



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Local 26: 'If we don't get it, SHUT IT DOWN!'

Strikers win at Harvard

Broad support for dishwashers, cooks vs. billionaires

By Ed Childs and Steve Gillis
Cambridge, Mass.

For 20 days Harvard Square was the scene of the most raucous, disruptive demonstrations this town had experienced since the Vietnam War. The workers at Harvard University Dining Services were on strike and Harvard wouldn't budge. But finally the bankers who control the Harvard Corporation caved, literally overnight.

At 1:30 a.m. on Oct. 25, leaders of UNITE HERE Local 26 announced "total victory" to cheering strikers and students who had been occupying the square and beating drums throughout the night.

The 736 cooks, dishwashers and dining hall workers celebrated the details the next day at a packed ratification meeting. They won retroactive wage increases amounting to \$3 an hour over the five-year contract; a substantial, first-time-ever stipend during summer layoffs; better, less expensive health insurance, including for retirees; increased uniform and shoe allowances; strengthened gender identity nondiscrimination terms; and union-power language that exceeded their initial demands.

And there was more.

The new contract established a Task Force in which union members will exercise power to stop discrimination and promote diversity in the workplace — a demand the corporation insisted it would never accept.

In desperation to end the strike, Harvard's board also agreed to pay the workers' check deductions during the 20-day strike at 100 percent for health, vision, dental, life, long-term disability, home and auto insurance, plus parking fees and public transportation to and from picket lines. Some strikers who work at the subcontracted medical school and faculty club will also receive a \$500 strike bonus.

The vote was 583 to 1.

'Harvard's attack was political'

The whole world knew that the Harvard Corporation, with its \$40 billion endowment, could afford contract justice for those who feed its community, who earned on average less than \$35,000 a year before the strike.

Ed Childs has been a cook at Harvard for 42 years. He's a union founder, a Local 26 Chief Steward and a National Committee member of Workers World Party. Childs explained: "Harvard's attack was entirely political. What the bankers from Goldman Sachs, Bank of America and Citigroup, who direct the Harvard Corporation, wanted most was to pick \$4,500 per year of health insurance deductibles and copays from our members' pockets. They had forced this on professors and other campus workers first; it wasn't just their local program.

"Read the headlines this week. All across the country capitalist insurance companies have announced

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No matter who wins the election...

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FOR SOCIALISM



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Malcolm X

Revolutionary socialists tour U.S.

By Kris Hamel

The revolutionary socialist election campaign of Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president is wrapping up as the Nov. 8 election approaches. But their message and program of struggle, fightback and overturning the capitalist system to end racism, poverty and war will continue.

From California to Baltimore, Detroit to Standing Rock, N.D., upstate New York to Nogales, Ariz., and many other locations, Moorehead and Lilly have talked the talk and walked the walk for revolutionary socialism as the only answer to the problems facing the world's working class and oppressed peoples, and that it won't be won at the ballot box.

The following paragraphs describe just a few of the candidates' campaign stops.

The Malcolm X Library in **San Diego** was the scene of some serious political discussion on Oct. 16 as local activists shared ideas for fighting racism, police terror and capitalism with Workers World Party national candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly. Chairing the roundtable discussion was Gloria Verdieu of the San Diego Committee Against Police Brutality.

A wide range of community members was present, including a teacher, students and community activists, several local leaders of the San Diego Black Panther Party, the San Diego Black Lives Matter movement, Justice4SD33 and the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, and a representative of the Native American Rights Network.

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Harvard's dirty money

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Philadelphia

Coalition wants racist statue taken down

By Rufus Farmer
Philadelphia

The Philly Coalition for R.E.A.L. (Racial, Economic and Legal) Justice — an activist collective that primarily fights for the liberation of Black and Brown people — has set its sights on a statue that pays homage to Frank Rizzo (1920-1991), one of the most brutal and corrupt figures in this city’s history.

In August 2016, Coalition member Erica Mines created an online petition demanding the removal of the statue. The petition references a number of atrocities committed by Rizzo, a former Philadelphia police commissioner and mayor, including a 56-day siege of the Powelton Village neighborhood surrounding the MOVE home and the forced eviction of MOVE on Aug. 8, 1978.

The assault, carried out by officers of the Philadelphia Police Department during Rizzo’s second term as mayor, ended with a shootout between MOVE members and the PPD. It resulted in the death of one officer — believed by many to be from friendly fire, the subsequent PPD beating of Delbert Africa and the continuing incarceration of nine MOVE members.

The 1978 eviction and brutalizing of the MOVE family was not the first time PPD officers used excessive force on Black revolutionaries and communities while Rizzo was in power.

According to political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal’s autobiography, “We Want Freedom,” PPD officers under Police Commissioner Rizzo’s command attempted to prevent local Black Panthers from putting together the Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. “The [convention] was set for September 1970, but initial approval for Temple University to host it was rescinded after Philadelphia’s police pressured them,” Mumia wrote.

After the Panthers managed to secure a new location for the event, the PPD, per Mumia, “went out of their way to sabotage the event by raiding three local Panther offices a week before the convention was to begin. This was classic Frank Rizzo.” Mumia noted that the PPD busted Panthers “all around the city, blaming them for the shooting of a cop several nights before.” This led to

arrests “done in traditional Rizzo overkill, with cops stripping people,” Mumia wrote.

There are also well-documented allegations of Rizzo’s tax evasion, as well as his demanding a polygraph test to prove his innocence of political corruption, only to fail the test. His accuser, Peter Camiel, then chair of the Philadelphia Democratic Party, passed the same test.

An ode to tyranny

Indeed, the atrocities either committed by Rizzo himself or occurring under his watch, as both police commissioner and mayor, are numerous. Rizzo’s racist tenure was also the focus of the 1987 documentary “Black and Blue” by Hugh King and Lamar Williams.

Despite all this, since 1998 the nine-foot bronze statue has remained in Municipal Plaza, across the street from City Hall.

To bring attention to this outrage, members of the Philly Coalition for R.E.A.L. Justice are conducting weekly outreach sessions at the statue. They engage in conversations with community members, while encouraging them to sign hard-copy versions of the petition to remove the statue.

“It helps people learn and hear about who Frank Rizzo was,” Erica Mines stated. Coalition members also get to hear from community members who experienced Rizzo in power firsthand. “You get a real in-depth experience of how corrupt he was,” said Mines, “outside of the articles, outside of what we see in video clips.”

“A lot of people have lived with these feelings for a long time and possibly feel the same way we feel about the statue,” Mines told Workers World. “The community probably did not know where to go, who to talk to or what steps to take when it comes to removing or addressing figures and statues that have played such a tyrannical role.”

As it concerns sending a message to the politicians in City Hall, Mines said, “It lets them know that we are organizing. It lets them know that we’re real and we’re serious.”

The Coalition plans to expand its outreach and strategy throughout Philadelphia, halting the campaign only when the statue is removed. An online petition can be found at campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/frank-rizzo-down. □



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MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Vote Moorehead/Lilly — Fight for socialism

By Ben Carroll

Millions of people across the country are beginning to head to the polls in the midst of one of the most disgusting and unprecedented campaigns between two of the most unpopular presidential candidates in modern history. Faced with a choice between racist, sexist billionaire Donald Trump and Wall Street loyalist, war hawk Hillary Clinton, many are realizing that capitalist democracy offers working-class and oppressed people with no choice — but to fight back!

There is another electoral option, and that's to cast a vote for candidates who believe in that fightback, the Workers World Party revolutionary socialist election campaign of Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president. Moorehead/Lilly will be on the ballot in New Jersey, Wisconsin and Utah,

and a write-in vote for the ticket will be counted in over half the other states. See the full list below.

The Moorehead/Lilly campaign has never been about getting votes or winning elections. It's about building the struggle in the streets for Black lives; to stop the raids and deportations; to abolish the police, the Pentagon and Immigration and Customs Enforcement; to stop the attacks on women and LGBTQ people; for housing, free education and health care for all; for reparations to those owed them by the state; and against the rising tide of Islamophobia and racist reaction.

A vote for Moorehead/Lilly is a vote against the capitalist system and a commitment to the fightback of the people to change the miserable conditions that have been forced upon us.

Perhaps more than anything, this election has laid bare that the entire system

is rigged on behalf of the ruling class and their continued ability to oppress and exploit working-class and oppressed people in the U.S. and across the globe.

We clearly have but one choice: to continue to build a revolutionary movement to fight for a socialist future that can once and for all stomp the Trumps, Clintons and the system they represent into the ground.

Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president are on the ballot in New Jersey, Utah and Wisconsin.

Write in Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president in these states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Rhode Island,

Tennessee, Washington (state), Washington (District of Columbia), West Virginia and Wyoming.

Anyone — including prisoners, youth under 18, undocumented folks, and people from other parts of the world — can cast their ballot for our candidates online at vote4socialism.org. □



WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

Revolutionary socialists tour U.S.

Continued from page 1

The Black Panthers were original members celebrating their 50th anniversary. They announced they are back and will be patrolling the streets of San Diego, feeding the homeless and coming to the aid of other organizations.

The discussion included an array of social justice topics, from racism and police terror to freeing Leonard Peltier and supporting the Standing Rock anti-pipeline struggle. Also discussed was the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and the need to defend it.

Participants concluded by talking about solutions to Trump's bigotry, racism and misogyny — including his anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-LGBTQ hate — and Clinton's pro-imperialist war, anti-Black and anti-working-class record.

Publicizing the meeting with leaflets and posters inviting those who are “sick of both parties of war, racism and capitalism,” Workers World Party in **Buffalo**, N.Y., presented the national campaign of Black revolutionary socialists Moorehead and Lilly on Oct. 25. Moorehead spoke to an audience that included people taking a new look at socialism. There was intense interest and many questions, especially when Moorehead spoke about the struggle that's ahead after the elections are over. The meeting was the inaugural event at Buffalo WWP's spacious new meeting hall.

In **Philadelphia**, a lively discussion with WWP vice-presidential candidate Lamont Lilly took place on Oct. 25. Pam Africa of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal spoke about the struggle for clean water, food and air within a capitalist society that uses mass incarceration, and Deandra Jefferson of the Philly REAL Justice Coalition spoke about class oppression in a racist society. Lilly's talk featured a back-and-forth discussion with the diverse audience about the repression of Indigenous nations at Standing Rock and the equally repressive government repression of the Black communities from Charlotte, N.C., to Philadelphia and beyond. Workers World Party organizer Mike Wilson moderated the panel.

In **Baltimore** on Oct. 26, Moorehead and Lilly, along with Sharon Black, a candidate for president of the Baltimore City Council, were featured at a People's Power Assembly and Workers World Party



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WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

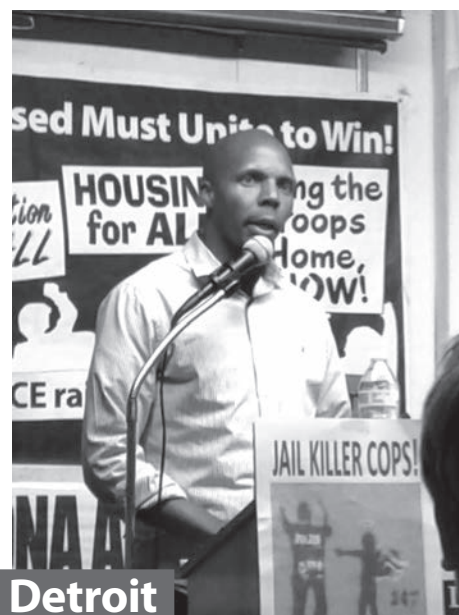
political forum. Also present was Nnamdi Scott of the People's Progress Party (Uhuru), who is running for City Council in the 7th District in West Baltimore, the heart of the uprising after the police murder of Freddie Gray. Black and Scott have worked closely together in opposition to Democratic Party candidates who put the corporations and banks ahead of the needs of working people.

