

Storms from Puerto Rico to Florida Profit system drives disaster

By Workers World Editorial Staff

Oct. 23 — Even as a delegation of prominent activists from Puerto Rico is making preparations to come to the United States to demand justice for the horrors inflicted on their beautiful island by Hurricane Maria last fall, increasingly deadly storms have hit the Gulf states and southeastern U.S.

Deaths from Hurricane Maria were first reported as 64. That was a huge lie. The official figure is now 2,975.

Of those killed in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia earlier this month by Hurricane Michael, the latest body count stands at 39 and is still rising. As we write this, Willa, now a Category 4 hurricane, is dropping torrential rain on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, causing floods and mud slides in addition to wind damage.

It is criminal to deliberately ignore what is going on. These are not “natural” disasters. How the new threats posed by a warming planet are being handled by governments is not “natural” either.

Both result from the fact that capitalism is destroying the planet. For the owners of capital, the overriding motive in every situation is how to make the biggest buck. The current U.S. government is only the most unabashedly crude example of what political power in the hands of billionaires leads to — like denying climate change. This isn't just a Trump thing. It has been going on for decades, even as scientists proved global warming was happening and cried out for something to be done about it.

The Tribunal on Puerto Rico, which takes place in New York on Oct. 27, is about the hurricane disaster, of course. But it will also look at Puerto Rico's history as a colony of the United States.

The inability of the colonial government in PR to react as it should to the intense suffering of the survivors of that terrible storm, the way it tried to cover up the severe loss of life while allowing profiteers to pour in and secure fat contracts for “reconstruction” that never happened — all that is directly linked to the fact that the many strings governing the economy and politics of PR are held by Washington and Wall Street, not by the people of Puerto Rico.

There are many progressive movements on the rise in the U.S. There is growing fury over racism, police violence and mass incarceration; the subjugation and abuse of women; the denial of the most basic human rights to LGBTQ people, who have to fight every day just to be themselves; the

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PHOTO: MIKE AFRICA, JR.

Political prisoner Mike Africa Sr. (above, right) was finally released on Oct. 23, after more than 40 years in prison. He is one of the MOVE 9 who were unjustly convicted and sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison following the 1978 police attack on the MOVE organization in Philadelphia. With son Mike Africa Jr., who took this photo,

he is shown on his way home after leaving SCI Phoenix. MOVE 9 member Debbie Africa, Mike Sr.'s spouse, had been released this June 19. Also, the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home reports that MOVE leader Ramona Africa is in full remission from cancer, after being hospitalized since August.

— Report by Joe Piette

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WW PHOTO:
JOHN CATALINOTTO

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Get on the bus to National Day of Mourning!

By Kathy Durkin

The 49th National Day of Mourning will take place on Thursday, Nov. 22, the so-called “Thanksgiving” holiday, in Plymouth, Mass. Participants will gather at noon on Cole’s Hill above Plymouth Rock and march through the town’s historic district. A speak-out, where Native people tell of their history and today’s struggles of Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, will be followed by a potluck social.

United American Indians of New England, organizer of the day’s commemoration, issued an appeal on its web-site for “respectful allies to unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue, glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth.”

Since 1970, UAINE has planned the National Day of Mourning on “Thanksgiving,” a day that is a reminder of the genocide of Native peoples, theft of Indigenous lands and assaults on Native culture. Participants honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Indigenous peoples to survive today. “It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest against the racism and oppression which Native people continue to experience,” says UAINE.

This year the group vows: “We will show our solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world. We will defend Indigenous sovereignty in all territories, from Mashpee to Maya and Mapuche lands. We welcome all of our Indigenous relations who have been crossed by the U.S. border and Immigration Customs and Enforcement.”

There will be a special message from 74-year-old Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

This very important annual day of solidarity draws Native people and their supporters from throughout Massachusetts, other New England states and beyond. Here is information on buses traveling from New York City to Plymouth.

Manhattan: The International Action Center will send a bus to Plymouth, leaving at 6 a.m. sharp from the Solidarity Center at 147 W. 24th St., second floor, in Manhattan. It will depart from Plymouth at 4:30 p.m. and return to New York at about 9:30 p.m. Purchase tickets in advance at the Solidarity Center from 2 to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets cost \$30-\$45/sliding scale. Buy your tickets now! For information, call 212-633-6646.

Brooklyn: Eryte Papa Desalin is organizing a bus, which leaves at 6 a.m. from 208 Parkside Ave. (between Flatbush and Ocean avenues). Tickets cost \$30. Contact Dahoud Andre at 347-730-3620 or email erityepapadesalin@gmail.com.



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49TH NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

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(above Plymouth Rock)

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For more information contact

United American Indians of New England
at info@uaine.org or

Facebook.com/events/2105455459507095.

Orientation and fliers available at uaine.org



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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth

Join us in the fight for socialism!

and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge the capitalist system.

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

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

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Fleeing crisis ‘made in USA’ Honduran migrants march into Mexico

By Sam Ordóñez

Oct. 22 — A caravan of thousands of migrants, including small children, traveling to the United States reached the Mexico-Guatemala border on Oct. 19. The caravan had formed on Oct. 13 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and arrived in Guatemala a few days later.

When the caravan reached the bridge that connects the Guatemalan city of Tecun Uman to Ciudad Hidalgo in Mexico, immigration authorities refused to let it pass as a group and demanded each person enter alone and register with the authorities.

Refusing to be divided, the caravan members managed to break through the barricade onto Mexican soil, where riot police met them with tear gas and beatings. Nevertheless, the people in the caravan courageously made it across the border and are marching northward, as of Oct. 22.

Imperialism and migration

Recent years have seen a huge influx in migration from Central America’s Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) to the U.S. What has led so

many thousands of people to make the difficult decision to uproot their lives and risk death to travel through Mexico to the U.S.?

One migrant interviewed as the caravan passed through Guatemala described conditions in Honduras: “What’s hard is waking up in the morning and your child says he’s hungry and you start counting lempiras [the currency of Honduras], while the big companies are throwing away food. What’s even sadder is going to the clinic at night to find them closed because there’s no acetaminophen. When we pay taxes, when those who work can’t even afford transportation, because when gas prices go up, transportation prices go up.” (Quote posted on Twitter by plazapublica.com.gt)

Extreme poverty and violence in Central America are the result of over a century of coups, civil wars and military interventions, all aimed at securing the region for U.S. business interests such as the former United Fruit Co. — now Chiquita Brands. And the pro-U.S. governments violently repress any attempt by the workers and peasants to organize so as to keep labor cheap and profits high.

In 2009, a military coup ousted the progressive, anti-imperialist-oriented government of Manuel Zelaya, over claims he

violated the Honduran Constitution by seeking a referendum to allow him to run for a second term. While the U.S. government in public said it opposed the coup, it continued relations with the new government and refused to call for Zelaya’s restoration as president.

The country has since been run by right-wing governments accused of killing activists and journalists. Current President Juan Orlando Hernández actually changed the constitution in 2017 to allow him to be elected to a second term — an election accompanied by widespread fraud.

Mass mobilizations denounced the fraud and were met with state violence and martial law. Extreme repression and exploitation continue today with the backing of U.S. government and corporate interests.

Migrants in the caravan have directly cited the Honduran government’s anti-worker, pro-transnational policies as the cause of their suffering.

U.S. exports ‘border security’

Migrants traveling from Central America don’t feel the effects of U.S. imperialism just in their home countries. As with the current caravan, when they reached the border with Mexico, which they had

to cross to reach the U.S., Mexican security forces tried to stop them with tear gas but were finally overwhelmed.

Under pressure from the U.S. to stop the caravan, the Mexican government sent federal soldiers to its southern border. This continues a steady trend of the U.S. exporting its own racist border-control policies to Mexico.

Trump has threatened to cut aid to Central American governments if they do not find a “solution” to the crisis. Meanwhile, Trump has made calls to send the National Guard and U.S. military to the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. imperialism created the migrant crisis through its exploitation of Mexico and Central America and has effectively declared war on migrants inside its borders. Now, the Trump administration has threatened to close the border, an act that signals his willingness to escalate the crisis into open military conflict. □



Teamsters say: ‘Immigrant rights, workers’ rights!’

By Workers World Los Angeles bureau

Striking Los Angeles port drivers, organized by the Teamsters union, shut down an entrance to the Metropolitan Detention Center here on Oct. 3. The MDC is a federal prison where U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement jails im/migrant workers.

Teamsters drivers rallied at the detention center and, using a caravan of trucks, blocked the MDC’s Aliso entrance, where Occupy ICE had mounted an encampment in the summer. The caravan then went to the ports to join picket lines there and shut down entrances to both the ports and the 110 Freeway, resulting in dozens of arrests by the Los Angeles Police Department.

The striking workers were showing solidarity with im/migrant workers who could be deported if they lose their temporary protected status, currently threatened by the Trump administration. The Teamsters demanded a path to citizenship and an end to racist violence against im/migrant workers.

These port truck drivers were striking simultaneously with warehouse workers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The workers are at a major gateway of the U.S. supply chain and know the strategic power their position gives them in labor struggles.

Solidarity in the class struggle

One issue in the port strike is the misclassification of port drivers as independent contractors rather than as the employees and workers that they are. This misclassification is done intentionally by management so that the company does not have to pay benefits and can intensify the existing profitable exploitation of the workers.

John Parker of FIRE (Fighting for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) joined the workers at the detention center. He had just left a court hearing that morning, the result of his arrest at an ac-

tion shutting down the detention center for an entire day.

Parker gave WW this statement: “It is a very significant development in the class struggle whenever a union organizes oppressed workers who have been traditionally ignored by organized labor. There is tremendous potential for building unity and therefore strengthening the power of workers everywhere when solidarity with migrant workers includes organizing that powerful workforce into unions.”

Parker continued: “It should be remembered that it was the 2006 ‘Grand Boycott’ on May 1 that forced the ultimate destruction of the racist, anti-immigrant Sensenbrenner bill, HR 4437. That bill had already made it through the House with its Democratic majority, and would easily have passed the Senate. But it didn’t get a chance to get voted on there due to the boycott that cost corporations hundreds of millions of dollars in Los Angeles alone, just that one day on May Day.

“That experience, as powerful as it was, is just a small example of the potential of the general power of workers who are the only force in society creating value-making profits. It should also be remembered that the migrant workers who boycotted on May 1 for the most part were not organized into a union. Imagine their power if they were!”

Parker added: “This effort of the Teamsters also reminds me of the tremendous help they provided during the grocery workers’ strike. The workers were represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers, but the Teamsters showed great solidarity with those workers on strike and coordinated with our International Action Center and UFCW here in Los Angeles to come up with creative strategies involving community forces to put even more pressure on the large food chains.”

