

GUILTY

Jury condemns U.S. colonial crimes in Puerto Rico

By John Catalinotto
New York

Oct. 27 — A jury of 15 international human rights activists and fighters for liberation — following eight hours of succinct testimony covering decades of history and two hours of deliberation — announced tonight's verdict of U.S. guilt.

The jury found the U.S. government guilty of colonial crimes against Puerto Rico during its entire history since the U.S. seizure of Puerto Rico in 1898. The evidence included the latest economic assault on the Caribbean country following the devastation of hurricanes Irma and María in 2017. The verdict demands a full apology, return of property and payment of reparations.

Tribunal prosecutor Augusto Zamora, former ambassador from Nicaragua to Spain, started the proceedings by presenting the legal charges against the United States. Much of the indictment focused on U.S. attempts to disguise colonial rule under cover of designating Puerto Rico as a "Free Associated State," based on laws passed in the early 1950s. These laws and the Puerto Rican "constitution" failed to meet the requirements set by the United Nations in 1960 when many countries began to end colonial status.

By imposing the U.S.-based Financial Control Board or Junta on Puerto Rico in 2016 to oversee an austerity program, the U.S. has laid bare its outright colonial control of Puerto Rico. Then Wall Street turned a spotlight on Puerto Rico's colonial status by pillaging the country after the devastation of hurricanes Irma and María in 2017, Zamora argued.

Nearly all the presenters of testimony were Puerto Ricans from the archipelago who described U.S. crimes and Puerto Rican resistance in person or by video. In total, they built up a detailed legal case against the U.S. that supported both the indictment and the political conclusions of Rafael Cancel Miranda.

Puerto Rican independence fighter, hero and leader Cancel Miranda made the final presentation by video. His pointed 10-minute discourse outlined how Puerto Ricans resisted U.S. imperialism's oppression of its people, how they have had to fight a huge military and media power. His explanation and personal example electrified the audience, which responded with a standing ovation, just as they did two hours later after the jury's verdict.

Cancel Miranda was jailed for decades following his

Continued on page 7



Jurors at the International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico, Oct. 27 in New York.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



NOT GOING BACK
Trans rights now 3



FREE MUMIA
New developments 5

HOTEL WORKERS STRIKE
In U.S., Canada 6



REFUGEE CARAVAN
from Central America 8

Editorial STOP ANTI-SEMITISM, FASCISM 10

BRAZIL 8 YEMEN 9 SYRIA 9 HAITI 11

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ 4 weeks trial \$4 ☐ 1 year subscription \$30

☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program:
workers.org/donate

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City /State/ Zip _____

Workers World Weekly Newspaper
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011

workers.org
212.627.2994

Nov. 17 in Philly

Fight fascist violence!

By Workers World Philadelphia bureau

A motley group of far-right organizations, including the Proud Boys, plan to rally near Independence Hall in Philadelphia on Nov. 17 under the hypocritical constitutional slogan “We the People.”

The PushBack Campaign and Philly Antifa will organize counterprotests, supported by Workers World Party, to confront the fascists. Nov. 17 in Philadelphia offers a moment for those who oppose fascist violence to organize, mobilize and build a united movement against white supremacy, patriarchal violence and fascism.

The far-right organizers of the “We the People” event pretend to distance themselves from outright white supremacist fascists like the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis. Nevertheless, the political program of the event is utterly anti-immigrant, pro-police and for “Patriots, Militia and three percenters.” That makes it very much an event for fascists.

The history of the Philadelphia police — of being perhaps the largest, most organized group of white supremacists in the entire city — shows it is likely they will be protecting the fascist demonstrators against the people. Philadelphia is known for its fascist Democrat mayor/police chief icon Frank Rizzo. (tinyurl.com/WWrizzo) Police forces in general protect the rights of these demonstrators, while offering no guarantees of safety for anti-fascists who will mobilize en masse to defend themselves. (tinyurl.com/ybkjyjkvlv)

Three attacks during the last week of October showed the threat of fascist violence: the racist shooting at a Kroger grocery store in Kentucky, pipe bombs mailed to politicians and business magnates who oppose President Donald Trump, and the massacre in a Pittsburgh synagogue. These three cases reflect the growing threat of a developing fascist movement.

Fascist violence: U.S. tradition

In the U.S., Trump, who recently declared himself a “nationalist” — he means “white nationalist” — is acting as the chief agitator and recruiter for fascism, helping to bring thousands of disgruntled people into a new white supremacist, anti-women, anti-LGBTQ movement.



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

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

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

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

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

National Office 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, NY 10011 212.627.2994 wwp@workers.org	Buffalo, N.Y. 335 Richmond Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222 716.883.2534 Buffalo@workers.org
Atlanta PO Box 18123 Atlanta, GA 30316 404.627.0185 atlanta@workers.org	Cleveland P.O. Box 5963 Cleveland, OH 44101 216.738.0320 cleveland@workers.org
Bay Area bayarea@workers.org	Denver denver@workers.org
Boston 284 Amory St. Boston, MA 02130 617.286.6574 boston@workers.org	Detroit detroit@workers.org
	Madison Madison@workers.org

As capitalism continues its decay, bringing uncertainty to the daily lives of the masses of people, it creates a climate where white supremacist, fascist gang violence is on the rise. All across Europe, neo-fascist parties are growing in strength and violence, usually directed against immigrants as the main scapegoat.

On Oct. 12, the Proud Boys, stirred to violence by their disgusting leader Gavin McInnes, attacked four anti-racist activists after McInnes spoke at the New York City Republican Club. The Proud Boys are a group of Trumpist, white supremacist men who advocate masculinist street fighting against anyone who is perceived to be against them.

This brand of white supremacist fascism, with its ties to and support by many in the Republican party, is one of many such groups, with a growing number of young members committed to bringing forth an all-white ethnostate by force.

Fascist organizations like the Proud Boys, Identity Evropa, Vanguard America and the KKK are responsible for the murder of Heather Heyer at the “Unite the Right” demonstration in Charlottesville, Va., in August 2017.

White supremacist cops kill more than 1,000 people each year. Border Patrol agents, whose “union” leaders openly sympathize with the Proud Boys, regularly kill, rape, imprison and torture migrants from across the world as they enter the U.S. These are fascist acts.

Historically, right-wing, white supremacist men have been the most violent terrorists in the history of the U.S. People may remember Timothy McVeigh, who killed 168 people in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing; Eric Rudolph, who killed and injured people in Atlanta with bombs at the 1996 Olympics; and Dylann Roof, who killed nine people in a Black church in 2015 in Charleston, S.C. Along with these publicized cases is the legacy of white men killing people of color for “ideals” of alleged national and racial purity. That’s “as American (sic) as apple pie.”

Genocide, slavery, colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism are intertwined systems that create the basis for fascism in the United States. Indeed, people of color, Indigenous peoples, immigrants and colonized peoples have faced oppression throughout U.S. capitalist history.

Continued on the next page



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

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

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

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

workers.org/wwp

Durham, N.C. 804 Old Fayetteville St. Durham, NC 27701 919.322.9970 durham@workers.org	Philadelphia P.O. Box 34249 Philadelphia, PA 19101 610.931.2615 phila@workers.org
Houston P.O. Box 3454 Houston, TX 77253-3454 713.503.2633 houston@workers.org	Portland, Ore. portland@workers.org
Los Angeles 5278 W Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019 la@workers.org 323.306.6240	Salt Lake City 801.750.0248 SLC@workers.org
	San Diego P.O. Box 33447 San Diego, CA 92163 sandiego@workers.org
	Tucson, Ariz. tucson@workers.org

WORKERS WORLD

this week

★ Puerto Rico Tribunal	
Guilty: Jury condemns U.S. colonial crimes in Puerto Rico. .	1
Summary of indictment of the U.S.	7
Verdict demands reparations for U.S. crimes.	7
★ In the U.S.	
Nov. 17 in Philly / Fight fascist violence!	2
New Orleans Workers Group defends trans lives	3
Trans people will not be erased.	3
49th National Day of Mourning.	3
Palestinian liberation leader salutes Black Panthers	4
New evidence of bias in Mumia’s case	5
Hotel workers strike in 10 cities.	6
Striking Boston hotel workers stay strong.	6
‘The Sentence’: An intersectional view of mass incarceration.	11
★ Around the world	
Refugees flee Central America	8
Pro-fascist elected in Brazil: Resistance continues.	8
Saudi aggression brings famine to millions of Yemenis	9
Syria’s buffer area still a danger zone.	9
Hamas makes statement on Pittsburgh massacre.	10
White House prepares to break nuclear weapons treaty ..	10
Haiti: Earthquake and a quick Cuban response.	11
★ Editorial	
Anti-Semitism and fascist attacks	10
★ Noticias en Español	
Solidaridad a través de fronteras	12
Tribunal de Puerto Rico 12.	12

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 60, No. 44 • Nov. 1, 2018
Closing date: Oct, 30, 2018
Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,
Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt;
Web Editor Gary Wilson

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

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan,
Sue Davis, Bob McCubbin, Jeff Sorel

Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel,
K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt,
Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash,
John Parker, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci;
Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2018 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.



Palestinian liberation leader salutes Black Panthers

The following article by imprisoned Palestinian national liberation movement leader Ahmad Sa'adat — the general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — was posted on samidoun.net on Oct. 15. It was originally published in French as the preface to the new French-language edition of "Revolutionary Suicide" by Huey Newton.

Samidoun writes: "On 15 October — the anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party — we salute the profound legacy and ongoing struggle of the Black Liberation Movement, on the front lines of confrontation against U.S. racism, imperialism and capitalism. Sa'adat's article, published in English for the first time here, elucidates the common struggles and revolutionary alliances of the Palestinian and Black movements. It focuses particularly on the struggle against racist and colonial imprisonment."

It is an honor to write an introduction to this book by a great leader of the Black Liberation struggle in the United States, Huey P. Newton. From inside the occupier's Ramon prison, on behalf of myself, my comrades and the Palestinian prisoners' movement, we extend our clenched fists of solidarity and salute and arms of embrace to our Black comrades whose struggle for liberation in the belly of the beast continues today against fierce repression.

From Ansar to Attica to Lannemezan, the prison is not only a physical space of confinement but a site of struggle of the oppressed confronting the oppressor. Whether the name is Mumia Abu-Jamal, Walid Daqqa or Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, political prisoners behind bars can and must be a priority for our movements. These names illustrate the continuity of struggle against our collective enemy — their legacies of organizing that reach back to the anti-colonial, liberation movements of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s to today. Political prisoners are not simply individuals; they are leaders of struggle and organizing within prison walls that help to break down and dismantle the bars, walls, and chains that act to divide us from our peoples and communities in struggle. They face repeated isolation, solitary confinement, cruel tortures of the occupier and jailer that seek to break the will of the prisoner and their deep connection to their people.

So when we witness the escalation against our movement as we see today in the Philippines, as we see the murderous and orchestrated attacks on our Palestinian resistance, as we see the criminalization of Black people and movements, it is clear that we are still facing the situation that Huey Newton identified and confronted. We are still seeking to defend our peoples from the relentless assaults of capitalism, Zionism and imperialism and their police and military forces. We have not yet been able to realize our dreams and transform the prisons into museums of liberation. Revolutionaries across the world struggle and dream for this future in every movement of oppressed people. Indeed, when we speak of the prisoners' movement, we are in essence speaking of Resistance.

