s watch, no cop has been prosecuted for killing someone, except for one who killed a white man.

Activists noted that Cooper also supported McCrory’s request to stop sending Syrian refugees to North Carolina, showcasing both of their xenophobic and Islamophobic positions. McCrory signed an anti-Muslim (anti-Shariah) law in 2013 that was supported by many Democratic legislators. Neither candidate has supported the growing movement for a \$15 minimum wage or the right of public workers in the state — and all workers —

to collectively bargain.

“The election process is disempowering for working people,” said Darrion Smith, a member of NC Public Service Workers Union, United Electrical Workers Local 150 and Black Workers for Justice. “We can’t just vote, we have to organize and exercise our power in the workplace, communities and in all of the institutions that impact the lives of the majority of the people. We need to build people’s power to hold elected officials and other institutions accountable to the needs of the majority of people, not the wealthy 1%. That’s why, not only will we be out raising up a people’s platform on Oct. 11, but will continue our efforts to convene a broad and united People’s Assembly that can bring together working people and build power.”

The coalition plans to convene a Triangle-wide [Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill] People’s Assembly in December. □



PHOTO: CHARLOTTE UPRISING



your support!

Contributions are urgently needed, no matter how small or large. Please make a generous donation today at workers.org/wwp/donate. Mail checks to Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011.

PENNSYLVANIA

Poisoned water plagues prisons

By Betsey Piette

“You’d have to be crazy to bathe in that water,” a SCI Mahanoy prison guard told Mumia Abu-Jamal after seeing the black, foul-smelling water filling his sink. Yet the toxic water plaguing Mahanoy and other Pennsylvania prisons has left prisoners no option other than to use the water or not bathe at all.

For prisoners, including Abu-Jamal, who has untreated hepatitis C, the toxic water exacerbates existing health conditions. He suffers from excessive itching linked to hep C.

Department of Corrections officials have done little to remedy the water crisis, claiming they are “fixing it” and periodically rationing bottled water. Mahanoy prisoners receive three cups of water daily with meals.

From SCI Frackville prison, Major Tillery, a prisoners’ advocate, wrote Oct. 12: “We haven’t had clean water here for over four months. The water is brown and smells. The guards drink bottled water. We complained and first were told nothing was wrong. Then for three days, a month or so ago, prisoners were given a gallon of bottled water a day. Since then, it’s back to drinking and showering in dirty water.”

Is coal the culprit?

While Mahanoy and Frackville prisoners recently sounded the alarm, other Pennsylvania prisons’ water and air contamination problems go back years. At SCI Fayette in La Belle, Pa., prisoners and guards reported serious health concerns in 2010, including shortness of breath, dizziness, and body sores and tumors.

Prisoners, guards and La Belle residents have experienced alarmingly high rates of kidney, thyroid and breast can-

cers, reported Vice magazine in May 2015. Fayette prison was constructed atop a coal mining site; its coal ash dump produced fine-particle residue that drifted into the town and prison. Coal ash contains toxic and carcinogenic chemicals; 3.4 million tons of it is still deposited annually near the site. Two coal slurry ponds, suspected of contaminating drinking water, increased the cancer risk to 1 in 50 residents.

The Abolitionist Law Center, a public-interest law firm, citing the Eighth Amendment ban against “cruel and unusual punishment,” began investigating 75 Fayette prisoners’ complaints. The state DOC’s 2015 investigation said the water met “drinking standards,” and Pennsylvania’s Department of Health claimed the environment doesn’t contribute to the cancer risk.

Coal mining threatens Schuylkill’s water

The Schuylkill County Municipal Authority (SCMA) provides water and sewer services for most of the county and appears to be the provider for Frackville and Mahanoy, though the DOC won’t confirm this.

The area contains abandoned underground mines, plus active Reading Anthracite Company mines. Mountain-top removal strip mining was practiced there. Reading’s largest abandoned strip mine, located at the West Branch Schuylkill River’s headwaters, could be contaminating water reservoirs used by nearby Frackville and Mahanoy prisons.

Explosives that blow up mountainsides often leave chemical tracers. Coal preparation and coal washing employ a “chemical bath” to separate coal from other minerals, leaving behind toxic, chemi-

cal-laced wastewater. It is often stored in dams and slurry ponds, which can break, flooding and polluting groundwater aquifers. Black, oily coal wastewater is also stored in underground wells that leak and contaminate groundwater.

Abandoned mines are sources of acid mine drainage (AMD) that occurs when pyritic material reacts with water and oxygen. AMDs acidify water, helping heavy metals dissolve, which are then discharged into rivers. High levels of AMDs exist in Schuylkill River tributaries.

It’s difficult to prove coal production caused water contamination at Mahanoy and Frackville. SCMA, managed by Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of for-profit American Water, has not reported water contamination. American Water caused several water-related health catastrophes in West Virginia and hasn’t responded to public concerns.

Prisoners at West Virginia’s South Central Charleston Regional Jail were not notified when a tank holding a coal preparation chemical spilled into the Elk River, contaminating water for 300,000 people in 2014. Uninformed, they bathed and drank the toxic water. Prisoners who protested were beaten and thrown into solitary confinement.

Naval Air Station polluted water

Water tested positive for the carcinogenic toxin chromium-6 at Montgomery County’s SCI Graterford prison. This was linked to leakage of fire retardants used at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base into sources of county drinking water.

With rural Pennsylvania factories closed, leaving hundreds of thousands of workers unemployed, the state’s solution

Continued on page 8

Demand hep C cure for Mumia now!

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Unless a mass movement can force Pennsylvania officials to provide antiviral hepatitis C medications to cure Mumia Abu-Jamal’s deadly liver disease, his health will continue to deteriorate and he will die. Concerned by his health crisis, supporters of this world-renowned political prisoner have called a mass mobilization on Dec. 9 in Philadelphia.

An international campaign prevented Mumia’s execution by the state. A renewed movement is needed now to save his life.

Friends and family members who have visited Mumia report his symptoms include diarrhea, scaly skin and difficulty sleeping. His skin itching has increased, despite medication and doctor-prescribed baths.

Mark Taylor, who visited Mumia on Oct. 9, noted: “There seem to be some signs of deterioration to Mumia’s health. He has not been monitored closely by prison medical personnel. ... He has filed grievances about his conditions and we are working on getting Mumia’s own doctor in to see him as soon as possible.”