Parker concluded: “The future of the union movement lies in continuing this greater cooperation with the community and the unorganized migrant workforce.”



Los Angeles port Teamsters march for immigrant workers, Oct. 3.

PHOTO: TEAMSTERS.ORG

Immigrant detention breeds resistance

By Jim McMahan
Tacoma, Wash.

It was “Free Saja” Day on Oct. 21 at the Northwest Detention Center as people rallied to stop Saja Tunkara’s threatened deportation and to support his immediate need for health care. Tunkara is from Sierra Leone. He and his partner, ShaCorrie Tunkara, have two children.

His partner told the rally that Tunkara had been scheduled for surgery to remove a tumor at a hospital when he was picked up and imprisoned last January. He was not let out for the scheduled surgery, and the detention center allowed him to suffer greatly for three months. The detention center’s so-called Immigrant and Customs Health Service finally allowed him to have surgery on his neck, but by then the tumor had grown from the size of a quarter to that of an egg. This is a form of torture. Tunkara has also had numerous problems since the surgery due to U.S.

Immigration and Custom Enforcement’s neglect. He has suffered a loss of vision, ShaCorrie Tunkara told the crowd, as the neglect continues.

The rally was called by the Northwest Detention Center Resistance, which is also fighting to stop his threatened deportation. ShaCorrie Tunkara thanked the crowd for supportive phone calls, Facebook support and love, which has probably helped hold up Saja’s deportation so far.

Another prisoner is now on the 61st day of a hunger strike at the NWDC, as of this writing. A Mongolian man from Russia, he is demanding health care for himself and others as well as his freedom. Other prisoners have fasted with him.

There were two mass medical emergencies at the NWDC in September. One was a slag pile fire at Simon Metals, right next to the prison on the Tacoma tideflats

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On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Advance Auto Parts workers in Pa. vote union

Advance Auto Parts workers in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., cast their ballots overwhelmingly in favor of joining the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LiUNA) Sept. 9-10. With 476 workers eligible to vote for Local 1310, the union won 291 to 131.

This reversed an election the union lost in 2017 after AAP’s anti-union campaign. Warehouse worker Mario Cabrera said AAP used a smoke-screen of “empty promises” to win, but the workers soon realized their mistake when AAP failed to perform. “Our situation didn’t improve after the first election, and that’s why so many more of us voted for LiUNA in this election and are excited for LiUNA representation,” said Cabrera. (berksmontnews.com, Sept. 14)

Less than 1 percent of AAP’s total 71,000 full-time and part-time workforce at 5,000 distribution centers and retail stores in North America are union. These workers, who make \$12 to \$18 an hour, are struggling under rising health insurance costs and mandatory overtime demands. (Labor 411, Sept. 16) The next step for Local 1310 is demands for better pay, health insurance and working conditions. AAP can afford it; the Fortune 500 company had sales last year of approximately \$9.4 billion and a net income of \$476 million. (Morning Call, Sept. 13) This victory shows AAP bosses that workers’ solidarity beats back empty promises!

‘Bourbon goes down easy, but workers don’t’

As thousands swarmed Bardstown, Ky., Sept. 16-22 to celebrate the Kentucky Bourbon festival, 53 workers at Four Roses Bourbon in Lawrenceburg and Cox Creek went on strike. They’re represented by Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Locals 10D and 23D and Service Employees 32BJ National Conference of Firemen and Oilers Local 320. The workers were totally opposed to Four Roses’ proposal to create a two-tier health care system, which would give experienced workers better benefits than new workers. (Fightback News, Sept. 22) Jeff Royalty, president of UFCW Local 10D, told In These Times that the proposal was designed to “short change the next generation.”

Other unions, such as UFCW Local 951, pledged support through press releases and petitions. To paraphrase one union flyer: “Four Roses Bourbon goes down easy; its workers don’t.” Two weeks later, on Sept. 21, the Four Roses workers won an agreement that included two choices for health care coverage for all workers, as well as wage increases of 30 to 50 cents an hour and a signing bonus totaling \$3,500. (Louisville Courier-Journal, Sept. 21)

Union victory for Columbia U. postdoctoral workers!

Over 2,000 postdoctoral and research workers at Columbia University in New York City created history on Oct. 2 when they became the first group of such workers to unionize at a private university. The National Labor Relations Board “determined that the work of a postdoc — a person who holds a doctorate degree and works to perform further research in collaboration with faculty members — is indistinguishable from that of other University employees,” noted the Columbia Spectator on Oct. 4. The newly formed union will be known as Columbia Postdoctoral Workers-United Auto Workers Local 2110.

Despite the university’s strenuous opposition to CPW-UAW, Alvaro Cuesta-Dominguez, CPW organizing committee member, told the newspaper: “We made history. We would like to expand our voice to the national level,” particularly for federal science funding and making research “more equitable and diverse.” In addition to fighting for higher pay, the union wants more detailed sexual harassment grievance procedures and assistance with immigration and visa issues. Meanwhile, the university has refused to negotiate with graduate students, who voted to unionize in 2016, struck last April and are threatening to strike again.

EEOC sues Texas resort for discrimination

La Cantera Resort & Spa in San Antonio, Texas, was slapped with an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission suit Sept. 24. The suit alleges the resort created a hostile work environment by discriminating against Latinx workers in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. After the resort was taken over by DH San Antonio Management LLC and Destination Hotels and Resorts LLC, Destination instituted a policy in fall 2014 forbidding Latinx banquet staff from speaking Spanish on the premises, though no other languages were forbidden. The head manager mocked workers for speaking Spanish, while another called it a “foul language.”

After more than two dozen workers protested, some were harassed and then fired. EEOC regional attorney Robert A. Canino noted that instituting a discriminatory language policy on top of verbal abuse “strongly indicates workplace prejudice rather than a legitimate business need.” (eEOC.gov, Sept. 24) □

Buffalo says

End the wars, here and abroad



WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

The Buffalo Anti-War Coalition held a protest on Oct. 21 in solidarity with the Women’s March on the Pentagon in motion that day in Washington, D.C. The local demonstration was endorsed by many activist groups, including the Buffalo International Action Center, Burning Books, Workers World Party-Buffalo,

Buffalo Spring Action 2018 and the West New York Peace Center. Speeches confronted U.S. wars at home and abroad, military spending and the two-party war machine, along with demanding an end to the war on communities of color by police terror in the U.S.

— **Buffalo Workers World bureau**

Immigrant detention breeds resistance

Continued from page 3

industrial site. The fire burned for 10 hours before the fire department finally put it out. Prisoners reported coughing and vomiting, but were not even told what caused the fumes.

The other emergency was a severe measles outbreak. NWDC Resistance charged the prison with negligence and estimated the epidemic could have reached 400 out of 1,575 prisoners.

All these incidents have increased demands on the Tacoma City Council to shut the immigration prison down. Medical ne-

glect is the top grievance of prisoners in immigration prisons, according to Freedom for Immigrants, a prisoners advocacy group. ICE announced in June that it would seek up to 15,000 additional beds in privately run detention prisons. A huge prison built to hold up to 3,800 children has been opened in the desert at Tornillo, Texas.

The increase in the torture and bondage of immigrants is bound to fan the flames of resistance, as seen by mass demonstrations against detentions in June and by current Central American im/migrant caravans. □

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- If you detest the bosses boosting their bottom lines by paying workers low wages and cutting benefits — even after Trump gave them billions in a mega-tax law.

- If you’re furious that Black and Brown people continue to be shot and killed by cops who are rarely put on trial, let alone found guilty.

- If you’re angry at Congress after confirming liar, racist, sexist, anti-worker, anti-LGBTQ, elitist Brett Kavanaugh so he can rubberstamp the ruling-class’s reactionary agenda via the Supreme Court.

- If you hate the Trump administration because it’s deregulating laws when you want to heal the environment and promote human life from the cradle to the grave.

- If you don’t trust ruling-class bankers and CEOs because you’re a member of the working class and know you’re oppressed by this system based on capitalist private property.

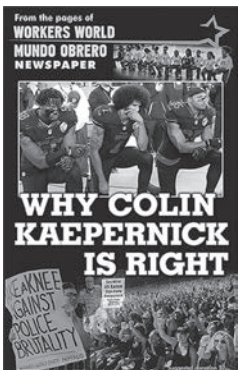
- If you believe from reading WW that capitalism is at a dead end.

- If you consider yourself lucky to still have a job.

- If you want to fight for a better way of life based on economic planning and the equitable distribution of wealth the workers create.

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WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero

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

Activists expose collaboration of cops & fascists

By John Catalinotto
New York City

“The police will not keep us safe. We keep us safe.” That idea was central to a news conference held Oct. 19 that drew about 40 people to the corner of Lexington Avenue and 67th Street, near the 19th Precinct of the New York Police Department, on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

Three speakers emphasized the danger posed by “alt-right” groups that are actually dangerous fascist gangs. They explained why the police offer no solution but are a big part of the problem, and urged the anti-fascist movement to mobilize in ever larger numbers to defend their own organizations.

Underlining the need for this message was the massive police presence that blocked off 67th Street, as well as the phalanx of police vehicles lining 67th and 68th streets and the avenues. The cop presence seemed aimed at intimidating those protesting.

Called by the Peoples Power Assemblies (PPA) and the Committee to Stop FBI Repression (CSFR), and supported by various NYC organizations that oppose fascists and police brutality, the news conference was a response to a vicious fascist attack a week earlier on Oct. 12.

Limo owner in deadly crash was FBI informant

By Betsey Piette

The 20 people who died in the Oct. 6 tragic crash of a supersized limousine in Schoharie, N.Y., were not the first victims of limousine company owner Shahed Hussain.

Hussain, responsible for the faulty operation of the limousine, had been convicted in a Department of Motor Vehicles scam in 2001. To avoid prosecution and the prospect of deportation to Pakistan, where he faces a murder charge, Hussain convinced the FBI to take him on as an informant.

For several years, Hussain recorded conversations at the DMV for the FBI, incriminating friends and co-workers. Between 2004 and 2013, he was paid \$96,000 of taxpayer money for his role in three separate entrapments of Muslim citizens and destruction of their communities. Several innocent men are now serving life sentences as a result of Hussain’s extremely questionable testimony.

The Albany-based Muslim Solidarity Committee, the national Project SALAM (Support and Legal Advocacy for Muslims) and the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms issued a joint press release on Oct. 9 exposing Hussain’s betrayal of Muslim communities.

