



# Anti-Trump protests erupt

By Deirdre Griswold

Even as the results of the presidential election were still being tallied, young people were taking to the streets in protest.

Over the next week, from Los Angeles to New York, from Portland, Ore., to San Antonio, Texas, and Charlotte, N.C., tens of thousands of people in these and other cities across the country tied up highways, marched through the streets and chanted their fury against racism, sexism, homophobia and immigrant bashing.

Despite many arrests, the demonstrations continued even as leaders of both ruling-class parties, Democrats and Republicans, urged everyone to accept a Trump administration and “heal the wounds” of a bitter election.

This did not quell the spirit of resistance among the youth, many of whom are personally threatened by the rise of racist atrocities and slurs, brutality toward women and LGBTQ people, and attacks on those perceived to be Muslims and/or immigrants — which the Trump victory has encouraged.

Notably absent in these demonstrations were signs of support for the Democratic Party. These were not pro-Clinton demonstrations, though many may have hoped to see a woman president for a change. They were protests against the politics of reaction on all social issues that Trump represents.

Many are now talking up a major protest in Washington, D.C., at the Inauguration on Jan. 20 as the next big step in the Stop Trump groundswell.

Below are eyewitness reports from just a few of the actions that followed the election.

## LOS ANGELES

Tens of thousands filled the canyons of downtown here on Nov. 12 in a huge, militant protest against the Trump election. The march was organized by Unión del Barrio, a socialist and independent community organization that has led many of the struggles in Los Angeles, including for migrant rights and against police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement terror.

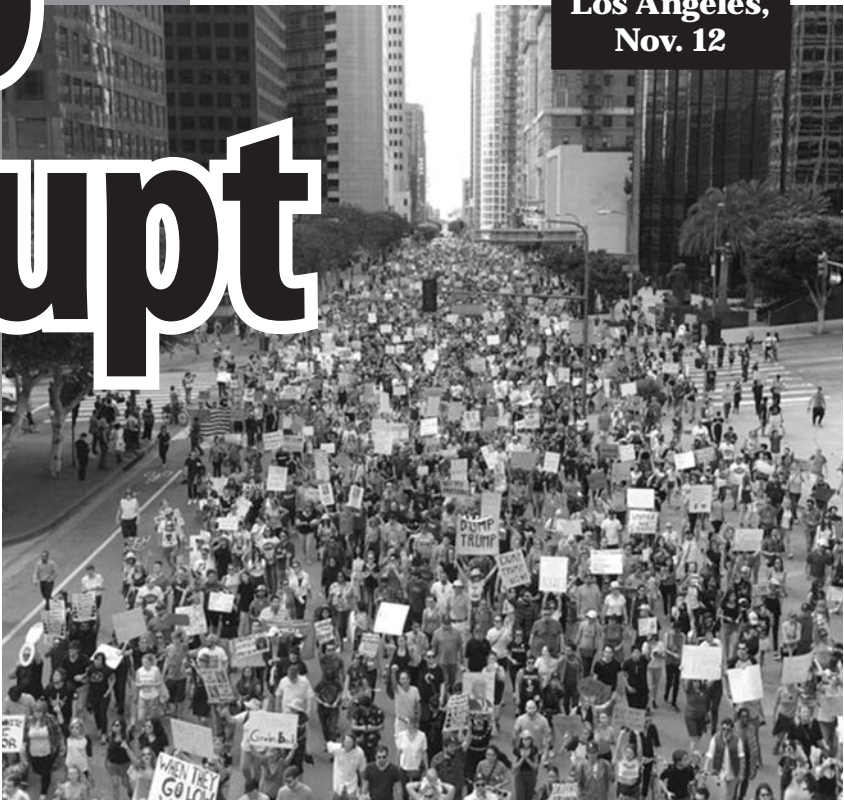
Immediately after the election and every day leading up to Saturday’s massive march, high school and college students had held walkouts, reflecting the anger and fear felt by many, especially in the Latinx and Black communities.

Ron Gochez, a leading member of Unión, is a school teacher and one of the lead organizers of the Saturday march. He said: “The massive turnout sent a strong message to our communities and to Trump himself that we are united against hate, and we will not allow his fear

tactics to stop us from organizing to defend our communities. We will continue to raise consciousness and organize in the community to prepare ourselves for the attacks that are sure to come.”

Although many members of the LA Branch of Workers World Party were at the annual party conference in New York during the march, the

*Continued on page 3*



## Youth energize revolutionary socialist conference



By L.T. Pham

Only three days after the U.S. presidential elections, hundreds of activists, organizers and revolutionaries gathered in New York City at the historic Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center, located in Washington Heights’ Dominican community, to discuss movement building and revolutionary socialism.

This year’s Workers World Party National Conference, which took place Nov. 11-13, was the largest and youngest since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp 25 years ago. The conference followed a horrendous election season, in which workers and oppressed

people were forced to choose between an open ly racist and misogynist pig and a warmongering neoliberal.