Mumia complained that besides refusing to treat him, the Department of Corrections is not monitoring him adequately, as recommended by Federal District Judge Robert Mariani on Aug. 31. By

refusing to provide curative medications, the Pennsylvania DOC has sentenced Mumia and thousands of other state prisoners with this disease to death by deliberate indifference.

Judge Mariani ruled that the standard of care for chronic hep C is the administration of new antiviral medications, Harvoni or Sovaldi. He said the DOC’s hep C treatment protocol “prolongs the suffering” of the ill and allows the disease to quickly progress so it presents a greater threat of cirrhosis, liver cancer and death. This violates the Eighth Amendment prohibition of “cruel and unusual” punishment.

However, Judge Mariani refused to order the state to treat Mumia because of a technicality: The DOC’s Hepatitis C Committee members were not specifically named in the lawsuit. Bret Grote of the Abolitionist Law Center filed a lawsuit Sept. 30 seeking an injunction to provide Mumia with these hep C antiviral medications.

Access for all!

Less than 1 percent of U.S. prisoners are being treated for hep C, according to a Health Affairs article entitled “New Hepatitis C Drugs Are Very Costly and Unavailable to Many State Prisoners.” (tinyurl.com/gte27bc) Some 6,976 Pennsylvania prisoners had the illness last year. Only those with end-stage disease are

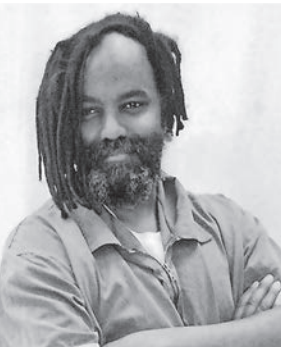
allowed these medications. (tinyurl.com/jrqpb5a) Two dozen prisoners have been treated so far.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf signed the Hepatitis C Screening Act into law July 20. It requires all individuals born between 1945 and 1965 who receive health services in a medical facility or physician’s office to be offered a hep C screening test. The law became effective Sept. 18, but most health care providers have not implemented the unfunded mandate.

Over 53,000 Philadelphia residents have hep C, but Medicaid denies the new medications to half of all applicants. In May, the State Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee voted 10-7 to lift Medicaid rules restricting these medications, but State Secretary of Human Services Ted Dallas has not approved the recommendation.

Between 3 million and 6 million U.S. residents have hep C, but most people are unaware they have the disease, since it takes decades for symptoms to appear. In 2013, more U.S. residents died of hep C than from 59 other infectious diseases combined.

New drugs boast cure rates of 95 percent or better, but profit-hungry Gilead Sciences charges \$83,000 to \$95,000 for a single course of treatment, severely limiting access to the life-saving medications. □



Mumia Abu-Jamal, before and after being sickened by hep C.

PHILADELPHIA - DEC. 9 - ALL OUT

Protest for Mumia’s freedom Demand Hep C medication and safe water for all prisoners!

Dec. 9 march starts at 3 p.m. at the Frank Rizzo statue at 15th Str. and JFK Blvd., in solidarity with the #FrankRizzoDown campaign initiated by the REAL Justice Coalition. An indoor rally follows at 6 p.m. To endorse or get information, contact mobilization4mumia@gmail.com or call 215-724-1618. For New York City and Newark buses to the march, call 212-330-8029. Facebook page: Mobilization4Mumia.

For information, contact: Mobilization4Mumia@gmail.com.

Initial endorsers: International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Wadiya Jamal; Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly; the Monica Moorehead/Lamont Lilly Workers World Party presidential campaign; Angela Davis; Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka, U.S. Green Party presidential and vice presidential candidates; the International Action Center; the Peoples Organization for Progress; MOVE Organization; the Philly Coalition for REAL Justice; Students for Justice in Palestine-Temple University; the May 1 Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights; Estela Vazquez, executive vice president, Local 1199 SEIU*; and the Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition. *For Identification only

Poisoned prison water

Continued from page 7

was to build prisons there. They were often built on or near coal production sites or in areas fracked for natural gas, creating health problems for residents and prisoners alike.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, Health Department and DOC won’t acknowledge or clean up the water and air crises created by energy extraction operations. Only when activist groups like the Abolitionist Law Center, Pennsylvania’s Human Rights Coalition and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal coalition challenge prison authorities can any real change happen.

ICFFMAJ recently demonstrated about the water crisis outside state prisons, and has called for a Dec. 9 mass mobilization in Philadelphia. See above. □

Oakland, Calif.

Omar Shakir tells his story of cop misconduct

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Omar Shakir and his family were under siege last July 23 when the Oakland Police Department falsely believed someone in Oakland’s Black community had shot a cop. This was even after the OPD knew full well that Officer Nadia Clark was uninjured and only a single round had been fired at her car.

The OPD set up a 10-block-radius lockdown around Shakir’s East Oakland home. It even positioned snipers on neighbors’ roofs.

The OPD went into motion, as they have historically done, without regard for the rights or civil liberties of the Black community, and despite the fact they are still under federal monitoring from a prior case.

The OPD face further charges, including embarrassment, this year when a number of officers were found to be involved in the rape of a minor teenager. This crime caused the consecutive departures of Chief Sean Whent and two other hastily named replacements. The OPD currently has no chief.

The young Omar Shakir spoke to Workers World to let the public know what really happened: “There was an accident involving a police officer, Nadia Clark, and a shooting right after the accident. They somehow mixed me up in the incident with the shooting. Around 5:30 a.m. on July 24 me and my family woke up to a flashbang. There was a SWAT team with all these army-looking men with tanks, armored trucks. It was a scary situation. [The warrant was time stamped 7:07 a.m., reported SF Bay View on Aug. 16.]

“I was looking out the window, trying to see what was going on. Then over the loudspeaker they were calling my name. I came outside and walked to the middle of the street and was cuffed by a mili-



WW PHOTO

tary-looking guy from the SWAT unit. The military men placed a robot in my home. I said, ‘I’m no terrorist!’

“My brother, nephew and niece came out with no socks and shoes. Two tenants also came out. It was an awkward situation. They transported me downtown to be questioned by the homicide unit.