Chairing the meeting was Andre Powell, a write-in candidate for mayor and a longtime WWP activist and union official. Powell pointed out how difficult and challenging it is to get a third party on the ballot in this country.

In addressing police repression and brutality, Scott told the audience that oppressed people can have their own community police force that is responsible and held accountable by the community. Brian Joyner spoke of the need to bring political awareness to youth and break the school-to-prison pipeline.

Sharon Black stated: “We are successful not only because people felt that we had a right to be on the ballot, but they signed our petition because they agreed with our program! When we went door to door, the oppressed community was appreciative of the fact that we reached out to them, when the other establishment candidates did not even bother to show their faces, other than an occasional ‘vote for me’ sign. Win or lose, we have already won the fight by reaching out to the people!”

Finally, Moorehead and Lilly took the floor. Moorehead began by discussing the election and why WWP is running candidates. “What is most important in this election is what happens after the election. We have a 10-point program



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

and view our campaign as educational with a message addressed to the most oppressed sector of the working class. We are exposing capitalism, which puts profits before people, in order to build for a socialist revolution in the U.S. The struggle has no borders, and we will fight on a worldwide scale to bring about that goal.”

Comrade Lilly talked about how the elections are rigged. “They are rigged for the capitalist ruling class! As Malcolm X said, ‘The Republicans stab you with a 12-inch knife, and the Democrats pull it out six inches.’” Lilly also addressed the crisis in health care and the all-out war

against Black and Brown youth. He noted that “the uprising in Charlotte, which is the Wall Street of the South, was a rebellion against capitalist property, where the protestors targeted Wells Fargo, the Bank of America, and Duke Energy and not Black businesses, but the capitalist establishment itself.” He pointed out that because of this, key organizers of the protests have been targeted by the police.

When Lamont Lilly spoke in **Detroit** on Oct. 29 the meeting hall was packed, mostly with revolutionary young people. The program was dubbed a “conversation” with the socialist candidate. The conversation started with talks by chair Joe Mchahwar, Martha Grevatt, Randi Nord and Abayomi Azikiwe, all members of Workers World Party. Topics included the U.S. war on Syria and Iraq, international union solidarity, the WWP national conference on Nov. 11-13 and the role of a revolutionary party in fighting imperialism.

Lilly brought it all together, discussing Standing Rock, which he visited in solidarity with the Indigenous struggle to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline; the rebellion in Baltimore; the Black Lives Matter movement; fighting racism and national oppression; and how the system needs to be destroyed root and branch. Audience members participated throughout the program with more discussion following Lilly's talk. Earlier in the day, the candidate participated in a two-hour call-in radio show popular in the Black community.

Ellie Dorritie, Carl Lewis, Zola Rices Muhammad and Joe Piette contributed to this article.

The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign needs your donation now

Workers World Party candidates — Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about **REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**.

Visit our website at workers.org/wwp/campaign-news/ for updates on our work.

In the remaining days before the Nov. 8 election, we have a chance to reach many more with ads, online voting, and social media.

But we can't do this without your support!

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

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

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



FILTHY RICH HARVARD

By Stephen Millies

Last year Harvard University’s stash of stocks and bonds was worth \$37.6 billion. That’s almost as much as the gross domestic product of the 81 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the CIA World Factbook.

Why should Harvard be so rich and people in Congo so poor? That’s the result of imperialism and a capitalist world market that started with the extermination of Indigenous peoples in the Americas and the African Holocaust.

Despite its wealth, Harvard tried to break the strike of its dining hall workers and take away their health benefits.Nearly 800 members of UNITE HERE Local 26, supported by Harvard students and the community, beat them back.

Harvard’s loot, like capitalism itself, according to Karl Marx, “comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.”

The generosity of slavemaster Issac Royall Jr. helped establish Harvard Law School 200 years ago. Royall’s family fled the Caribbean island of Antigua after an attempted slave revolt in 1736 that was crushed by burning 77 Africans to death.

The Royalls arrived in Massachusetts with at least 27 enslaved people. (“On the Battlefield of Merit” by Daniel R. Coquillette and Bruce A. Kimball) Following protests in 2015, Harvard agreed to change its law school seal, which featured the Royall family crest.

Harvard’s largest benefactor was hedge fund operator John Paulson, who gave \$400 million to the school in 2015. The Wall Street Journal declared “foreclosures made John Paulson a billion dollars.” (April 21, 2010) Children of families who lost their homes should rejoice that their misery resulted in Harvard’s School

of Engineering and Applied Sciences getting a hefty gift.

Puritan bigots and killers

Industrial Workers of the World leader Bill Haywood wrote in his autobiography that his father’s ancestors “would probably run to the Puritan bigots or the cavalier pirates. Neither case would give me reason for pride.”

The wealth of so many “proper Bostonians” and the rest of New England “old money” is rooted in blood. It’s well known that the Pilgrims would have starved to death without the corn and other aid given by Native people.

In return the colonists launched extermination campaigns, including the Great Swamp Massacre in 1675 in which hundreds of Native children were slaughtered. This atrocity was glorified in a history of “King Philip’s War” by the Puritan minister Increase Mather, who became Harvard’s president in 1692.

Karl Marx wrote how “those sober virtuosos of Protestantism, the Puritans of New England” set a price of 50 English pounds in 1744 on the scalps of Indigenous women and children.

The United States is the only country in the world that has a holiday called “Thanksgiving” that celebrates genocide. Since 1970 the United American Indians of New England has held a “Day of Mourning” on the same date in Plymouth, Mass., to tell the truth about this holocaust.

Colonial New England’s economy revolved around supplying slave plantations in the Caribbean with food and other supplies. In return the 60 rum distilleries in Massachusetts and 30 in Rhode Island imported molasses. President John Adams didn’t know why people “should blush to confess that molasses

was an essential ingredient in American independence.” (“Capitalism & Slavery” by Eric Williams)

Slave trading was important, too. The forerunner of Brown University in Providence — which like Harvard belongs to the “Ivy League” — was started by one of the biggest slave dealers, Nicholas Brown Jr.

It was on behalf of these Yankee pirates that the slave trade was kept from being prohibited for at least 20 years in Article 1, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution.

The other New England

No wonder abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison called the constitution a “covenant with hell.” Garrison was dragged with a rope by a mob from Boston’s State Street financial district in 1835 and only escaped with his life when the mayor had him arrested.

Abolitionists were part of the other New England. The Black man Crispus Attucks became the first martyr of the U.S. American Revolution. Black soldiers helped repulse the Redcoats on Bunker Hill.

In the years leading up to the Civil War, even some of Boston’s wealthy helped the anti-slavery cause. Railroad magnate John Murray Forbes shipped rifles to abolitionists in Kansas and welcomed John Brown to Boston.

But the Forbes family fortune was based on smuggling opium into China. Another big-time drug pusher was Warren Delano, a grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Harvard’s Fogg Art Museum is named for the China merchant William Haynes Fogg.

The only reason Northern capitalists supported the right of African-American men to vote was to prevent repudiation of the Civil War debt. W.E.B. Du Bois proved this in his classic “Black Reconstruction.”

Yet it was Northern moneymen who

helped overthrow Reconstruction, that brief period of Black freedom from 1865 to 1877. Here’s the historic arc of the capitalist class: While the father-in-law of John D. Rockefeller — the world’s first billionaire — was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, his grandson Nelson Rockefeller was the butcher of Attica.

Harvard was part of this racist reaction, which included the “eugenics” movement that promoted Nazi-like theories of “racial purity.” Tens of thousands of people, mostly young women of color, were sterilized against their will under laws upheld in a notorious 1927 Supreme Court decision written by Harvard graduate Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

A more refined version of Donald Trump was Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell, who served as vice president of the racist Immigration Restriction League. (“Harvard’s Eugenics Era,” Harvard Magazine, March-April 2016)

Lowell gave Harvard students credit for joining the National Guard to try to break the IWW strike of Lawrence, Mass., textile workers in 1912. (“How Harvard Rules” by John Trumbour) Many of today’s Harvard students would have joined the IWW instead.

Armed with a Harvard Ph.D., Lothrop Stoddard published “The Rising Tide of Color Against White World Supremacy,” an influential racist diatribe during the 1920s.

More recently Harvard Professor Henry Kissinger theorized about the tactical use of nuclear weapons in a 1957 book. As Nixon’s National Security Adviser, Kissinger helped kill millions in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Harvard’s dining hall workers and their supporters confronted these centuries of racism and male chauvinism when they defeated Harvard’s filthy money. □

Strikers win at Harvard

Continued from page 1

increases of 27 percent and up for poor people using so-called Affordable Care Act products. We decided it was up to the cooks and dishwashers to draw the line for everybody and fight Harvard’s dangerous program of austerity!”

Student/labor coalition fights for health care

It wasn’t just that the students, faculty and other workers on campus truly love their dining hall family, who sustain their work from breakfast to midnight snacks — even though that bond was evident daily in mass demonstrations that shook the ivied walls for three weeks.

For nearly a year leading up to the strike, Local 26, plus students and faculty, had built a political coalition based on the demand that “health care is a human right.” Especially at Harvard’s Medical School and School of Public Health, hundreds of students organized and hosted meetings with dining hall workers to develop solidarity. Their public manifestos tore back the veneer of Harvard’s academic liberalism and exposed its neoliberal core.

Student publications and protest actions at local corporate offices called out the interlocking connections of the Harvard Corporation and its Board of Overseers with Wall Street’s biggest banks and insurance companies, as well as with high tech and pharmaceutical giants like Google, Merck, Abbott Labs and CVS. They put anti-labor Harvard President

Drew Faust in the same boat as criminal pharma CEO Martin Shkreli.

In a Sept. 30 public letter that went viral before and during the strike, two students wrote: “As medical students at Harvard, we were deeply troubled to learn that our university was proposing changes to dining workers’ health plans that would make essential health care unaffordable. It is shocking that these low-income workers would be better off financially if they were not offered employer-sponsored insurance.”

As the national stakes mounted and Harvard dug in, the International UNITE HERE leadership poured in vital resources and staff from San Francisco, Las Vegas, Detroit, New York and elsewhere to fortify the strikers’ fund and boots on the ground. Local 26 President Brian Lang and chief negotiator Michael Kramer joined nine courageous women strikers, Black, Latina and white, in civil disobedience arrests on Oct. 14 that shut down Harvard Square for hours. Meanwhile, more than 500 strikers and their allies banged drums, blew whistles and proclaimed, “No justice, no peace!”

The next Saturday, Oct. 23, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO organized a demonstration of 2,000 in Harvard Square. As speakers blasted the corporation’s greed from the back of Teamster Local 25’s flatbed truck, that union’s president threw \$10,000 into the war chest. Despite a force of militarized police lining the way, Cambridge’s main thoroughfare was shut down as a militant march on City Hall was



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

joined by busloads from New York, Atlantic City, Philadelphia and New Haven.

Only one U.S. presidential campaign weighed in on this literally life-and-death national issue. The Monica Moorehead/Lamont Lilly campaign of Workers World Party was engaged through the candidates’ daily presence, assistance and pro-strike publicity, and they got an enthusiastic response from many strikers.

Women lead the way

Lawrence Summers has been a professor and president of Harvard, a chief economist at the World Bank, Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton administration, adviser to the privatization of post-Soviet states and a favorite millionaire ideologue on the Wall Street lecture circuit. He infamously remarked while Harvard president that women are “underrepresented” in science and engineering due to a “different availability of aptitude at the high end.”

The HUDS strike was led by women — Latina, African American, Caribbean, Asian, Indigenous, white, LGBTQ — who make up more than 60 percent of the workers. They engineered ear-splitting

disruptions that created a profound crisis for the corporation and its overseers.

While traditional picket lines played a role at 40 gates, strikers took on the street tactics of Occupy Wall Street and the Black Lives Matter movement. For 22 days, even after the “tentative agreement,” strikers daily converged from their strike posts to form mass marches for miles through “private” campus courtyards and inside buildings, turning five-gallon food buckets and kitchen spoons into weapons, along with whistles, trumpets, trombones, cymbals and bullhorns.