Prisons exist for a reason, for the needs and interests of those with power. And ... where there is occupation and colonization, there will be prisons and all the laws and legal frameworks erected to legitimize exploitation, oppression and injustice and criminalize resistance and liberation. From the Fugitive Slave Acts of the 1800s to the "terrorist lists" that seek to criminalize and isolate the resistance movements of the peoples of the world, these are reflections of a war on the people. We salute sister Assata Shakur, still struggling and free in Cuba, while facing renewed threats and "terrorist" labeling to justify hunting down this global symbol of freedom.

This also illustrates clearly that the struggle, the cause, and the movement of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Movement are not a closed file. It is an open file, an ongoing struggle and a continuing movement for justice and liberation. As I write today, the revolutionary Palestinian Left, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is marking its 50th year of struggle, a time for both celebration and review of this legacy in order to sharpen and strengthen our march toward revolutionary victory. Similarly, we have just passed the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party, whose vision for revolutionary change continues to be just as relevant today.

This is a legacy that is carried on both with ideas and with people themselves whose histories of struggle continue to animate and inspire their communities. You could pass by the first prisoner of the PFLP somewhere on the streets of Berlin, still organizing Palestinians. You could feel the legacy of the Black Panther Party and the continuing Black struggle on the streets of Chicago, Oakland and Harlem. There are people who carry within them the legacies of struggle as a human treasure. The experiences of the elders of our movement, especially those who have come through prison, stand alongside the ideas passed down through writing, books and literature in carrying on, from one generation to another, the trajectory and path of struggle toward a future in which youth are coming forward to lead Black and Palestinian revolutionary struggles for liberation.

Every political prisoner, whether they are currently in prison or not in prison, carries within them the dream and reality of liberation and what it can and must mean in practice. Today, when we look at the Black Liberation Movement or the Indigenous and Native struggle in the United States and Canada, we are talking about the same camp of enemy that we confront in occupied Palestine. The bullets that assassinated Malcolm X or Fred Hampton could have been used to kill Ghassan Kanafani or Khaled Nazal or Mahmoud Hamshari, and today we see the same tear gas and bullets shipped around the world for use against the people. We see corporations like G4S profiting from the attacks on our movements and the mass imprisonments of our people and U.S., European and Israeli police forces exchanging training with one another to escalate racism, "counter-insurgency" and repression on the streets of our cities, camps and villages.

In our circles here in prisons, we always hope and wish to communicate to movements elsewhere and political prisoners everywhere. We want to share our experiences with one another to strengthen all our movements for liberation and the movement to free our prisoners. The political prisoners have firsthand experi-



ence of confrontation, and the experience of the prison can be a transformative one for a political prisoner. It is not an individual experience but a collective one; the heroism of a prisoner is not simply to be in prison but to understand that they carry with them the leadership of a movement and a continuing struggle in a new location that continues to have international reverberations. Georges Ibrahim Abdallah today is struggling in Lannemezan prison just as Mumia Abu-Jamal is struggling in Mahanoy. The heroism also does not come simply in that one has spent years in prison and now has been released; but in being a veteran of struggle who continues to carry the message of liberation for those who remain.

The political prisoner is not weak and is not broken, despite all of their best efforts. The responsibility of the political prisoner is to safeguard the flame. This is not a role that we have sought out or worked for. But now that we are in this position we must hold our position to set an example, not to our people, who are rooted and steadfast, but to the enemy, to show that imprisonment will not work to defeat us or our people. We carry a cause, not simply an individual search for freedom. Israel or France or the U.S. would free us, or Georges Abdallah, or Mumia Abu-Jamal, if we were willing to become tools of the system or betray our people. But instead, the prisons have generated striking examples of a culture of resistance, from art, to literature to political ideas.

Today, our movements and the revolutionary movements around the world are facing very difficult times. However, these difficult times can also hold value if we look more closely; we are paving the way for new generations of revolutionaries around the world who can still carry the demand for socialism, for people's democracy, for an alternative world. In the era in which Newton wrote, movements and prisoners shared experiences and communicated through letters, books and art, often smuggled out of or into prisons, past censors and iron walls. Today, with all the great revolutions in technology, political prisoners are struggling to have their words heard at all, denied access to even telephones to speak with our families and loved ones.

Why do we still consider and read and reprint the writings of Huey Newton today? Fundamentally, because his analysis and that of the Black Panther Party was right and continues to be right, valid and essential. Today, when we see the ravages of U.S. imperialism, the threats of Trump against the world and the shooting down of Black people on U.S. streets by cops, then the fundamental correctness and necessity of the Black Panthers' work is underlined. Today, when popular movements are under attack and liberation struggles labeled as "terrorist" and criminalized, we see a massive, coercive attack on our peoples. Prisons are only one form of coercion in the hands of the occupier, colonizer, capitalist and imperial-

ist; stripping the knowledge of the people and imposing new forms of isolation are yet more forms of coercion.

The imposition of consumerism, the stripping of peoples from their humanity, the isolation of peoples are all forms of coercion alongside the prisons that act to undermine our movements, our peoples and our visions of liberation. They want to see all our movements isolated from one another, through the terror of the "terrorist list" and the silence of solitary confinement. Capitalist and imperialist media blanket the world, so even here in an Israeli prison we hear about the latest technologies in the U.S. while the repression of Black people is rendered invisible. But the reality today is that every day, a little Huey or Assata or Khalida or Ishaq is being born that can carry forward the vision of their people.

Huey Newton and the Black Panthers stood for socialism, for social justice, against racism, imperialism and war, from the streets of Oakland to the refugee camps of Lebanon. Huey Newton said, "We support the Palestinians' just struggle for liberation one hundred percent. We will go on doing this, and we would like for all of the progressive people of the world to join our ranks in order to make a world in which all people can live."

Of course, I cannot speak as an expert about incarceration in the United States today. But just looking at the numbers is a stunning illustration of what is deeply wrong with the system. As Palestinians, we also face an experience of negation, of attack on our existence, of being treated as lesser or non-humans for our designated racial identity. We understand through our own experiences how occupation and capitalism are all about profit and the example that U.S. prisons are creating for the world, where prisons are seen as a source of cheap and coerced free labor and a profit for capitalism. We see how incarceration is used to control, divide and threaten communities and peoples under attack. Incarceration means a lot of money for corporations at the same time that it means a direct threat to Black children and their futures. And this is the "security solution" that Trump and U.S. imperialism is marketing to the world as a solution to the crisis of capitalism, a solution built on bloody and brutal exploitation.

Here in our cells, we can feel the reverberations of these attacks and the physical impact of them in the invasions and inspections of the special repressive units of the occupier. We also see the potential and, indeed the necessity, for movements to rise inside prisons together with those on the outside. We see thousands of people sentenced to massive sentences of 20, 30, 40 years in prison and even more, stripping people's freedom and taking people's lives. Resistance is critical and it must have a real impact on people's lives. Our sacrifice in prison has meaning when it can lead to fruits for the poor and liberation for our peoples. Our struggle must impact people's lives in a material way.

From Ireland to the United States to France to Palestine, political prisoners continue to be leaders in movements fighting racism, imperialism and colonialism. We also see the prisoners of the Palestinian movement facing political imprisonment around the world in the jails of the enemy — from the heroic

Continued on page 5

New evidence of bias in Mumia’s case

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

As supporters demonstrated in the streets outside Philadelphia’s Criminal Justice Center on Oct. 29, inside the courthouse attorneys for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal presented new arguments of substantive bias by former District Attorney Ronald Castille as grounds for granting Abu-Jamal’s petition.

Abu-Jamal’s initial petition, filed in August 2016, is based on the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Williams v. Pennsylvania* that found due process was violated when Castille participated in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s consideration of Williams’ appeal in a capital postconviction case. Castille, in his previous position as district attorney of Philadelphia, had approved decisions to seek the death penalty. The SCOTUS ruling established that a petitioner is entitled to relief when a reasonable observer could conclude that a judge harbored disqualifying bias against the petitioner.

Representing Abu-Jamal, Judith Ritter and Samuel Spital, asked Common Court of Appeals Judge Leon Tucker to vacate Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s decisions that denied Abu-Jamal’s right to appeal his 1983 capital conviction, stemming from the death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. The appeal is asking for Abu-Jamal’s right to a new evidentiary hearing.

The petition was first heard on April 24, 2017. Since January 2018, when Philadelphia’s current district attorney, Larry Krasner, took office, six additional hearings have been held. At each the Commonwealth has sought to deny Abu-Jamal’s petition, claiming “no evidence exists” of Castille’s direct involvement in Abu-Jamal’s case while he served as district attorney.

New evidence surfaces

The lawyers’ new amendment is based on two pieces of evidence that came to light during searches of hundreds of boxes of files looking for a letter written by DA Castille in June 1990 to then Gov. Robert P. Casey. An initial search of files in September 2017 uncovered a draft for a letter written on Castille’s behalf by former Deputy DA Gaelle Barthold. Her June 1, 1990, memo to Castille states, “As discussed, I have drafted a letter to Governor Casey for your signature, Ron, requesting that death warrants be issued in appro-



Protest outside Philadelphia’s Criminal Justice Center on Oct. 29.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

priate Philadelphia County death cases.”

In his June 15, 1990, letter to Casey, Castille used Barthold’s draft but inserted a paragraph urging Casey to sign death warrants to send a message to “all police killers.” At her recent deposition, Barthold confirmed that the paragraph concerning “cop killers” was not in her draft and was not in language she would have used. While the Commonwealth uncovered Barthold’s draft, which refers to a copy of Castille’s letter being attached, they maintain that Castille’s final signed letter to Casey cannot be found.

Castille’s letter referred to a list of capital cases then before Casey. Because he had not exhausted his appeals before the DA’s office, Abu-Jamal’s case was not on the list. However, his attorneys hold that Castille had to have examined the status of Abu-Jamal’s case as of June 15, 1990, to determine that it was not ready for a death warrant. They charge that this reflects substantial, personal involvement in a critical decision in Abu-Jamal’s case.

Support for pro-death penalty legislation

A few days before the Aug. 30 hearing regarding the status of their search for the missing letter, the Commonwealth notified the court that they had also uncovered evidence of communications between DA Castille and former Pennsylvania State Senator Michael Fisher regarding passage of legislation to further restrict state appeals of death penalty convictions.

The evidence was a letter, on letterhead identifying Ron Castille as district attorney, from then Philadelphia Assistant

District Attorney Kathleen McDonnell sent “pursuant to Sen. Fisher’s request, in order to provide him with, the current status of certain death row inmates.” Abu-Jamal’s name was the first of nine capital defendants.

As with the Barthold memo, the “request” that gave rise to McDonnell’s letter was not provided, and the Commonwealth could not verify to whom Fisher addressed his request. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys charge that if Fisher’s letter was addressed to Castille, it would be additional evidence of his personal significant involvement. The Commonwealth claims that, even after searching more boxes of files, it cannot locate the request letter.