The statement reads in part: “Our grief for the victims of the tragedy is mixed with our grief for the many victims of FBI stings involving the owner of the limousine company, Shahed Hussain ... well known from his role as an FBI informant in three persecutions of Muslim citizens. ... The FBI rewarded Hussain for his efforts by paying him handsomely, money he then used to start several businesses, including a motel and Prestige Limousine, whose limousine crashed in Schoharie.”

The three cases referenced in the statement were the Aref-Hossain sting in Albany, N.Y., in 2004–06; the Newburgh Four sting in Newburgh, N.Y., in 2009–10; and the Khalifa Al-Akili sting in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 2012–13. These have been the subject of three documentaries: “Waiting for

Sofia Adams of the PPA explained that after the attack: “Footage surfaced of anti-racist protesters being viciously attacked by a self-proclaimed fascist gang called the ‘Proud Boys’ after a rally hosted by gang leader Gavin McInnes at the Metropolitan Republican Club on the Upper East Side. Emboldened by Trump’s racist and sexist rhetoric, these violent bigots now roam our streets, committing acts of coordinated violence with impunity, determined to make New York their latest venue for acts of unrepentant hate.

“Their violent assault was documented by citizen journalists who uploaded footage of Proud Boys kicking and punching defenseless activists while chanting homophobic and sexist slurs. The NYPD stood by and watched this happen. ... Once again, as in Charlottesville, Va., the police are complicit, acting as an armed escort for white supremacy, sexism and homophobia.”

Adams concluded: “On Oct. 13, Gavin McInnes stated on his podcast that he has ‘a lot of support in the NYPD.’ We know this to be true. Even though the identities of these fascists have been made public, we doubt the NYPD or the U.S. justice system will make any serious moves to bring them to justice. We expect the NYPD to continue to blame anti-rac-

Mercy,” “The Newburgh Sting” and the Emmy-winning “(T)error.”

In all three cases, Hussain set up the “plots” and put these into motion by manipulating the men he was targeting.

Hussain under FBI protection?

Many news sources are focusing on the fact that the limousine, owned by Hussain’s company, repeatedly failed several New York state safety inspections, including a Sept. 4 test which showed brake system malfunction, among other issues.

It is probable that brake failure led to the limousine speeding through the intersection and crashing into an embankment, killing the driver, all 17 passengers on board and two nearby pedestrians.

The overriding question is why were state, county and local officials looking the other way when it came to Shahed Hussain? Why was Hussain’s Prestige Limousines allowed to rent out vehicles that repeatedly failed inspections? Why was his company allowed to function with drivers who were not licensed to operate these vehicles?

Prestige Limousines and Crest Inn, both owned by Hussain, have been the subject of frequent complaints and legal violations. Since 1997, Hussain has also been involved in dozens of lawsuits in Albany County.

Throughout, the FBI supported him, ignoring potential dangers. After the fact, on Oct. 8, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the limousine company was under investigation and could no longer operate.

But on Oct. 10, when police arrested Hussain’s son Nauman in connection with the limo crash, the New York State Police superintendent stated the son bore “sole responsibility.” No mention was made of Shahed Hussain, the company owner. (New York Times, Oct. 10)

Shahed Hussain, apparently still under FBI protection, was allowed to leave the U.S. immediately following the crash. Now he is reported to be in either Pakistan or Dubai, leaving his son and his company’s workers to take the heat. □



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

ist activists for the violence.”

Luis of the CSFR said: “My reason for being there that night [Oct. 12] was to stand against Gavin’s cult of anti-Semitic, transphobic, misogynist, homophobic bigots. That night I met everything I stand against in physical form ... right-wing extremists, neo-Nazi sympathizers, skinheads all in matching uniform. They were escorted and protected by the NYPD, by the Strategic Response Group, by the Technical Assistance Response Unit, by the Metropolitan Republican Club and by the 19th [police] precinct.”

Solidarity with victims of police violence

Luis continued: “Please keep in mind the Strategic Response Group was created due to the increasing awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2015. BLM is a group that wants nothing more than their inherent worth as human beings recognized. The SRG is funded by the Department of Homeland Security and has exploded [in NYC] from 350 officers to over 800.

“Thankfully that evening we had our medics on standby, and we were able to rush to those hurt in what the media would call a ‘brawl.’ ”

Describing the fascist attack in detail,

Popi Sen of the PPA said: “In the video footage of this attack, we see the police wait and watch the assault as it unfolds, doing nothing to prevent further violence. In the aftermath of this attack, a question that we’ve heard repeatedly asked is: Why didn’t the NYPD intervene? The real question is why would anybody expect them to?”

Sen emphasized: “This is the same police department that promoted the officer who murdered Eric Garner [in Staten Island in 2014] to sergeant. Last Friday’s attack was overseen by the same unit, the Strategic Response Group, that was created to harass, beat and arrest anti-racist activists over the last four years, all under the pretense of counterterrorism. So why exactly would we expect these same cops to protect us now?

“We cannot isolate our contempt for fascism to the confines of the internet. We must confront this problem wherever it presents itself, including in the streets. This is a call to action. For all the people who have a stake in our struggle, we need you to join us out on the streets.”

Sen concluded by declaring: “The police will not keep us safe. We keep us safe.” Then they led news conference attendees in a chant of those same words. □

Parents demand School Bus Bill of Rights



WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Kids with disabilities suffer while bus companies profit.

By Greg Butterfield
New York City

“OPT — get the kids to school on time!” was chanted by people at a lunchtime rally called by Parents to Improve School Transportation at New York City Hall on Oct. 16. The action was held before a City Council hearing on the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT), which oversees the city’s school bus routes.

Parents of children with disabilities spoke to the media about the lack of regular bus schedules, long wait times, outrageously long days for bused children and lack of communication with parents. They also criticized the poor pay and training for drivers and matrons, while owners of private companies cash in.

A statement distributed by PIST read, in part: “Before we go to the City Council Education Committee’s 1 p.m. hearing on

some proposals to regulate the Office of Pupil Transportation, let’s speak out on the busing we envision: a quality public service for 150,000 NYC students with and without disabilities; a long-term job with appropriate training and compensation, not an ATM for bus company millionaires and corruptible Department of Education appointees.”

It continued: “Let’s remind the Department of Education and Mayor Bill de Blasio of the proposals parent groups, unions and civil rights advocates have already given them over the years. Let’s build the momentum for a real School Bus Bill of Rights that respects and reflects riders, the disability community and workers.”

After the rally, parents and supporters marched around City Hall, chanting and handing out leaflets, before entering the hearing. □

The evidence is there: Release Mumia now!

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

On Oct. 29, Mumia Abu-Jamal’s appeal will be back in court in Philadelphia for yet another hearing. This will be the seventh hearing since April 2017 and the fifth since District Attorney Larry Krasner took office. Supporters are urging people to pack the courtroom on Mumia’s behalf and email and call Krasner’s office urging him to do the right thing.

The appeal for a new hearing stems from a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Williams v. Pennsylvania*. That decision affirmed it was a violation of due process for a higher court judge, Ron Castille, to rule on a death penalty appeals case in which he played a direct or significant role as Philadelphia district attorney. Under Pennsylvania’s judicial conduct code, **judges must recuse themselves from a case where there are reasonable questions about their impartiality.**

As one of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court judges hearing Abu-Jamal’s appeals cases, Ron Castille repeatedly refused to recuse himself, despite requests by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys that he do so. He contends he signed appeals against

Abu-Jamal “simply as a hands-off administrator” and that he knew nothing about the case — which is highly controversial, as it involved the killing of a police officer.

However, Castille campaigned for state Supreme Court judge as a “hands-on manager.” He boasted of his support for the Fraternal Order of Police, which helped finance his campaign. He also campaigned in favor of the death penalty, especially where it was used against people accused of murdering police.

Abu-Jamal’s current attorneys have now produced evidence of Castille’s involvement, including memos and letters **he signed urging implementation of the death penalty in Pennsylvania capital cases involving police shootings.** Documents show that DA Castille tracked the status of capital cases and that he sent a letter to former Gov. Bob Casey that “urged” him to sign execution warrants to “send a message” to all “police killers.” Earlier this year, Castille claimed he had not recused himself from Abu-Jamal’s case because he was never asked to.

Smokescreen of ‘missing files’

Since Larry Krasner, formerly seen as a progressive attorney, took over as Philadel-

phia DA in January 2018, he has repeatedly stalled the process by claiming his office is unable to locate key documents signed by DA Castille that were referenced in evidence brought before the court. At the first hearing under his tenure, in January of this year, his assistant district attorney sought and was granted more time so a part-time paralegal could be hired to search several hundred boxes of files.

Since that hearing, Krasner’s office has repeatedly asked for more extensions, claiming they could not locate the documents. At the most recent hearing, on Aug. 30, they admitted that hundreds more boxes of files had been “found” and additional staff were hired to do the search. **This smokescreen of endless searches is really a cover-up to mask the fact that proof of Castille’s role is clearly evident.**

While campaigning for DA, Krasner stated that, if elected, he would investigate and overturn wrongful convictions. Throughout this stalling process, it is clear that Krasner, despite his reputation as “progressive,” has openly sided with the FOP and Castille, whom he appointed



to his transition team. Shortly after Krasner took office, Pam Africa and international representatives of the movement to free Mumia requested to meet with him to discuss the case, urging him to not oppose Abu-Jamal’s pending petition. After initially agreeing to meet, Krasner’s office then reneged, yet later met with Maureen Faulkner, widow of slain police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Krasner’s bowing to FOP pressure became clearer at the April 30 hearing when his office submitted documents to Judge Leon Tucker that disputed the relevance of evidence from DA files showing Castille’s significant involvement. Krasner’s office called for Abu-Jamal’s petition to be dismissed.

Representatives from the DA’s office in court for the April hearing went out of their way to assure FOP members present that they were on their side. At both the April and August hearings, members of the Faulkner family and the FOP were given preferential seating in an effort to keep Abu-Jamal supporters out. In August, even Judge Tucker got into the act by having court lobby staffers tell Abu-Ja-

LEROY JONES

Pleas for love, trust and prison abolition

By **M. Matsemela-Ali Odom**

Nevada prisoner Leroy Jones is desperately fighting to clear his name. Regardless of the outcome of his appeals, while he is incarcerated Jones is committed to fighting for exoneration and for others once he is released.

To the surprise of his family and friends in late 2007, Jones was arrested for a series of robberies in Las Vegas, Nev. The father of two, an Air Force veteran and a security technician, he had lived in Las Vegas for about a decade after relocating from Long Beach, Calif.

Jones followed a general path of Black Californians, who in recent decades have relocated to the Silver State inspired by the relative affordability of life in Nevada versus rising unemployment and housing costs in California.