The slogan “No peace” became reality for the bosses, from the tony business and law schools to the Crimson Homecoming of alumni and the usually staid Charles Regatta, whose 300,000 spectators were drawn into the inescapable fight. President Faust heard the constant drumbeat, day and night for 22 days, as protests followed her every move.

Robin McDowell, a first-term masters student focusing on labor history, gave WW this eyewitness account of the walk-outs and occupations of Oct. 25–26: “At 2 p.m., the sound of drums and chants was

Continued on next page

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Workers bear brunt of Trump’s bankruptcy

If Donald Trump really wanted to “Make America great again,” he could start with his own employees, who lost millions in retirement savings when Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts declared bankruptcy in 2004. According to the 2004 class action lawsuit they filed, THCR encouraged them to invest their 401(k) savings in shares of THCR stock.

“Honestly. I thought, way back when, the guy was way brighter than we were,” said a former Trump casino worker who chose to remain anonymous. “He was running the company and we were working for him. We thought he was brilliant. When we invested in it, we thought, how could this stock go so low?” In 1996, the first year workers were able to invest in it, shares were priced at \$30 each. By 2004, however, the price had plummeted to just \$2 a share. When THCR announced on Aug. 10, 2004, that it would enter bankruptcy, stock prices plummeted overnight, grounding out at 36 cents the next morning. For a worker who invested \$1,000, that meant a loss of \$964. Altogether, Trump workers lost over \$2.1 million in retirement savings.

Trump walked away from the bankruptcy unscathed financially and criminally — a judge dismissed the workers’ lawsuit after finding “no illegal actions” by THCR. Meanwhile, as trickster THCR chair, billionaire Trump banked an annual \$2 million salary and over \$44 million in total compensation. (motherjones.com, Oct. 17)

NLRB: University football players are employees

In early 2014, former Northwestern University football quarterback and team captain Kain Colter posted a photo of himself in designer sunglasses on social media. Within ten minutes, Colter was instructed by an assistant coach to take the photo down, lest the selfie be mistaken for an endorsement of the sunglasses brand. The coach was acting under a Northwestern football regulation that allowed coaches, university officials and even campus police to monitor and restrict players’ social media posts. (espn.com, Oct. 10)

In an “advice memorandum” issued Sept. 22, the National Labor Relations Board called the restrictions on players’ speech “unlawful” on the grounds that Northwestern scholarship football players are employees. But the memorandum is not legally binding. Meanwhile, Northwestern has updated its team handbook to remove the unlawful regulations. According to College Athletes Players Association director Ramogi Huma, “The general counsel specifically putting in writing that they would treat Northwestern players as employees is historic. This is not a small thing.” (cbssports.com, Oct. 11)

Although it remains to be seen how this will affect ongoing efforts by Northwestern football players to form a union, the NLRB’s memorandum is a welcome development for players — especially any who might be considering joining Colin Kaepernick-style protests against racism sweeping football fields across the country. More as this develops.

Two NYC bills protect workers’ rights

The Workers Retention Act, passed 47-3 by the New York City Council on Oct. 13, protects the jobs of thousands of food-service workers in the greater metropolitan area. The bill establishes a 90-day retention period after which a new owner or contractor is required to evaluate the workers and, if found satisfactory, to retain them. UNITE HERE Local 100 supported the bill to promote job security for its members who staff corporate cafeterias and dining rooms and provide food services at sports arenas, exhibition halls, performing arts centers and cultural institutions. Similar bills were passed protecting grocery store workers’ jobs last February and building service workers’ jobs in 2002. (unite-here100.org, Oct. 14)

The Freelance Isn’t Free Act was passed unanimously by the NY City Council on Oct. 27 to protect millions of NYC freelance workers against nonpayment. This is the first legislation to be passed nationally that aims to stop wage theft faced by 7 out of 10 freelancers, who now represent 35 percent of the national workforce and contributed \$1 trillion to the economy in 2015. According to Freelance Union statistics, freelancers are stiffed on average of \$6,000 annually. Clients will now be compelled to use a contract and could face penalties for nonpayment, including double damages, attorney’s fees and civil fees. Seeking to promote “Freelance Isn’t Free” legislation nationally, the union urges unionists and progressives to sign its petition at tinyurl.com/j3aagyx/. □

WWP national conference Organizing for socialism

By Kris Hamel

Nov. 1 — The national conference of Workers World Party is fast approaching. Slated for Nov. 11-13 in New York City, this gathering of revolutionaries from around the country and the world will be meeting just days after the U.S. presidential election. Whether Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump is elected, the struggle will continue for the workers and oppressed. That has been the main message of the WWP national election campaign, and it means more organizing, solidarity, Marxist politics and strategizing for the struggle ahead are in order. That’s what the WWP conference is all about.

Organizers of the revolutionary socialist conference have invited activists to participate. In a recent letter they stated:

“Many of us are disillusioned by the current state of things, but we have no illusions that things will get better on their own. Not only do we organize, we fight as if this were a war — a war on Black lives, a war on workers and oppressed people. As our battles intensify, many of us are thinking about how we must organize ourselves for the next phase — how we must convene our movement as the presidential elections will soon be over. Also, how we must build with each other and commit to solidarity — because so many people depend upon it: the Black Lives Matter movement, immigrant families, the LGBTQ community, women and the entire working class.

“On Nov 11-13, many of us are convening in New York City for the annual Workers World Party conference, at the historic Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center, at 3940 Broadway (West 165th Street) in Manhattan. This will be a gathering of revolutionaries, activists, organizers, and community members who are fed up and say ‘No more!’ to the cruelties of capitalism and its innate racism, homophobia, sexism, Islamophobia, ableism and more.

“This conference is for those who are struggling

Strikers win at Harvard

Continued from page 4

heard all over Harvard Yard. Undergraduate and graduate students flocked to Massachusetts Hall to begin the walkout and march to 124 Mt. Auburn Street where negotiations were taking place.

“When we arrived, workers lined up outside the doors as students poured into the lobby, still chanting, still beating on buckets. It felt like the four-story building was shaking with our energy. Curious employees came to the windows and watched.

“After about 15 minutes of chanting, we all sat down, almost in unison. Everyone seemed to understand that we weren’t budging until Local 26 negotiators emerged victorious. We heard that we’d see the end by 5:30. After 5:30 rolled around with no word, we sat on the hard marble floor, reading books, talking amongst ourselves. At 6 p.m. the doors would close, so everyone inside texted friends and posted calls to social media telling people to arrive by then. Employees began leaving work. One woman encouraged us, ‘Keep this up. It’s working!’ as she left for the day.”

Strike support scares the bosses

The Boston Globe and New York Times rushed an editorial and op-ed to web-print late that night announcing support for the strike — showing an open split among Harvard financiers.

The strike settlement resulted in HUDS workers paying substantially less for health insurance than before. They got a better plan design than President Faust’s own family. All this exceeded the union’s goal of \$35,000 a year and was a direct reflection of the power the rank and file were able to bring to the street, despite all the difficulties, sacrifices and hardships.

As strikers return to work, these victories are being played out on the shop floor. At Adams

to make sense of this election chaos, who are questioning the establishment, and who need to re-energize after a long year of battle. It will also take up why the multinational working class — our class — must and will prevail.”

Register today!

The letter was signed by WWP leaders Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, revolutionary socialist candidates for president and vice president, respectively; youth organizer Loan Tran; and Teresa Gutierrez, campaign manager for the election campaign.

Mond, a young African-American activist, told Workers World why he was traveling to the conference all the way from Port Huron, Mich.: “After studying revolutionary politics, I was looking for like-minded people to help me with my fight against fascism. I met Workers World Party and instantly had a direction. The national conference will be a great opportunity to learn from, meet and network with comrades from across the country.”

Conference organizers are planning cultural presentations, plenary sessions, workshops, break-out groups and other forms of discussion. It will be “a revolutionary weekend where we will reclaim our power, bring together the most oppressed, and prepare each other for the battles ahead. We say onward to a revolution, to the abolition of capitalism, and to a world where we decide who we are, what we need, and how we want to live in a socialist society — based on meeting human needs, not corporate greed.”

Please make plans as soon as possible to attend the Nov. 11-13 conference. Go to workers.org/wwp to register and for updates and conference schedule (still in formation). Conference organizers need information in order to arrange for adequate housing, meals and more.

If you cannot attend, please give a donation to help sponsor costs of transportation, food and housing so that young and low-income activists can participate. □

House, the workers got a rousing ovation from students at breakfast.

Sarah Cleary, one of the strikers who was arrested and a cook at a “Restaurant Associates” subcontracted shop at the medical school’s Longwood campus, described her experience: “Being on strike was truly one of the most powerful experiences of my life. Some of us in a way didn’t want that experience to end. I’d never been active in the union before. There wasn’t even a shop steward in my kitchen.

“The first day back, I told my manager that I’d be assuming the responsibility of shop steward from now on. He told me, ‘Fine, you can talk to employees during breaks and after your shift.’ I look forward to the new contract printed and in my hands.

“It calls for no discrimination for union activities, and it gives shop stewards the right to conduct union business with members anytime while on the clock. [These two are first-ever worker-power victories.]

“I am very much looking forward to being a part of building the union stronger and using this experience of victory in struggles to come.”

Ed Childs is chief steward of UNITE HERE Local 26. Steve Gillis is financial secretary of Steelworkers Local 8751.

Capitalism at a Dead End
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era



For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**
Available at online major booksellers

Ways to support Standing Rock #NoDAPL

Here is information from the Facebook page of United American Indians of New England (UAIN) about how to support #NoDAPL to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline.

- Go to North Dakota if you can! Water protectors, lawyers, builders, workers and non-complainers are needed. Study and prepare first!
- Here's a list of various ways you can donate and support: tinyurl.com/zvxvlnv/.
- Also please donate to the Mni Wiconi school at the camps, doing a great job working with the children and youth: youcaring.com/mn-wi-h-ni-nak-i-i-ow-yawa-675427/.

- Don't do business with TD Bank, Citi-group, Mizuho or other banks funding the Dakota Access Pipeline: nodaplsolidarity.org/targets/.
- Help spread the word, since the corporate media have mostly not covered the story, and much of what they have done has been biased. On social media, look for the hashtag #NoDAPL to get updates.
- Take action locally. Support anti-fracking and anti-pipeline struggles locally. Support Indigenous struggles locally. Get your organizations, labor unions or other groups to support and take action.
- Demand that politicians take a stand and commit to canceling the project and support the Water Protectors at Standing Rock. Call President Barack Obama 9-5 EST at 202-456-1111 and demand that the federal government cancel the Dakota Access Pipeline project in all areas where it is being constructed.
- Join with others taking action at events and campaign offices. Raise awareness in every possible way.



A Native elder in ceremonial dress, who was praying, is arrested by police and military at Oceti Sakowin Treaty Camp, Oct. 27.

#Buffalo25 defy ICE



WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

By Ellie Dorritie
Buffalo, N.Y.

Twenty-five workers were arrested and detained here when federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement raided four Mexican restaurants in mid-October. Since then, supporters have rallied repeatedly against this injustice.

When hearings for the #Buffalo25 were held Oct. 27 at the local ICE Field Office, the workers were not alone. A rally gathered a wide range of supporters, including People United for Sustainable Housing, Coalition for Economic Justice, Western N.Y. Council on Safety and Health, Western N.Y. AFL-CIO and SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice). Church groups were represented by Trinity Buffalo, Pilgrim-St. Luke's/El Nuevo Camino UCC and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. The Buffalo International Action Center and Workers World Party were also present.

Rochester supporters came from Movimiento Cosecha as well as Catholic Workers. A group from the Workers' Center of Central New York drove two and a half hours from Syracuse to join the support rally.