The attorneys further argued that there can be little doubt of Castille’s ardent support for capital punishment and his frustration that it wasn’t being implemented during his term as DA. According to their new amendment, “Fisher had introduced a new death penalty statute designed to bring capital punishment back to Pennsylvania after an earlier statute had been declared unconstitutional.”

The amendment also notes that “on Sept. 23, 1988, DA Castille wrote directly to Fisher urging passage of an amendment to the death penalty law and conveying his fears about the impact of *Mills v. Maryland*.” Castille feared that “*Mills* may lead to the vacating of scores of death penalties.” Abu-Jamal’s case not only contained a *Mills* claim — it became the basis for his eventual sentencing relief.

Failure to secure evidence is grounds for appeal

Abu-Jamal’s attorneys have argued that despite the Commonwealth’s failure to find missing records, “The newly discovered evidence in these proceedings establishes that a reasonable observer could conclude that Justice Castille harbored disqualifying bias against Mr. Abu-Jamal as a person convicted of killing a police officer.”

Speaking in court today, Samuel Spital again raised that the Commonwealth’s proven inability to secure evidence favorable to the defendant constitutes adverse interference that arises under the state court’s spoliation doctrine. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court holds that “spoliation of evidence is the non-preservation

or significant alteration of evidence for pending future litigation.”

Noting that Abu-Jamal and the DA’s office have been involved in postconviction litigation for most of the last 30 years, Spital stated that the Commonwealth had the duty to preserve these documents, yet failed to do so. The amendment also notes that, after having obtained a two-month continuance and assigned a paralegal to work full-time to search for it, the Commonwealth has recognized that the missing memo is central to this case. To date the Commonwealth admits that many boxes of files remain unaccounted for.

Abu-Jamal’s case was the most important capital case in Philadelphia’s history. It involved the killing of a police officer, allegedly by a former member of the Black Panther Party. The case remains important, not just to Philadelphia, but to an international liberation movement.

To argue that DA Castille was wholly uninvolved in the decisions around the response to Abu-Jamal’s first appeals lacks credibility. During Castille’s term as DA, his office aggressively fought Abu-Jamal’s initial appeals. As DA in 1988, Castille received a “Man of the Year award” from the Fraternal Order of Police, which has arduously sought Abu-Jamal’s death.

Spital noted that as DA, Castille’s focus on sending a message to “police killers” could be seen as either bias against a particular defendant or a class of cases. Under the Constitution, claims of judicial bias do not require proof of actual bias. The question for the court is whether the judge is likely to be neutral or whether there is unconstitutional potential for bias. The PA Supreme Court has held that recusal is required wherever there is substantial doubt as to the judge’s ability to preside impartially. Castille had denied repeated requests from Abu-Jamal to recuse himself.

FOP intimidation

For the third time in as many hearings, the Faulkner family and dozens of FOP members were given priority seating in the small courtroom, leaving little space for Abu-Jamal’s family and supporters. Former Assistant District Attorney Joseph McGill, who produced a training video for prosecutors to keep Black people off juries, and former police officer Gary Bell, who lied about hearing Abu-Jamal’s confession, were part of today’s FOP contingent — a clear effort to intimidate the court.

Abu-Jamal’s lawyers requested a one-month extension to await the results of their right-to-know request to the Pennsylvania State Senate Judiciary Committee for documents. Tucker granted the request and was determining that the court would reconvene on Dec. 3 when Maureen Faulkner, Daniel Faulkner’s spouse, stood up to denounce the extension. When she refused to stop her outburst, Tucker had her ejected from the court.

Tucker ended the session noting, “The court is not going to rush to judgment in this matter. Just to be clear, no matter how long it takes, this court is going to do the right thing.” □

Palestinian liberation leader salutes Black Panthers

Continued from page 4

Rasmea Odeh forced from the United States to the Five prisoners for Palestine, called the Holy Land Five, held in extreme solitary confinement alongside Black strugglers for engaging in charity work for our people, to our dear comrade Georges Abdallah who has suffered for 34 years in French prisons.

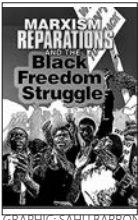
The prisons and the political prisoners are also an example of the power and necessity of “breaking the law.” The law — the law of the imperialist and the colonizer — is used to steal the rights and resources of our people and also to justify our imprisonment and repression and criminalization. Through the collective “breaking” of the law and its power to define justice and injustice — when people, collectively, confront and “break” the law, not merely as individuals but as collec-

tive power, it loses its claim to legitimacy. Breaking of the law must become the norm, and not the exception — the law of capitalism, imperialism and exploitation.

Political prisoners are jailed because they fear our actions and they fear our ideas, our power to mobilize our peoples in a revolutionary way against their exploitation and colonization. They fear our communication and they fear the powers of our people. They fear that if we come together that we will build an international front for the liberation of oppressed peoples. They know, and deeply fear, that we can truly build an alternative world. For them, this is the terror of defeat, but for us, and for our peoples, this is the hope of freedom and the promise of victory.

Ahmad Sa’adat
Ramon Prison
November 2017

Available online without charge. Find them at: www.workers.org/books



MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

Available at online booksellers.



The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

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

Hotel workers strike in 10 cities

By Martha Grevatt

In eight U.S. cities and two in Canada, hotel workers are waging a militant strike against the Marriott hotel chain. Though Marriott is the largest and most profitable hotel chain in the world, its workers have united nationally around the slogan “one job should be enough.” This refers to the fact that many hotel workers must work two or more jobs to make ends meet. Cities affected by the strike are Boston, Detroit, Honolulu, Kauai; Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose in California; and Toronto and Vancouver in Canada. Close to two dozen hotels are feeling the effects of the strike.

Striking hotel workers in **San Francisco** took to the streets Oct. 20 as part of the national strike. More than 1,000 hotel workers, led by UNITE HERE, plus their allies, marched past four San Francisco Marriotts, chanting and drumming. The strikers are now into their second week. Workers marched in seven other cities as well on Oct. 20.

In **Detroit** the Marriott-owned Westin Book Cadillac, the most profitable hotel in the city but with some of the lowest wages, has been targeted by UNITE HERE Local 24, which represents hospitality workers in Michigan and Ohio. Along with wages, working conditions are a big issue in the strike, which is entering its fourth week. Housekeepers are often forced to work during their breaks to keep up with the workload.

Members at the Westin Airport hotel also voted overwhelmingly to strike if contract demands are not met.

As the strike enters its fourth week, noisy, round-the-clock pickets continue. Rallies held Oct. 9 and Oct. 20 drew large crowds of supporters. The second rally was addressed by the leadership of the



WW PHOTO: SHANE HOFF

Michigan AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers, American Federation of Teachers and other labor leaders, along with clergy and elected officials. Even City Lab, a confer-

ence of business elites, felt the pressure not to cross the picket line and moved its event to another venue.

Shane Hoff contributed to this report.

Striking Boston hotel workers stay strong

By Workers World Boston bureau

Oct. 29 — Hundreds of striking hotel workers and thousands of supporters in Boston remain firmly united as they battle through their fourth week on the picket lines. The hotel workers, predominantly people of color and organized by UNITE HERE Local 26, unanimously voted to walk off the job Oct. 3, inspired by a Chicago hotel workers strike in September.

Workers in nine other cities — from Detroit to San Diego, Vancouver and Honolulu — joined unionized hotel employees in Boston by authorizing strikes and setting up picket lines targeting hotel properties managed by the virulently anti-union Marriott International, Inc.

The backdrop for the Boston strike is a metropolitan area with skyrocketing rents and unmanageable living costs. Elders, students, migrants and people with longtime roots in the city’s neighborhoods can barely afford to live here anymore. Poor, working-class, Black, Latinx and immigrant people are being pushed out by racist gentrification, real estate development and venture capitalist speculation.

These strikers, coalescing under the slogan “One Job Should Be Enough,” have courageously called out Marriott — the giant hotel conglomerate — as well as its lawyers and scabbing wealthy hotel guests who refuse to back the strikers’ righteous demands for dignity, affordable health insurance and wages that would afford them the basic right to work 40 hours a week and survive without requiring a second or third job.

Many of these workers have been employed at downtown hotels for decades; yet they are willing to risk everything because they are fed up. Since going on strike, they have only become more fired up and militant in their demand for economic justice.

World Series throws spotlight on strike

The workers have used the Major League Baseball playoffs and the World Series to turn up the volume on their demands. While in Boston for the divisional series in early October, the New York Yankees’ management booked their players into the Ritz-Carlton Boston, a Marriott-owned hotel. This essentially forced union players to cross a picket line. That helped galvanize support for the strike from Red Sox fans eager for opportuni-



PHOTO: UNITE HERE LOCAL 26

Workers of all ages, genders and nationalities poured into Boston’s Copley Square Oct. 20 for an inspiring rally and march, the largest yet in support of Boston hotel workers on strike against Marriott management.

ties to heap insult upon their arch-rivals. Working-class solidarity with the strike proved a welcome reason.

Strike representatives were able to convince the Houston Astros’ management to secure hotel rooms in a union-friendly venue during their visit to Boston for the American League Championship Series. However, travel coordinators for the Los Angeles Dodgers made the same “mistake” for games 1 and 2 of the World Series last week as did Yankees’ management. When Dodgers players crossed picket lines and checked into their hotel, it ignited hotel workers and Red Sox fans alike with a new sense of solidarity.

Brian Lang, president of UNITE HERE Local 26, reminded fans of both teams about the importance of being on the right side of history, embodied in Dodgers’ icon Jackie Robinson.

“The bottom line is workers out there, who are on their third week of striking, who live paycheck to paycheck, who are fighting for a livable income so one job would be enough. You’ve got millionaire ball players who would rather sleep in a hotel, even if it’s struck, because it has suites. I personally think that Jackie Robinson is rolling over in his grave right now. He’s an icon who that organization

hails as a hero and they act completely differently than he would in this situation.” (sbnation.com, Oct. 26)

Local 26 also appealed directly to the Major League Baseball Players Association, the union representing the players. The MLBPA then issued a statement in support of the strike and encouraged its players not to cross the picket lines.

What was not explained in the statement is the reality that it isn’t up to professional athletes where they stay during team travel. Hotel stays for teams are organized by baseball management at the direction of the office of the Major League Baseball Commissioner, who is really just a spokesperson for the owners of baseball teams. In other words, this was a conscious tactic by team owners to signal their class allegiance when it comes to labor disputes.

Owners of National Hockey League

teams and National Football League teams have also used this tactic to try to demoralize striking hotel workers nationwide.

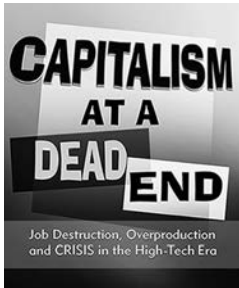
Now that the World Series is over, striking union members are facing rent due Nov. 1, food supplies running low and needing to pay health care insurance. Without averaging a minimum number of hours worked per month, union members face losing their health care coverage.