Unfortunately for many African Americans, relocation to Nevada could be characterized as a move from the frying pan into the fire. As historian Annelise Orleck explained in her book “Storming Caesar’s Palace,” an intersectional study of race, gender and poverty in Las Vegas, the state of Nevada has long been known as the Mississippi of the West for Black residents. But with the rise of the myth of “gang migration,” and an upsurge in crime that had been far too easily blamed on California migrants in the 1980s and 1990s, Nevada passed mandatory minimums and sentencing laws targeting documented gang members and people convicted of violent crimes.

Though laws addressing crimes are often called deterrents, the facts reveal these tough-on-crime laws to be a solution to Nevada’s economic problems. With an unemployment rate near 11 percent, over twice the state average, African Americans, according to Prison Policy Initiative, are only 8 percent of Nevada’s population, but they make up nearly 33 percent of its prisoners. They are locked up at a rate over four times that of white and Latinx people and twice that of Native peoples.

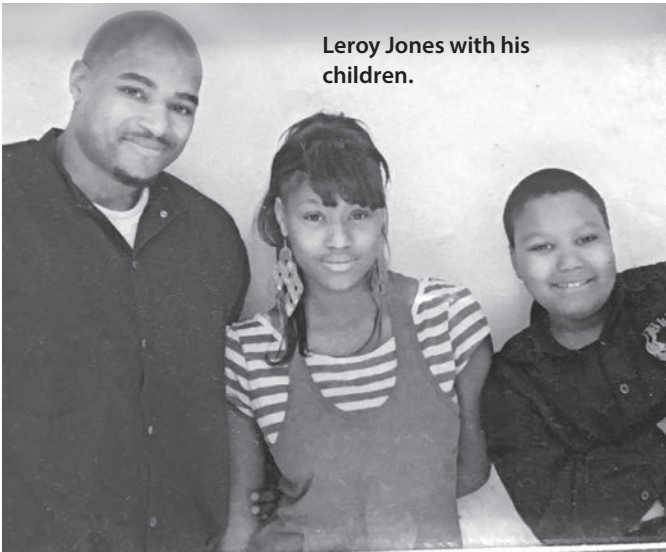


PHOTO: JAY CAIN

Even using Nevada’s uniform crime report, whites make up 54 percent of the state and 83 percent of the people arrested for crimes, but only 44 percent of people sent to prison. The case of Leroy Jones shows how, regardless of facts or lack of evidence, the system in Nevada and beyond is designed to convict all Black people and not let them go.

Video evidence

In two of the three robberies Jones was tried for, video evidence of the robberies was presented in court, but no facial match was ever made. In the third robbery, the prosecution originally proclaimed video evidence showed facial recognition.

Knowing that the video would prove he was not the culprit, Jones demanded the video be shown in court. When the judge found out about the tape at an evidentiary hearing, he demanded the tape be shown in court. It was then, despite having the tape in secured custody, that the prosecution began to argue that the tape was unable to be presented as evidence and shown in court.

In a reversal of the usual court struggle, defendant Jones fought for state’s evidence to be presented and the prosecutor fought against it. The prosecution never

presented the evidence that would have cleared Jones. Instead, despite well-documented problems of cross-racial identification, Jones was convicted on witness statements alone.

To many, Jones’ case is flagrant but not even the most egregious. Jones fears that is why his case, and the cases of millions of others, are overlooked by prison reform agencies and advocates.

By comparison, in the 1995 case of Demarlo Berry, he was convicted of murder and robbery despite evidence that the initial description of the robber was a man of 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and weighing 175 to 200 pounds. At the time of the crime, Berry was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed 140 pounds.

Even when Steven Jackson, a 6-foot, 235-pound inmate in California, confessed to the crimes 10 years later, the Nevada Supreme Court upheld Berry’s conviction. It was not until Berry appealed to the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center that his sentence was finally overturned — 22 years later!

With his case not as high-profiled, Jones’ pleas to the NAACP, the National Action Network, the Innocence Project, the American Civil Liberties Union and Centurion Ministries have either been ignored, or he’s been told that he needs to find new evidence or class action.

Jones knows that for him, and millions like him, what is really needed is collective action to free them. A childhood friend of this author, Jones’ only request to family and friends is to help clear his name. Jones acknowledges the uphill fight against public policy and popular media illusions of objectivity in evidence collection that make people guilty as charged.

Mass incarceration

For almost three decades, the rising concern over mass incarceration has defined radical politics in the United States. As the U.S. prison population neared one million in the early 1990s, broad collectives ranging from popular academics to grassroots activists began to study what social historian Mike Davis has termed the “prison-industrial complex.”

As Angela Davis notes in her seminal text, “Are Prisons Obsolete?” Mike Davis had noticed that the political and economic power of California’s prison system began to rival the state’s flagship industries of agribusiness and land development. In Nevada, incarceration has generated profits for investors as well as for the system itself, which accrued a half-million dollars in annual profits recently. Last year, the Nevada governor vetoed a bill that would have banned private prisons.

In response to this misapplication of justice, radical anti-prison activists have pushed for prison abolition. Meanwhile, liberal organizations like the Innocence Project fight for the release of individuals like Berry. In other instances, celebrities like Kim Kardashian have lobbied for presidential pardons for compelling individuals, like Alice Marie Johnson.

When asked about those instances, Jones noted that he is “happy that lady got out the joint. She gained some freedom from all this bullshit. I don’t look at other people and say, ‘I wish that was me.’ I am just happy to see someone else benefit. I just hope that one day it would be me.”

To gain that freedom, Jones and the millions behind walls need the trust and support of the masses. Twenty-five years ago, when the Democratic Party helped to pass many of the laws that allowed prison populations to surge, incarcerated voices led the movement of resistance. In 1993 and 1995, protests of federal Black inmates fueled the movement on the streets. It is Jones’ hope that his words will fuel the struggle of those who read them. □

mal supporters that the hearing was postponed when it wasn't.

Letter circulates denouncing Krasner

In the weeks leading up to the Oct. 29 hearing, Abu-Jamal supporters have circulated a letter to DA Krasner pointing out that “so far, your handling of Mumia’s case has been very much in line with the wishes of the Fraternal Order of Police and you seem to show no interest in opening up a case that has been denounced around the world as reflecting the worst of a racist and classist judicial system that finds poor people, and especially people of color, guilty and sentences them to the most extreme sentences.”

Signed by prominent individuals, including Kathleen Cleaver, Marc Lamont Hill, Soffiyah Elijah and Noam Chomsky, and organizations, including the Frantz Fanon Foundation, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Conference of Black Lawyers of Michigan and the War Resisters League — the letter calls on Krasner to “release all the police and DA files relevant to Mumia’s case, to stop fighting to close this opening in the case by insisting that there is no evidence of Castille’s significant involvement in Mumia’s case, when that is clearly not the reality.” (The letter can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/y7t3yw9a/.)

Beyond circulating the letter, supporters are asked to convey these demands directly to Krasner via email at justice@phila.gov, or calls to 215-686-8000. On Oct. 25, a press conference will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside Krasner’s office at 3 South Penn Square in Philadelphia. On Oct. 29, demonstrators will gather outside the Criminal Justice Center at 1301 Filbert starting at 8 a.m. prior to the hearing.

Let Krasner know the world is watching out of its concern for Mumia and for justice! □

‘Texas says death row, we say hell no!’

By Gloria Rubac
Austin, Texas

Death row families, death row exoner-ees, activists and abolitionists gathered at the Texas Capitol today in a powerful show of unity to demand that executions stop and the death penalty be abolished.

The crowd welcomed five survivors from Witness to Innocence, who shared what it was like to be sent to death row and face execution even though they were innocent. As Albert Burrell, Shujaa Graham, Ron Keine, Gary Drinkard and Derrick Jamison introduced themselves, the crowd roared in solidarity.

“We owe them a debt of gratitude for traveling to Austin as living examples of innocent people who survived years on death row before walking free as exoner-ees,” said organizer Scott Cobb of the Texas Moratorium Network.

Between tears and hugs and fists in the air, the families of people on death row took the stage. They live with the fear of death hanging over them and their families every day, knowing their loved one could be the next person added to Texas’ execution schedule.

Families of George Curry, Louis Castro Perez, Juan Balderas, Humberto Garza, Paul Storey and Jeff Wood each introduced themselves, as did the family of Ramiro Hernandez, who was executed in 2014.

Activist Nicole Combs spoke about the six women on death row in Texas. Combs is an organizer with Help Inmates Smile, which supports all on death row in Texas. Last weekend in Dallas, the supporters of one of the women, Darlie Routier, who has

steadfastly proclaimed her innocence, held rallies at the courthouse to demand long-sought-after DNA testing.

As the activists marched through downtown Austin from the Capitol to the governor’s mansion, smiling on-lookers gave thumbs-up to the chants and messages on the signs.

This public support is reflective of changing views on capital punishment even in Texas, which has executed 555 people since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976. There were 406 executions in the U.S. in 2000 and just 23 last year.

Public support in the U.S. for the death penalty has declined from almost 80 percent in 1968 to 54 percent today. According to an Oct. 26, 2017, Gallup Poll, “Americans’ support for the death penalty is lower than it has been in over four decades. Fewer states now allow the death penalty than did so in the past.”

The number of executions has also declined in recent years. In 2000, when Texas executed 40 people, the state averaged one execution every 12 days. Now executions are down in Texas and around the country.

Washington state’s Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional on Oct. 11, bringing the total to 20 U.S. states without capital punishment and four with a moratorium on executions.



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Five innocent men formerly on Texas’ death row, now exonerated, with activist Nicole Combs.

Most states that have the death penalty on the books do not use it. Executions happen most often in former Confederate states. The number of people being sentenced to death there has also declined.

Organizer Delia Perez-Meyer, sister to Louis Perez on death row, said after the march and rally: “We are so thankful to our beloved exoner-ees who traveled to Austin to support our families in our efforts to abolish the death penalty. ... It was a wonderful weekend filled with great joy, lots of laughter and tears, remembering those who have passed and looking to the future when we no longer kill our own citizens in the name of justice!” □

‘Ain’t nobody gonna turn us around’ Voting rights battle in Georgia

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Major newspapers and national TV news programs have carried stories about the close Georgia governor’s race between Democrat Stacey Abrams, who is seeking to become the first Black woman governor in the country, and Brian Kemp, Republican secretary of state since 2010. Kemp’s office oversees voter registration and election results. Kemp has refused to resign from his position as secretary of state and from overseeing the very election he hopes to win.