“I was there for four hours then transferred to North County Jail in Oakland. I was held there till that evening. Then they transported me to Santa Rita in Dublin. I was there until July 29, supposedly based on accusation that I shot a cop. I think they knew it wasn’t me the whole time. They just wanted to mess with me.”

The court set bail at \$85,000. The effect on Shakir’s family was “devastating,” he said. “My niece doesn’t like to sleep alone; my nephew, same with him.”

Then the cops “said they had got the guy the day before I was bailed out.” Now they’re charging Shakir with possession of firearms, since they found a gun in his home during the illegal raid. “But the 10-year-old felony had been reduced to a misdemeanor due to a program I completed, but it’s not showing in their records,” said Shakir.

It has been “a total embarrassment” for Shakir’s family “that they incriminated me with something I had nothing to

do with,” he said. “Most people know I wouldn’t do anything like that.”

Shakir’s next court appearance is Nov. 30 at Rene Davidson Courthouse in Oakland. He hopes for public support, which he says he has gotten from “my family, friends, the Oscar Grant Committee and my lawyer Dan Siegel.”

“I have family to take care of,” said Shakir. “I wouldn’t consider doing anything like that. My niece and nephew shouldn’t have seen anything like that at ages of five and eleven. [Cop] misconduct just needs to stop.” □

Renters slam slumlords

By Steve Millies
New York

More than 100 people, most of them Black, Latinx and Asian, rallied on Oct. 13 in Lower Manhattan’s Foley Square against their slumlords from hell. Tenants spoke out about their long, courageous struggles.

New York City Public Advocate Letitia James released her annual list of New York City’s worst 100 landlords. It’s a catalog of horrors.

Harry Silverstein racked up more than 2,000 housing violations in just eight buildings. As an example, last winter, Anthony Kelly, one of Silverstein’s tenants, had to keep his stove on all the time because of a broken radiator. (Daily News, Oct. 14)

Behind the slumlords are big banks and insurance outfits that often own the mortgages on these rundown properties. The so-called “justice system” — looming over the protesters in the marble-front-



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

ed state and federal courthouses on the square — brings no relief.

Many community groups helped build this rally, including the Metropolitan Council on Housing, Asian Americans for Equality, Make the Road While Walking, Churches United for Fair Housing, New Settlement Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) and the Banana Kelly Housing Program.

Decent housing is a human right. Fight, fight, fight! □



U.S. HANDS OFF SYRIA!

Urgent call on eve of wider war

The following edited statement was issued by the **HANDS OFF SYRIA COALITION**. We raise our voices against the violence of war and the enormous pressure of war propaganda, lies and hidden agendas that are used to justify this war and every past U.S. war.

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, endorse the following Points of Unity and will work together as an Ad Hoc Coalition to help put an end to the regime change intervention by the United States, NATO and their regional allies, and the killing of innocent people in Syria:

1. The continuation of the war in Syria is the result of a U.S.-orchestrated intervention by the United States, NATO, their regional allies and reactionary forces, the goal of which is regime change in Syria.
2. This policy of regime change in Syria is illegal and in clear violation of the U.N. Charter, the letter and spirit of international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. This policy of forced regime change is threatening the security of the region and the world and has increased the danger of direct confrontation between the U.S. and Russia, with the potential of a nuclear catastrophe for the whole world.
4. U.S. and EU sanctions have destabilized every sector of Syria’s economy, transforming a once self-sufficient country into an aid-dependent nation. Half the Syrian population is now displaced. A U.N. ESCWA [Economic and Social Commission for West Asia] report reveals that these U.S. sanctions on Syria are crippling aid work during one of the largest humanitarian emergencies since World War II. The one-third of Syria’s refugees in surrounding Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have been hit hard by U.S. cuts to UNICEF. This forces desperate refugees to struggle to reach Europe.
5. No foreign entity, be it a foreign government or an armed group, has the right to violate the fundamental rights of the Syrian people to independence, national sovereignty and self-determination. This includes the right of the Syrian government to request and accept military assistance from other countries, as even the U.S. government has admitted.
6. Only the people of Syria have the inalienable right to choose their leaders and determine the character of their government, free from foreign intervention. This right cannot be properly exercised under the conditions of U.S.-orchestrated foreign intervention against the Syrian people.
7. Our opposition is to forced regime change in Syria by U.S.-backed foreign powers and their mercenaries. It is not our business to support or oppose President [Bashar al-] Assad or the Syrian government. Only the Syrian people have the right to decide the legitimacy of their government.
8. The most urgent issue at present is peace and putting an end to the violence of foreign intervention that has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and the displacement of millions of Syrians both internally or as refugees abroad.

Based on these Points of Unity, we, as individuals and organizations — in an Ad Hoc Coalition — agree on the following demands and commit ourselves to working together to help achieve them:

1. An immediate end to the U.S. policy of forced regime change in Syria and full recognition and compliance by the U.S., NATO and their allies with principles of international law and the U.N. Charter, including respect for the independence and territorial integrity of Syria.
2. An immediate end to all foreign aggression against Syria, and serious efforts toward a political resolution to the war.
3. An immediate end to all military, financial, logistical and intelligence support by the U.S., NATO and their regional allies to all foreign mercenaries and extremists in the Middle East region.
4. An immediate end to economic sanctions against Syria. Massive international aid for displaced people within Syria and Syrian refugees abroad.

Only in a peaceful and independent Syria, free of foreign aggression, can the people of Syria freely exercise their sovereign rights, express their free will and make free choices about their government and their country’s leadership.

We invite all supporters of peace and peoples’ rights to self-determination around the world to join hands of cooperation in this effort to achieve these most humanitarian demands.