But what was clear, based on the strong showing of revolutionaries from Los Angeles to Detroit, Charlotte to Boston, Salt Lake City to Philadelphia to Florida, Baltimore to Durham, N.C., was that the people’s movement for revolutionary socialism is forging ahead!

While millions of people are terrified and/or disheartened by the election results — and rightfully so — the revolutionary spirit of the weekend, along with the resistance of the tens of thousands who have taken to the streets since Nov. 8, showed that we must seize the time to fight back, not mourn!

Conference attendees represented many different communities and issues. One of the most dynamic com-

*Continued on page 8*

## More from the Workers World Party National Conference 5-9

- Larry Holmes: ‘Trump election is radicalizing the masses’
- Monica Moorehead: ‘Solidarity is not an act of charity’
- Teresa Gutierrez: ‘Unity, now more than ever’
- Abayomi Azikiwe: ‘National oppression, economic injustice in Michigan’
- Fred Goldstein: ‘Capitalist parties and economy in decline’
- Minnie Bruce Pratt: ‘LGBTQ liberation and working class struggle’
- Stephanie Hedgecock: ‘Indigenous unite to defend water and stolen lands’
- Milt Neidenberg: ‘Labor on the road to socialism’

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On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Trump Las Vegas ordered to bargain with workers

During the final week before the election — but not reported by the corporate press — the National Labor Relations Board on Nov. 3 ordered Trump International Hotel Las Vegas to bargain with Culinary Workers Local 226. The union was elected in late 2015 to represent about 500 mostly Latinx housekeepers, food and beverage staff, and guest service workers. Ever since March 29, the hotel has contested the election and refused to recognize the UNITE HERE affiliate. Along with a series of rallies and marches demanding recognition, the union filed an unfair labor practices case against Trump management in May. In September it called a nationwide boycott of all Trump properties, with AFL-CIO support, to bolster its right to collective bargaining. (In These Times, Nov. 7) Will Trump respect the workers’ rights? Stay tuned.

A first: McDonald’s pays wage theft claim

McDonald’s agreed on Oct. 30 to pay out \$3.75 million in back pay, damages and legal fees to settle a lawsuit brought by 800 workers in five California restaurants. Filed in 2014, the class action suit accused both the Smith Family LP, owner of the five franchises, and the Illinois-based McDonald’s corporation of withholding overtime pay and failure to keep accurate pay records and compensate workers for time spent cleaning uniforms. Although McDonald’s has not officially admitted liability for widespread wage theft, the proposed settlement marks the first time the McDonald’s corporation agreed to settle legal claims from one of its franchises.

An unrelated, currently pending case before the National Labor Relations Board will determine whether McDonald’s is a joint employer alongside franchisees. If so, McDonald’s could be found liable for labor violations at all franchises, including a pending sexual harassment complaint filed by 15 workers in California. If ruled a joint employer, the McDonald’s corporation would be required to bargain with any unions formed by McDonald’s workers. (cnbc.com, Oct. 30)

Momentive bargains unfairly, spies; workers strike

Seven-hundred industrial workers at Momentive Performance Materials plants in Waterford, N.Y., and Willoughby, Ohio, walked off the job Nov. 2 after contract negotiations hit a standstill. The workers, represented by Electronic Workers-Communication Workers (IUE-CWA) Local 81359, make chemical adhesives used in construction and automotive industries. At issue are Momentive’s proposed health care cuts and elimination of retirement benefits. (local81359.com/index.cfm)

Despite round-the-clock picket lines, Momentive, whose third-quarter earnings showed a 61 percent increase over last year’s earnings (from \$44 million to \$61 million), has kept both plants running with expensive scab labor — exposing its aim to bust the union. On Nov. 7, five days into the strike, the workers resoundingly rejected Momentive’s latest contract offer. According to worker Joe Duncan, “This contract was worth less than the one we already voted down. This is not fair bargaining.” (timesunion.com, Nov. 7)

A Nov. 11 update posted on the union website reads: “The Company is now going to an all-time low: they are sending Private Investigators to homes of our members asking questions about issues in the Plant.” Union members are advised not to talk to investigators and to report such visits to the union. Meanwhile, the Capital District Area AFL-CIO called on all unionists to show solidarity on the Nov. 12 picket line.

Stop wage theft for Calif. trucking, warehouse workers

What do Michael Kors, Target and the U.S. Department of Defense have in common? They outsource their U.S. port trucking and warehousing to California Cartage and to Intermodal Bridge Transport — West Coast companies that violate U.S. labor laws and Kors, Target and DOD codes of conduct. Both Cal Cartage and IBT misclassify drivers as “independent contractors” to shift expenses onto drivers’ backs and to keep them from unionizing (and avoid paying Social Security, workers’ comp and disability). These workers, many Latinx immigrants, have filed multiple lawsuits and claims demanding an end to wage theft, a safe workplace and the right to form a union free from retaliation. To support the workers’ demands, sign the petition at tinyurl.com/jfaa3w2/. □

WORKERS WORLD

this week

★ In the U.S.