In a freezing downpour, speakers demanded that all charges and deportation proceedings against the workers be dropped and that workers in federal or local custody be released immediately. Speakers emphasized that the immigrant workers had been exploited, overworked and underpaid, and they now faced their families being ripped apart. The main rally demand was permanent protection for all immigrants against arrest and deportation.

The #Buffalo25 workers dramatically stepped forward at the rally to make their stories known. Coming out of the shadows, they told how ICE ransacked their family homes, threw their belongings away and stole their savings. The theft included one worker's nest egg that she had saved for her daughter's college education.

Then eight community members and activists sat down in front of the ICE office doors, chained themselves together and shut down the building in support of the #Buffalo25. All eight were charged with trespassing.

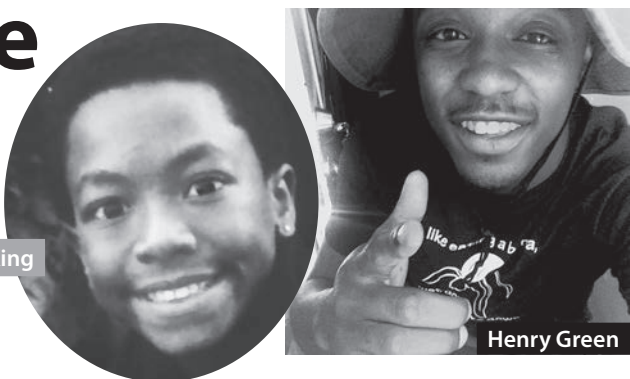
"If you're going to take our neighbors, immigrant workers, people from Buffalo, you're going to have to take us too," said Carlos Rojas, an organizer with the immigrant rights group Movimiento Cosecha.

"There have been massive raids that have targeted immigrant families, workers, restaurant workers," added Rojas. "People are under crisis; children are without their parents. We want to send a message to the community that immigration is targeting families; they're targeting workers who aren't doing anything wrong."

The next step in the fightback will be on Nov. 1 when the #Buffalo25 and supporters begin the #Journey2Dignity from Buffalo to New York City to demand dignity, not deportation, for the millions of undocumented workers detained by ICE during the current U.S. administration.

Four of the #Buffalo25 are currently wearing ankle monitors. In a courageous act of civil disobedience, they will cross the state line from New York into Pennsylvania on this journey. They will defy ICE and bring their demands to electoral offices during the final days of the election campaign. They say that the pain of their community will no longer remain invisible, and they will no longer remain silent. □

Justice for Henry Green and Tyre King!



By Susan Schnur
Columbus, Ohio

The names of Black people most recently murdered by Columbus police were chanted on Oct. 28 as over 300 people took to the streets to protest. The 614 Unity March through downtown Columbus, the capital of Ohio and the largest city in the state, was called by an ad hoc group of local anti-racist activists. Leaders of the event included the mother of Henry Green, the Ohio State University Coalition for Black Liberation, Black Lives Matter, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and the Green Party.

In the early evening of June 6, 23-year-old Henry Green was walking with a friend when an unmarked SUV with two plain-clothed police confronted the African-American men, claiming that Green had a gun. Green indeed had a gun, having obtained the necessary concealed carry permit issued by the state of Ohio. The officers never identified themselves, and Green was gunned down in the street.

Two months later, on Sept. 14, 13-year-old Tyre King was shot and killed after allegedly pulling a BB gun on police officers. Nine-year police veteran Bryan Mason, who shot the youngster three times, had also killed a Black man in 2012, but had been cleared by a police investigation.

King's official autopsy report has still not been released. His family hired Dr. Francisco Diaz, a professor of pathology at the University of Michigan and medical examiner for Wayne County, to perform an independent autopsy. Diaz found that the Black teenager was "more likely than not" running away from the officer and not confronting him, as the police claimed, when he was killed. (telesur, Sept. 19)

King's murder was the final straw for the people of Columbus. Protests have been ongoing ever since, including shutting down the city council and blocking streets. The families of Green and King called for independent investigations by federal officials in a joint press conference on Sept. 27. There is zero confidence that the police can impartially investigate the police.

A contingent from the Cleveland branch of Workers World Party drove to Columbus to show solidarity with the African-American community there. The parallel between the shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice by Cleveland police and 13-year-old Tyre King by Columbus police illustrates that it is not just "a few bad officers" who need "better training." Indict, convict and send those killer cops to jail! The whole damn system is guilty as hell! □

Birthday greetings to political prisoner

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, Michigan political prisoner, turned 68 years old inside prison on Oct. 27. The African-American community leader from Benton Harbor, Mich., has been receiving dozens and dozens of birthday cards from people around the country showing support for the unjustly convicted activist. In Detroit, supporters held a birthday party in Rev. Pinkney's honor on Oct. 24.

Rev. Pinkney received added support when Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka visited him in the West Shoreline Correctional Facility on Oct. 19. Rev. Pinkney was able to tape a message of thanks to a Workers World Party forum in Detroit on Oct. 29, which featured WWP vice presidential candidate Lamont Lilly.

— David Sole



PHOTO: LEONA MCELEVEN



By Minnie Bruce Pratt

On the morning of Oct. 27, a combined force of National Guard soldiers, private security guards and over 200 cops from multiple states mounted a war-level, no-fly zone raid on the Oceti Sakowin (Sioux) people and their supporters who were attempting to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. The raid was on a winter Treaty Camp that water protectors had set up on unceded 1851 Oceti Sakowin treaty land, north of Standing Rock Reservation, to block further DAPL construction toward the Missouri River.

For hours, unarmed protectors held their own as they were attacked with tasers, rubber bullets, beanbag shotgun rounds, tear gas, mace, concussion grenades and batons. They were threatened by snipers perched on MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected) and Bearcat armored vehicles, surrounded by High Mobility Military Vehicle trucks and tortured when cops repeatedly fired a Long

Range Acoustic Device sound cannon at them. The LRAD blasts amplify sound, causing confusion at the cellular level and potential hearing loss.

National Lawyer Guild volunteers at the scene documented that cops made racist taunts, damaged and destroyed sacred ceremonial items, arrested Indigenous elders and others as they prayed and arrested medics marked with the internationally recognized red cross emblem.

More than 140 people were arrested, in addition to 141 who were arrested Oct. 22. Police hid their names and badge numbers to prevent identification for abuse and brutality charges. The state blocked broadcasts of live video and on Facebook.

The Standing Rock Sioux have formally opposed the \$3.8 billion DAPL “energy project” since 2014. Along with other Native nations and allies, they have gathered along the Missouri River since April to stop the pipeline. It would carry up to 570,000 barrels of fracked Bakken crude each day. A rupture would contaminate the river providing water to 17 million people.

Between January 2012 and September 2013, North Dakota had nearly 300 oil pipeline spills out of about 750 “oil field incidents.” None of these were reported to the public.

Oceti Sakowin Chairman Dave Archambault said on National Public Radio on the day of the state’s attack: “They want to pipe this oil and threaten fresh clean water, threaten the environment, have eminent domain takings — for the

purpose of who? Who benefits from it? It’s the billionaires who have oil interests who want to make more money.”

Financing for companies building the DAPL, including Energy Transfer Partners, adds up to \$10.25 billion in loans and credit from 38 U.S. and international banks. The banks are betting that dirty-energy drilling and fracking for oil and gas will yield mega-profits on their loans.

Archambault noted that there is worldwide solidarity with Standing Rock, with people “willing to stand beside us as we go up against federal government, go up against state government and go up against large oil industry companies.”

The heroic resistance at Standing Rock is another moment in the centuries-old struggle of Indigenous nations to assert their sovereignty and their treaty rights against continual betrayal and outright war by the U.S. government in league with big business.

Support and solidarity grows

Solidarity continues to spread, and the #NoDAPL struggle is far from over.

When a Penobscot Nation water protector was arrested in the raids, a huge solidarity rally was held in Bangor, Maine. When the sheriff of Hennepin County, Minn., sent deputies to participate in the Oct. 27 assault, protesters occupied Minneapolis City Hall to demand that no local resources or people be used to attack the water protectors.

In New Orleans, the Take ‘Em Down NOLA group rallied

to demand removal of an Andrew Jackson statue in the fabled square named for that slave-holding U.S. president and murderer of the Native Nations of the Southeast.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Campamento Contra La Junta, opposing the renewed U.S. takeover of Boriken/Puerto Rico, hung a document in solidarity with Standing Rock on the gates of a U.S. federal building. In Canada, a protest by Kahnawake Mohawk community members blockaded the busy Mercier Bridge to Montreal.

Taking the DAPL protest to the U.S. elections, Lakota and other Native youth erected a tipi in Hillary Clinton’s Brooklyn, N.Y., campaign office. Virginia Student Environmental Coalition protesters occupied Clinton offices in Richmond, Charlottesville, Blacksburg and Fredericksburg. The students demanded Clinton declare herself against the DAPL — a demand she has not met.

And solidarity is still coming to the Oceti Sakowin at Standing Rock. A Labor for Standing Rock delegation arrived over the weekend of Oct. 29-30.

The United American Indians of New England (UAIINE) Facebook page was the source of solidarity action information in this article.



Crisis for Big Oil

Bakken/DAPL exploiters in trouble

By Deirdre Griswold

The resisters to the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota are holding their ground despite mass arrests and the coming brutal cold. They are winterizing their encampment and hunkering down for a long stay. Solidarity among Native nations and with non-Native people who have come to help is inspiring and shows how cooperation on every level — from keeping the camp clean and the people fed to standing up to the forces of repression — can be maintained even under the harshest conditions.

It would seem, however, that their foes — the oil companies buttressed by the armed forces of the state — have the greatest material advantage. The companies command billions of dollars and a legion of political sycophants their money can buy.

In the current presidential race, Donald Trump openly supports the DAPL, having invested in it and received campaign contributions from the companies involved. Hillary Clinton, under pressure for ignoring this struggle, still refuses to support the protesters.

While the oil companies are hated more and more — especially by younger generations who recognize how corporate greed has disrupted the balance of nature and brought on shattering climate change — they are still a formidable force.

Yet there is evidence of great instability in the camp of Big Oil. And it comes not from humanitarian regret over what their industry has done, but from the very workings of capitalism itself.

Even as the oil companies work feverishly to line up the forces of state repres-

sion against those saying #noDAPL, the rationale for building the pipeline in the first place may be drying up.

Oil companies in crisis

The DAPL is a \$3.7 billion project intended to convey shale oil some 1,134 miles, from the Bakken oil fields in northwestern North Dakota to a depot in Illinois. At the time it was planned and construction began, oil was selling at top dollar. That is no longer the case.

If completed, this expensive and environmentally dangerous project would provide only 40 permanent jobs. And the shale oil it carries is not competitive at today’s prices.

In the past two years, the price of crude oil on the international market fell from a high of \$100 a barrel to as low as \$30, stabilizing this year at a little less than \$50. The tremendous drop in the price of oil was in response to a global oil glut, caused in part by increased production in the United States.

From being a net importer of oil, the U.S. became a net exporter within a few years — due largely to the development of new technologies that enabled the exploitation of tar sands and shale oil, like the kind to be carried by the DAPL.

Extracting oil from tar sands and by fracturing shale rock is much more expensive than finding a pool of oil underground and just pumping it up to the surface. When oil was selling for \$100 a barrel, extracting oil from tar sands and fractured shale was profitable — and a huge amount of capital went into these technologies. But at \$50 a barrel, the oil companies that rely on this expensive form of extraction are in trouble. One of the companies invested in the Bakken oil

fields is Exxon Mobil.

Here’s what the New York Times business section on Oct. 28 had to say about this looming crisis: “Exxon Mobil, in a concession to market and regulatory pressures, said Friday that it might be forced to write down the value of some of its oil and gas assets in Canada and elsewhere if energy prices remain low through the end of the year.

“The announcement, which accompanied the company’s release of another quarter of lackluster earnings, was an apparent reversal of Exxon Mobil’s stance in recent years.