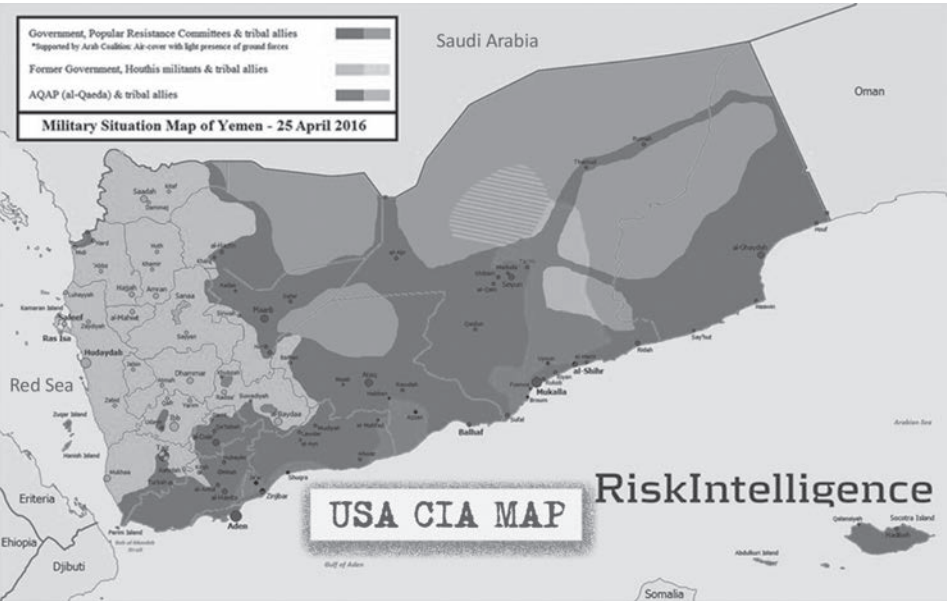
We need jobs, health care, education and an end to racist police violence here at home, not U.S. wars abroad!!

Initial organization signers include: Alliance for Global Justice; Al-Awda – Palestine National Right to Return Coalition; Antiwar Committee – Tucson, Tampa, Utah, Minneapolis, Chicago; Arab Americans for Syria; Arab Women Progressive League; BAYAN – Philippine Coalition; Coalition of Arab Canadian Professionals and Community Associations; Dallas Left Alliance; Ecumenical Peace Institute Clergy and Laity Concerned; Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada); International Action Center; International League of Peoples Struggle – U.S.; Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice; Mobilization Against War & Occupation – Canada; One State Assembly; Peoples Organization for Progress; Popular Committee in Defense of Syria; People’s Opposition to War, Imperialism & Racism — POWIR (Florida); Return Now Coalition; South Coast People For Peace and Justice; Southern Human Rights Organizers’ Conference; Students for a Democratic Society; Syrian American Will Association; Syrian Social Club Community in the UK (Dr. Issa Chaer, co-founder); Syria Solidarity Movement; The Expatriates Association of Syrians in Canada; United National Antiwar Coalition; Upstate New York Drone Action; U.S. Peace Council; Veterans For Peace Chapter 111, Bellingham, Wash.; Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality; Women Against Military Madness.

To add your name in support of the Hands off Syria Coalition and see also the list-in-formation, visit handsoffsyriacoalition.net.

YEMEN:

Pentagon behind disaster



Continued from page 1

said there were at least two bombings. These air strikes follow a pattern since this phase of the war is targeting civilians by bombing residential areas, schools, health facilities, mosques and camps for internally displaced people.

Even the Wall Street Journal reported Oct. 10: “With its military campaign in Yemen under renewed international scrutiny, Saudi Arabia said it ‘regretted’ a strike on a funeral that killed 142 mourners but stopped short of accepting responsibility for the attack.” In a letter from its U.N. Mission to the Security Council, Saudi Arabia promised to release its results from an investigation into the airstrike, which “Houthi rebels blamed on the Saudi-led coalition fighting to unseat them.”

Secretary of State John Kerry reportedly called the Saudi leadership to express Washington’s “grave concern.” Perhaps this air strike — which received widespread U.S. media coverage — was a potential embarrassment to President Barack Obama’s administration.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon commented, “Aerial attacks by the Saudi-led coalition have already caused immense carnage and destroyed much of the country’s medical facilities and other vital civilian infrastructure. Bombing people already mourning the loss of loved ones is reprehensible. This latest horrific incident demands a full inquiry. [T]here must be accountability for the appalling conduct of this entire war. ... Those responsible for the attack must be brought to justice.” (bigstory.ap.org, Oct. 10)

Ban requested the U.N. Human Rights Council establish a team to conduct an independent investigation into the Oct. 8 bombings. He stated that the latest attacks continue a disaster that has left 80 percent of the 20 million people in Yemen in need of humanitarian assistance.

Imperialist-engineered disaster

Many Yemenis have fled to other parts of the country and abroad to avoid the conflict. The U.N. Office for Humanitarian Affairs and other relief organizations have issued reports on this situation.

The World Food Program, a U.N. agency, has reduced monthly food rations to the Yemeni people due to the lack of funds. Agency spokeswoman, Bettina Luescher, said WFP needs another \$145 million to complete its work by the end of 2016. “Even before the violence and the war in Yemen, the malnutrition rates of children in Yemen were the highest in the world,” she said. “Half of the children are stunted, meaning they are too short for

their age because of chronic malnutrition.” (voanews.com, Oct. 4)

According to the same source, Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said the bombing and ground war in Yemen have destroyed the country’s economic fabric. Basic services have been destroyed, moving the economy near to total collapse. Children have been the main casualties of the war. He said, “[T]here are 1.5 million [children younger than 5] who are acutely malnourished.” Many others are suffering from moderate malnutrition.

Laerke explained: “Before the war, Yemen was over 90 percent dependent on import of basic food items and medicines. Eighty percent of those imports come through Hudaydah port,” an important lifeline. “What is particularly urgent in the port is ... repair of five cranes, which were damaged in an airstrike in August 2015, so they have been partly out of commission for quite some time.” This has made it difficult to import food and other needed supplies through the port.

U.S.-backed war causes death and destruction

This is a genocidal war being waged with Washington’s support. The Obama administration has authorized the use of American-made warplanes, bombs and other destructive weapons against the Yemeni people.

“The U.S., a top Saudi arms supplier, approved a \$1.15 billion sale of tanks and other military equipment to Riyadh in August,” reported the Oct. 10 Wall Street Journal. “Citing Yemen’s high civilian casualty toll, four senators introduced a resolution on the floor of the Senate in September to block the sale,” but it didn’t pass. The newspaper noted London’s approval of “the sale of billions of dollars’ worth of British jets, bombs and missiles to the country in recent years.”