But with Teamsters drivers refusing to deliver to striking hotels out of solidarity, the hotels are also feeling the pressure of dwindling supplies. Local 26 has plans to turn up the heat with more pickets and more support by getting other unions involved in the struggle.

As of this writing, some 30 local politicians — including Boston city councilors and the mayor — have signed a letter to Marriott management urging negotiations for an end to the strike. This move by local politicians comes not because City Hall has any love for the workers being displaced by its development and gentrification projects. Instead this drive to re-open negotiations is merely a face-saving effort to stem class solidarity and prevent disruptions to tourism.

In contrast to the relentless racism and chauvinist rhetoric of hotel magnate President Donald Trump, and the growing far-right tide all over the world, workers and their supporters on the picket line have a great appreciation for the importance of protecting and caring for one another.

Speaking to Workers World, local labor activist Genevieve LeChat said of the strike, “The caravan [of refugees marching to the U.S. border from Honduras] is a good parallel for this: Workers who are struggling and facing displacement [are] sticking together. When the people of Mexico come out to greet them and leave food, it’s a lot like when workers join the picket line or cheer and honk on on their way to work. It breathes life into the struggle and helps [the strikers] keep marching.” □



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 all major online booksellers.

PUERTO RICO TRIBUNAL Summary of indictment of the U.S.

The following is a brief summary of the indictment prepared by chief prosecutor Augusto Zamora for the International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico on Oct. 27 in New York City. For full indictment, see tinyurl.com/ycnredld.

1. Puerto Rico, a supposed “Free Associated State” under the constitution of 1952, continues to be a colony of the United States. The U.S. maintains Puerto Rico under colonial domain, with the subterfuge of “Free Associated State,” an entity of colonialist origin, with which the U.S. flagrantly violates the world legal order, which constitutes a crime against Puerto Rico.

2. The “constitution” of Puerto Rico, proposed in 1952 and approved by the U.S. Congress in 1953, predates by eight years the decolonization process promoted by the United Nations. In

Guilty

Continued from page 1

intervention in the U.S. Congress hall, together with Lolita Lebrón, Irvin Flores and Andrés Figueroa Cordero, in 1954 to expose the farce of the newly created “Free Associated State” and demand independence for his homeland.

His overview for the International Tribunal on United States’ Colonial Crimes Against Puerto Rico began with the U.S. murders of Puerto Ricans in its first military attack on San Juan on May 12, 1898, and continued through the recent economic invasion imposed through Wall Street’s pillage of the country. Noting that up to \$32 billion in annual profits are currently looted from there by U.S.-based transnationals, he concluded, “They owe us.”

Testimony exposes poisoning of land, people

Berta Joubert-Ceci and Frank Velgara coordinated the presentations during the testimony. One session exposed the destruction of the environment. Testimony from the city of Guayama — where coal plants poison the earth with carbon ash and heavy metals, causing maladies among the residents — indicted U.S. corporations. From the island of Vieques, testimony exposed how the U.S. Navy tested weapons there for over 60 years, poisoning the soil and the people.

In the session on “120 Years of Repression and Resistance,” young activists revealed both the history and the current high level of mobilization and fightback. One important focus was the defense of Nina Droz, now persecuted by the colonial state power for allegedly setting fire to a bank. The session featured videos of recent mass mobilizations.

Among the chief economic crimes exposed in that session were attempts to privatize the electrical power grid and public schools. This assault has included closing many schools and minimizing education for children with special needs.

The jury hearing the testimony were representative of struggles of peoples from all over the world. They included the Rev. Luis Barrios, Luz de las Nieves Ayress Moreno, Susan Abulhawa, Jaribu Hill, Gerardo Cajamarca Alarcón, Deirdre Griswold, Hyun Lee, Mahtowin Munro, Angélica Lara, Chrisley Carpio, Pam Africa, André François, Noriko Oyama, Bernadette Ellorin and Ajamu Baraka.

Video testimony, which provides a short history of Puerto Rico as a U.S. colony, along with the resistance of its people, will be available on puertoricotribunal.org. Workers World will continue Tribunal coverage in upcoming issues. □



Berta Joubert-Ceci



Augusto Zamora

1952, Puerto Rico was occupied by U.S. military forces, and thus its people’s choices regarding the referendum were not free. In addition, the constitution of a sovereign nation (according to the U.N.) should never be subject to the approval and scrutiny of the colonial power, as it was here.

3. By submitting the case of Puerto Rico to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the United States was accepting, on the one hand, that Puerto Rico was a colonial nation and that the United Nations had jurisdiction over Puerto Rico because it was the country

subjected to colonial rule.

4. The deprivation of that inalienable right to a lawful and reliable exercise (of self-determination) under the supervision of the United Nations bears full witness that the regime in Puerto Rico is a blatantly colonial regime, and the U.S. uses this regime to keep Puerto Rico under U.S. colonial domination. Maintaining Puerto Rico as a colony is a violation of the world legal order, and it constitutes a crime against the people of Puerto Rico; as such it should be denounced.

5. By approving and enforcing the so-called PROMESA law, the United States

has acted as a colonial power over the territory of Puerto Rico, violating even the null-and-void process of 1952. With that law, the U.S. has returned Puerto Rico to the situation it had in 1898, violating the substantive rights of the Puerto Rican people, such as their right to freedom, self-determination and the right to their natural wealth and resources. The U.S. commits a crime against the people of Puerto Rico by usurping their freedom, denying their self-determination and violating the sacred right of the Puerto Rican people to their natural wealth and resources. □

Verdict demands reparations for U.S. crimes

Following two hours of deliberation on the evening of Oct. 27 in New York City, the jury at the International Tribunal on U.S. Crimes in Puerto Rico issued the following verdict:

The International Tribunal on United States’ Colonial Crimes Against Puerto Rico, having met in open session as guests on unseated Lenape Indigenous land, on Oct 27, 2018;

Having heard testimony regarding the history of U.S. colonial rule over Puerto Rico since 1898; and

Having heard testimony from experts, eyewitnesses, colonial resisters and survivors — the majority of whom were born in Puerto Rico and continue to endure colonial depravity there — on the catastrophe endured by the Puerto Rican people both during and in the aftermath of Hurricane María;

Having viewed videotape interviews and examined other documentary material on these topics;

Hereby finds the U.S. government guilty of the following crimes against humanity, warranting all measures of relief and redress, including, but not limited to, reparations:

1. That it has deprived the people of Puerto Rico of their right to self-determination, a violation of international law;

2. That after buying Puerto Rico from Spain in 1899 without the consent of the people of Puerto Rico, it subdued popular resistance through military conquest, set up and maintains a settler-colonial regime;

3. That this colonialization of the Puerto Rican people took place over a century, during which independence movements were repressed with great bloodshed;

4. That the passage of Law 600 by the U.S. Congress in 1950 ostensibly allowing Puerto Rico to draft its own constitution (and its official status renamed “Commonwealth,” known in Spanish as “Estado Libre Asociado” or “Associated Free State”) effectively legalized U.S. colonialism and created a

veneer of legitimacy to what was and remains the subjugation of the Puerto Rican people;

5. That this colonial imposition has profoundly and detrimentally impacted every area of life in Puerto Rico, from its domestic policies to its external relations, resulting in intergenerational psychosocial trauma;

6. That this colonial imposition has included theft of land for U.S. military bases and exercises that have contaminated the soil, air and water, resulting in widespread diseases, health deterioration and death, as well as destruction of wildlife and domestic farm animals; that it has further resulted in forced displacement, dispossession, loss of home and exile;

7. That this colonial imposition, through the so-called Fiscal Control Board, is directly responsible for the disastrous conditions still existing in Puerto Rico more than a year after Hurricane María, in which the U.S. corporations and banks, under the guise of helping with reconstruction, have expropriated billions of public dollars, creating a humanitarian crisis;

8. That this colonial imposition has used the hurricane as a pretext to further the long-standing neoliberal and right-wing policies of the U.S. government to privatize fundamental social services and destroy labor movements, especially in the fields of education and electricity;

9. That the U.S. government imposed protocols that allowed and encouraged corporate looting of Puerto Rico’s natural

resources and wealth and the exploitation of Puerto Rican labor, dispelling the myth and legend that Puerto Rico owes the U.S. government anything; in fact, an extraordinary debt is owed to the Puerto Rican people by the U.S. government and by U.S. corporations;

10. That the U.S. has committed genocide against the Puerto Rican people, including decades of sterilization of Puerto Rican women, medical experimentation, suppression of Boricua culture, exploitation of Puerto Rican youth to fight imperialist wars, denial of basic human needs, including water, healthful food, a refusal of international humanitarian and solidarity aid from various nations, such as Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela, following Hurricane María.

Therefore, we hereby demand the following:

1. The U.S. government acknowledge and apologize for aforementioned crimes against the Puerto Rican people.

2. The U.S. surrender all property and power forcibly taken from the Puerto Rican people.

3. The U.S. pay reparations to victims of the crime of colonialism. □



Frank Velgara

Lorraine Liriano
Déborah Santana

Below, #SeAcabaron-
LasPromesas activists.



WWW PHOTOS:
BRENDA RYAN
AND JOE PIETTE



Front row: Susan Abulhawa, The Rev. Luis Barrios, Pam Africa. Second row: Jaribu Hill, Ajamu Baraka, Gerardo Cajamarca Alarcón. Third row: Mahtowin Munro, Deirdre Griswold. Behind them: Noriko Oyama, Hyun Lee, Andre Francois, Luz de las Nieves Ayress Moreno, Bernadette Ellorin, Chrisley Carpio, and Angélica Lara.

Refugees flee Central America

By Teresa Gutierrez

The mass exodus of workers from Central America making its way into the U.S. is described in the media as a “migrant caravan.”

But the workers fleeing their homeland in record, unprecedented numbers right now are refugees, not migrants.

According to the United Nations, a refugee is defined as “someone who has been forced to flee (their) country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution. ... Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ... violence are leading causes.”

According to the Oct. 23 Daily Beast, in early October a pro-migrant radio activist in Honduras, Bartolo Fuentes, heard that small groups throughout the country were organizing among themselves to leave.

He told the Daily Beast that he “had helped repatriate the bodies of many migrants who died in the journey al Norte” and wanted to make sure this time people would be safer.

“No one expected this human avalanche,” he told the Beast. The word went out, though it later proved to be wrong, that someone would foot the bill for food and travel and that people would not have to pay the usual \$7,000 for a smuggler.

As masses of people began to gather, from 2,000 to 3,000, the caravan grew to about 10,000 as more and more Hondurans came together. They were then surprisingly joined by thousands of Guatemalans and Salvadorans.

While activist caravans are common in this area, no one had ever seen anything like this.

In their own words

The sight of this mass exodus tears at the heart strings.

The wave of humanity risking everything, trekking in scorching heat and dangerous terrain, feet aching beyond words, with children sick and crying, women and LGBTQ folks fearing rape, everyone was uncertain if the journey would be made.

It is 1,442 miles from Honduras to Texas.

Workers are attempting to walk it all the way. And not just from Honduras, but from just about every nation in Central America.

Why do they do it? Why take those incredibly dangerous risks?