“The company has long insisted that it has been adequately accounting for the value of its oil and gas reserves — even as many other petroleum companies have taken big write-offs to reflect a two-year price slump.

“On Friday, though, the company acknowledged that it faced what could be the biggest accounting revision of reserves in its history. Exxon Mobil might have to concede that 3.6 billion barrels of oil-sand reserves and 1 billion barrels of other North American reserves are currently not profitable to produce.”

Those “other North American reserves” include the Bakken shale oil fields.

Capitalist overproduction bigtime

Capitalist overproduction has long occurred on a cyclical basis, when the development of the means of production, prompted by a feverish race for profits, outstrips the ability of the market to absorb all that is produced. In other words, the workers have been exploited so efficiently by the capitalists that they can’t afford to buy the increasing amount of commodities being sold. And so the mar-

kets crash, often followed by capitalist wars that destroy much of the existing means of production, along with millions of people.

But today’s crisis goes even deeper. Human labor is being displaced by technology so rapidly that the further existence of capitalism itself is called into question. At the same time, climate change is deepening this crisis.

As capitalist entities are compelled — often kicking and screaming — to acknowledge the existence of global warming and begin to back off from fossil fuels, the corporations that have ruled the roost, morphing from oil companies into global banks and other financial institutions, are faced with a humongous problem.

In another article directed at Wall Street, the Times on Oct. 26 wrote in “A New Debate Over Pricing the Risks of Climate Change” that the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting on behalf of big investors, is pressing companies like Exxon Mobil to disclose the true value of their assets, given the risks of climate change to their business.

“Advocates of fuller corporate disclosure say the sums at stake are vast,” reported the Times. “Even under a plan that would limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius — a goal agreed to as part of the Paris deal — climate change could wipe out \$1.7 trillion of global financial assets, according to a peer-reviewed study published earlier this year in the journal Nature.”

The colossus that is the oil industry has feet of — not clay — but shale rock and tar sands. This should give heart and comfort to the defenders of Native nations and the environment, as it hastens the day of reckoning for these corporate exploiters and despoilers of the Earth. □

Honduras, neoliberal laboratory

By Gilberto Ríos Munguía

The writer is a member of the National Leadership of the LIBRE Freedom and Refoundation Party of Honduras, and a member of the National Popular Resistance Front, responsible for the International Relations committee.

Oct. 24 — Since the 2009 coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya, our country’s name has frequently been found in the headlines of the international press. Headlines shout again and again of barbarisms committed after the coup that shocked national and international public opinion, placing our country on the world map.

Indigenous leader Berta Cáceres was killed here last March and José Ángel Flores, leader of the United Peasant Movement of Aguán, just last week. To analyze the current situation in Honduras starting from those murders requires a complex effort to untangle the threads of a structural problem that has led to these constant, tragic and inhuman consequences.

The 2008 financial crisis, unleashed by the bursting of the housing bubble in the heart of U.S. capitalism, led to a re-orientation of Washington’s international strategy to appropriate the resources of the peoples of the world. Simultaneously, mechanisms of world domination that had been neglected were brought back into play, especially after setbacks the U.S. suffered in the Middle East.

It was also a most important moment for the left in Latin America. The Bolivarian Revolution was consolidating its geopolitical position. Processes of liberation were advancing and governments on the continent began to promote sovereign

policies that fostered the development of social-democratic welfare states.

The South American states of Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and even Chile carried out significant changes which could be summarized — in some countries more than in others — as a rollback of the neoliberal model. These countries applied strong social investments and a boosting of national economies. Accompanying the initiatives was a more supportive discourse for confronting the problems of humanity.

These changes broke the axis of the “single thought” [capitalism solves all] imposed by the Washington Consensus after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union and the countries of the Socialist Bloc in the 1990s.

In Central America, the Sandinista Front (FSLN) took hold of the government of Nicaragua, and for the first time in history the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) won the elections in El Salvador. Cuba, which remained a beacon of light in the Caribbean, accompanied all these processes, redeemed by history for her courageous and exemplary struggle.

Public opinion in the hemisphere and globally also raised more forcefully the historic claims for the independence of Puerto Rico, the cause of Haiti and strategic alliances for the development of the other Caribbean countries, most of them members of [the international trade and solidarity organizations] ALBA [Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America] and Petrocaribe [a Venezuelan program supplying oil to other countries at preferential prices].

If these and other global contradic-

tions such as the growth of the Chinese economy and the strengthening of Russia as an economic and military power continue to consolidate, this will be a threat to imperialist hegemony until its demise.

Remember that just three years after the U.S. financial crisis, Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa created the BRICS investment bank. Its initial projections aimed to displace the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank — the imperialist instruments of domination par excellence — in at least 50 percent of global investment.

The spirit of Berta Cáceres lives on

Honduras, with a dependent and underdeveloped economy subject to the restrictions imposed by unjust relationships of the international market, also occupies a convenient but uncomfortable geographical position: It has three land borders — with El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala — and nine maritime borders, among them a striking proximity to Cuban territory. This gives Honduras a geopolitical status that makes the country a number one priority for the U.S. bent on safeguarding its interests in the region.

The frequent political murders in Honduras, the deepening of neoliberal measures — such as the privatization of public services — and the corruption scandals are nothing but the result of the conscious decision of U.S. imperialism, together with the local oligarchy, to strengthen its plans to dominate the entire continent and the whole world.

These measures are a clear political reaction of capitalism in its attempt to resume its growth. The measures are aimed at the peoples and governments in the



Honduran women march in Tegucigalpa in the spirit of Berta Cáceres on International Women’s Day, March 8.

world that challenge imperialism by developing outside of imperialism’s sick engine for plundering natural resources, and outside of the death machine of the military-industrial complex that requires, every day, greater suffering by all humanity.

Despite these challenges, the popular struggle also tends to regroup, to find ways to struggle despite the barbarity in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, and despite the coups in Honduras, Paraguay, Brazil and electoral defeats in Argentina or the plebiscite rejecting peace in Colombia. The ebbs and flows of the peoples also promise new arenas of confrontation with capitalism, as is now occurring in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and as has been shown by Russia’s partial defeat of imperialism in the Middle East, and the resurgent popular mobilizations in Argentina and Brazil.

The spirit of Berta Cáceres lives on as well in protests through the narrow streets of Tegucigalpa, because social events are also an expression of life, which surges and re-emerges so injustice does not prevail, where political vanguards are capable of re-establishing themselves and their promise of victory. History is not a pendulum cycle ticking from left to right or vice versa. History is made by the people from the bottom up, so that the force of the organized majority makes reason prevail.

Translated by Michael Otto.

General strike says ‘No’ to referendum

ITALY

The following article was submitted to Workers World by the organization Fronte Popolare (Popular Front) in Italy.

Some 1.3 million workers participated in a general strike on Oct. 21, the first of two important days of mass workers’ struggle in Italy.

The workers were called out by the United Rank-and-File Union (USB), a member of the World Federation of Trade

Unions (WFTU) and other grass-roots trade unions.

The goal of the one-day strike was to give class-based content to a “No” vote on the Dec. 4 referendum on constitutional reform, proposed by the Democratic Party government of Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

The reform has been openly endorsed by President Barack Obama and the U.S.

ambassador in Rome, who openly attempted to pressure the Italian people by threatening to stop investments in case of a “No” victory. The German government, the European Union, the Italian Employers’ Association, the big banks and the rating agencies also back a “Yes” vote because the reform would further strengthen governmental powers and promise faster approval of the new an-

ti-popular measures in progress. On Oct. 22 more than 40,000 people from unions and organizations of the alternative left — movements that fight for the right to a home, in defense of the land and against privatizations — marched together in the streets of Rome. Their goal was to give birth to a social coalition de-

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Hundreds mobilize to free Lebanese revolutionary

By Joe Catron
New York

Hundreds of supporters mobilized during an international week of actions to free Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, a Lebanese revolutionary imprisoned by France since Oct. 24, 1984.

Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network activists held the first demonstration, a protest outside the French mission to the United Nations on Oct. 14. Officers from the New York Police Department’s “Counterterrorism Bureau” moved quickly to intercept activists when they attempted to march into the building.

Samidoun held another protest at the French consulate-general on Oct. 21, before marching to the nearby Lebanese consulate-general.

In France, Samidoun activists joined a march of more than 400 outside the prison where Abdallah is held in Lannemezan on Oct. 22. Protesters banged on the prison gates with flagpoles and stones, while others lit fireworks to ensure their message of solidarity would breach the prison

walls. Samidoun activists also attended a forum in Toulouse.

Protests timed to coincide with the ninth appeal for Abdallah’s freedom were also held across France; in Manchester, England; Magdeburg, Hamburg and Berlin in Germany; Milan and Padua in Italy; Vienna; Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece; Istanbul; Tunis in Tunisia; Beirut; and Gaza and Ramallah.

In Chicago, participants in a U.S. chapter conference of the International League of Peoples’ Struggle demonstrated in support of Abdallah on Oct. 22.

Originally a member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, Abdallah, now 65, was injured fighting with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine against Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in 1978. Later, France charged, he joined the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions, a group formed to resist Western imperialism and Israeli occupation in Lebanon.

In 1984, French authorities arrested him for possession of a forged passport, then quickly agreed to include his name in a prisoner exchange with LARF the

following year.

U.S. president Ronald Reagan personally asked French president François Mitterrand to block Abdallah’s release during a meeting in 1986.

But Abdallah was never released. Only in 2001 would he learn that one of his attorneys, Jean Paul Mazurier, during the negotiations and a subsequent criminal trial had been a secret agent of the French government, collecting information for its prosecutors to use against him.

In 1987, a special criminal court convicted Abdallah of the 1982 assassinations of U.S. Assistant Army Attaché Charles R. Ray and Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov and involvement in the 1984 attempted assassination of U.S. Consul-General Robert Onan Homme.

‘One element of a wide range of actions’

French prosecutor Pierre Baechlin appealed for a light sentence, telling judges, “I beseech you, I implore you, not to pronounce a sentence of more than 10 years.” (Los Angeles Times, Feb. 28, 1987)

But the court unexpectedly deferred to

French attorney Georges Kiejman, who had represented the U.S. government as a “civil plaintiff” to the case and urged a harsh sentence.

After the court sentenced Abdallah to life, shocking most French legal experts, U.S. Ambassador to France Joe M. Rodgers told reporters he was “pleased” by the outcome. (New York Times, March 1, 1987)

In following years, the U.S. government, as well as French and Israeli administrations, intervened to keep Abdallah imprisoned, even after French courts repeatedly ordered his freedom.

Declassified emails from Hillary Clinton’s private server show that in 2013 the secretary of state lodged a similar demand to block Abdallah’s release with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. The French court of appeals had ordered Abdallah’s release a day earlier. The future U.S. presidential frontrunner told Fabius, “We hope French officials might find another basis to challenge the decision’s legality.” (samidoun.net, Jan. 18)

Continued on next page

The need for internationalist solidarity

The following are edited remarks delivered to the U.S. chapter conference of the International League of People’s Struggle held in Chicago on Oct. 22. Azikiwe is an internationally known anti-imperialist leader from Detroit.

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

There is a fundamental weakness in the people’s movement in the United States, and that is the necessity for anti-imperialist internationalism.

The struggles against racism, national oppression and class exploitation cannot be separated from the need to end Washington and Wall Street’s interference in the internal affairs of most states throughout the world.

Winning recognition in these monumental struggles is heavily dependent upon the degree to which we can create widespread awareness of the plight of communities of color and the working class in general. There are efforts underway to achieve these objectives although much more work has to be done.

International consciousness in regard to the character of the U.S. state is growing immensely. This is in part due to the mass demonstrations and urban rebellions which have sprung up by and large spontaneously in response to the vigilante death of Trayvon Martin in 2012 and the not-guilty verdict handed down in the trial of George Zimmerman.