Without the diplomatic cover provided by the White House, the Saudi-GCC coalition could not have carried out this war for the last 19 months. The disastrous situation in Syria has overshadowed the war in Yemen; yet both are a direct result of U.S. imperialism’s failed policies.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is intensifying its “clandestine war” in Somalia, which also borders the Gulf of Aden. The escalating campaign involves hundreds of U.S. Special Operations troops, airstrikes, private contractors and other forces rotating through makeshift bases and creating more imperialist murder and mayhem.

An earlier version of this article appeared in Global Research: Centre for Research on Globalization.

WORKERS WORLD editorial

What Obama didn't say about Cuba

Don't let the Barack Obama administration flip the script. On Oct. 14 media headlines told the U.S. public they could bring unlimited cigars and rum home from Cuba. That news, which many welcome, adds to the false impression that the U.S. blockade of Cuba has ended.

No. It hasn't. And that's why anyone wanting U.S. relations with Cuba to be normalized and conducted on a basis of equality must speak up.

The U.S. unilateral, extraterritorial economic, financial and commercial blockade remains in full force. Cuba's necessary trade with the U.S. and with the world is not just cigars and rum.

For example, Cuba's ability to trade depends of the removal of U.S. penalties for companies doing business in Cuba. Yet, since Dec. 17, 2014, when the new U.S. policy toward Cuba was first announced, the U.S. has fined eight banking and corporate entities, including five from the U.S., a total of nearly \$3 billion. This disrupts Cuba's trade.

Obama's Oct. 14 presidential policy statement aims to make it impossible for future administrations to reverse the normalization of Cuba-U.S. relations. This includes setting up new embassies, relaxed travel restrictions and direct discussions. It also claims Washington intends no regime change in Cuba, will respect Cuban sovereignty and will take no covert actions.

Essentially it says that the U.S. will deal with Cuba in the same way as it does other small countries around the world.

But what's Washington's record? It has overthrown the elected government of Honduras, backed a fascist-friendly coup in Ukraine and supported every reactionary move by the Venezuelan oligarchy

against the legitimate government of Venezuela.

Even the new policy statement says U.S. Agency for International Development programs aimed at Cuba will continue providing "scholarships." Cuban youth have mobilized to point out they already have completely free education and don't need counterrevolutionary USAID.

The policy statement further asserts the U.S. intends to continue the occupation of Cuban territory at Guantanamo, citing security concerns to excuse violating Cuban sovereignty.

The U.S. government is also persecuting friends of Cuba in the U.S. too. The Treasury Department threatens to strip tax-exempt status from the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. And Floridian Albert Fox faces a \$100,000 fine for travel to Cuba and needs the defense the National Lawyers Guild is providing.

We can expect U.S. imperialism to continue its attempts to undermine socialist planning in Cuba. Fortunately, socialist economic relations that give priority to human needs over profits are firmly established in Cuba. There is a strong Communist Party to lead what historic revolutionary leader Fidel Castro termed "the battle of ideas."

The United Nations General Assembly with 193 countries will on Oct. 26 once again vote against the U.S. and support Cuba's resolution calling on the U.S. to end outright its illegal, immoral and damaging blockade.

Workers World readers can vote against the blockade by linking to: CubavsBloqueo.cu to click on VOTAR/#YoVotoVsBloqueo. □

General strike, int'l march demands labor rights

SOUTH AFRICA



PHOTO: WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Workers march in Durban, Oct. 8.

By Johnnie Stevens
Durban, South Africa

The Congress of South African Trade Unions followed a successful one-day national general strike on Oct. 7 with a spirited internationalist march and rally Oct. 8 in the city of Durban. The strike date coincided with the International Day for Decent Work, declared in 2008 by the International Trade Union Congress.

COSATU General Secretary Bheki Ntshalintshali's statement on the general strike summarized the situation: "The workers' lives are getting worse as a result of the structural economy that we inherited from the colonial and apartheid past." Although apartheid was defeated in South Africa, capitalism continues with its crises of unemployment (over 26 percent), inequality and poverty. (cosatu.org.za)

The South African Communist Party, led by Blade Nzimande, endorsed the general strike in a statement published Oct. 7, adding, "SACP further supports COSATU's call for the acceleration of processes to ensure the implementation of a national minimum wage." COSATU, the SACP and the African National Congress form the historic Tripartite Alliance that abolished apartheid and is continuing the fight against capitalism today.

COSATU President Sidumo Dlamini made the call for the Oct. 8 march at the 17th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions, begun on Oct. 5 in Durban.

One marcher, comrade Eric "Stalin" Mtshali, explained to this reporter that the site of the WFTU gathering, the Albert Luthuli International Convention Center, was formerly Durban Central Prison. There, he and other participants had been held during apartheid. The walls are now covered in murals and plaques dedicated to the struggle.

COSATU slogans for the general strike, and at the march and rally joined by the WFTU, included implementation of free education, a national minimum wage, fight to defend collective bargaining and demand the total banning of labor brokering. Brokering is a form of outsourcing casual labor, comparable to temp agencies or day labor in the U.S. Education demands address the lack of access to college and vocational training for the country's young people, who were numerous at this demonstration.

The WFTU, representing 92 million workers in 136 countries, led a feeder march from the Luthuli center to the COSATU march, chanting, "Down, down with capitalism! Up, up with socialism!"

International solidarity in motion

Signs held by workers and students in the march read: "High electricity pricing kills the poor," "We have a constitutional right to strike," "Create jobs at a living wage now!" and the classic "An injury to one is an injury to all." Shoppers and passersby gave thumbs up to the banners and signs.

In addition to the largest-ever WFTU delegation from West African countries, hundreds of union members from places like Venezuela, India, Vietnam, Brazil, Palestine, Cuba, Europe and the U.S. joined chants of "Viva [long live] COSATU! Viva WFTU!" amid a sea of red banners, hats and shirts.

COSATU invited North American WFTU delegates Diann Jeffers and Estela Vazquez, who were carrying a cardboard image of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar Lopez Rivera, to join the front banner. Knowing that Lopez has been in prison longer than Nelson Mandela, South Africa's labor leadership promoted solidarity with the movement to free him.