With Black people comprising at least one-third of Georgia’s electorate, and with the historic and bloody century-old battle to secure voting rights by formerly enslaved people in mind, the question of ongoing, deliberate voter suppression in this election is inevitable.

During the Jim Crow era of state-enforced segregation, there were crude and blatant methods of denying the vote to African-American people. These ranged from a poll tax, having to name the exact number of beans in a jar, all-white primaries to evictions, job loss, physical threats, arson, beatings and killings.

Nowadays those methods of voter suppression have generally been replaced by more sophisticated and often hidden means of restricting Black voter access. Much of this is done administratively behind closed doors.

State-sponsored voter suppression

One technique practiced during Kemp’s time in office is purging from voter rolls people who move frequently or fail to vote in several elections.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 1.5 million voters were removed from the rolls between 2012 and 2016 — more than double the number from the previous four-year period. The center’s studies show the removal of inactive voters impacts people of color at a greater rate than other groups. The “purged” voters rarely know they have been removed unless they take the time to check with the secretary of state’s office.

Kemp won his secretary of state position in part on a platform of promises to prevent “illegals” from voting and to ferret out voter “fraud.” He also got some of the first and most restrictive voter ID legislation in the U.S. from the Republican-controlled state legislature. Such legislation has also been shown to most adversely affect Black and poor voters.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder diminished the pre-emptive enforcement powers of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. These had required federal approval of changes in voting policies and practices in areas where local and state governments have historically discriminated by enacting repressive voting requirements. This requirement is no longer in force in Georgia or other formerly designated areas.

Gubernatorial contender Abrams, while the Democratic leader of Georgia’s House of Representatives, founded the New Georgia Project, whose goal was to register 800,000 new voters. Hundreds of volunteers from NGP and other groups have gone door-to-door, set up registration tables at festivals and community meetings and on street corners, and signed up hundreds of thousands of voters, mostly Black Georgians.

In 2014, Kemp alleged that massive numbers of the Project’s registration forms were forged, duplicates or otherwise erroneous, and sued the organization for fraud and waste of taxpayer money caused by processing thousands of applications. Although the court dismissed his lawsuit, Kemp has continued his claims of “voter fraud” against the NCP.

‘Exact match’ discrimination

Kemp instituted a departmental “exact match” policy in 2016. The Georgia legislature then passed a 2017 law for the same purpose. This required a person’s information on a voter registration application to match exactly what is on their state driver’s license or in Social Security Administration data.

“Exact match” means that applications can be challenged or purged based on typos or clerical errors, as well as missing accent marks or hyphens. Though forms are accepted at a variety of state agencies, Secretary of State Kemp’s office determines final registration. At that point, small errors can be either accepted or ignored — depending on the applicant’s party affiliation.

October 9 was the last day to register to vote in Georgia’s Nov. 6 general election, in which Kemp is running against Abrams. That day the Associated Press revealed that over 53,000 applications were “on hold” in Kemp’s office, unprocessed because of “exact match” issues.

Two days later a coalition of civil rights and voting rights groups filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction to allow all those people on hold and all those purged from the rolls since November 2016 due to “exact match” criteria to vote. The lawsuit asserts

that 80.15 percent of those denied voting rights are African-American, Latinx or Asian-American. (tinyurl.com/y8yah2vm)

While Kemp’s office issued a statement that people would be allowed to vote on Nov. 6 if they produced a legal ID at their precinct, no explanation has been sent to applicants about why they have not received voter registration cards.

Another battlefield in the Georgia voting rights struggle is the closure of polling sites — more than 200 so far, many in rural areas, forcing people to drive long distances and deterring those without transportation. There is also a dubious pattern of rejection of absentee ballots, such as the more than 50 percent of those ballots sent in by Asian and African-American residents of Gwinnett County, a minority-majority county outside Atlanta. (tinyurl.com/ydatjjxy)

However, the determination of 40 Black seniors in Louisville, Ga., tells the story of resistance to the real “fraud” in this election: white supremacist voter suppression.

On Oct. 17, a bus belonging to the non-partisan group Black Voters Matter arrived at a county-operated community center to take the seniors to an early voting site. But once they were on the bus, a Jefferson County worker ordered them off, citing “concerns” of unpermitted “political activity.”

LaTosha Brown, a co-founder of BVM, said, “This is voter suppression, Southern style.” (tinyurl.com/yaqecsyx)

Undeterred, the seniors waited for replacement transportation, singing and dancing, recounting past challenges to their right to vote and declaring, “Ain’t nobody gonna turn us around.” □

REVIEW OF ‘BLACK ‘47’

A glimpse into British atrocities in Ireland

By Christian Noakes

The film “Black ‘47” is a dramatization of the ethnic cleansing of Ireland that resulted from the brutally oppressive conditions of British occupation and extraction. In Irish, it is known as An Gorta Mór — the Irish Famine.

The title refers to the height of this atrocity in 1847. Spanning 1845 to 1851, British imperialist policies and practices caused the death of 1 million Irish and the emigration of another 1.5 million to North America and Britain. While the impact of this event on the trajectory of modern Ireland is undeniable, the dominance of British revisionism on both sides of the Atlantic has created the widespread belief that this disaster was natural or unavoidable.

In fact, as “Black ‘47” shows, it was brought on and exacerbated by British imperialism and absentee landlordism.

The story follows an Irishman — Martin Feeney (played by James Frecheville) — from Connemara in the west of Ireland who deserts from the British army. He returns home to find that his mother has died from starvation, and his brother has been hanged for fighting the eviction of their starving family.

Initially, Feeney plans to emigrate to the U.S. with his brother’s widow and her

children. However, they are evicted from their home, Feeney’s nephew is shot and Feeney is brought in for interrogation. He manages to break free, thereby alerting British forces of his presence.

Returning to the roofless remnants of the house (a common tactic that forced the Irish out of their homes and off their land), he discovers the frozen bodies of his brother’s widow and her child huddled in the corner. Rather than go to the U.S., he resolves to exact revenge on the judge, rent collector, land agent and landlord responsible for the deaths of his loved ones.

The ways in which he goes about this convey a fervently anti-imperialist sense of justice and retribution. Officer Hannah (played by Hugo Weaving), a former British soldier who joins the Royal Irish Constabulary — the ruthless colonial police force — is brought in to catch and bring Feeney “to justice.” Hannah is well aware of Feeney’s military skills, as they were deployed in Afghanistan together.

When Feeney and Hannah come face to face, the film shows the contradictions of being subjected to British imperialism in Ireland and then “taking the king’s shilling” to enforce British imperialism

in Afghanistan. Addressing Hannah, Feeney states: “We did things for them that cannot be forgiven. And for what? When I come home to this. I kill a man, they call it murder. If they do it, they call it war, providence, justice. Where will my family get their justice, if not from me?”

In this instance, Feeney reveals international class consciousness and liberational resolve against the brutal and hypocritical British Empire.

In stark contrast to Feeney’s remorse and desire for justice is Lord Kilmichael — an absentee landlord who extracts rent in the form of grain and evicts starving tenants unable to pay like Feeney’s family. Addressing Hannah and his partner, Lord Kilmichael speaks bluntly of British intentions to ethnically cleanse Ireland. He claims that driving the native inhabitants from their land is the only way to salvage his property (to increase profitability).

Nothing ‘natural’ about the famine

Despite the narrative dominant in most history books and other accounts that suggests the potato blight, which was not limited to Ireland, was to blame for the mass death of 1 million Irish people, there was nothing natural about the Great Hunger. Rather, it was part of the

steep cost of imperialism that the subjected are forced to pay — the cost of a system of global dispossession.

The widespread dependence on potatoes is itself reflective of this fact. While many people had to rely on potatoes for their diet, potatoes accounted for only 20 percent of Ireland’s agricultural produce. Crops such as corn were also grown, but mainly to pay British-backed landlords or for export to British markets. Ireland exported some 430,000 tons of grain from 1846 to 1847 alone, mostly from the most heavily impacted areas of the famine. (Christine Kinealy, “The Great Irish Famine: Impact, Ideology, and Rebellion”)

As the film shows in grim detail, this process of extraction meant taking at gunpoint what little the Irish had to eat. In refusing to provide adequate relief, many British liberals claimed interfering would only encourage what they saw as an “inferior” Irish character — which they blamed for the crisis — and impede the supposedly free market, which was in fact kept in place by the British courts and military.

Prior to “Black ‘47,” no film had portrayed the horrors of this historical event. The film’s value lies partly in its ability to communicate an explicit anti-imperialist message and to cast historical clarity on an atrocity that has long been covered up by British revisionism. □



REVIEW OF ‘CALL HER GANDA’

Historic justice for a trans Filipina

By Cosmia Bohannon-Blumke

Jennifer Laude, known as “Ganda,” was a Filipina trans woman and sex worker in Olongapo, a port city for U.S. Marine vessels. In October 2014, she was murdered by a client, 19-year-old U.S. Marine Scott Pemberton, upon discovering she was transgender.

Now documentary director P.J. Raval has released “Call Her Ganda” to widespread acclaim. The film begins with Laude’s life, showing she was a daughter, a sister, an aunt, a fiancée and a mentor to other trans sex workers living in Olongapo. Her nickname, Ganda, meaning “beautiful,” was given to her by her ever-supportive mother.

After her death, those seeking justice for Laude were primarily three women: her mother, a trans activist and organizer in the Philippines and a Philippine-American trans activist and writer. They found sympathy in some sectors of the Philippine legal system, since her case was far from an isolated incident.

From the U.S. acquisition of the Philippines in 1898 up to the day of Laude’s murder, no U.S. soldier had ever been convicted of a crime committed on Phil-



ippine soil or spent time in a Philippine prison.

Laude’s advocates and the film itself use her case to expose the greater political context of her death, a direct result not just of transphobia but also of U.S. imperialism, neocolonialism and the continued occupation of the Philippines.

To do that, the film reveals the brutal legacy of the U.S. occupation’s non-stop racist violence, particularly against women and children. The documentary also raises the history of Filipinx peoples whose identities did not conform to colonialism’s gender binary rules and

were thus oppressed by the Catholic Church during centuries of Spanish rule. This history is linked to the island’s modern sex industry, which, driven by poverty resulting from imperialism, both cis and trans Filipina women are forced to join.

Perhaps most crucially, the political narrative of the film shows how Laude’s case was transformed from an issue of the Filipinx LGBTQ community into a key part of the country’s present mass movement against U.S. occupation and imperialism.

In one of the film’s most profound moments, one of Jennifer’s advocates is trying to explain the concept of justice to a small child, who doesn’t understand why they are fighting if it won’t bring Jennifer back. She says, in an almost lighthearted tone, “If there is no justice, not only will Jennifer be dead, we will all be dead.”