When Zimmerman’s acquittal was announced it did a great deal to turn public opinion domestically and internationally against institutions which devalue African-American life and democratic rights. It was during this period that the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter began to trend. Since then there have been efforts to build BLM chapters across the U.S., spreading internationally into Britain and Latin America.

Later, on Aug. 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo., 18-year-old Michael Brown was gunned down by a white police officer. Immediately, demonstrations erupted in Ferguson. These manifestations spread nationally, bringing attention to the false notion that the U.S. had become a so-

called post-racial society in the period following the election of President Barack Obama in 2008.

No ‘post-racial’ U.S.

Obama was forced to address the problems of the “special oppression” of African Americans after the unrest in Ferguson. The situation of African Americans gained international attention prompting editorials in leading periodicals both in the U.S. and internationally questioning this false assertion of post-racialism.

The administration leaned in favor of maintaining the status quo of national oppression. Obama, of course, gave his view of what “African Americans feel” and then denounced violence, saying it will not accomplish anything. This is a blatant falsehood because the U.S. state was born in violence and maintains its existence through brute force and coercion inside the country and abroad.

What these developments further exposed was the failure of the Obama administration to address the special oppression of African Americans while instead advancing a policy of public avoidance in the face of worsening social conditions.

It was the African-American masses and other oppressed groups who suffered the brunt of the economic crisis beginning in 2007. Detroit was one of the hardest hit urban areas. When Obama came into office in 2009 there was considerable false hope that these economic difficulties would attract the attention of the White House and the then-majority Democratic House and Senate (2008-10).

Subsequent rebellions and waves of mass demonstrations in the streets, campuses and now athletic fields have stripped the administration of any pretense of political legitimacy. Colin Kaepernick and others in professional, college and high school sports settings illustrate that no matter how they are clas-

sified as “privileged,” the specter of racist violence and threats from the armed agents of the state remains with them at all times. Racism is on the increase in the U.S., and the refusal of the ruling class and the capitalist state to advance any reforms in this regard speaks volumes about the current phase of imperialism and its public posture.

Global implications of capitalist crisis

The degree to which the capitalist class can claim any semblance of an economic “recovery” is related to the expansion of low-wage labor and the mega-profits of transnational corporations. This is reinforced by the systematic defunding of public education, municipal services and environmental safeguards.

There are examples too numerous to outline here. We could speak about the undemocratic system of emergency management and forced bankruptcy in Detroit and other Michigan cities that have majority African-American populations. There is also the water crisis in Flint and the near collapse of public schools in Detroit, Highland Park, Inkster and other Michigan cities.

A nationally coordinated movement led by trade unions demanding a minimum wage of \$15 an hour is growing across the country. People of all generations are working more for less money.

The prison-industrial complex, now encompassing approximately 2.2 million people, with millions more under judicial and law-enforcement supervision, represents another form of super-exploitation and social containment that is connected to racial profiling and the unjust court system.

Drawing links between home and abroad

These are some of the principal issues we must take up in the U.S. Our internationalism must be informed by the specific conditions of the workers and oppressed and the movements that have sprung up in the last four years.

Perhaps the most profound crisis of displacement today is the migration of people from North Africa into southern Europe. This movement of dislocated persons has been documented by the United Nations Refugee Agency as the largest since the conclusion of World War II. There are 60 million to 75 million people who have been internally and externally displaced in the modern world.

These forced removals stem directly from the foreign policy imperatives of war and economic exploitation engineered by Washington and Wall Street. The interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Somalia are fueling underdevelopment and balkanization.

Many of these wars remain largely hidden from people in the U.S. Much of the social impact of these wars of regime change and genocide are being manifested inside these geopolitical regions and in southern, central and eastern Europe.

The crisis of imperialist war has its economic components. The overproduction of oil and other commodities is driving down prices and causing higher rates of joblessness, poverty, food deficits, class conflicts and civil war. Countries such as Somalia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Nigeria, rich in natural resources, land and strategic waterways, are facing varying levels of recession, depression and further enslavement to international finance capital.

Finally, it is our task to point to the direct relationship between U.S. domestic and foreign policy. A policy of national oppression inside the U.S. is reflected in the military and economic destruction of countries from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and extending across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The problems we are facing in North America cannot be effectively tackled or solved independent of the people of the international community. The world’s peoples must unite in a program of anti-imperialism aimed at ending all forms of oppression and exploitation. □

World Federation of Trade Unions looks ahead

The World Federation of Trade Unions held its 17th Congress on Oct. 5-8 in Durban, South Africa. Below are excerpts from the concluding speech by re-elected General Secretary George Mavrikos, who represents the Greek union movement.

This will be my last term as General Secretary of WFTU. In the next Congress, we will elect a younger comrade with the appropriate criteria. ...

My first conclusion: Is that this was a Congress that was open, democratic, class-oriented and internationalist. A Congress that befits and reflects the history of the 71 years of the WFTU. We heard 112 speakers from 103 countries. They spoke freely. ...

We voted yesterday with secret ballot ... we elected as new President of the WFTU, comrade Mzwandile Makwayiba. His election is a new positive step for our organization and also underlines the priority we give to the African Continent and our effort to strengthen the trade union movement. ...

The second conclusion by the Congress is: There are

new organizational duties for all of us. ... Greater tasks, more serious expectations for the organizational strengthening of the class-oriented trade union movement. ...

Therefore we commit in the Organizational Level for: **New members in the WFTU.**
New sectors in our [Trade Union Internationals].
New countries and regions in our ranks.

Just now we approved the affiliation of three new trade unions in the WFTU from Russia, from Angola and from the USA. The affiliation of these particularly important trade unions has a great symbolism for the WFTU but most of all it opens new paths for today and for tomorrow.

Therefore, all of us here today, we vote in a unanimous voice [for] the decision that we will put all our efforts [into] so that in our next Congress, the 18th Congress, we will have 100 million members in our ranks. ...

We need trade unions that are lively in the base, massive, uniting workers against exploitation and the bourgeoisie. We want trade unions of the base which will be real schools for the working people, teaching them everything that has to do with class struggle. We want trade unions that can operate within the wide masses. Not closed clubs, not bureaucratic leagues or small elites but open militant schools. ... We are cadres, leaders bearing the duty to accumulate forces and to organize class struggles in order to change the world and make it socially just. ...

The women who spoke, the young comrades, the migrants presented vividly the organizational need to enhance and to operate the relevant Committees. Working women, working youth, migrants and refugees are right to have many expectations from the WFTU. ...

The third conclusion that comes from the Congress and many speeches is the need for the enhancement of our trade unions in ideological and political level. We do not operate in a sterilized environment. We live and struggle amongst friends, opponents and enemies. ...

We are correct to struggle for better wages. We are correct to strike against privatizations, we are correct to demand collective bargaining agreements, conditions of health and safety, public and free education, health, better environment. ...

At the same time, as a trade union movement ... we have to radicalize our demands. We have to uplift the content and the forms of our struggle with the direct aim of the emancipation of the working class from the capitalist exploitation. To make the working class the pioneer and leading class ready to fulfill its strategic purpose.

Our main instrument for the empowerment of our ideological objective is Internationalism, the Unity of our class and our Militant line of Struggle. ...

The capitalists today are better organized in their own associations ... they have intensified their aggressiveness against the trade unions and the militants of the trade union movement. ...

The fourth conclusion: We must believe in our own power, in the power and the superiority of the class-oriented trade union movement. ... We, as the family of WFTU, we have to convince the new generation that the struggle is worth it. ... Only the militants of the class-struggle can undertake this role and bring back wide popular masses in the trade unions. ... We have our feet grounded on the earth and we are looking ahead.

Long live the Working Class of Africa!
Long live Internationalism and Solidarity!
Long live the International Working Class!
For the entire speech, visit tinyurl.com/h3tnuyk/.

From his cell in Lannemezan, Abdallah wrote that his ongoing imprisonment was part of a broader effort to repress liberation struggles.

“In the Zionist jails, in Morocco, from the isolation cells in Turkey to those in Greece, in the Philippines and elsewhere in Europe and around the world, it is always the same,” he said in a statement read outside the prison on Oct. 22.

“Judicial persecution is only one element of a wide range of actions against revolutionary and pre-revolutionary movements.” (samidoun.net, Oct. 23)

Catron is a member of Al-Awda New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

WORKERS WORLD editorial

The FBI’s letter on Clinton

Something quite unprecedented in U.S. presidential elections happened on Oct. 28, and there is much speculation throughout the media as to why.

Just a week and a half before election day, FBI Director James Comey sent a letter to members of Congress about new developments in the agency’s investigation of Hillary Clinton’s emails, which supposedly had ended months earlier.

Immediately, the letter went viral and was hailed by the Trump camp as proof that Clinton was not qualified to be president. The Clinton camp immediately responded, saying it was an unethical move, coming right before the election. Others joined in, even Republicans.

One such was Richard W. Painter, a former chief White House “ethics” officer during the second George W. Bush administration. He wrote in an op-ed piece in the Oct. 30 New York Times, “This letter, which was quickly posted on the internet, made highly unusual public statements about an FBI investigation concerning a candidate in the election. The letter was sent in violation of a longstanding Justice Department policy of not discussing specifics about pending investigations with others, including members of Congress.”

Painter concluded that “a public communication about a pending FBI investigation involving a candidate that is made on the eve of an election is thus very likely to be a violation of the Hatch Act and a misuse of an official position.” The Hatch Act prohibits most federal employees from partisan participation in political activities.

Before the letter, Trump’s chances of winning the election had been waning, according to pollsters. The letter seems to have given his campaign a shot in the arm.

Why now?

Should revolutionaries who understand that both Clinton and Trump are politicians loyal to the capitalist system be interested in this issue? The answer is “yes.”

The FBI has historically played a far-right role in U.S. politics, especially during Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s anti-Communist rampage of the 1950s and against the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements of the following decades. It should be of great interest to the workers and all oppressed peoples when an agency of repression like the FBI is willing to cross the line of politics-as-usual — in this case in order to possibly influence an election.

It has become clear for months that most of the capitalist corporate and financial establishment have seen Trump as a loose cannon and have moved their big money behind the Clinton campaign. Clinton has proven, as secretary of state, that she much better understands the interests of Wall Street as a whole and is loyal on the questions most important to big business and the Pentagon. Trump, with his racist, misogynist, anti-immigrant and egotistical tirades, has alienated huge sections of the population, which could present a challenge to the system itself in future struggles.

Perhaps more will come out eventually on Comey’s motivation. We think it likely that even those in the ruling class who have ditched Trump are now panicking over whether a resounding defeat for him could also mean a rout of a Republican Congress that has served their interests very well. If that’s what the big-money men are saying to each other, Comey would know and could take action meant to dilute an anti-Trump tide. □

‘Right to Exist, Right to Resist’



PHOTO: ERIC TANDOC

Following is a report on the International League of People’s Struggle assembly in Chicago.

The Second Assembly of the U.S. Country Chapter of the International League of People’s Struggle was held at Teamster City in Chicago on Oct. 22. The motto of the conference was “Right to Exist, Right to Resist.” Over 300 attended, mostly multinational youth from around the country.

The assembly was followed by a strong, militant march in downtown Chicago to mark the second anniversary of the Chicago Police Department’s murder of Laquan McDonald and to demand an elected Civilian Police Accountability Council. The march, organized jointly by ILPS and the Chicago Alliance against Racist and Political Repression, drew about 600 people.

The assembly opened with a greeting by Jesus Rodriguez, the Consul General of Venezuela in Chicago. Keynote speakers included Frank Chapman, of the Chi-

cago Alliance; Hatem Abudayyeh, of the Arab American Action Network, speaking on behalf of the Rasmea Odeh defense campaign; and Sara Chambers, of the Chicago Teachers Union. Nina Machipin-lac and Johnny Rodriguez, of Anakbayan, read a message from Philippine revolutionary leader Jose Maria Sison, who is chairperson of ILPS. Fatin Jarara read a greeting from Palestinian revolutionary Leila Khaled of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. A powerful musical presentation by the Chicago duet Ko-star opened the program.