Marchers from the U.S. included activists from 1199SEIU; Transit Workers Local 100; Communication Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs & Services; United Auto Workers; and the latest U.S. union to join the WFTU: Roofers Local 36 from Los Angeles. A Workers World Party banner with the slogan "Abolish Capitalism; Fight for a Socialist Future" was well received.

The march ended at Curries Fountain Stadium, where a monument to the founding of COSATU there in 1985 was unveiled. A rally was co-chaired by COSATU President Dlamini and WFTU's General Secretary George Mavrikos.

Thanks were given to many unions for solidarity messages. Among these was one from UNITE HERE Local 26, the striking Harvard University Dining Service workers. The statement mentioned the local's record of support for South African workers and COSATU in the struggle to defeat apartheid.

President Mzwandile Makwayiba of South Africa's National Education Health and Allied Workers Union addressed the final gathering as the newly named President of WFTU.

The issues central to the South African labor movement resonate with working-class people from all over the world, whether in unions or not, employed or unemployed, who admire COSATU and look forward to the growth of anti-racist, social-justice unionism. □



PHOTO: GRANMA

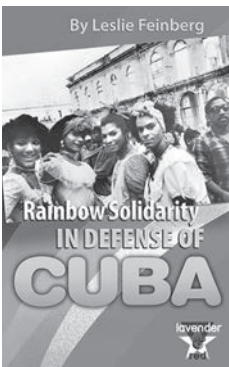
Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg author of 'Stone Butch Blues'
Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba documents revolutionary Cuba's inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes. This ground-breaking book reveals how the Cuban Revolution has grappled with the pre-revolutionary legacy of 450 years of persecution and exploitation of homosexuality.

Rainbow Solidarity answers the demonization of the 1959 Cuban Revolution by Washington and the CIA, Wall Street and Hollywood by demonstrating that the process of solving these problems is the forward motion of the revolution.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba is an edited compilation of 25 articles from the *Workers World* newspaper series by Feinberg entitled *Lavender & Red*, online at workers.org.

Available at major booksellers online



Stop war threats: Peace treaty with Korea now!

By Deirdre Griswold

“No first use” of nuclear weapons. It is a pledge never to attack another country with nuclear bombs or missiles, unless that country has attacked you first with such weapons.

The world would be a much safer place if the U.S. and the other countries in NATO that possess nuclear weapons were to make such a pledge. But these imperialist states refuse to do so.

In fact, only three of the world’s nuclear powers have pledged “no first use.” They are China, India and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

But you wouldn’t know it if all you read and heard came from the politicians and major media in the U.S. They are drumming it into the heads of the people here that north Korea — the DPRK — is a major threat to the world because it has now built half a dozen nuclear warheads.

The U.S. has almost 7,000 such doomsday weapons. It has many military bases in south Korea. Several times a year it conducts huge war exercises directed against the DPRK.

The last was held in August and involved 80,000 troops from the U.S. and south Korea. Other U.S. war “games” directed at north Korea have included troops from Japan — the hated colonial ruler over Korea from 1910 to 1945.

Now another nuclear power has announced it is joining these U.S. war exercises: Britain. It has nuclear missile-carrying submarines that can prowl the



Women cross the DMZ in 2015.

PHOTO: NIANA LIU

seven seas.

Sanctions are economic war

Also ratcheting up the threat of another war in Korea are economic sanctions on the DPRK that Washington has demanded from the U.N. Security Council. The sanctions are supposedly in retaliation for the DPRK’s defensive nuclear program. But in truth there is no moral or political argument to justify these sanctions.

The U.S. not only possesses a vast arsenal of such weapons, but it is also the only country to have actually used them, killing hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians at the end of World War II. Yet the U.S. and its allies have never been

punished for developing such weapons.

The DPRK would never have had to allocate great resources to building nuclear weapons and maintaining strong defense forces had U.S. imperialism not been trying to crush this socialist country since its founding in 1948. Yet not even a major invasion by U.S. forces in 1950, also under cover of a U.N. resolution, followed by three years of vicious war that killed 4 million people, could defeat the Korean people’s resistance.

Ever since that war, the DPRK has been calling for the U.S. to join it in a peace treaty because, even 63 years after the fighting ended, the two countries are still formally in a state of war.

An international group of women once again walked along the demilitarized border between north and south Korea on May 28 to dramatize their call for a peace treaty to end the Korean War.

DPRK ambassador to U.N.

The DPRK’s position on nuclear weapons was made very clear on Oct. 6 by DPRK Ambassador Ri Tong Il, speaking to the U.N. General Assembly:

“It is the common aspiration and common desire of [humanity] to live in the world peaceful and secure, free of nuclear weapons. In building the peaceful world, disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, is of the greatest importance.

“In this context, the DPRK fully supports the global struggle for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

“As far as the nuclear disarmament is concerned, whether it is achieved or not largely depends on the political determination and political will of the big powers that possess larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

“Over the years, the nuclear weapon states that possess larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons are accelerating qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons while doing little in quantitative reduction of nuclear weapons.

“The United States, the world’s largest nuclear weapon state and the only country that used nuclear weapons, recently announced a new modernization program of all existing nuclear weapons within three decades, earmarking an astronomical figure of one trillion U.S. dollars.

“Nevertheless, the United States is yet frequently talking about the so-called vision of the world free of nuclear weapons, but it is only a hypocrisy intended to deceive the world and it is none other than a screen for covering up their strategy of nuclear monopoly and world hegemony.

“The continuing maneuvers of the U.S. for modernization of nuclear weapons is an act of challenge to the desire of the humanity to live in the world free of nuclear weapons, posing the greatest threat to the very survival of the mankind as well as the world peace and security.”

Stop the threats and sanctions! Sign a peace treaty now! □

No matter who wins the election...

WHY WE MUST KEEP FIGHTING FOR SOCIALISM



Workers World Party NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Betty Shabazz

NOV. 11-13 2016

SHABAZZ CENTER

3940 Broadway @ W. 165th

NEW YORK CITY

#1, A or C subway to 168th

Malcolm X

Moorehead-Lilly '16

Abolish Capitalism - Black Lives Matter - Disarm ICE & Police - Fight for socialism

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOV. 11

5pm – Registration

6pm to 9pm – Evening of Solidarity and Resistance with Charlotte, Standing Rock, Mumia, Palestine and more...