Anti-Trump protests erupt ..... 1

On the picket line ..... 2

★ Around the world

Workers in diaspora to help Haitians in threat of famine . 10

Interview with A. Kaur, All India Trade Union Congress .. 11

★ Editorial

Give Trump a chance? Not on our lives! ..... 10

★ WWP Conference 2016

Youth energize revolutionary socialist conference ..... 1

Solidarity to WWP from around the world ..... 4

Larry Holmes: ‘Trump election is radicalizing the masses’ .... 5

Monica Moorehead: ‘Solidarity is not an act of charity’ ..... 6

Teresa Gutierrez: ‘Unity, now more than ever’ ..... 6

Abayomi Azikiwe: ‘National oppression in Michigan’ ..... 7

Fred Goldstein: ‘Capitalist parties and economy in decline’ .. 7

Minnie Bruce Pratt: ‘LGBTQ liberation and class struggle’ .... 8

Stephanie Hedgecok: ‘Indigenous unite to defend water’ .. 9

Milt Neidenberg: ‘Labor on the road to socialism’ ..... 9

★ Noticias en Español

Marchas de protesta estallan después

de la elección de Trump ..... 12

Editorial: Lamentarse no, ¡organizar!..... 12

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WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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# Protest marches erupt after Trump election

*Continued from page 1*

party was an endorser and helped provide sound for this very important and inspiring action.

– John Parker



Anti-Trump demonstrations began even as election results were being announced and grew larger every night. By the third all-night protest on Nov. 10, the crowds had swelled to over 4,000 angry Portlanders chanting “No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA!” They flooded the quarter-mile Hawthorne Bridge, spilled out onto freeways, stopped traffic and caused major bus and train delays, including the early closure of some Portland transit stations. Taking the lead were Black Lives Matter, Don’t Shoot Portland and the newly formed Portland’s Resistance. The crowd marched to Pioneer Square in support of an LGBTQ vigil taking place there. African-American organizer Daniel James said, “We’re tired of Donald Trump coming in here turning everyone against us.”

Protests continued in downtown Portland through the night of Nov. 13, and 71 protesters have been arrested. On Saturday night a male protester was shot in the leg by a gunman who exited the rear of a car that had moved into the crowd. The gunman shot several times in the air in addition to shooting the protester. Demonstrators stopped the gunman’s car 100 feet from the shooting and confronted the occupants, but police have not arrested the gunman who is still on the loose.

– Lyn Neeley

## SEATTLE

In response to the Trump takeover of the government, at least 3,000 people marched here on Nov. 11 against his racist movement. They poured out into the streets with chants of “Black Lives Matter!” and “Trump’s a rapist, he’s racist, he doesn’t represent us!”

The lead banner read “Stand with Standing Rock! Water is life!” The demonstration, which was initiated by Socialist Alternative, went through downtown during rush hour. The announcement of a counterinaugural protest against Trump on Jan. 20 was cheered. The crowd then marched over five miles to the University of Washington campus, where it joined a student rally against Trump that had been going on all day. At least two Seattle high schools also had student walkouts.

In the state election, Washington voters chose Dennis Habib, a progressive Iranian who is also blind, to be lieutenant governor. Habib will be the highest Iranian-born elected official in the country. Pramila Jayapal, an immigrant rights advocate, was elected to the House of Representatives from the Seventh District in Seattle, becoming the first Indian-born person elected to Congress.

–Jim McMahan

## WISCONSIN

Thousands came out to protest Donald Trump in Milwaukee on Nov. 10, taking over downtown streets. Youth and students were in the lead of organizing,



Thousands also came out in Madison the same day. Various protests continued throughout the weekend.

–Workers World Staff



Tens of thousands of demonstrators surrounded Chicago’s Trump Tower, poured into the surrounding streets and marched for hours through the Loop on Nov. 9 to protest the election of a president promising nothing but racism, bigotry and war. The multinational, mostly young crowd was received enthusiastically by pedestrians and drivers, even those trapped by the sea of demonstrators.

–Report and photo Jeff Sorel



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Up to 1,000 students and community members outraged by the election of Donald Trump rallied on Nov. 9 across from City Hall and then marched up North Broad Street past Temple University and into North Philly. Elsewhere, some 200 progressive students and members of North Philadelphia’s Temple University community gathered on campus for a speakout against Trump despite wet, cold weather. Speech after fiery speech highlighted their outrage that the sexist, racist pig Donald Trump would be the next president.

Especially well represented were survivors of sexual assault, who expressed both their shock at the election of a sexual predator to the highest office in the land, as well as their determination to fight misogyny and support one another.

The next night, thousands of anti-Trump protesters shut down streets in Center City for the second night in a row. Starting at Thomas Paine Plaza, over 3,000 demonstrators, mainly women dressed in black, held a candlelight vigil and rally before taking the streets to march on the 30th Street Amtrak Station.