The second panel included Philippine radical economist Paul Quintos, of the IBON Foundation; Lynn Mezza, of Chelsea Uniting Against the War (from Chelsea, Mass.); and Abayomi Azikiwe, of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice. The assembly drew activist and community groups from around the Midwest, and people from as far as California, Oregon, Washington state, Texas, New York, New Jersey and New England participated in the assembly. □

Italy says no to referendum

Continued from page 8

fining the “No” campaign as clear opposition to the anti-popular measures dictated by the European Union.

Until these two successive days of struggle, the anti-corruption and euro-sceptic Five-Star Movement led by comedian Beppe Grillo and reactionary forces like the Northern League and Berlusconi’s Forza Italia have had the leadership of the “No” campaign, using it against the Renzi government.

Workers’ organizations want to take charge so that any struggle against Constitutional reform will also oppose Renzi’s anti-worker measures such as his “Jobs Act” law. This law makes layoffs much easier, completing the destruction of the “Workers Statute,” which was gained in 1970 after relentless workers’ struggles.

We, in Fronte Popolare, consider the EU an irreformable institution, created to facilitate the destruction of workers’ rights. The EU deepens the inequalities between European countries (benefiting

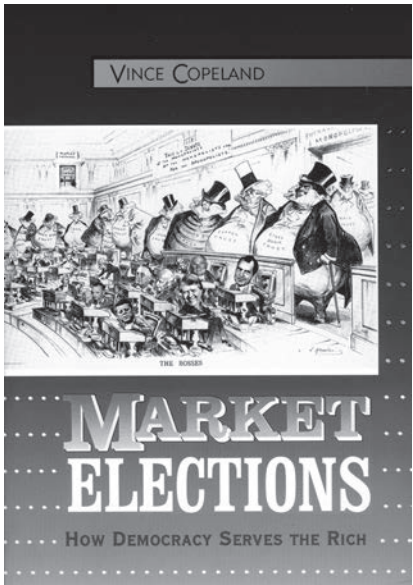
Germany in particular) by means of the common currency and keeps the EU subject to U.S. imperialism in foreign politics.

Every attempt to bring about progressive changes and depart from the disastrous austerity fanaticism without questioning the EU itself is destined to failure and betrayal, as the case of Greece exemplifies.

The reconquest of national sovereignty is now a precondition for any real progressive change in Italy.

We, as Fronte Popolare, participated with conviction in both these events, continuing to work toward a reunification of left trade unions in Italy, still too divided, so that the organizations fighting for a real alternative and for a breakup of the EU come together in a unified front of struggle.

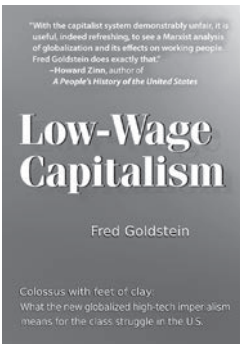
The forces are still too little; the road to rebuild a real social and political alternative in Italy is still long and arduous, but we are convinced that, finally, after the errors and betrayals of past years, the direction is now correct. □



Market Elections

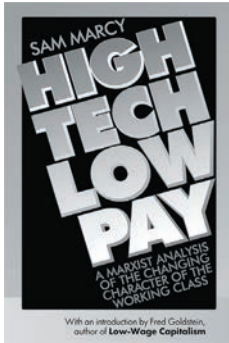
by Vince Copeland is an invaluable reference for those seeking to understand the complexities of how the ruling class has been able to use the ‘democratic process’ to stay in power for more than two centuries — and how mass movements can break through the two-party straightjacket to bring about real change. Copeland’s book was first published in 2000. The paperback (296 pages) can be ordered from online booksellers or directly from World View Forum at 147 West 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011 \$15 (includes shipping.)

Low-Wage Capitalism describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida Fred 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.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com** Available at all major online booksellers.



High Tech, Low Pay A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein

Class struggle alive in Venezuela

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Since the Bolivarian Revolution started in Venezuela 17 years ago, U.S. imperialism and its oligarchical allies in that country have not stopped plotting to overthrow it.

There have been several attempts, the most important being the failed coup that involved the kidnapping of then President Hugo Chávez in 2002 and the oil sabotage of 2003. Popular mobilizations defeated both. There were also the “guarimbas” or violent street blockades and the deaths caused by the right-wing forces.

Now, the arrival in office of the political right through parliamentary maneuvers in Paraguay and more recently in Brazil, or by a plain coup as in Honduras, and the election of Mauricio Macri to the presidency of Argentina have given new energy to this imperialism whose very existence is threatened. Now it has several puppets in Latin America, including also the newly elected president of Peru. These events encourage imperialism to try to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution.

The imperialist media, especially in the U.S., reflect this attitude. On Oct. 28, the influential New York Times published a hostile editorial benefitting the opposition right wing and against the Bolivarian government. Among other falsehoods and ignominies, it said, “This should persuade leaders in the region to denounce Mr. [Nicolás] Maduro in stronger terms than they have in the past and call on Venezuelan jurists and bureaucrats to stop being accomplices of a dictatorship in the making.”

Right-wing maneuvers

The Venezuelan right has resorted to a

new campaign of protests and challenges to the government, including demanding a recall referendum. The referendum had to be postponed due to the hundreds of thousands of illegal signatures gathered on the petition, including those of dead people. Because of this postponement, the right-wing deputies of the MUD (Democratic Unity Roundtable) convened an Oct. 23 National Assembly meeting to present their plan of action.

At that meeting, they presented their document, which, among other things, called for ignoring the government of President Maduro. It demanded that the National Armed Forces disobey Maduro’s government, replace the leadership of the National Electoral Council and Supreme Court, and called on the people to demonstrate in the streets.

Their plan also included a rally called the “Taking of Venezuela” on Oct. 26, a 12-hour strike on Oct. 28 and a march to Miraflores [the presidential palace] on Nov. 3. They also want to “prosecute” President Maduro supposedly for “abandoning his post” because he went on a five-day visit to oil-exporting countries.

Rightwing plan did not hold

But that same Oct. 23, the people who support the government did not remain muted or passive. Hundreds of people gathered outside the National Assembly and a group stormed angrily into the hemicycle [the legislature’s meeting hall]. RT reported that day: “Mrs. Nancy Villegas was one of the Bolivarian women who entered the special session: ‘Now as the President is traveling defending oil prices they want to remove him? We will not allow it. Do they (the opposition) believe this is Paraguay or Brazil? They

are wrong. Here we will lose neither our country, nor the revolution.’”

Additionally, Defense Minister Gen. Vladimir Padrino and other members of the military high command publicly declared the armed forces’ loyalty to the constitution and the government on Oct. 25. Padrino ended his speech with an emphatic, “Chávez lives!”

Also on Oct. 25, when President Maduro returned from a trip to four oil-exporting countries who are trying to stabilize the price for this commodity by reducing its production, a huge red sea of people received him, showing their determination to defend the Bolivarian Revolution. They were the Chavista people, the poor, the ones who have won the most with the Revolution and who are clear on who their class enemy is: the oligarchy and its followers who live in Altamira and in the rich neighborhoods, where the poor are only servants.

The class divisions in Venezuela are clearer than ever. Despite the long lines for shopping, the result of the product shortages purposely caused by the product owners and the importing oligarchy, the pro-Chavista forces continue to defend the remaining achievements.

That is why the rightwing demonstration, the “Taking of Venezuela” scheduled for Oct. 26, while having a considerable attendance, was unable to “take” Venezuela. In some places they provoked confrontations and in one, the death of a policeman. That was a march of the rich, the white and the privileged, which was joined by that part of the poor who have been manipulated by the media because of their desire to change the difficult economic situation.

The poor Chavista people however, re-

main alert and permanently mobilized against the coup attempt by the right wing.

And the strike announced for Friday, Oct. 28? Even the imperialist media had to admit its failure. There was no stoppage: The people went to work and the vast majority of establishments were open as usual. For its plan, the right wing depends on the people — all the people — and the armed forces. But neither the people nor the armed forces was willing to defend the privileges of the bourgeoisie.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 30, a discussion began between the opposition and the Bolivarian government. Numerous prior attempts at dialogue in that country have all failed. The right wing talks only when they expect concessions. Fifteen organizations from the MUD signed a letter saying they will not participate in the talks because “conditions are not ripe.”

The dialogues are supported by international representatives: UNASUR [an intergovernmental regional organization comprising 12 South American countries], the Vatican, the ex-presidents Martín Torrijos of Panama and Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic, and former Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of Spain. Four discussion groups were formed: peace and justice; reparations for victims and reconciliation; economic and social issues, and the pre-election atmosphere.

The main general issues that led to the search for a dialogue are the economic situation, an end to the political violence and the rejection of foreign intervention.

In a special address to the world, President Maduro called for global solidarity with Venezuela to defeat the coup in progress and to consolidate the revolution. □

Elections set amid mass misery in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians face growing misery in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Meanwhile, the U.S. military has decided to turn over its relief efforts to civilian authorities in Haiti.

The hurricane destroyed tens of thousands of homes on Oct. 4. Many that it didn’t completely flatten had their tin roofs torn off or were left with more holes than material. Then, three days and nights of torrential rain followed the winds.

The extent of the devastation in Haiti was summed up by a journalist who made a quick trip along the southwest coast: All that remains of many seaside villages is their name. The city of Jérémie, the largest population center in the southwest, has been compared to Berlin at the end of World War II when that city was flattened by bombs.

Despite this misery, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Peter Mulrean released a statement published in the Nouvelliste, a major Haitian newspaper on Oct. 29, explaining that “transportation was improving in the areas ravaged by Hurricane Matthew and a robust humanitarian response has developed.”

Beginning on Oct. 6, the U.S. had 12 helicopters, split between CH-53 Sea Stallions and CH-47 Chinooks, two Coast Guard cutters and two naval vessels to handle logistics. There were a few hundred Marines assigned to the operation, which Mulrean claimed cost \$20 million.

A few days before the U.S. withdrew its militarized aid to Haiti, Jocelerme

Privert, Haiti’s interim president, spoke in Ouanaminthe, a city in northeast Haiti, near the Dominican border, at the opening of a new maquiladora plant in an industrial site organized by the Clinton Foundation.

Privert said at that time there were 169 communities still not reachable by land. Almost all the schools in Haiti’s southwest were destroyed or badly damaged. The ones that survived are filled with people who lost their homes.

Besides the rain, hunger is a big problem. Many people in southwest Haiti depended on their farms for food. Now they have lost their harvest: corn, bananas and coconuts.

A Haitian web service (hougansydney.com) reported that cops and the United Nations’ occupation force, Minustah, fired on a crowd that was stampeding to get first aid supplies from a Colombian ship in Dame Marie. One young girl was killed by a bullet to the chest.

An Oct. 24 U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization report points out that most fishing gear — boats, nets, traps, docks — was destroyed, so the income and protein sources supplied by fishing are not currently available. It also points out that the seeds for winter crops normally planted in November were destroyed.

The U.N. Minustah occupation force introduced cholera into Haiti six years ago after a devastating earthquake. The disease has killed nearly 10,000 people and sickened 800,000. Now, cholera has become an even more serious problem following Matthew and the rain.

How serious can be seen in Randel, a

town in the southwest that is an arduous four-hour hike from the nearest paved road and only accessible by mule or helicopter. Three hundred people have died there from cholera since Matthew. Randel’s cholera clinic is overflowing and has run out of beds and needles for intravenous fluid replacement. But people from the surrounding communities are still bringing in patients, too sick to walk, on their backs.

Elections reset for Nov. 20

Elections were scheduled for Oct. 9, but since hurricane damage would have prevented at least a third of all Haitians from voting then, the Provisional Electoral Council reset the elections for Nov. 20.