– cultural performances, spoken word, greetings

SATURDAY, NOV. 12

8:30am – Registration

9:30am to 6pm – Conference Sessions: (agenda details to follow on plenary sessions, panels, work shops and round table discussions)

SUNDAY, NOV. 13

10:30am to 2:30pm – Conference Sessions

plenaries - workshops
discussions - cultural
presentations
and more

JOIN US!

Go to workers.org/wwp to get updates on schedule, conference venue, schedule, pre-registration, housing, child care and more.

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wwp2016@workers.org

WORKERS WORLD MUNDO OBRERO

Protestas deportivas golpean el racismo

Continúa de página 12

Trump.

El jugador de centro de los Knicks de Nueva York Joakim Noah, quien está contra la guerra, puso de relieve la conexión entre el racismo y el imperialismo estadounidense en su reciente decisión de no asistir a una cena en West Point, la academia militar estadounidense. Noah ha dado constancia de su apoyo a la resistencia anti-racista de Kaepernick. (New York Times, 30 de septiembre)

Mientras tanto, las protestas continúan. Cuando la Universidad de Alabama, clasificada de primera, jugaba contra la de Kentucky el 1 de octubre, alrededor de 30 estudiantes se quedaron en sus asientos cuando se tocó el himno. Alabama ha ganado cuatro de los últimos siete campeonatos nacionales de fútbol universitario, y los manifestantes se enfrentaban a más de 100.000 aficionados fanáticos en el estadio de Denny. En una entrevista con Crimson White, el periódico estudiantil de la UA, el estudiante Dwyer Freeman dijo que la acción fue en solidaridad con los “perjudicados bajo la bandera que se supone que los represente”. □



Continúa resistencia en Standing Rock

Por Sara Flounders

El Día de los Pueblos Indígenas es una respuesta al ofensivo feriado Día de Colón (o Día de la Raza) que glorifica la conquista europea de las Américas. Este 10 de octubre fue un día de nuevas detenciones de las/os heroicos resistentes de Standing Rock quienes se oponen al Dakota Access Pipeline (oleoducto), que está siendo construido por Energy Transfer Partners para el transporte de medio millón de barriles de petróleo al día a través de cuatro estados. Acciones de solidaridad también se llevaron a cabo en todo el país.

El 9 de octubre, una corte estadounidense, en clara violación de los tratados firmados, había decretado una vez más apoyo al poder corporativo y en contra de las naciones indígenas.

La Corte de Apelaciones EUA para el Circuito del Distrito de Columbia rechazó la moción de la Tribu Sioux de Standing Rock por una orden de interdicto para detener el oleoducto de \$3.7 mil millones.

Los acontecimientos que tuvieron lugar en la víspera del Día de los Pueblos Indígenas, una vez más exponen el papel criminal del poder del Estado para proteger la despiadada carrera capitalista en busca de ganancias. Los tribunales, la policía y el ejército EUA ejecutaron como lo han hecho históricamente, usando la invasión militar, la remoción misma de personas, legislaciones y la policía racista.

Unas 27 personas fueron detenidas después de los enfrentamientos en las

obras de construcción durante el Día de los Pueblos Indígenas. Los arrestos incluyeron a la co-estrella Shailene Woodley, de la película “Snowden”, quien fue acusada de “entrada ilegal.” Cerca de 100 manifestantes se encontraban en el sitio de construcción cuando se realizaron las detenciones.

Sin embargo, la solidaridad y la resistencia continúan.

Tribunales contra los derechos de indígenas

En un esfuerzo para avanzar con el oleoducto, los tribunales habían dado su aprobación por la vía rápida en julio. Pero entonces, miles de resistentes indígenas y sus aliadas/os, utilizando la acción directa, los mítines y un creciente campamento en Standing Rock, acapararon publicidad internacional. A finales de agosto, un tribunal federal fue presionado a conceder una orden temporal detener la construcción de la sección del oleoducto que se extiende 20 millas al este y al oeste del río Misuri.

Pero el 9 de octubre, el tribunal se retractó y negó la orden judicial permanente. Temeroso del creciente apoyo a la resistencia, el tribunal también dejó abierta una forma de revertir su decisión. El fallo reconoció que “no es la última palabra”, señalando que la decisión final recae en el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del ejército EUA. Este cuerpo es conocido por el uso de su autoridad sobre grandes proyectos de construcción en beneficio del poder corporativo.

El río Misuri es la fuente principal de agua para la nación Lakota Sioux de Standing Rock y para millones de personas en cuatro estados. La presión corporativa para proteger la ganancia capitalista una y otra vez se ha considerado más importante que proteger los derechos a la tierra, al agua y los tratados de las naciones indígenas.

Los bancos estadounidenses más grandes, tales como Bank of America, están detrás de la construcción de la tubería y la peligrosa práctica de la fractura hidráulica y perforación petrolera. Miles de millones de dólares están en juego.

El Dakota Access Pipeline originalmente se había planeado para cruzar el río Misuri al norte de Bismarck, la capital de Dakota del Norte. Sin embargo, por la preocupación por el suministro de agua potable de la ciudad, la ruta se cambió hacia las tierras de los tratados de la reserva de Standing Rock.

David Archambault II, presidente de la Nación Sioux de Standing Rock, respondió a la decisión judicial: “La tribu Sioux de Standing Rock no se echa para atrás de esta pelea. Nos guiamos por la oración, y seguiremos luchando por nuestro pueblo. No descansaremos hasta que nuestras tierras, nuestro pueblo, las aguas y los lugares sagrados estén protegidos permanentemente de este oleoducto destructivo”.

(indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com)

La batalla legal continúa con más apelaciones legales. Y la lucha continúa en primera fila.

Desde que un campamento inicial comenzó en Sacred Stones el 1 de abril, miles se han unido a las más de 300 naciones indias americanas reconocidas a nivel federal en Cannon Ball, Dakota del Norte - sitio del Campamento Oceti Sakowin - para protestar el oleoducto. Las/os decididos activistas están ahora acondicionando el Campamento para mantener una presencia durante el frío ártico de los inviernos extremos de Dakota del Norte.