Called by Our 100: Philly Women in Formation, the event started from a

posting on Facebook under the hashtag #GOPHandsOffMe. The rally opened by recognizing that many women who attended needed space to express their grief and concern that Trump, an admitted misogynist who openly talked of assaulting women, had been elected. However, the mood quickly shifted to one of resistance. One speaker led the crowd with a popular quote from Assata Shakur: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

A majority of the participants were young women of color, many marching for the first time. The response from people gathered along the route of march showed they were not alone in their insistence that Trump is “not my president.”

The Facebook call stated: “We are showing the entire country that the leadership of women of color does not end with this election. We will remind people that this election was and is about our lives — black lives, women’s lives, immigrant lives, and the lives of LGBTQ folks.”

–Betsey Piette

## BALTIMORE

Thousands of youth from Baltimore and around Maryland took to the streets on Nov. 10. Local youth organizers and the Peoples’ Power Assembly and Workers World Party called for protests. By 6 p.m. hundreds of people had gathered at the Peoples Park across from the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center. Feeder marches began to pour in from colleges. Around 7 p.m., several thousand people poured into the streets and marched downtown, defying a growing police presence. It appeared that the entire Baltimore Police Department had been called out.

Local organizers called to shut down D.C. on Jan. 20, inauguration day. The PPA has begun signing up workers and others for People’s Defense Committees. Protesters carried signs reading, “Trump is not my president” and “Trump = capitalism at a dead end/Solidarity and socialism are the answer.”

– Sharon Black



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Beginning on election night, hours before Trump was announced the winner of the election, and continuing through the next weekend, tens of thousands have marched day and night through midtown Manhattan, rejecting the white supremacy, misogyny, Islamophobia and immigrant bashing he represents. The enormous marches show no signs of slowing, threatening the holiday shopping season along Fifth Avenue, playground of the ultra-rich.

Trump’s election has inspired many people to protest for the first time in their lives. Many marchers are looking for political answers beyond the two-party system, and members of the People’s Power Assembly NYC, Workers World Party and allied groups have been in the streets to provide them.

Members of these organizations have also acted decisively to remove pro-Trump agitators from the crowd and challenge police attempts to control the protests.

–People’s Power Assembly



BUFFALO, N.Y.

In addition to the huge, militant crowds protesting Trump and Trumpism in all the major cities, great demonstrations took place everywhere in smaller places, including in front of the Federal Building here. It was so necessary to kick off Day One of the Resistance by getting out into the streets, raising our fists and sharing our determination on Nov. 9. The response — cars honking in support continuously throughout the demonstration — was loud and clear: “Don’t just mourn, organize!”

–Report and photo Ellie Dorritie

## SYRACUSE, N.Y.

More than a hundred people gathered Nov. 9 in downtown Syracuse at the William Henry/Jerry Rescue Abolitionist monument for a speakout on the sorrow and rage people felt about the election of racist, woman-hater Trump. Both a documented Pakistani refugee and a U.S. citizen of Honduran parents spoke of being afraid after the election in a country that has been the only home they have known.

Rebecca Fuentes and Nikeeta Slade, of the Workers’ Center of Central New York, gave a rousing appeal for support for expanded rights for farmworkers, as well as a campaign to make New York drivers’ licenses available to all, no matter people’s citizenship status. The WCCNY works with many migrant workers. The crowd cheered support for Standing Rock, LGBTQ rights and Muslim lives. At intervals they chanted “Fight, fight, fight,” “Si se puede!/ Yes, we can!” and “Act up, fight back!” in clear resolve to defeat the Trump agenda. The rally was called by the Syracuse Peace Council.

–Minnie Bruce Pratt

PHOTO: REBECCA FUENTES



SYRACUSE, N.Y.



# SOLIDARITY TO WWP FROM AROUND THE WORLD

*Below are excerpts from some of the messages of international solidarity sent to the National Conference of Workers World Party. More messages will be published in future issues.*

## Workers’ Party of Korea

Over the past years, your Party has vigorously struggled to defend the rights and interests of the working class against aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other countries by the imperialists and for the victory of the socialist cause, a common ideal of humankind.

We express our deep thanks to your Party for the unchangeable support and encouragement extended to our Party and people in their struggle to safeguard sovereignty of the nation and peace and security of the region and the world as a whole.

Convinced that the support, solidarity and mutual cooperation between our two Parties will further strengthen in the joint struggle to advance the socialist cause against imperialism, we take this opportunity to sincerely wish you great successes in the work of the Conference of your Party.

Central Committee  
Workers’ Party of Korea

## Workers Central of Cuba (CTC)

The Workers Central of Cuba, its National Trade Unions and the Cuban workers wish to express the warmest and most cordial greetings to the Workers World Party on the occasion of its 58th annual Conference.

We recognize the epic struggle you are fighting in the United States against the hegemony of the powerful, and to place the large, largely dispossessed majorities in their rightful place.

For us you have been and we are sure that you will continue to be bulwarks in the defense of our people, in the battle that they fought for the liberation of our Five Heroes, who are already at home, and for the elimination of the unjust and criminal blockade to which the United States subjects our homeland, and for the return of the territory of the naval base of Guantánamo that they occupy illegally against the will of our people.