Why does a mother risk what one Mexican volunteer reported? In one of the worst cases his colleagues had seen, a baby was so badly burned by the tropical heat that the child had to be hospitalized in southern Mexico.

Why? Because the mother had no other options.

A statement issued by a Central American farmer organization, titled “Via Campesina Centro América,” declared that Honduras has “hit rock bottom.”

Delegates from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Honduras met on Oct. 23-24 in Honduras and declared in a joint statement, “Beyond the Border,” that it is “capitalism that has caused this human migration.”

They stated that the situation in Honduras has become a “humanitarian, economic, social and political crisis” as a result of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Along with the multinational corporations, the IMF and the World Bank provoke “extreme poverty, galloping national insecurity, no access

to land, criminalization of social movements, massive political instability.”

The fraudulent government of President Juan Orlando Hernández has brought Honduras “from democracy to barbarity.”

This situation is a direct result of U.S. imperialism, which not only assured the illegal election of Hernández in 2009 but also has a history of decades of bloody intervention in the region.

UNICEF reports that about 2,300 children are on the caravan. Parents are forced to flee with their children because of this terrible instability. This includes the novel phenomena called “sacked,” which the Oct. 21 Al Jazeera says has become part of the national vocabulary today.

“Sacked” is the heinous act, carried out by state-supported thugs, of dismembering corpses and stuffing them in sacks, leaving them on the roads and highways. Men and women, including transpeople, are all killed in this manner.

One woman told Al Jazeera that she was forced to flee because gangs, which the government allows to operate with impunity, threatened her and her daughter.

“They do not forgive,” she said. When the gangs began to aggressively extort them for money, and threatened to kill her daughter if she did not pay, she had no choice but to leave.

There is no social contract protecting workers. There is only profit, privatization and unemployment. More and more people are getting hungrier and hungrier by the day. There is no work, no food.

More than 80 percent of Hondurans make less than the minimum wage; about 6 out of 10 Hondurans live in extreme poverty. Privatization of utilities such as electricity has meant skyrocketing costs. Electricity is being shut off in record numbers.

Human Rights Watch says that “impunity for crime and human rights abuses is the norm” in Honduras. The watchdog group Global Witness concluded: “Honduras is the deadliest country in the world for environmental activists.”

Even the conservative Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said Honduras is a country where “corruption is the operating system” and “repression is carefully targeted for maximum psychological effect.” (Vice, Oct. 26)

As the government lives high on the hog and benefits from the chaos, more and more Hondurans have to flee.

Activist Dunia Montoya told the Oct. 23 Daily Beast: “In Honduras 300 people leave every day. What frightens the world is the accumulation of a week or two of people that concentrated together, but we have been living in a humanitarian crisis since long ago.”

Honduras is collapsing under the weight of Washington’s policies.

Washington responds with threats, violence

President Donald Trump’s response from the get-go to the many caravans trying to come to the U.S. has been to appeal to his white supremacist, anti-immigrant base. He has decried the caravan as full of criminals, terrorists and “Middle Easterners,” in usual racist fearmongering.

He announced on Oct. 29 that he would be sending 5,000 troops to the border to prevent Central Americans from coming in. He wants to initiate a ban that was described by Human Rights First as amounting to a “Latino Ban.”

In reality it is a ban against all Black and Brown folks.

The Mexican government, a puppet of

imperialism, has turned the guns on the caravan. Mexican troops killed a young Honduran man on Oct. 28.

Solidarity, on the other hand, is also very visible, as many Mexican senators have pledged a day’s pay to the caravan. Mexicans, poor themselves, are gathering food, clothes and money to help the caravan — with all their love and solidarity.

As the human exodus crossed from Guatemala to Mexico, supporters hung a banner over a bridge that read: “Your hearts are brave, don’t give up.”

Pro-fascist elected in Brazil

Resistance continues

By John Catalinotto

Oct. 29 — People in São Paulo, Brazil’s largest city, came out into the streets following the announcement that pro-fascist Jair Bolsonaro won the Oct. 28 presidential election. Their message: The struggle may be in a worse place than a day earlier, but the struggle continues.

This continuing struggle requires international solidarity of working-class organizations worldwide, including those in the U.S., with the Brazilian left and with that part of the population that resists the new president and his reactionary program.

The retired army captain got 58 million votes compared to 47 million votes for Fernando Haddad of the Workers Party (PT). Based on Bolsonaro’s Oct. 7 first round victory, 46 percent to 29 percent, this result was no surprise. Haddad’s coalition drew closer, but still fell short.

Bolsonaro is an extreme right-winger, a fascist. He insults women, attacks unions, supports using the army to kill people in the shantytowns or favelas whom he considers criminals, dehumanizes LGBTQ people and threatens communists with death.

He also praises the generals who ran Brazil from 1964-85 and murdered 30,000 people, criticizing them only for not killing another 30,000 left-wing activists and union organizers.

He has a base in the military itself and in the militarized police. He also has the support of the majority of the pastors of the evangelical churches, who preached that Bolsonaro was a savior and the PT were devils. The churches attract 20 percent of Brazil’s 208 million people. Washington supported them for decades to counter the influence of liberation theology based in the Catholic Church.

At this difficult moment, there are important questions to answer: What happened so that the PT lost a significant number of votes from sectors of society that voted for it earlier and that Bolsonaro attacks? And how should the Brazilian left proceed to defend their people and organize to reverse this serious setback?

While the PT transferred wealth to very poor Brazilians during an earlier period of economic growth, it never mobilized them for independent action. Nor did it confront the wealthy capitalists, leaving them the lion’s share of economic growth.

During the economic downturn after 2009, it was inevitable that the Brazilian



And they won’t.

The movement in the U.S. is pledging to meet the caravan at the border and organize to demand asylum for each and every person.

It is a human right to flee oppression, and it will be defended — especially when that oppression is made in Washington. □

ruling class and middle class would resist and finally refuse to share dwindling profits with tens of millions of poor. The banks and oligarchs targeted PT leaders, whom they considered the problem. Brazil’s rich had the full support of U.S. imperialism, which was caught spying on President Dilma Rousseff, the second of the PT presidents.

Growing poverty and unemployment drove more people into precarious work. Crime grew. The usual corruption rampant in any capitalist society spread among the politicians. Meanwhile, petty crime and growing violence made the poor feel unsafe and susceptible to appeals for law and order.

No class collaboration

Although all the capitalist parties were knee deep in corruption, megamedia outlets like O Globo focused their attacks on the social democratic PT as if that party invented bribes. The rich wielded the judiciary against the PT, a tactic known as “lawfare.” Congress, half of whose members are under suspicion of corruption, nevertheless impeached Rousseff and, in a frame-up, drove her out of office in 2016.

As this year’s election drew closer, Lula da Silva, the most popular PT leader, was jailed for alleged corruption in another lawfare maneuver to keep him from contesting the election. Lula led early polls. He was a much better known and more popular political leader than Haddad, an academic.

During the second round of the election, nearly all Brazil’s rich — along with the Wall Street Journal and the Donald Trump administration — backed Bolsonaro.

The lesson is that the PT’s attempt to collaborate with the Brazilian capitalists crashed. The ruling class rejected it. The temptation to conciliate with the capitalists should die with this experience.

In the end, some of the poor were susceptible to the lies that the PT was to blame for everything wrong. Some accepted fascist Bolsonaro’s phony image as an outsider coming to clean up politics. All will soon learn that the new president’s economic program will impose even more inequality and hurt all but the very rich.

Anti-fascist front

In an attempt to keep Bolsonaro from

Continued on page 9

Saudi aggression brings famine to millions of Yemenis

By G. Dunkel

Famine is now killing more people in Yemen than combat in that country’s war of defense against U.S.-backed Saudi Arabia.

Some 13 million civilians among Yemen’s 29 million people face death by starvation, said Lise Grande, the United Nations coordinator for Yemen. The U.N. is close to calling the situation a famine. (Independent, Oct. 15) The Save the Children charity now estimates that 50,000 children under the age of five could die from malnutrition this year alone.

Located in the southwest corner of the Arabian peninsula, Yemen has a distinctive history of at least 2,800 years. The region was wealthy for centuries, producing frankincense and myrrh, but now Yemen is the poorest country in the

Arab world. While it has substantial oil reserves, fighting in this country makes it impossible to produce oil profitably.

There is a civil war between the Ansar Allah movement, also known as Houthis, and the puppet regime Saudi Arabia reinstalled in power in 2015 after the Houthis drove them out. The United States supports the Saudi rulers, supplying the kingdom with the most advanced weapons, military and logistical supplies, target intelligence and recently some special operations forces.

While the puppet government appears to control most of the territory, the Houthis are in control of the major populated parts of the country.

The Saudis are conducting an extensive military air campaign against the Houthis, with big attacks on farming fields, fishing vessels, water facilities and transportation. These attacks destroy everything

the Yemenis need to feed themselves, as well as targets like hospitals, schools — killing many civilians — and military facilities. The Saudi navy is blockading all the ports Yemenis use to get food.

Saudi Arabia’s brutal murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in their embassy in Turkey on Oct. 2 has drawn worldwide media attention and condemnation, especially in the U.S. and Western Europe. Meanwhile, the genocidal Saudi war on Yemen has been relatively ignored.

For example, the Trump-hostile MSNBC network has devoted just one segment to Yemen. Meanwhile, MSNBC has aired over a dozen negative segments on Russian and Syrian government operations to “reconquer” Syria. (FAIR, March 1)

Current reasons for this famine in Yemen are financial. The puppet govern-

ment controls the central bank. It has used this control over the economy to create runaway inflation. Higher prices have wiped out the people’s savings.

The puppet regime also pays no wages to government workers in areas the Houthis control. That includes doctors, nurses and teachers. About one-third of the jobs in Yemen are government funded.

That means that even where there is currently enough food in the markets, people can’t afford to buy it.

The Saudi royalty rule a feudal state structure sitting atop a capitalist economic system based on the sale of petroleum and dependent on arms suppliers in the U.S. and Western Europe. The stubborn resistance of the Houthis in the face of tremendous pressure make the Yemen puppet regime unstable, while Saudi war crimes make the suffering of the Yemeni masses unbearable. □

Syria’s buffer area still a danger zone

By Karin Leukefeld

The war in Syria, provoked by Western imperialist powers in 2011 and bringing enormous suffering to the Syrian people, can end soon if the process now taking place in Idlib province in the country’s northeast advances with no new imperialist intervention. Reactionary factions, first armed by NATO, the Gulf monarchies and Israel, still threaten to unleash havoc. The Syrian army postponed its Idlib offensive to allow an orderly end of the war. Leukefeld is an expert on the region and regular correspondent for the German daily newspaper, Junge Welt, which published the following article Oct. 12. Translation by Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

Information from both Ankara and Moscow indicates that the agreement on

a buffer zone between combat units in Idlib and the Syrian army has been largely adhered to. According to the Turkish-Russian agreement, the fighters are to withdraw their heavy weapons from Idlib by Oct. 15. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Oct. 11 that the withdrawal could take one or two days longer. From the Russian point of view, this is no problem as long as it is carried out in full.