Ultimately, a Philippine court ruled Pemberton guilty of homicide, but not murder.

Nevertheless, it is the first-ever conviction of a U.S. military officer for a crime committed in the Philippines. That victorious verdict is seen as having tremendous implications for the mass movement fighting for a politically independent Philippines.

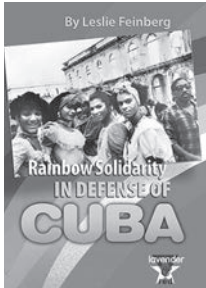
Since the trial, Pemberton has been protected by the U.S. military, which refuses to surrender him to Philippine authorities. He remains in U.S. custody. The mass movement, using the hashtag #justice4jennifer, continues to demand he serve the sentence.

The documentary is presently shown at film festivals in various cities across the U.S., as well as at screenings presented by GABRIELA USA, an organization dedicated to the liberation of Filipinx women and trans and gender-nonconforming peoples. A full list of showings can be found at callherganda.com.

Note: The film contains graphic content, including some images of Jennifer’s body and the bodies of other Filipinx martyrs throughout history, as well as screenshots and audio of violently transphobic comments concerning Jennifer.

Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg,
author of ‘Stone Butch Blues’



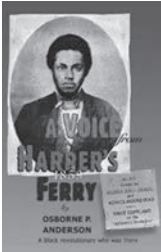
Feinberg’s book documents revolutionary Cuba’s inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes.

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, Wall Street and Hollywood by demonstrating that the process of solving these problems is the forward motion of the revolution.

A compilation of articles from the Workers World series entitled *Lavender & Red*, online at workers.org. The book is available at major online booksellers

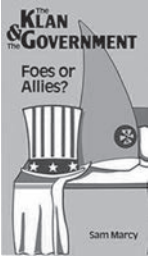


Find them at: www.workers.org/books



A Voice from Harpers Ferry

Osborne P. Anderson’s account of the raid on Harper’s Ferry appeared in pamphlet form in 1861 right after the start of the Civil War. Includes essays by Mumia Abu-Jamal, Monica Moorehead and Vince Copeland.



The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

Examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation.

Brazil

Mass rallies say ‘No to Bolsonaro’

By John Catalinotto

Tens of thousands of demonstrators in Brazil's large and small cities mobilized on Oct. 20 in an attempt to stop ultra-rightist Jair Bolsonaro from winning the second round of the country's presidential election, taking place on Sunday, Oct. 28.

Anti-Bolsonaro women's demonstrations on Sept. 29, known as #EleNão (Not him), inspired this new round of rallies, supported this time by a broad united front of organizations and parties and led in many cities by women's organizations.

Bolsonaro is an openly misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, racist and anti-communist candidate. Those are not just words to insult him. They describe his very being. People worldwide in solidarity with Brazil's workers and poor are asking, how did he arise and how can he be stopped?

This former army captain revels in his blatant insults against people who have to bear every form of oppression, salutes the military dictators who ran Brazil from 1964-85, and backs military and police killings in the shanty towns, called favelas, that surround big Brazilian cities.

Like a classical fascist politician, Bolsonaro pretends to be anti-rich and a political outsider. Unlike classical fascists, he has no mass fascist party backing him. He counts instead on support from the militarized police, the army and many of the evangelical churches, to which a fifth of Brazilians belong.

During a serious capitalist economic crisis that has impoverished hundreds of millions of people, Bolsonaro has ridden a wave of ruling-class and middle-class hostility to any state assistance for Brazil's poor.

This ruling-class hostility has been directed mainly at the reformist Workers Party (PT) and has led to a popular rejection of all the usual politicians as corrupt.

The ruling class's powerful media, like the O Globo network, have been pounding away on corrupt politicians and especially blaming the Workers Party, which governed Brazil from 2003 to 2016. In

2016, PT President Dilma Rousseff was impeached and pushed out of office by a movement in Congress that framed her up for alleged corruption.

Most politicians who conspired against Rousseff were themselves under investigation — for corruption.

The most popular PT leader, Luis Ignacio “Lula” da Silva, who was president from 2003-2011, was planning to run for president again. Polls had him leading all the other candidates in the first round. But Brazil's judges brought charges against Lula to jail him and keep him from running and winning the election.

With Lula unable to run or even campaign from prison, the PT nominated Fernando Haddad in a united campaign with Manuela d'Ávila of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB). They are now trying to reach out for broader support.

The PT-PCdoB alliance in no way represents a revolutionary break with Brazilian capitalism. Thus, even if it wins the election, the economic and political crisis will continue, as will the attack by Brazil's oligarchy upon its workers and poor people.

Nevertheless, nearly all left and revolutionary parties support election of PT-PCdoB as the best way at present to defend democratic rights as they continue to organize to make more gains for the working class.

United Front backs Haddad-d'Ávila

This time, many organizations joined to call the Oct. 20 demonstrations. They included some of the smaller left parties like the Socialism and Liberty Party (PSOL) and the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB), as well as the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB).

Some of these left parties ran their own candidates or for other reasons didn't support Haddad-d'Ávila in the Oct. 7 first round. Now they give at least critical support to electing Haddad.

The landless movement (MST), the homeless movement, LGBTQ forces and other social movements also joined in the Oct. 20 mobilizations.

In the capital, Brasilia, according to the Oct. 21 edition of the web newspaper



PHOTO: PT BRASIL

PT candidate Fernando Haddad (center) at march of 50,000 people in Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil, on Oct. 20, against ultra-rightist candidate Jair Bolsonaro.

Vermelho, “Women for Truth and Justice” held a public event that brought together more than 10,000 people in the center of the city. The paper reported that while the Federal District “has a conservative majority, it can count on finding great resistance from popular movements and unions.”

A meeting in Belo Horizonte was organized by the “women of the Popular Brazil Front in Minas Gerais” state. In Fortaleza, where Haddad himself spoke, 50,000 people came out. Both cities have populations of about 2.5 million people.

According to the PT website, meetings of some sort took place in 180 cities. These mobilizations encouraged those hoping to reverse Bolsonaro's apparent advantage. Whether they will succeed in doing this is still a big question.

Brazil's rich back Bolsonaro

Bolsonaro got 46 percent of the first round valid votes, as opposed to 29 percent for Haddad. The usually favored neo-liberal candidates who represent Brazil's ruling class have been so discredited by corruption charges that most of the rich have thrown their support to this former army captain. They much prefer

him to the PT, even though it is reformist.

The result is that media giants like the O Globo network continuously attack the PT and thus aid Bolsonaro, who also dominates the social networks, publishing slanders against his opponents. The Haddad campaign must use enormous resources to counter these blatant lies.

U.S. imperialism and especially the current right-wing administration in Washington of course favor Bolsonaro. They want a president in Brazil who is hostile to Cuba, Bolivia and especially Venezuela. It is telling that the ultra-rightist ideologue Steve Bannon offered electoral advice to Bolsonaro in the first round.

With its population of about 208 million people, an area of more than 3 million square miles, and a border with every other country in South America except Chile and Ecuador, Brazil is equivalent in size to about half the continent.

The Oct. 28 election, while it will be an important step for the struggle of Brazil's workers and all its oppressed peoples, is not the final step. Neither the pro-fascist Bolsonaro nor the reformist Haddad will be able to solve the crisis of world capitalism. The class struggle will continue. □

Haitians say ‘Where's the money? Give it back!’

By G. Dunkel

October 17 is a national holiday in Haiti, marking the assassination in 1806 of Jean-Jacques Dessalines. He led the Haitian people to victory in 1804 against French slave masters.

The politicians and lawyers who called a protest for this date were hoping for a peaceful, legal protest, respectfully putting forth people's concerns, not only in the capital, Port-au-Prince, but also in Petit-Goave in the west, in Jeremie in the southwest, Jacmel in the south, St. Marc and Gonaïves in the center, Cap-Haïtien in the north and Ouanaminthe in the northeast. These are most of the major cities in Haiti.

The protests were the largest in Haiti since one in 2004 supporting then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a few weeks before his overthrow by forces that included a U.S. Seal team.

But as soon as people's feet hit the pavement, their anger and militance burst out. Videos available on YouTube



Haitian youth protest government corruption.

show thousands of people filling the streets of Port-au-Prince, demanding to know where the money from PetroCaribe has gone.

PetroCaribe is the program of the Ven-

ezuelan government that offers petroleum products at a discounted price, financed by a 1 percent loan due in 25 years. Governments that got the deal were expected to devote their profits to economic devel-

opment. The Haitian Senate reported last year that \$3.8 billion of PetroCaribe profits had vanished and pointed to some of the politicians and business people who took it.

The slogan “Kot Kòb Petwo Karibe a?” (Creole for “Where is the PetroCaribe money?”) was a common chant. Some T-shirts worn in the protests pointed to Sophia Martelly, wife of Michel Martelly, Haiti's last president.

The crowds of mainly young people danced and chanted as they ran alongside bands during the march. In an interview on the French channel TV5, one protester condemned the low minimum wage — which the government recently raised to \$6 a day! — the high cost of living and the lack of education and jobs. □

HAITI A SLAVE REVOLUTION 200 hundred Years after 1804

Updated to include the Aristide kidnapping by the U.S. and the earthquake in 2010.

Read online at: iacenter.org/HAITI

Workers need solidarity across borders

Thousands of migrant workers and their families from Honduras have marched through Guatemala into Mexico, a river of people flooding the roads. They are bound for what they hope could be a better life in the U.S.

President Trump has threatened to call up the military and close the U.S. southern border against them. Closing a border is usually the last act a nation takes before declaring war.

But the U.S. has already declared 21st century war on migrants. It began under the Obama administration and is now being implemented even more cruelly and outrageously under Trump. Has it really been forgotten that ALL the people in this country, other than the Indigenous peoples and the Africans dragged here in chains, are im/migrants or are descended from im/migrants?

For over a century, U.S. capitalists have been waging brutal, devastating economic war on Honduras and other Central American countries in order to extract billions of dollars in profit from their land and their labor.

The Honduran migrants are simply fleeing the blows of poverty, violence and death that U.S. aggression has dealt their country.

Early in the 20th century, U.S. corporations like United Fruit grabbed thousands of acres of Indigenous lands in Central America and exploited the labor of Indigenous peoples. That economic occupation left a deadly legacy of poverty, illnesses from exposure to agricultural chemicals, tuberculosis, respiratory crises, infertility, cancer and death.

When Honduran workers resisted, as 40,000 did in the General Strike of 1954, there was always the threat of U.S. intervention. That was during the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. The U.S. secretary of state was John Foster Dulles, whose law firm represented the United Fruit Co. His brother, Allen Dulles, was director of the CIA as well as a United Fruit board member.