Onward to victory, always.

## International Democratic Federation of Women (FDIM), Regional Office, Havana

On behalf of the organizations affiliated to the International Democratic Federation of Women in the Americas and the Caribbean, we send this message of solidarity in greetings to the 58th Conference of the Workers World Party.

Our organization is an energetic advocate for Peace, the rights of women and all just causes in the world. We express solidarity with the militants of the Workers World Party and declare unconditional support for the new stage of international struggle required by this new administration in the White House.

## Venezuela: Bolivarian Socialist Workers’ Confederation

Without many expectations that are generated in this new global situation, we are convinced that capitalism has a structural crisis from which it is increasingly difficult to pull itself together. Donald Trump’s triumph against all odds defeated the traditional factors of the establishment.

For Latin America it means that the Empire changed its horse’s rider, replacing it with a populist language and a nationalist attitude that borders on the most prehistoric fascism appealing to the lowest instincts of the North American people.

For Venezuela this does not generate

any expectation of improvement in relations with the U.S. administration under the presidency of Mr. Trump. We continue in our fight against the opposition scoundrels here to defeat them once and for all and lead our country along the path of socialism with the legacy of our Supreme Commander Hugo Chávez Frías under the leadership of our Workers President Nicolás Maduro, the first Chavista and worker president of our history.

Wills Rangel, President  
Jacobó Torres de León, International Coordinator

## Communist Party of Venezuela

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela we send you militant greetings for the successful unfolding of your 58th Conference. In moments when the maximum unity of the working class and the working people, the maximum unity of the revolutionaries, the strength of a revolutionary political avant-garde that can guide and direct the people is needed, we are sure that your debate and conclusions in the Conference can make this contribution to the political line that is needed in the current times in the United States and Latin America.

We must unite to fight for peace and at the same time to win the kind of social justice that can only exist in a socialist society. As you correctly put it: we must keep alive the vision of socialism.

We accompany you in the coming days of new class struggles. Ever onward to victory! We shall overcome!

Carolus Wimmer  
Head of the Department of International Policy

## Mexican Electricians Union

The Mexican Electricians Union – New Central of Workers (SME-NCT) salutes the 58th conference of the Workers World Party a few hours after Donald Trump was elected president of the United States. Trump is a sworn enemy of the Mexican migrants in that country.

The protests of the democratic and progressive forces, the young and politically conscious workers, the Hispanic and Afro-American communities, the aggrieved women and indignant citizens are in the streets and squares of the main North American cities, repudiating and refusing to recognize as president someone who dedicates state policy to racism, misogyny, hatred and lies.

The workers who voted for Trump to express their dissatisfaction with the system and the free market must know that they will be deceived again and that the only way out of the precariousness of life is socialism.

A fraternal embrace and solidarity with the people of the United States.

## Puerto Rico Trade Union Coordinator

We extend our greetings to all the comrades who gather at this 58th Workers World Party Conference.

On Nov. 8, 2016, the electoral processes in Puerto Rico and the United States ended, with results that we all know. In Puerto Rico, electoral abstention increased, the dislike among the population with traditional parties favored independent candidates to the detriment of alternatives for political and social change.

In the end elected governor, with 40% of the votes, was Dr. Ricardo Rosselló,

who favors the assimilation of Puerto Rico into the U.S., the market system, neoliberal measures and a political party stained by a history of corruption.

In the case of Puerto Rico, the electoral process resulted in an exercise in futile governance since, since September 2016, a Fiscal Control Board, consisting of seven members appointed by the President of the United States, among candidates suggested by the U.S. Congress.

The powers and faculties of the Junta occupy the space belonging to the government of the island.

This demonstrates the colonial character of Puerto Rico and the imperial nature of the U.S. relationship with Puerto Rico.

The progressive forces in Puerto Rico, among which is the PR Union Coordinator, which in turn groups a dozen class unions, denounce the fact that our nation is a victim of colonialism and capitalist exploitation. Our struggle must be linked to the desire to transform the society we live in to a society where equality and solidarity prevail.

Long live the united working class!  
Freedom for Oscar López Rivera!  
Luis Pedraza Leduc  
Spokesperson, Union coordinator

## Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Today, perhaps more than ever, revolutionary organizing and revolutionary parties are a critical necessity for liberation movements. The results of the latest election — and the choices available in that election — showcase the endless brutality and racism of U.S. imperialism. Clinton and Trump promised yet more war, exploitation, deportations, racism and oppression.

The only solution for the people is revolutionary organizing for revolutionary struggle, not to elect candidates of the Democratic party but to overturn the system of racism, settler colonialism, capitalism and imperialism that produced Trump and Clinton.