Turkish media already confirmed a week ago that missile-launching ramps, medium-range missiles, rocket launchers, mortars and other heavy equipment had been withdrawn. It is unclear, however, where the war equipment was transported to and who controls it.

Last weekend, the Turkish army itself moved into the province of Idlib with tanks and heavy vehicles, allegedly to secure the buffer zone. Parliament on Oct. 9 approved an order allowing Turkish troops to operate in Syria and Iraq for another year in order to safeguard national security.

French news agency AFP had reported on Oct. 8 that some combat units had strengthened their military stations and

tunnels in the area of the buffer zone. “Abu Walid,” a commander of the National Liberation Front, is quoted as saying that they had instructions to “stay” under the arrangement. A group close to al-Qaida — the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an alliance determined to take Syria, formerly the Nusra Front — is also said, according to AFP, to be preparing for an attack.

The Syrian daily Al-Watan (The Nation) reported on Oct. 11 that various groups listed as terrorists were refusing to approve the buffer zone. Besides HTS, the article named the Islamic Turkistan Party and Haras Al-Din (Guardians of Religion), which are all associated with al-Qaida. As a reason for their refusal, “sources close to the armed groups” told Al-Watan that these groups had not received sufficient security guarantees from Turkey. This is particularly true of the foreign mercenaries in their ranks, whose countries of origin have refused to readmit the fighters.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian had already warned the French television station BFMTV in September that in the event of a military operation by the Syrian armed forces in Idlib, the fighters could “scatter in all directions” and pose a major “security risk to Europe.” “Around a dozen” French jihadists would then possibly return to France.

The conflicts among the various com-

bat factions in Idlib have not ended, however. More than 200 commanders have reportedly fallen victim to the bloody competition since the beginning of the year. This involves the control of connecting roads, weapons, relief supplies and money.

Even if combat units decide to surrender their weapons and seek reconciliation with the Syrian government, this can lead to bloody clashes with other factions. Armed combatants and also people in public life who advocate for an agreement with Damascus are threatened, kidnapped, arrested or executed.

The scene of an internal battle on Oct. 9 was the town of Latamne, just a few kilometers from the town of Maharda (Hama province). The Russian Center for the Reconciliation of Hostile Sides in Syria, which monitors the withdrawal of combat units in Idlib, reported that jihadists in the Islamic State group (IS) had attacked the HTS at Latamne. Two members of the “White Helmets” and four fighters were killed. The IS captured two barrels of chlorine.

This was corroborated by recordings taken by Russian surveillance drones or reconnaissance planes and distributed by the Ministry of Defense. The stolen chlorine barrels are now said to be in the hands of the jihadist group Haras Al-Din in an area southwest of Aleppo. □

Pro-fascist elected in Brazil Resistance continues

Continued from page 8

winning the presidency, the PT, the Communist Party of Brazil, the Socialism and Liberty Party and the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB), as well as the Brazilian Socialist Party, united. They, along with unions and the organizations of landless and homeless people, the women’s movement that mobilized under the slogan #EleNÃO (Not him) and the LGBTQ movement, organized anti-Bolsonaro demonstrations of tens of thousands.

Already vicious forces inspired by Bolsonaro’s violent rhetoric have attacked and killed people, merely for being for Haddad.

Today the PCB issued a statement: “It is necessary immediately that all popular and democratic forces should unite around the building of a broad anti-fascist front, which should mobilize the various social sectors dissatisfied with the election of Bolsonaro and those who will have their rights hit by the attacks to come.”

Something like this anti-fascist front would have been needed even if Bolsonaro had lost. Now it is an emergency situation, as is the need to show solidarity with Brazil’s anti-fascists. Day one of the resistance. □

Expanding Empire

The global war drive of big business and the forces that will stop it

Vince Copeland’s “Expanding Empire” tells the story of U.S. imperialism from its beginnings in 1898 up to the Vietnam War. The pamphlet was written in 1969 during the Vietnam War and became one of Workers



World’s most popular titles. It went through several printings.

The purpose of the pamphlet was to show that the war was not caused by any particular politician. Rather it was a product of the capitalist system.

The same is true today. In the end, it all comes down to profits. “Expanding Empire” explains how the capitalists’ insatiable greed for increased profit inevitably produces war. And it shows how the only way to prevent future wars is to destroy capitalism at its roots.

Learn more. Find it at:
www.workers.org/books

Find them at: www.workers.org/books

A Voice from Harpers Ferry

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

WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero Newspaper

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

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

Available at online booksellers.

HAITI

A Slave Revolution

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

Read online at: iacenter.org/HAITI

Anti-Semitism & fascist attacks

It is no secret that violence and murder committed by racists, xenophobes and outright Nazis in this country has been on the rise — and not just since the 2016 election of Donald Trump.

In June 2015, white supremacist Dylann Roof gunned down nine African Americans in a church in Charleston, S.C. It was not an isolated incident. Nor was the Nazi rally of August 2017 in Charlottesville, Va., when a white racist drove his car into a multinational crowd of protesters, injuring many and killing a white woman protester.

Armed militia groups, which in the past have boasted of killing migrants, now say they are heading to the southern U.S. border to stop the caravan of Central American refugees that is trying to reach the U.S. These racist vigilantes will join 5,000 U.S. troops Washington is sending there to intercept Honduran families fleeing poverty and violence. And why are the Hondurans leaving their homeland? Because a U.S.-backed right-wing coup in Honduras in 2009 has made their lives unbearable.

And just this Oct. 24, a heavily armed white racist shot and killed two Black people in a Kroger's supermarket near Jeffersontown, Ky., after he had failed to gain entrance to a nearby Black church with 70 people inside.

It is in this political climate of racist, fascist violence and scapegoating — which

has been encouraged over and over again by the pronouncements of capitalist politicians, from Trump on down — that an attacker entered the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 27 and killed 11 Jewish people, most of them elderly. The accused shooter, Robert Bowers, reportedly told police he “wanted all Jews to die.”

Fascism is the most extreme form of imperialist ideology and practice that justifies any crime in pursuit of world domination. Anti-Semitism has been integral to fascist ideology for nearly a century, along with the myth of white Christian “superiority.” Anti-Semitism is also part of the creed of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups.

Progressive Jews vs. Zionism

Zionist politicians invoke the horrors of the German Nazis’ extermination of Jewish people to justify their own violent expulsion of Palestinian people from their homes to create the state of Israel.

This was made clear when Naftali Bennett, an official envoy of the Israeli government, rushed to Pittsburgh to speak at events commemorating the heinous murders of Jewish people there. He equated the anti-Semitism of U.S. fascists with the liberation struggle led by the Palestinian organization Hamas.

But many Jewish people do not buy into this scapegoating logic and are in solidarity with the Palestinian people. A

vigil protesting Bennett’s presence was held a few blocks away from where he spoke. It was organized by IfNotNow, a group of Jewish people opposed to Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land.

Addressing the vigil, Moriah Ella Mason, a Pittsburgh activist with IfNotNow, said: “Tonight our Pittsburgh Jewish community heard from Naftali Bennett, the far-right, racist Israeli politician whose party has openly advocated for ethnic cleansing, described African migrants as ‘infiltrators,’ and bragged about killing Arabs. These are the same types of policies and rhetoric espoused by Trump, and the same types of policies and rhetoric that have unleashed violence against my community.” (Haaretz, Oct. 29)

When Trump the next day announced he was going to Pittsburgh, at least 35,000 people signed an open letter from progressive Jewish leaders, telling him: “For the past three years your words and your policies have emboldened a growing white nationalist movement. You yourself called the murderer evil, but yesterday’s violence is the direct culmination of your influence. ... Our Jewish community is not the only group you have targeted. You have also deliberately undermined the safety of people of color, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities. Yesterday’s massacre is not the first act of terror you incited against a minority group in our country.”

Marcy on the Klan

The largest extralegal terrorist organization to function in the U.S. has historically been the Ku Klux Klan, originally an instrument of the ruling class in the South to virtually re-enslave Black people after Reconstruction ended. The Klan, like today’s Nazis, flourished under the patronage of the rich.

In 1981, after the election of Ronald Reagan, the Klan was making a resurgence. Sam Marcy, founder of Workers World Party, wrote an article in this paper on Jan. 25, 1981, titled “Neo-fascism in the 1980s: Where It Comes From.” We think the following excerpts are as relevant today as then:

“The Nazi-KKK menace in the U.S. is a symptom of a profoundly significant disease which has become congenital to the entire social system of capitalist exploita-

tion and oppression.

“If the growth of the KKK and the Nazis were an isolated phenomenon divorced from the degenerative effects of monopoly capitalism, if these groups had no ties to and were not supported, encouraged, and promoted by formidable sections of the ruling class, they would be merely a sterile and stagnant combination of racist thugs. ... But that is not at all the case.

“The growth of fascism everywhere has been securely tied to big business; that is its lifeline. ...

“The two most formidable and preponderant elements in the capitalist establishment — Big Oil, that untrammelled octopus which pervades every nook and corner of social existence in the country, and the unbridled military — are the most prone to promote lawlessness and extra-legal, extra-parliamentary, and paramilitary force to gain their ends. They, together with the military-industrial complex, are the very infrastructure of contemporary capitalist society. ...

“It is they who finance the growth of a thousand-and-one single-issue reactionary organizations and who cannot but look benignly upon and covertly finance KKK and neo-Nazi thugs. To them it is just one more covert operation which for public purpose is out-of-bounds of the legal framework of the capitalist government.

“The array of giant multinational corporations that compose the monopolist bourgeoisie are all connected in one way or another with the military and Big Oil. ...

“The struggle against fascism, which is only in its embryonic form at the moment, must entail the perspective of involving the broadest social forces of present-day society in the struggle against capitalism. Capitalism is the fountainhead of political reaction in general and of KKK and neo-Nazi terror in particular.

“It is impossible to conduct a consistent anti-fascist policy unless one takes into account the key and decisive factor in overwhelming and destroying the fascist menace; it is the working class, the oppressed people and their allies.

“There can be no substitute, however one tries, for involving the broadest masses of workers and oppressed to overwhelm the fascist threat.”

(Full article: tinyurl.com/yaadkjsn) □

Hamas makes statement on Pittsburgh massacre

This statement was posted at hamas.ps on Oct. 28.

Member of the International Relations Bureau Basim Naim stated the following:

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we received the news about the terrorist attack on a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh, which resulted in killing 11 innocent Jews and injuring six others.

As Palestinians who have been enduring the terrorism of the Israeli occupation, we are the most to realise what

terrorism means and its destructive consequences.

On this sorrowful occasion, we would like to extend our sincerest condolences to the families of the victims, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery.

This aggressive act against “worship places,” which is highly condemned, highlights that terrorism has no religion nor ideology.

Dr. Basim Naim
Member of International Relations Bureau

White House prepares to break nuclear weapons treaty

By Manlio Dinucci

Workers World joins those around the world protesting Washington’s plans to break the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and increase the danger of a devastating nuclear war. We publish this analysis by Italian anti-militarist Manlio Dinucci, printed first in the Oct. 23 edition of Il Manifesto. Translation by WW Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

The announcement that “Trump breaks the historic nuclear treaty with Moscow” — the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) — was no surprise. Now, however, it is official. To understand the scope of this act, we should review the historical context from which the INF Treaty was born.