The current destabilization of Honduras came in 2009, again under the protection of the U.S. Manuel Zelaya, a relatively progressive president, introduced economic reforms that increased the minimum wage by 80 percent and decreased poverty by 10 percent. He was quickly deposed in a violent coup.

Where did the coup come from? Honduran Gen. Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, who graduated from the notorious School of the Americas, the U.S. Army

training program better known as the School of the Assassins.

A horrific wave of assassinations and murders followed the 2009 coup. The U.S. corporate media refer to this as a period of “violence,” without explaining that the violence came from the reactionary government put in place by collaborators with U.S. imperialism.

Many have heard of Berta Cáceres, the Indigenous Honduran environmental activist murdered there in March of 2016. But she is only one of literally thousands — including Indigenous activists, peasant leaders, trade unionists, journalists, environmentalists, judges, opposition political candidates, LGBTQ and women’s advocates, human rights activists and others — who have been killed by right-wing death squads for the sin of demanding basic human rights, like a living wage.

U.S. officials — most significantly then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — were influential in guaranteeing power to the murderous junta and preventing Zelaya’s return to office, which was demanded by the Honduran people in massive nonviolent protests.

Hondurans are continuing to fight for their country. In May 2017 over 2,000 campesinxs took over 10 farms belong-

ing to the Tela Railroad Co., a subsidiary of the former United Fruit, now known as Chiquita Brands International.

They are continuing to struggle as they march across borders, aiming for a U.S. that has taken so much from them. They are coming to demand a future they can survive in.

It is our responsibility in the U.S. to fight our utmost to stop the deadly interventions carried out by the corporate establishment that runs this country and support the self-determination of Honduras — and all other countries. It is the right thing to do. But in addition the brutal impoverishment of workers in other countries eventually means lower real wages here, too.

It is our responsibility to fight to open the southern border to the Honduran migrants.

Imperialism respects no borders in its interventions all over the globe. Profits squeezed from workers and farmers around the world have fattened the billionaires here, who then try to pit us against other working people in other countries. We have a common enemy: U.S. imperialist exploiters.

There must be no borders in the workers’ struggle. □

Letter to the editor

Philadelphia needs safe injection sites

The city of Philadelphia is, once again, clearing out drug-user encampments. After having declared a disaster in the Kensington section of the city, the next stage in the city’s plan to combat the opioid epidemic is to close the Frankford Avenue and Emerald Street bridge tunnel encampments by 2019.

The first encampment to be shut down will be the Frankford Avenue bridge camp by Nov. 15. The Emerald Street bridge camp will be cleared out by Jan. 15. One-month notice is being given to camp residents and outreach workers to get them connected to drug treatment and housing services.

The city has previously closed other camps, pushing the addicted individuals who live in them to other areas and destroying an important resource that addicted people so dearly need: community. Community is what has saved the lives of many addicts in the camps, because they would Narcan [apply emergency treatment for an opioid overdose] each other whenever needed and outreach workers would be able to reach them.

Workers World Party-Philadelphia pledges to remain on top of all developments on the subject of drug addiction and encampments, and will fight alongside residents to preserve their communities.

We declare the opioid epidemic a genocide against the proletariat, a genocide started by the Sackler family [owners of pharmaceutical company that produces painkiller oxycodone] in order to line their pockets!

To those who say that that’s going too far, let’s look at the definition of genocide. It’s the deliberate killing of a large group of people. The majority of people who are addicted today are working class. People are dying at an alarming rate, falling out in the streets, so let’s not beat around the

bush by addressing the situation lightly.

The opioid profiteers lied about the addictive nature of OxyContin (oxycodone) and convinced doctors to overprescribe it. These doctors, in turn, saw that their patients were desperate for more OxyContin and put two and two together and cut them off. These addicted patients then went to the street to buy pills. When the pills became expensive and unaffordable, they turned to heroin. This is how the opioid epidemic started.

We’re now several years into the epidemic, and what do we have to show for all the bluster of politicians and cops? Higher incarceration rates and a higher death toll.

The way we’ve traditionally handled drug addiction, with mass incarceration and zero tolerance, has failed us. We need a new, revolutionary method of handling drug addiction, one that’s based on facts and science rather than idealism and moral outrage.

One of the tools that should be at the disposal of every town and city dealing with the opioid epidemic is a safe injection site. Safe injection sites are facilities where users of drugs go to get high in a safe and controlled manner. Stocked with Narcan, clean needles and other supplies, these facilities would create safer drug use conditions and increase the access that people living with addiction have to public health facilities. Studies have shown that they decrease overdoses and that, contrary to the thought of NIMBY [not in my back yard], they do not increase drug trafficking.

ACT UP Philadelphia fought for the city to open self-injection sites, citing the number of people in 2017 who died from overdoses. The city, surprisingly, has acquiesced to opening one. Called Safehouse, the project is only starting to get

off the ground, but it looks like it’s going to be the first safe injection site opened in the United States.

What, exactly, will Safehouse provide? Mental and physical health assessment, drug testing kits, sterile needles and other injection equipment, Narcan, wound care and other basic medical services, referrals for primary health care, medication assisted treatment (methadone and buprenorphine), and access to specialists who will help with housing opportunities, public benefits, legal services and other support services. In simple terms, Safehouse will live up to its name and be a sanctuary for people living with an addiction.

superexploitation of low-wage and marginalized workers; the separation, detention and expulsion of migrant families and militarization of the border; the astronomical rise in class inequality, with millions of workers barely scraping by while billionaires suck up the wealth they produce; and the prospect of a planet so polluted it could soon be unable to sustain this human society.

All these horrendous problems boil down to one cause: the profit system. It has to go. There already exist the forces for a tremendous pushback, but time is short. Now, more than ever, is the time for solidarity and unity behind a mass movement that openly declares its goal: ending capitalism. □

Although we must be wary of anything opened up under capitalism, we must consider how helpful these tools would be if the people themselves managed and operated them. Capitalism has not eliminated drug addiction, and it cannot, because the system benefits too much from the misuse of drugs. Socialist countries, however, have eliminated or effectively treated it.

The proletariat can eliminate drug addiction, so let’s work toward that goal. Socialists and all progressive people can play an important part in saving lives by carrying Narcan, educating ourselves on addiction and fighting in the struggle.

Princess Harmony

Storms from Puerto Rico to Florida

Profit system drives disaster

Continued from page 1



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Carteles de ‘SE BUSCA’ apuntan a ‘mercenarios’ de la Junta de Control Fiscal de Puerto Rico

Continua de página 12

pleador afectó a las/os trabajadores del sector público al establecer al gobierno como un empleador único que podía trasladar a las/os trabajadores de una agencia a otra, incluso al sector privado. Las/os trabajadores que se mudan enfrentan la pérdida de protecciones ganadas en virtud de acuerdos de negociación colectiva, incluida la antigüedad.

Además de los ataques draconianos contra los derechos de las/os trabajadores, la JCF también impuso más impuestos y aumentos de multas y peajes en general, al tiempo que recortaba los subsidios municipales y las asignaciones para programas de arte, cultura y deportes y programas que protegen a las mujeres.

PROMESA abrió el camino para la venta de propiedades públicas rentables para que el capital privado pudiera obtener ganancias imprevistas en millones. Las posesiones públicas rentables se llevaron a la bancarrota y se vendieron “a precio de baratillo”.

En el frente ambiental, PROMESA propuso la “transferencia” de la responsabilidad de la limpieza de la contaminación masiva de Vieques del Departamento del Interior de EUA al gobierno de Puerto Rico. La contaminación en ese municipio insular provino de 60 años de prácticas de bombardeo de la Marina de los EUA. Este plan limitaría el gobierno de PR, el municipio y las/os individuos de reclamar los daños resultantes de la contaminación de las operaciones de la Marina.

Otros recortes de la JCF incluyeron \$1 mil millones de dólares de la atención médica, una reducción del 10 por ciento en las pensiones, un recorte de más de \$600 millones en el presupuesto de la Universidad de PR y el cierre de cientos de escuelas bajo el mandato de Keleher, una

consultora con salario de \$250.000 para trabajar como secretaria de educación.

En su cartel “se busca”, se describe a Julia Keleher como una “mercendaria despiadada contratada para matar la educación pública; Se demostró que era completamente ignorante acerca de los valores, la cultura, la historia, la literatura y el idioma de las/os niños puertorriqueños bajo su tutela”.

Uso de desastres para desmantelar la educación pública

Contratada en enero de 2017, Keleher introdujo una estrategia impopular para cerrar las escuelas públicas. El presupuesto del Departamento de Educación local se redujo en 500 millones de dólares. En el 2018, la Junta exigió \$200 millones adicionales en recortes, incluidos \$80 millones de la educación especial.

Después del huracán María, madres, padres y maestras/os se reunieron para reparar escuelas y hacer malabares con los salones de clases debido a que muchas familias se fueron a EUA. Las cosas volvían lentamente a la normalidad hasta que Keleher golpeó.

Las/os maestros fueron despedidos, cientos de escuelas cerradas, y las/os niños, incluyendo aquellas/os con necesidades especiales, fueron apiñados en los salones de clases. Cuando protestaron por estas “reformas” en manifestaciones callejeras, maestras/os y estudiantes fueron brutalmente atacados por la policía.

Un mes después del huracán María, Keleher tuiteó una recomendación de que “los isleños usaran las consecuencias del huracán Katrina ‘como un punto de referencia’ y una ‘oportunidad para crear nuevas y mejores escuelas’”. Después de Katrina, Nueva Orleans despidió a la mayoría de las/os maestros, cerró casi to-

das las escuelas públicas y las reemplazó con charters.

En una entrevista de octubre de 2017 con ‘Education Week’, Keleher aprobó la propuesta de la Secretaria de Educación de EUA, Betsy DeVos, de que el Congreso renuncie a los requisitos de financiar la educación para adultos y la especial en los distritos que se recuperan de desastres naturales. DeVos acababa de publicar pautas de reducción de fondos para estados y regiones, incluido Puerto Rico y las Islas Vírgenes de EUA. (tinyurl.com/ycpwq2j7)

Los 120 años de ocupación de Puerto Rico por EUA serán enjuiciados en el Tribunal Internacional de Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos en

SIRIA:

Zona de amortiguación en calma pero la guerra sigue siendo un riesgo

Continua de página 12

reconciliación con el gobierno sirio, esto puede llevar a enfrentamientos sangrientos con otras facciones. Combatientes armados y también personas en la vida pública que abogan por un acuerdo con Damasco son amenazados, secuestrados, arrestados o ejecutados.