This is a critical time to rise up against imperialism, to rise up against racism, to rise up against capitalism, to rise up against Zionism. To stand with the Black Liberation movement and to fight alongside Indigenous people in Standing Rock and across their stolen land for justice, liberation and self-determination. To stand with migrants and refugees, for the liberation of Puerto Rico, to bring down the prison industrial complex, and to confront capitalism and the ruling class.

This is the time to build a mass movement to confront U.S. imperialism and its war drive around the world, in Syria, Yemen and every nation under the bombs, sanctions and threats of empire. Every victory for the movements of the people is a victory for Palestine.

The Workers World Party has a long and proud history of steadfast struggle for Palestinian liberation. We salute your ongoing and committed work to support the Palestinian struggle and your commitment to the struggle for the freedom of the Palestinian political prisoners.

## National Democratic Front of the Philippines

We commend your conference’s position on the bipartisan politics of the ruling elites in the United States.

Both representatives of the ruling class in the elections will ensure that U.S. domestic and international policies shall continue to serve monopoly capitalist interests, particularly the financial oligarchs and military-industrial complex.

Unemployment, hunger, privatization of social services such as health and education, and internal displacement in the U.S. is heightening. While deceptively claiming to defend human rights and freedom in its overseas military operations, the U.S. subjects the working people and people of color to untold violence and injustice. Police shootings of Black people and criminalization of migrants remain, as the root causes of poverty, joblessness, discrimination and xenophobia remain unaddressed.

The deepening and protracted crisis of capitalism translates to an even more aggressive push for neoliberal globalization in the colonies and semi-colonies of the U.S. through trade deals such as the TTIP and the TPPA. War, direct or by proxy, remains as the U.S.’s political and military tool to keep its stranglehold over countries and global regions.

But from workers’ strikes to Black Lives Matter to the protest actions against the Dakota Access Pipeline, people in the U.S. are bringing forward issues that strike to the very core of the capitalist system.

In the Philippines, the revolutionary and progressive forces in the country are intensifying anti-imperialist calls and campaigns. The declarations of the current government of Duterte pertaining to the U.S. and Philippines relations are sharpening the contradictions within the ruling classes and triggering imperialist-backed attacks in social and other media.

## Association of Indonesian Students

We give our full support and solidarity to the comrades of Workers World Party in their protest against the 2016 presidential election of America.

Once again, the working class of America is forced to choose the candidates to represent the ruling class. Both Clinton and Trump represent the interests of the ruling class and the oppression of the working class, both American and foreign, as demonstrated through the exploitation of cheap labour in the third world (especially in Indonesia) by American corporations (protected by the imperialist American government).

In short, we call for the American working class to abandon the ‘lesser evil’ voting method and revolt!

Now, the workers of America must face this moment with a fiercer call for revolutionary action against the ruling class. The vanguard parties will eventually offer the working masses another choice. That choice is socialism and human liberation! Therefore, it is urgent for the American revolutionary left to prepare for this historic moment. Don’t vote — revolt! Workers of the world, unite!

## World Federation of Trade Unions — All-India TUC

Whoever gets elected in your presidential election, the role of class-based trade unions is imminent for the future of the world working-class movement to achieve the goal. The Asia-Pacific affiliates of WFTU are also benefitted by your conclusions and action programs. We send our revolutionary greetings for the success of your conference.

As working president of the All India Trade Union Congress, the oldest and foremost trade union of the Indian working class, I also convey the greetings of the 14-million-strong AITUC for the success of your conference.

H. Mahadevan  
Deputy General Secretary, WFTU  
In-charge WFTU Asia-Pacific Region

*Continued on next page*





# 'Trump election is radicalizing the masses'

I want to speak about the big picture in terms of what happened last Tuesday, Nov. 8, with Trump's election. That event is important for a party like ours, a revolutionary communist party at the center of world imperialism. Yes, U.S. imperialism is weakening, but it is still the center of world imperialism.

Socialists, communists and revolutionaries organizing here have an extra-special responsibility to understand the global character of events.

This election was not just a national event. It was a global event. Trump is now the new global face of capitalism.

Trump's rise is part of the implosion of the capitalist political establishment, including in the big imperialist countries in Europe. That collapse is being driven by new technology and globalization destroying the jobs, the health and the lives of more and more workers.

The political problem is with the Democratic Party and its counterparts in other countries — parties that have called themselves social democratic. These parties were supposed to represent the workers, but really never did. For some time, they have been doing the opposite, throwing off any pretense of being for the workers.

They have become agents of what some people call neoliberalism, fulfilling whatever capitalism needs — imposing austerity, taking jobs from one place to another for cheaper labor, reducing jobs with technology, making more and more attacks on the working class. Taking away homes, health care, everything.

Because of this, sections of the working class are abandoning the Democrats and the social democrats, and are fodder for right-wing, racist, neofascist demagogues all around the world.

The workers are literally being handed over to neofascists like Donald Trump. But it doesn't have to be that way, and we got proof of that earlier this year.

During the March primary elections, workers in Michigan and Wisconsin voted for Bernie Sanders, who was trying to save the Democratic Party. In the U.S. you don't usually see a presidential candidate calling himself any kind of socialist. The fact is, a lot of the workers who voted for Trump a few days ago voted for Bernie Sanders a few months ago.