The president of the United States, Ronald Reagan, and the president of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, signed the INF in Washington on Dec. 8, 1987, after having agreed on it the year before at the Reykjavik, Iceland, summit. According to the INF, the United States under-

took to eliminate the “Euromissiles”: the Pershing 2 ballistic missiles, deployed in Western Germany, and the land-based cruise missiles, deployed in Britain, Italy, Western Germany, Belgium and Holland. The Soviet Union committed to eliminating the SS-20 ballistic missiles, deployed on its territory.

The INF Treaty established not only a ceiling on the deployment of a specific category of nuclear missiles, but also the elimination of all missiles in that category. By 1991, a total of 2,692 were eliminated. The limitation of the treaty was that it eliminated short-range and intermediate-range nuclear missiles launched from land, but not those launched from sea and air. Nevertheless, the INF Treaty was a first step on the road to real nuclear disarmament.

This important result was essentially due to the “disarmament offensive” launched by the Soviet Union under Gorbachev. On Jan. 15, 1986, the Soviet Union had proposed not only to eliminate Soviet and U.S. mid-range missiles, but also to

implement a comprehensive three-stage program to ban nuclear weapons by the year 2000. This project remained on paper because Washington took advantage of the crisis and the disintegration of the rival superpower to increase its strategic superiority, including its nuclear superiority. The U.S. thus remained the only superpower on the world stage.

It is no coincidence that Washington only called the INF Treaty into question when the U.S. saw its strategic advantage over Russia, China and other powers diminish. In 2014, the Obama administration accused Russia, without presenting any evidence, of having experimented with a cruise missile of the category prohibited by the treaty. The administration announced that “the United States is considering the deployment of ground-based missiles in Europe” — that is, the abandonment of the INF Treaty. (Il Manifesto, June 9, 2015)

The Trump administration subsequently confirmed this plan. In fiscal year 2018, Congress authorized the financing

of a research and development project for a cruise missile launched from the ground by a mobile platform on the road.

NATO’s European members support the plan. At the recent North Atlantic Council meeting held at the level of ministers of defense, Elizabeth Trenta (of the Five-Star Movement) represented Italy. There, Trenta said that “the INF Treaty is in danger because of the actions of Russia,” which she accused of deploying “a destabilizing missile system, which poses a serious risk to our security.”

Moscow denies that this missile system violates the INF Treaty and, in turn, accuses Washington of having installed in Poland and Romania launch ramps of interceptor missiles (those of the “shield”), which can be used to launch cruise missiles with nuclear warheads.

According to reports leaked by the administration, the U.S. is preparing to deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles launched from the ground not only in Europe against Russia, but also in the Pacific and Asia against China. □

Haiti

Earthquake and a quick Cuban response

By G. Dunkel

A powerful earthquake shook northern Haiti on Oct. 6 at 8:11 p.m. Though it measured 5.9 on the Richter scale — significantly smaller than the one that hit Port-au-Prince in 2010 — it still created great hardship. Haitian authorities reported that 17 people died and 427 were injured, figures expected to increase.

Reports of damaged structures were incomplete. A major aftershock at Richter 5.2 occurred on Oct. 7.

The Oct. 6 earthquake, which shook Haiti’s northwest, was foretold. Throughout September, there were a number of smaller shocks, indicating that stress on the two plates underneath Haiti was increasing. Sooner rather than later, it would be released in a major shock.

The general director of the Bureau of Mines and Energy, Claude Prépetit, a geological engineer, held a press conference Sept. 24 calling for reinforcing schools and other public buildings and preparing for a major shock. “All this seismic activity could be a precursor to a major earthquake of magnitude 7 or 8.” (Haïti-Liberté, Sept. 28)

The main danger in earthquakes comes from collapsing buildings and other structures.

The epicenter of the quake was in the

ocean, 12 miles north of Port-de-Paix, northwest Haiti’s largest city. No major tsunami was reported.

Reporting on Gros-Morne, a large town to the southeast of Port-de-Paix, Deputy Perilus Worms from the National Assembly told the Miami Herald on Oct. 8, “Practically all of the infrastructure has been damaged.” He said that about 500 families were affected, 476 buildings were damaged and 57 homes were destroyed.

At least one death occurred on La Tortue Island, which lies to the north of Port-de-Paix. Eight fatalities, perhaps more, occurred in that city.

The main hospital in Port-de-Paix, which was scheduled to be replaced, had to be abandoned, because cracks developed in the structure, the power went off, and the staff refused to enter. Emergencies were being treated on the hospital grounds with some patients in beds and others on the ground, writhing in pain from wounds created by falling concrete and rebar. By Oct. 7, a tent big enough for 15 beds had been erected.

The hospital director was hoping to obtain more tents, but the government had set up roadblocks to try to coordinate the flow of aid into the afflicted areas, so it was unclear when the tents would arrive.

The government wants to control and

organize the delivery of aid, but it was clearly not ready to move rapidly.

Cuban doctors respond swiftly

By Oct. 7, two Cuban medical teams were working in afflicted areas. One was in Gonaïves, the large city south of Gros-Morne, where there were casualties and injuries. A surgical team went to Port-de-Paix, where they treated 164 patients shortly after their arrival. (Miami Herald, Oct. 8)

The international response to this crisis, other than Cuba’s, was so tepid that the International Organization of Francophonie, a collection of French speaking countries to which Haiti belongs, which was meeting in Erevan, Armenia, issued a call for its members to rapidly and concretely respond to Haiti’s crisis. (Alter-Press, Oct. 8)

Cuba’s medical assistance in Haiti began in 1998, after Haiti was hit by Hurricane George, which caused 230 deaths, destroyed 80 percent of Haiti’s crops and left 167,000 people homeless. Cuba’s response to this disaster was to immediately offer medical aid.

Since 1998, Cuba has trained Haitians in medical skills. Trainees are urged to return to their home communities afterwards — a policy of “brain gain” rather than “brain drain.” Some specialists have

estimated that Cuban medical teams provide 70 percent of all medical care in Haiti. Vital statistics from 2007, after 10 years of Cuban medical presence in Haiti, showed a clear improvement in overall health. (Counterpunch, April 1, 2010)

The U.S. doesn’t appear to have made any official response to this crisis. It is still maintaining its right to deport 50,000 Haitians living in the U.S., denying them temporary protective status which they obtained after the 2010 earthquake. □



By Leslie Feinberg author of ‘Stone Butch Blues’

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

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

Available at online booksellers

‘The Sentence’: An intersectional view of mass incarceration

By M. Matsemela-Ali Odum

In January, HBO purchased the rights to the independent documentary “The Sentence” following its success at the Sundance Film Festival. The documentary debuted on HBO and various streaming services in October.

Produced by rookie filmmaker Rudy Valdez, “The Sentence” spans a nine-year period from 2007 until late 2016 as it chronicles the story of Valdez’s sister, Cindy Shank, a Mexican-American woman and Michigan resident. In 2007, Shank was arrested and later convicted for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

From the late 1990s to the early 2000s, Shank lived with her late boyfriend, a drug dealer, until his murder in the early 2000s. Originally taken into custody, charges against her were dropped until the Justice Department decided to reopen her case.

As explained in “The Sentence,” a person can be charged with conspiracy solely for being knowledgeable about the commission of a crime without reporting it. Under mandatory federal sentencing guidelines, Shank was then sentenced to 15 years in federal prison. Confused and feeling helpless, Valdez and his extended family were, nevertheless, able to use the power of video to fight against Shank’s unjust incarceration.

The reaction to “The Sentence” by popular critics has been overwhelmingly supportive. Yet, while supportive of Shank and the Valdez family, the reviews have also bordered on justifying the incarceration of the multitudes of people imprisoned for drug offenses: primarily people of color.

Consider the Washington Post review by Steven Zeitchik. He argues that “‘The Sentence’ puts a tearful human face on prison injustice.” Later he hopes that

the documentary does for the movement against mandatory minimums what “An Inconvenient Truth” did for climate change. This liberal strategy of moral persuasion against mass incarceration is not novel. It instead represents the similar strategy taken by Europeans and white U.S. reformers against chattel slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The problem is that to suggest there is now a “human face” on mass incarceration seems to underscore that the other faces — including those of many Black men imprisoned on drug charges — are not human. The story of Shank, or even Alice Marie Johnson who was released earlier this year after Kim Kardashian’s appeal to Donald Trump, is presented as an exception to the rule — sympathetic characters who do not deserve to be treated as the others. Therein lies the contradiction in how mainstream journalists have received the film.

Importance of intersectional analysis

Popular reviews of “The Sentence” stand in stark contrast to the actual piece of radical filmmaking Valdez and Shank presented to the public. “The Sentence” offers an intersectional analysis of mass incarceration. Intersectionality argues for the need to study systems of oppressions as they overlap, not in isolation. The concept was articulated directly by critical race theorist Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989, but described in essence even earlier by anti-racist activists such as Ida B. Wells.

As articulated by Crenshaw, intersectional analysis is not an “oppression Olympics” through which we always find the most oppressed. While that is often the case, Shank’s story offers the central use of intersectional analysis as a critical tool in fighting mass incarceration. Intersectionality is meant to identify the oppression that has been overlooked.

The discernable variables of oppression analyzed in the “The Sentence” are race, gender, class and another frequently overlooked: childhood. Close attention is paid to the impact of incarceration on Shank’s three daughters, all ages five and younger at the beginning of the film. “The Sentence” reminds viewers that when one person serves time, the entire family serves time as well.

Toward the end of the film, Shank’s spouse Adam notes that she cannot get back what she has lost and that pain cannot be reversed. “The damage was done. ... The kids felt the impact, I felt the impact, family did, friends, the community. When something like that happens, it doesn’t just affect that person,” states Adam Shank.

Far from an exception to the rule, the incarceration of women of color is central to mass incarceration. Since the 1970s, the women’s prison population has increased by more than 900 percent. Women of color have been the most impacted, with the number of Black women inmates rising more than 800 percent, while the number of white women inmates has increased by 200 percent. As with Shank and Alice Marie Johnson, this is the direct result of mandatory drug sentencing and other crimes.

In December 2016, Cindy Shank was granted clemency during the final days of Barack Obama’s presidency. Amidst Shank’s joy, she is visibly overtaken with sorrow and guilt when she realizes the odds she overcame and how many eligible inmates remain. In 2016 alone, more than 36,000 people met the guidelines for clemency, yet Shank was one of only 1,600 to be released.

Timely story

The emergence of Shank’s story is timely. The Obama administration and

then Attorney General Eric Holder had instructed the Justice Department and federal attorneys to back away from mandatory minimum prosecutions, returning discretion over sentencing to the hands of judges. This is simply accomplished by removing the quantity of drugs from the federal charges levied against a defendant.

However, this compassionate measure never rose to the level of legislative reform — and as with all executive orders, they were rescinded upon the change in administration. In May 2017, Attorney General Jefferson Beauregard Sessions ordered a return to mandatory minimums by falsely claiming that Obama’s retreat had made the streets unsafer.