La lucha para detener el Dakota Access Pipeline es una lucha por la soberanía nativa indígena y su derecho a controlar la tierra indígena, el agua y otros recursos naturales. La resistencia organizada en Standing Rock es también sobre la defensa del agua pura como un derecho humano de todas las personas.

La organizadora de la comunidad Cheyenne River Sioux Joye Braun explicó: “Los peligros impuestos por la codicia de las grandes petroleras sobre la gente que vive a lo largo del río Misuri es asombrosa. Cuando este propuesto oleoducto se rompa, como sucede con la mayoría de los oleoductos, más de la mitad del agua potable en Dakota del Sur se verá afectada ... Debe ser detenido”. (Lakotavoice.com)

Eventos de resistencia y solidaridad continúan bajo la bandera de #NoDAPL.

Flounders visitó Standing Rock en septiembre como parte de una delegación de solidaridad de la campaña electoral de 2016 del Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero.

Protestas deportivas golpean el racismo

Por Minnie Bruce Pratt

La acción solitaria de Colin Kaepernick al condenar la brutalidad policial contra el pueblo negro se ha extendido para convertirse en la protesta masiva más generalizada contra el racismo en la historia del deporte estadounidense.

Kaepernick, un mariscal del equipo de fútbol 49ers de San Francisco-California, ha rehusado ponerse en pie ante el himno nacional tocado durante los juegos desde el 10 de agosto. Desde entonces, 59 jugadores de 13 equipos de la Liga Nacional de Fútbol (estadounidense) se han arrodillado, levantado el puño o se han sentado durante el himno. En tres equipos, todos los jugadores, de todas las nacionalidades, se entrelazaron los brazos o tomaron de manos en muestra de unidad.

Para el 7 de octubre, la resistencia había surgido rápidamente en otros deportes y actividades relacionadas, incluyendo el fútbol, voleibol, natación, animadoras de deportes y en actuaciones de bandas. Catorce jugadoras de tres equipos de la Asociación Nacional de Baloncesto Femenino protestaron durante sus eliminatorias.

Ocho equipos de la Asociación Nacional de Baloncesto Masculino, entre ellos los famosos Lakers de Los Ángeles, entrelazaron los brazos en señal de protesta. El jugador de centro de los Lakers, Tarik Black dijo: “Es necesario que haya igualdad”.

Protestas ante el himno se han producido en al menos 44 escuelas secundarias, 21 colegios y dos ligas juveniles en 34 estados de los EUA y en tres naciones en el exterior.

De acuerdo con una base de datos del Guardian, la policía estadounidense ha matado a 156 personas desde que comenzó la protesta de Kaepernick. Entre el 20 al 25 por ciento de éstas eran negras, un número muy superior a la proporción de las/os negros en la población de EUA.

La reacción racista a las protestas ha sido terrible, por lo que el valor de quienes continúan protestando debe ser reconocido. El 1 de octubre, en un partido contra la Universidad de Carolina del Norte, 19 miembros de la banda de la Universidad de Carolina del Este (UCE) se arrodillaron cuando se tocó el himno nacional. Fueron abucheados, escupidos y les lanzaron botellas. La Universidad amenazó con rescindir sus becas, y una miembro de la facultad dijo que traerá su arma a la escuela para ejercer su “derecho constitucional”.

El gobierno estudiantil de UCE apoyó a las/os miembros de la banda. Un centenar de estudiantes, negras/os y blancas/os, se reunieron en el centro del campus para una protesta convocada por la Unión de Estudiantes Negros, incluyendo la expresión del Poder Negro (puño en alto).

Los derechistas dicen “la política fuera de los deportes”. Sin embargo, muchas/

os atletas, entrenadoras/es e incluso árbitros, han dado cuentas contundentes de haber sido sometidas/os a perfiles racistas, amenazados con armas por la policía, o perdido familiares y amigos por asesinatos policiales. El guarda DeMar DeRozan, del equipo de baloncesto de los Toronto Raptors ha relatado cómo un amigo cercano fue muerto por la policía recientemente - baleado 17 veces.

Grandes intereses corporativos están tratando de hacer cumplir lealtad al status quo de la “América” racista como “condición de trabajo” a las/os estudiantes que obtienen becas a través del rendimiento deportivo o musical, o en las/os atletas más maduros que son formalmente trabajadoras/es para sus “dueños”.

Kieran Shanahan, vicepresidente de administración de la UCE que dirige impulsores de atletismo en una campaña para levantar un fondo de \$55 millones, dijo que la protesta de los miembros de la banda era tan inaceptable como un estudiante haciendo una declaración política en un aula.

Sin comprender el concepto de libertad académica ni la libertad constitucional de expresión, Shanahan también reveló su creencia de que las/os estudiantes que trabajan estaban en un estado de “empleo a voluntad” por los grandes negocios fiduciarios de la universidad.

El receptor de los Seattle Seahawks Doug Baldwin reveló recientemente que al menos un propietario de un equipo

de la NFL ha prohibido protestar a los jugadores en “su” equipo. En una entrevista con la serie de HBO “Any Given Wednesday”, Baldwin dijo que el dueño le dijo a los jugadores, “Van a ponerse en pie con la mano en el corazón y van a cantar el himno nacional porque este es mi escenario”. No hay ningún propietario negro de un equipo de la NFL.

Los medios corporativos de comunicación culpan a las protestas por una disminución de casi 20 por ciento en índices de audiencia de la NFL esta temporada. Los conocedores están diciendo que la disminución se debe al dominio que las cabezas de negocio del NFL ejercen sobre todos los aspectos del deporte para tratar de maximizar las ganancias.

Las protestas generalizadas rompen con el mito de que la “democracia” estadounidense ofrece “igualdad de derechos para todos”. Para apuntalar la anémica lealtad de la clase obrera al capitalismo sin salida en los EUA, el Departamento de Defensa ha pagado millones para propaganda antes del partido y durante el medio tiempo en eventos deportivos. El DdD dio dinero para enormes banderas y guardias militares de honor, bandas de música y espectáculos aéreos a 18 equipos de la NFL, ocho equipos de la NBA y seis equipos de la NHL. Los Buffalo Bills recibieron \$650.000, mientras que su entrenador Rex Ryan exhibe apoyo al racista y anti mujer Donald

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