A lot of workers — white and Black workers — did not come out to save the Democratic Party. They said things are too bad. They said: "Here in Flint, we don't even have drinkable water. Why

should I vote for the Democrats? Obama came here and had a glass of water, and told everybody it was OK."

They were looking around and said, "What? No more problem?"

## We will not have our class split!

Comrades and friends, I want to speak to you as a communist, because communists are supposed to know the problems of the working class. We are supposed to have a deep understanding — the deepest understanding of anyone. It is only in that way we can have some answers and provide some leadership.

We must not let racists and fascists take any sector of our class away. We must fight it and stop it. We will not have our class split!

First and foremost, this development is a class issue. To hold our class together, we have to review who is in our class. It is not only backward white workers, who reject people we know are part of the working class. Even progressive trade unionists can have out-of-date ideas of who is in the working class. They may not realize that the working class is changing, growing and has new sectors.

Monica Moorehead said the Black Lives Matter movement is a working-class movement. The bosses declare war against Black and Brown people of all ages, particularly young people, because in this phase of capitalist decay, capitalism has no jobs for them. They are expendable. So the bosses send them off to the prison-industrial complex and sometimes just have the cops murder them.

Black Lives Matter is a class issue. Everybody who is fighting for the working class should be up front in demonstrations against police terror.

Standing Rock is a working-class issue. These are oppressed Native sisters and brothers fighting for their land. This is an anti-imperialist working-class issue.

Fighting for the rights of prisoners is a class issue. Why? Because prisoners are workers. There should be more support for their strikes.

Our migrant sisters and brothers, whether from Mexico or Pakistan, Africa or somewhere in the Middle East, no matter what language they speak, are part of our class. They are not enemies, not competitors. They are not taking jobs. Whether they are in Paris or London, North Carolina, Texas or New York City, there are no borders in the working-class struggle.

Our party needs to explain that women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender-nonconforming people are part of the working class. Those leftists who dismiss this as "identity politics" — I question them as Marxists and revolutionaries.

The LGBTQ struggle is an historic, life-and-death struggle. The ranks of those in the forefront are growing in ways that none of us have ever seen. Those of us of a certain age are glad we have lived long enough to see LGBTQ people rising out of the shadows and coming forward.

What is the LGBTQ struggle rooted in? It is part of the struggle against patriarchy. What is patriarchy? A pillar of class rule. Whose class? The capitalist class. Breaking down that pillar is an act for the workers, for the revolution.

## Our class is a global class

Perhaps most important, we need to deepen the understanding that we are a global class. We have no borders. The Trump election has emboldened racists and neofascists all over Europe. Trump's election is a global development against workers.

We have to develop the understanding that our class is a global class. Maybe Workers World Party — with its perfect name for our global class — could launch a "Workers of the World Unite" campaign.

We could hold events and protests to raise up different sections of our class — maybe one time migrant workers, another time LGBTQ workers or fast food workers. We'd explain how we have to stop looking at ourselves only as citizens of this or that country. We'd say: "Don't get so caught up that you forget our class is a global class."

We have to organize on a global basis, on some level, because that is how capitalism pits workers against each other. As bad as it has been, we're going to experience more of that. We've got to fight.

We've got to find new ways to practice internationalism. For instance, in 2014 the McDonald's fast food workers tried a global strike, in more than 30 countries. It wasn't millions of workers, and they didn't close all the McDonald's. But it was a global simultaneous action. Now some activists are calling for a Jan. 20 general strike in the U.S., the day of Trump's inauguration. And some want it to be global.

It is more practical today to have a global general strike than it was some time ago. Yes, technology has atomized the working class because the bosses need fewer work-

ers to produce things. Now most workers don't stay at any job for long, but are in what's called precarious work.

But because of new technologies, workers are able to communicate with each other instantaneously and globally. Therefore, they are able to organize on a local basis, on a national basis, on a regional basis and on a world basis.

We need to have a new model for a general strike. It can't just be to leave your work, though that is important to a strike. But what about more and more of our class who don't have jobs, are not in a union or do temporary work? They have to have a way to participate.

Meanwhile, thousands of mostly young people, multinational, are rocking the streets and cities all over the country. They have made such a big contribution in these few days after the "triumph of Trump." The bourgeoisie is worried.

The capitalist class had a counter-demonstration. Do you know what it was? It was Obama meeting Trump, and Clinton making a nice statement. That is the imperialists uniting. Yesterday, Trump was a monster, a racist, a misogynist. Today, he's "our president," and the imperialists say: "We must give him a chance."

We are not giving him a chance! We are going to build that massive counterinaugural protest on Jan. 20. We are going to figure out a way, with allies, to form defense committees so our Muslim sisters and brothers, our immigrant sisters and brothers, our LGBTQ sisters and brothers and women do not have to be in fear.