La escena de una batalla interna el 9 de octubre fue la ciudad de Latamne, a pocos kilómetros de la ciudad de Maharda (provincia de Hama). El Centro Ruso para la Reconciliación de Lados Hostiles en Siria, que supervisa la retirada de las

Puerto Rico el 27 de octubre en la ciudad de Nueva York. PROMESA definitivamente estará en la lista de actos delictivos acusados. Se oirán testimonios de activistas que luchan contra los mercenarios del capitalismo como Skeel y Keleher.

Las/os activistas comunitarios, estudiantes y trabajadoras/es en los estados que citó Skeel deben tomar nota de lo que él y otros miembros de la JCF han diseñado en PR y aprender de las protestas llevadas a cabo desde desde junio del 2016. Cuando la JCF celebró su primera conferencia el 31 de agosto de 2016, las organizaciones juveniles, laborales y sociales se manifestaron contra PROMESA y bloquearon el acceso a la conferencia hasta que la policía tuvo que despejar el camino. □

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida



La tesis de este libro es que la crisis económica, que se inició en agosto de 2007, marcó un punto de inflexión en la historia del capitalismo. El autor sostiene que el sistema no se recuperará, no volverá al ciclo capitalista normal de auge y caída.

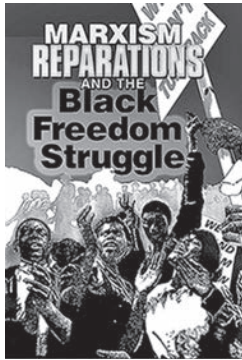
Durante décadas, la clase capitalista ha utilizado la revolución tecnológica digital para aumentar la productividad del trabajo a un ritmo récord. Menos trabajadores producen más bienes y servicios en menos tiempo con salarios más bajos. El resultado es una serie de “recuperaciones sin empleos” que hace que las cosas vayan aún peor.

Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

El continuo estancamiento y el desempleo generalizado provocarán inevitablemente un resurgimiento de la lucha de clases que no se ve en EE.UU. desde la década de 1930; esta vez se dirigirá contra el propio sistema.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to www.LowWageCapitalism.com Available at Amazon and other bookstores.

From the pages of Workers World newspaper
Every Struggle Is a Woman’s Struggle and Class War In West Virginia
Read pamphlets that are compilations of WW articles online at: workers.org/books



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON



MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

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Carteles de ‘SE BUSCA’ apuntan a ‘mercenarios’ de la Junta de Control Fiscal de Puerto Rico

Por Betsey Piette

Filadelfia — Los huracanes Irma y María devastaron a Puerto Rico en septiembre del 2017. Pero un año antes, en junio del 2016, el presidente Barack Obama desató la devastación económica en la isla/archipiélago cuando promulgó la ley PROMESA: la Ley de Supervisión, Gestión y Estabilidad Económica de Puerto Rico. La legislación desencadenó una nueva fase en la lucha de clases en Puerto Rico y eliminó cualquier duda de que Puerto Rico es una colonia de los EUA.

Básicamente, PROMESA es una agencia de cobro para servir a los grandes accionistas de Wall Street. Para ese propósito, creó una Junta de Control Fiscal dictatorial denominada la “Junta” por las/os puertorriqueños. La JCF está dirigida por el corredor de seguros José Carrión III. Los miembros de la junta incluyen a Andrew G. Biggs, del American Enterprise Institute en Washington; el financiero Carlos M. García y el banquero José R. González, ambos con conexiones al Banco de Santander; Arthur J. González, juez jubilado del Tribunal de Quiebras de EUA para el Distrito Sur de Nueva York; y David A. Skeel, Jr., profesor de derecho corporativo en la Universidad de Pennsylvania.

Skeel, quien enseña leyes de bancarrota, vive y trabaja en Filadelfia. Julia Keleher, originaria de Filadelfia, fue contratada por la JCF para servir como “Secretaria de Educación” de PR a pesar de su falta de experiencia educativa. Am-



bos han sido blanco de una campaña de carteles “SE BUSCA” en Filadelfia que expone su servicio a los ricos accionistas de Wall Street.

En el verano del 2018, comenzaron a aparecer los carteles en el campo de la Universidad de Pennsylvania, incluyendo uno publicado en la puerta de la oficina de Skeel. Se llevaron a cabo manifestaciones para llamar la atención sobre los papeles jugados por Skeel y Keleher en el robo de los recursos de Puerto Rico.

Skeel respondió en un artículo de opinión del 13 de septiembre en el diario Wall Street Journal y señaló que los carteles lo acusaban de ser “mercenario” que “exige que la sangre de los puertorriqueños pague a los accionistas de Wall Street”.

¿La defensa de Skeel? Simplemente que “PROMESA instruyó a la junta de supervisión para ayudar a ‘lograr la responsabilidad fiscal y el acceso a los mer-



cados de capital”.

Pero la historia de Skeel, un especialista en leyes de bancarrota, muestra por qué los carteles lo describen como un “mercenario”. En un artículo publicado en el diario Wall Street Journal en el 2014, este argumentó que la gestión de la crisis de la deuda en PR podría ser un caso de prueba para atacar los derechos de las/os trabajadoras. Citó paralelos con los estados de EUA que enfrentan dificultades similares, como Illinois, Nueva Jersey, Pensilvania y ciudades como Filadelfia.

En el artículo, Skeel señaló que, a diferencia de los funcionarios locales reacios a hacer recortes drásticos porque están sujetos a reelecciones, una junta nombrada por mandato del Congreso podría salirse con la suya atacando a los sindicatos de empleados públicos y recortando programas, empleos y beneficios.

Él escribió: “Puede haber un lado positivo en estas nubes financieras”.

Guerra de clases contra trabajadoras/es y pobres

Entonces, ¿quién puede llenar sus bolsillos con esa plata, obtenida a través de la “reestructuración” de la deuda de Puerto Rico? Los miembros de la JCF, nombrados por el presidente de EUA y elegidos por líderes de la Cámara de Representantes y el Senado, recibieron amplios poderes para servir los intereses de los accionistas, sin rendir cuentas al pueblo de PR.

Los poderes de la JCF incluye instituir la congelación automática de las contrataciones y reducir el salario mínimo de las/os trabajadoras menores de 25 años de \$7,25 a \$4,25.

Los despidos, los recortes en los servicios básicos y los aumentos en el costo de la vida agravaron el hambre y la pobreza, empeorando después de que el huracán María golpeará. Las ejecuciones hipotecarias de viviendas y recuperaciones de automóviles se generalizaron.

Bajo el pretexto de “estimular la economía”, la Ley de Transformación y Flexibilización Laboral, aprobada en el 2017, despojó a las/os trabajadoras de las ganancias ganadas con esfuerzo, incluida la jornada de ocho horas, mientras se recortaban los salarios, las vacaciones y los días de enfermedad, se reducían los bonos y se extendían periodos de prueba de las/os trabajadoras.

La aprobación de la Ley de Un Em-

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SIRIA:

Zona de amortiguación en calma pero la guerra sigue siendo un riesgo

La guerra en Siria, provocada por las potencias imperialistas occidentales en el 2011 y que ha traído gran sufrimiento para el pueblo sirio puede terminar pronto si el proceso que ahora tiene lugar en la provincia de Idlib en el noreste del país avanza sin una nueva intervención imperialista. Las facciones reaccionarias, armadas por la OTAN, las monarquías del Golfo e Israel, todavía amenazan con causar estragos. El ejército sirio pospuso su ofensiva en Idlib para permitir un fin ordenado de la guerra. Leukefeld es un experto en la región y corresponsal habitual del diario alemán Junge Welt, que publicó el siguiente artículo el 12 de octubre.

Por Karin Leukefeld

La información tanto de Ankara como de Moscú indica que el acuerdo sobre una zona de amortiguación entre las unidades de combate en Idlib y el ejército sirio se ha respetado en gran medida. Según el acuerdo turco-ruso, los combatientes deben retirar sus armas pesadas de Idlib antes del 15 de octubre. El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores ruso, Sergei Lavrov, dijo el 11 de octubre que la retirada podría demorar uno o dos días más. Desde el punto de vista ruso, esto no es un problema siempre que se lleve a cabo en su totalidad.

Los medios turcos ya confirmaron hace

una semana que se habían retirado rampas de lanzamiento de misiles, misiles de mediano alcance, lanzadores de cohetes, morteros y otros equipos pesados. No está claro, sin embargo, a dónde se transportó el equipo de guerra y quién lo controla.

El fin de semana pasado, el propio ejército turco llegó a la provincia de Idlib con tanques y vehículos pesados, supuestamente para asegurar la zona de amortiguamiento. El 9 de octubre, el Parlamento aprobó una orden que permite a las tropas turcas operar en Siria e Irak por un año más para salvaguardar la seguridad nacional.

La agencia de noticias francesa AFP informó el 8 de octubre que algunas unidades de combate habían fortalecido sus estaciones militares y túneles en el área de la zona de amortiguamiento. Se dice que “Abu Walid”, un comandante del Frente de Liberación Nacional, dijo que tenían instrucciones para “quedarse” bajo el acuerdo. Un grupo cercano a al-Qaida, el Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), una alianza determinada a tomar Siria, antes el Frente Nusra, también se dice, según la AFP, que se está preparando para un ataque.

El diario sirio Al-Watan (La Nación) informó el 11 de octubre que varios grupos clasificados como terroristas, se negaban a aprobar la zona de amortiguamiento. Además de HTS, el artículo mencionó al Partido Turquestán Islámico y Haras Al-Din (Guardianes de la Religión), todos ellos asociados con al-Qaida. Como motivo de su negativa, las “fuentes cercanas a los grupos armados” dijeron a Al-Watan que estos grupos no habían recibido suficientes garantías de seguridad de Tur-

quía. Esto es particularmente cierto de los mercenarios extranjeros en sus filas, cuyos países de origen se han negado a readmitir a los combatientes.

El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores francés, Jean-Yves Le Drian, ya había advertido a la estación de televisión francesa BFMTV en septiembre que, en el caso de una operación militar de las fuerzas armadas sirias en Idlib, los combatientes podrían “dispersarse en todas direcciones” y plantear un gran “riesgo para la seguridad a Europa”. Alrededor de una docena de yihadistas franceses posiblemente regresarían a Francia.

Sin embargo, los conflictos entre las distintas facciones de combate en Idlib no han terminado. Según los informes, más de 200 comandantes han sido víctimas de la sangrienta competencia desde principios de año. Esto implica el control de la conexión de carreteras, armas, suministros de ayuda y dinero.

Incluso si las unidades de combate deciden entregar sus armas y buscar la

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