Independent analysts have connected the reinstatement of mandatory drug sentencing to the increased construction of for-profit federal detention centers. As seen in the case of the Boundary Park Four and More in San Diego, Calif. (tinyurl.com/ww-BP4-SD), activists believe that the government is attempting to fill those beds with people who use drugs and extremely low-level dealers — creating the image of uncontained crisis where there is none.

As noted, the story of Cindy Shank demands an intersectional understanding of mass incarceration. Shank’s story is a crucial story to be told, not because it is the most extreme or even the most common. The centrality of Shank’s story to intersectionality is that it is overlooked in the general heteropatriarchal analysis of mass incarceration. Shank’s story reminds us that when a family member serves time, everyone in that family serves time as well.

Conversely, just as Shank’s family fought endlessly to raise her story and gain her clemency, it is the collective action by all — across age, race and gender — that is needed to continuously fight for our freedom. □



Editorial 25 de octubre de 2018

Necesaria solidaridad a través de fronteras

Miles de trabajadoras/es refugiadas/os de Honduras y sus familias han marchado a través de Guatemala hacia México, un río de personas inundando las carreteras. Van unidas/os con la esperanza de una vida mejor en los EUA.

El presidente Trump ha amenazado con llamar a los militares y cerrar la frontera sur de los EUA contra ellas/os. Cerrar una frontera suele ser el último acto que toma una nación antes de declarar la guerra.

Pero EUA ya ha declarado guerra del siglo XXI contra las/os migrantes. Comenzó bajo la administración de Obama y ahora se está implementando incluso más cruel y escandalosamente bajo Trump. ¿Realmente se ha olvidado que TODAS las personas en este país, aparte de los pueblos indígenas y las/os africanos traídos por fuerza en cadenas, son inmigrantes o descendientes de inmigrantes?

Durante más de un siglo, los capitalistas de EUA han estado librando una guerra económica brutal y devastadora en Honduras y otros países de América Central para obtener miles de millones de dólares en ganancias de sus tierras y mano de obra.

Las/os refugiadas/os hondureños simplemente están huyendo de los golpes de pobreza, violencia y muerte que la agresión de EUA ha desatado en su país.

A principios del siglo XX, corporaciones estadounidenses como la United Fruit tomaron miles de acres de tierras indígenas en América Central y explotaron el trabajo de los pueblos indígenas. Esa ocupación económica dejó un legado mortal de pobreza, enfermedades por exposición a productos químicos agrícolas, tuberculosis, crisis respiratorias, infertilidad, cáncer y muerte.

Cuando los trabajadores hondureños se resistieron, como lo hicieron 40.000 en la huelga general de 1954, siempre existió la amenaza de intervención de EUA. Eso fue durante la administración de Dwight D. Eisenhower. El secretario de estado de EUA era John Foster Dulles, cuyo bufete de abogados representaba la United Fruit Co. Su hermano, Allen Dulles, era director de la CIA y miembro de la junta directiva de United Fruit.

La desestabilización actual de Honduras se produjo en 2009, nuevamente bajo la protección de EUA; Manuel Zelaya, un presidente relativamente progresista, introdujo reformas económicas que aumentaron el salario mínimo en un 80 por ciento y redujeron la pobreza en un 10 por ciento. Fue rápidamente depuesto en un violento golpe.

¿De dónde vino el golpe? El general hondureño Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, quien se graduó de la notoria Escuela de las Américas, el pro-

grama de entrenamiento del Ejército de los EUA mejor conocido como la Escuela de Asesinos.

Una horrible ola de asesinatos siguió al golpe de 2009. Los medios de comunicación corporativos de EUA se refieren a esto como un período de "violencia", sin explicar que la violencia provino del gobierno reaccionario establecido por los colaboradores con el imperialismo estadounidense.

Muchas/os han oído hablar de Berta Cáceres, la activista ambientalista hondureña indígena asesinada allí en marzo de 2016. Pero ella es literalmente una de miles, incluyendo activistas indígenas, líderes campesinos, sindicalistas, periodistas, ambientalistas, jueces, candidatas/os políticos de la oposición, LGBTQ y defensoras/es de la mujer, activistas de derechos humanos y otras/os, que han sido asesinadas/os por escuadrones de la muerte de derecha por el pecado de exigir derechos humanos básicos, como un salario digno.

Las/os funcionarios de EUA, principalmente la secretaria de Estado Hillary Clinton, influyeron para garantizar el poder de la asesina junta y evitar el regreso de Zelaya a su cargo, lo que era demandado por el pueblo hondureño en protestas masivas no violentas.

Las/os hondureños continúan luchando por su país. En mayo de 2017, más de 2.000 campesinas/os tomaron más de 10 fincas pertenecientes a Tela Railroad Co., una subsidiaria de la antigua United Fruit, ahora conocida como Chiquita Brands International.

Siguen luchando mientras avanzan a través de las fronteras, dirigiéndose a un EUA que les ha quitado tanto. Vienen a exigir un futuro en el que puedan sobrevivir.

Es nuestra responsabilidad en los EUA luchar todo lo posible para detener las intervenciones mortales llevadas a cabo por el establecimiento corporativo que dirige este país y apoyar la autodeterminación de Honduras y de todos los demás países. Es lo que se debe hacer. Además, el brutal empobrecimiento de las/os trabajadoras en otros países eventualmente significa salarios más bajos aquí.

Es nuestra responsabilidad luchar para abrir la frontera sur a las/os migrantes hondureños.

El imperialismo no respeta fronteras en sus intervenciones en todo el mundo. Las ganancias de las/os trabajadoras y agricultores de todo el mundo han robustecido a los multimillonarios aquí, quienes luego intentan enfrentarnos a otras personas trabajadoras en otros países. Tenemos un enemigo común: los explotadores imperialistas estadounidenses.

No debe haber fronteras en la lucha obrera. □

Tribunal presenta al mundo la historia del papel de los Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico Jurado declara culpable al régimen colonial

Por John Catalinotto
Nueva York

27 de octubre. Un jurado de 15 activistas internacionales de derechos humanos y luchadoras/es por la libertad, tras ocho horas de testimonios concisos que abarcaron décadas de historia, y dos horas de deliberación, anunció esta noche el veredicto de la culpabilidad de los Estados Unidos.

El jurado declaró al gobierno de los Estados Unidos culpable de crímenes coloniales contra Puerto Rico durante toda su historia desde la toma de Puerto Rico por parte de los EUA en 1898. Las evidencias incluyeron el último asalto económico en el país caribeño luego de la devastación de los huracanes Irma y María en 2017. El veredicto exige una disculpa completa, devolución de propiedad y pago de reparaciones.

El fiscal del tribunal, Augusto Zamora, ex embajador de Nicaragua en España, inició el proceso presentando los cargos legales contra Estados Unidos. Gran parte de la acusación se centró en los intentos de los Estados Unidos por disfrazar el gobierno colonial bajo la cobertura de designar a Puerto Rico como un “Estado Asociado Libre”, basado en las leyes aprobadas a principios de los años cincuenta. Estas leyes y la “constitución” puertorriqueña no cumplieron con los requisitos establecidos por las Naciones Unidas en 1960, cuando muchos países comenzaron a terminar con el estatus colonial.

Al imponer la Junta de Control Fiscal estadounidense en Puerto Rico en 2016 para supervisar un programa de austeridad, los Estados Unidos han dejado al descubierto su absoluto control colonial de Puerto Rico. Luego, Wall Street destacó el estatus colonial de Puerto Rico al saquear el país después de la devastación de los huracanes Irma y María en 2017, argumentó Zamora.

Casi todas/os los presentadores de testimonios en persona o por video fueron puertorriqueñas/os del archipiélago que describieron los crímenes de los Estados Unidos y la resistencia puertorriqueña. En total, crearon un caso legal detallado contra los Estados Unidos que apoyó tanto la acusación como las conclusiones políticas de Rafael Cancel Miranda.

El luchador independentista, héroe y líder puertorriqueño Cancel Miranda hizo la presentación final en video. Su discurso puntual de 10 minutos describió cómo las/os puertorriqueños resistieron la opresión de su pueblo por parte del imperialismo estadounidense, cómo tuvieron que luchar contra un enorme poder militar y de los medios de comunicación. Su explicación y ejemplo personal electrificaron a la audiencia en la Iglesia Santa Cruz, que respondió con una ovación de pie, tal como lo hicieron dos horas después al anunciarse el veredicto del jurado.

Cancel Miranda fue encarcelado durante décadas después de su irrupción en el Congreso estadounidense, junto con Lolita Lebrón, Irvin Flores y Andrés Figueroa Cordero



MO/WW FOTO: JOE PIETTE

en 1954, para exponer la farsa del ELA y exigir la independencia de su país.

Su resumen para el Tribunal Internacional Sobre Crímenes de EUA comenzó con los asesinatos de puertorriqueños por los Estados Unidos en su primer ataque militar a San Juan el 12 de mayo de 1898, y continuó a través de la reciente invasión económica impuesta a través del saqueo del país por parte de Wall Street. Al señalar que actualmente las transnacionales con sede en los Estados Unidos saquean de allí hasta \$32 mil millones en ganancias anuales, concluyó: “Ellos nos deben a nosotros”.

Testimonio expone envenenamiento de tierras y personas

Berta Joubert-Ceci y Frank Velgara coordinaron las presentaciones durante el testimonio. Una sesión expuso la destrucción del medio ambiente. El testimonio de la ciudad de Guayama, donde las plantas de carbón envenenan la tierra con cenizas de carbono y metales pesados, causando enfermedades entre las/os residentes, acusó a las corporaciones estadounidenses. Desde la isla de Vieques, el testimonio expuso cómo la Marina de los Estados Unidos probó armamentos allí durante más de 60 años, envenenando la tierra y el pueblo.

En la sesión sobre “120 años de represión y resistencia”, jóvenes activistas revelaron tanto la historia como el alto nivel actual de movilización y lucha. Un foco importante fue la defensa de Nina Droz, ahora perseguida por el poder del estado colonial por presuntamente incendiar un banco. La sesión presentó videos de recientes movilizaciones masivas.

Entre los principales delitos económicos expuestos en esa sesión fueron los intentos de privatizar la red eléctrica y las escuelas públicas. Esta agresión ha incluido el cierre de muchas escuelas y la reducción de la educación para niñas/os con necesidades especiales.

El jurado que escuchó los testimonios eran representante de las luchas de los pueblos de todo el mundo. Incluían al reverendo Luis Barrios, Luz de las Nieves Ayress Moreno, Susan Abulhawa, Jaribu Hill, Gerardo Cajamarca Alarcón, Deirdre Griswold, Hyun Lee, Mahtowin Munro, Angélica Lara, Pam África, Chrisley Carpio, André François, Noriko Oyama, Bernadette Ellorin y Ajamu Baraka.

El testimonio en video, que brinda una breve historia de Puerto Rico como colonia de los Estados Unidos, junto con la resistencia de su pueblo, estará disponible en PuertoRicoTribunal.org. Workers World continuará la cobertura del Tribunal en los próximos números. □