The 2015 election was so obviously fraudulent that its results were discarded. It is still not clear if all the voting venues will be repaired in time for the Nov. 20 vote. The Haitian government is push-



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ación al capitalismo como lo hace ahora mismo la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, como lo demuestra Rusia ante la derrota parcial del imperialismo en el medio oriente, como resurgen las movilizaciones populares en Argentina y Brasil; así como vuelve Berta en la protesta callejera por las estrechas calles de Tegucigalpa; porque los fenómenos sociales son también como esa expresión de la vida, que surge y resurge donde la injusticia no prevalece, donde las vanguardias políticas son capaces de su reconfigura-

ción y su perspectiva de victoria. La historia no son ciclos pendulares de la izquierda a la derecha o vice versa, son ciclos populares de abajo para arriba, en donde la razón deberá prevalecer con la fuerza de las mayorías organizadas.

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En Venezuela, la lucha de clases está viva

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Desde que la Revolución Bolivariana comenzó en Venezuela hace 17 años, el imperialismo estadounidense y sus aliados oligárquicos en ese país no han dejado de maquinarse para destituirlo.

Son varios los atentados, siendo los más importantes - sin olvidar las “guarimbas” y las muertes provocadas por la derecha - el fallido golpe secuestrando al entonces presidente Hugo Chávez en el 2002 y luego el sabotaje petrolero del 2003. Ambos fueron derrotados por el pueblo.

Ahora, con el arribo de la derecha a través de maniobras parlamentarias en Paraguay y más recientemente en Brasil, o de puro golpe como en Honduras, y la llegada a la presidencia de Macri en Argentina, ese imperialismo que ve amenazada su propia existencia, ha tomado bríos y piensa que esta vez sí podrá destruir la Revolución Bolivariana. Ahora tiene varios monigotes en América Latina, incluyendo también al recién electo presidente del Perú.

Y no olvidemos el poder mediático imperialista a nivel internacional y sobre todo en EUA. El 28 de octubre, el Comité Editorial del influyente New York Times publicó un hostil editorial beneficiando a la derecha opositora y en contra del gobierno bolivariano. Entre otras falsedades e ignominias decía que “Esto debe convencer a los líderes de la región para que condenen a Maduro con más fuerza de lo que lo han hecho, e invitar a los jueces y burócratas a dejar de actuar como cómplices de la dictadura que se está gestando”.

Maniobras derechistas

La derecha venezolana ha recurrido a una nueva campaña de movilizaciones y

retos al gobierno incluyendo el pedido de un referendo revocatorio. Como el revocatorio se tuvo que posponer debido a los cientos de miles de firmas ilegales incluyendo las de personas fallecidas, los diputados de la derecha - de la MUD (Mesa de la Unidad Democrática) - convocaron a una reunión de la Asamblea Nacional el pasado domingo 23 de octubre. Ahí sacaron un documento – su plan de acción - que entre otras cosas, pedía desconocer al gobierno del presidente Nicolás Maduro, exigir a la Fuerza Armada Nacional que desobedeciera al gobierno del presidente Maduro, sustituir a la dirección del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE) y del Tribunal Supremo de Justicia (TSJ), además de convocar al pueblo a las calles.

Esto incluía una manifestación llamada la Toma de Venezuela el miércoles 26 de octubre, un paro el viernes 28 y una marcha a Miraflores el 3 de noviembre. Además quieren “enjuiciar” al presidente Maduro dizque por “abandonar su cargo” al estar en gira de cinco días por los países petroleros.

¿Qué pasó?

Ese mismo domingo 23 el pueblo no se quedó silenciado ni pasivo. Cientos de personas se reunieron en las afueras de la AN y un grupo entró furioso al hemiciclo. En RT 23 de octubre reportaron, “La señora Nancy Villegas fue una de las mujeres bolivarianas que ingresó a la sesión extraordinaria: ¿Ahora como el presidente está de viaje defendiendo los precios del petróleo lo quieren destituir? Nosotros no lo permitiremos. ¿Ellos (la oposición) creen esto es Paraguay o Brasil? Se equivocaron. Aquí no perdemos ni la patria, ni la revolución”.

Por otra parte, el ministro de la Defensa, general Vladimir Padrino junto a

otros miembros del alto mando militar declararon públicamente el martes 25 de octubre su lealtad a la constitución y su gobierno, terminando su alocución con un “Chávez vive”.

Ese mismo martes regresaba el presidente Maduro de una visita relámpago por cuatro países exportadores de petróleo intentando equilibrar los precios de éste. Un enorme mar rojo de pueblo se había convocado para recibirlo y mostrarle su firmeza en la defensa de la Revolución Bolivariana. Ése era el pueblo chavista, el pobre, el que más ha ganado con la Revolución y quien está claro que su enemigo es uno de clase, la oligarquía y sus seguidores quienes viven en Altamira y en las barriadas ricas donde los pobres solo están de sirvientes.

Esto en Venezuela se ve más claro que nunca. Y ya ese pueblo chavista, a pesar de las colas, de la escasez de productos provocada en mayor parte por la oligarquía productora e importadora, no cesa de defender los logros que le quedan.

Por eso, la manifestación de la Toma de Venezuela pautada para el miércoles 26 de octubre, aunque tuvo una considerable asistencia, no pudo tomar Venezuela. Provocaron sí confrontaciones en algunos lugares y la muerte de un policía. Esa fue una marcha de ricos, de personas blancas y privilegiadas, a la que se sumó parte del pueblo pobre que ha sido mediáticamente manipulado y que solo va por el ansia de cambiar la situación económica. Aquí hay que recordar que un estudio reciente reporta que uno de los productores principales venezolanos redujo su producción en un 30 por ciento. (Telesur, 28 octubre)

El pueblo pobre chavista sin embargo, se mantiene alerta y permanentemente movilizado.

Y el paro anunciado para el viernes 28, hasta los medios imperialista tuvieron que reconocer que no tuvo éxito. No hubo tal paro, el pueblo fue a trabajar y la gran mayoría de establecimientos estuvo abierto como normalmente lo hacen. La derecha cuenta con el pueblo – todo el pueblo – y las fuerzas armadas. Pero ni uno ni el otro estuvieron dispuestos para defender los privilegios de la burguesía.

Mientras tanto, ayer domingo 30 de octubre, comenzaron unos diálogos entre la oposición y el gobierno bolivariano. Hay que recordar que han sido innumerables los intentos de diálogos en ese país, y todos han fracasado. La derecha solo dialoga cuando cree que va a obtener concesiones. Quince organizaciones pertenecientes a la MUD firmaron una carta diciendo que no participarán de los diálogos porque “las condiciones no están dadas”.

Los diálogos están avalados por representantes internacionales: UNASUR, los expresidentes Martín Torrijos de Panamá y Leonel Fernández de República Dominicana, el expresidente del Gobierno español José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero y representantes del Vaticano. Se formaron cuatro mesas de discusión bajo los siguientes temas: Paz y justicia; Reparación de las víctimas y reconciliación; lo económico y social, y la Coordinación del ambiente previo al cronograma electoral.

Como principales aristas en general que llevaron a la búsqueda del diálogo, están la recuperación económica, el cese a la violencia política y el rechazo a la intervención extranjera.

En una alocución especial dirigida al mundo, el presidente Maduro pidió la solidaridad mundial con Venezuela para derrotar el golpe de estado en marcha y para consolidar la revolución. □

Honduras, el laboratorio neoliberal

Por: Gilberto Ríos Munguía (*)

Es frecuente encontrarse el nombre de nuestro país en los titulares de la prensa internacional, luego del golpe de estado de 2009 contra el Presidente Manuel Zelaya, titulares destacan una y otra barbarie cometida después de que aquel fenómeno que conmocionó la opinión pública nacional e internacional, nos situara en la geografía política internacional.

Analizar la situación de Honduras en la actualidad a partir del asesinato de la lideresa indígena Berta Cáceres ocurrido en marzo de este año o del asesinato de José Ángel Flores dirigente del Movimiento Campesino Unificado del Aguán ocurrido la semana pasada, complicaría desenmarañar el hilo de la madeja de un problema más bien estructural que tiene resultados coyunturales constantes, trágicos e inhumanos como los mencionados.

La crisis financiera que se desató debido al estallido de la burbuja inmobiliaria en el seno del capitalismo norteamericano en 2008, condujo a la reorientación de la estrategia internacional de apropiación de los recursos de los pueblos del mundo, a la vez que replanteó los mecanismos relativamente descuidados de la dominación mundial, sobre todo por los reveses sufridos en el medio oriente.

Era también el momento más importante de las izquierdas en América Latina; la Revolución Bolivariana consolidaba su posición geopolítica, avanzaban los procesos de liberación y comenzaban asomar gobiernos con políticas soberanas que permitían el desarrollo de Estados de bienestar en el continente.

En Suramérica Argentina, Uruguay, Brasil, Bolivia, Ecuador y hasta Chile, mostraban cambios importantes que podrían resumirse –en unos países más que en otros- como un franco retroceso del modelo neoliberal, con una fuerte inversión social y una activación de las economías nacionales, a la par de un discurso más solidario frente a los fenómenos de la humanidad que rompían el eje del pensamiento único impuesto por el consenso de Washington después de la caída de la Unión Soviética, el muro de Berlín y los países del Bloque Socialista en los 90s.

En Centro América el Frente Sandinista se afianzaba en el gobierno de Nicaragua y ganaba las elecciones por primera vez en la historia de El Salvador el Frente Farabundo Martí para la liberación Nacional; como un faro de luz en el Caribe Cuba acompañaba todos estos procesos, redimida por la historia por su valiente y ejemplar lucha; con esto también se reivindicaban con más fuerza en la opin-

ión pública del hemisferio y también a escala mundial, reclamos históricos como la independencia de Puerto Rico, la causa de Haití y las alianzas estratégicas para el desarrollo de los demás países del caribe, gran número de ellos miembros del ALBA y PETROCARIBE.

La hegemonía del imperialismo peligraba hasta su desaparición si estos y otras contradicciones en el mundo como el crecimiento de la economía China y el fortalecimiento de Rusia como potencia económica y militar continuaban consolidándose; Recordemos que apenas tres años después de la crisis financiera norteamericana, Brasil, Rusia, China, India y Sudáfrica creaban el BRICS, banco de inversión que en sus proyecciones iniciales desplazaría al Fondo Monetario Internacional y al Banco mundial –instrumentos de dominación por excelencia del imperialismo- en al menos el 50 por ciento de la inversión mundial.

Honduras, con una economía dependiente, atrasada y sometida los designios de las injustas relaciones del mercado internacional, posee también una conveniente pero incómoda posición geográfica: tres fronteras terrestres con El Salvador, Nicaragua y Guatemala y nueve fronteras marítimas, dentro de la que destaca también su cercanía al territorio de Cuba,

condición que desde el punto de vista geo militar es de prioridad número para salvaguardar los intereses norteamericanos en la región.

Los frecuentes asesinatos políticos en Honduras, así como la profundización de las medidas neoliberales, como son la privatización de los servicios públicos o los escándalos de corrupción, no son sino el resultado de una voluntad manifiesta del imperialismo norteamericano y la oligarquía local, para afianzar el proyecto de dominación de todo el continente y el mundo entero; son una reacción política clara del capitalismo en recomposición, frente a pueblos y gobiernos del mundo que desafían con desarrollarse al margen de su enferma máquina de expoliación de los recursos naturales y de muerte del Complejo Militar Industrial, cada día más necesitada del sufrimiento del conjunto de la humanidad.

No obstante, también la lucha popular tiende a recomponerse, a encontrar caminos y pesar de la barbarie en Irak, Afganistán, Libia o Siria, a pesar de los golpes de estado de Honduras, Paraguay y Brasil y de las derrotas electorales en Argentina o el plebiscito por la paz en Colombia, los flujos y reflujos de los pueblos también prometen nuevos estadios de confront-

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