The election of Trump is a big problem. Our primary job now is to defend those sectors of our class and our community who are under attack. But sometimes we can turn a reaction like this into an opportunity to make revolutionary gains.

Let it be known that Workers World Party is willing to work with any honest force in a united front against fascism and for socialism. We are completely open to do whatever we need to do. This is no time for sectarianism. This is no time for "Oh, this is my organization." We understand that. We are trying to build our organization, too.

But we've got to think bigger and bolder. We are prepared to do what is necessary. We are going to shut this down. Trump has started something. We are going to finish it.

We want to turn this problematic political development into a revolution for socialism. □

## Confederation of Women of Brazil

We unite with WWP/Partido Mundo Obrero in defense of peace and the inalienable right of the people of the world to decide their own destiny without the interference of the United States, the European Union or any representatives of intervention and war.

We unite in defense of equal rights for women in the world of work — equal salary for equal work!

We reject the financial exploitation that has seized control of the people of the world, including the people of the United States, in work, health care and education!

Long live the anti-imperialist struggle

of the peoples of the world! Peace and sovereignty! We will be victorious!

**United Communist Party of Russia (OKP)** We know about your work and believe in the prospects of the workers' and communist movements of the United States.

Your people are not embodied by presidents and generals, but by people such as Jack London, John Reed, William Foster, Martin Luther King and other American anti-war, anti-racist and communist activists, progressive figures of science, art and culture, and friends of the Soviet Union.

Cooperation with Workers World Party is very important to us. We appreciate

the internationalist position you have taken during the events in Ukraine and the war on Donbass.

Darya Mitina, international secretary of the Central Committee of the OKP, and members of the International Policy Commission

## Lugansk Communists

We know a lot about your difficult struggle and the challenging conditions in which you have to work in the heart of the modern imperialist world.

We believe that one day your efforts will be crowned with success. You will change the system; a new world will be

built for the peoples of the United States — of the best and fairest kind.

Despite having plenty of your own problems, you find the opportunity to support and assist left movements worldwide. We thank you for the support and attention that you have given to our organization. Though separated by thousands of kilometers, we are fighting for the same values. And every victory is our mutual victory, because we are all working toward the same thing: the triumph of justice throughout the world, and for all peoples.

Maxim Chalenko  
Coordinator of Donbass International Solidarity Forum □





MONICA MOOREHEAD

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

# ‘Solidarity is not an act of charity’

I want to salute all the young people who continue to take to the streets in so many cities once it became official that the racist, misogynist, xenophobic Trump will become the 45th U.S. president.

This massive outpouring in the tens of thousands included high school and college students who walked out of their classes. Tens of thousands of people came out in New York City on Nov. 9. The majority descended on Trump Towers, where 60 were reportedly arrested. Protesters in Oakland, Calif., were teargassed. Thousands came out in Baltimore from a call put out by the People’s Power Assembly.

I live in Jersey City, a thoroughly multi-national city that Trump attacked during his campaign for supposedly supporting the attacks on 9/11. Young Muslim students there held a protest. Although small in numbers, this demo was politically important because Jersey City is not known for any major kind of activism. Also this was a heroic act because as we all know Muslim people have come under the most heinous attacks by Trump and his neofascist supporters.

The New York demonstration and others like it speak to the need to build broad international solidarity, which doesn’t pertain just to workers and oppressed living thousands of miles away but also right here in the belly of the beast.

Why do some anti-war forces find it easier to call a demo to defend the sovereignty of a country under attack from imperialism, but not call a demo to defend a “Stop killing Black people” protest at home that also expresses the right to self-determination?

To understand the essence of solidarity is to understand that imperialism — an economic system whose thirst for

superprofits based on superexploitation and plunder knows no borders — exists throughout the U.S., not just abroad.

It was this kind of solidarity against white supremacy that our election campaign was stressing before Nov. 8. Now, with Trump’s victory, it is 10 times more necessary.

It is this virulent racism that propelled many of our sisters and brothers who are immigrants, Muslims and other people of color to vote for Hillary Clinton, the neocon militarist and darling of Wall Street, because of their second-class and third-class treatment in this society. We had no argument with them voting for Clinton. We did have a problem with activists and progressive movements using the anti-Trump card as an excuse for voting for Clinton, making our movement more subservient to her ruling-class party.

So now the racists have become more emboldened. Look at Twitter, with all the hideous examples, including the KKK calling for a Trump victory march in North Carolina on Dec. 3 or racists calling for the lynchings of Black students at the University of Pennsylvania.

And what will the Trump victory mean for women with an openly misogynist president giving the green light to even more disgusting objectification of women, along with bigotry against people with disabilities?

The Trump victory has unleashed a growing tidal wave of racism, which is why it is more crucial than ever for all the movements to put aside any political or ideological differences to form a united front to resist and smash this racist onslaught. We have to keep in mind that the police, whose national so-called “union” endorsed Trump, will become even more violent and militarized. It will become even more glaring that the Ku Klux Klan

and the police work hand-in-hand as partners in the repressive state apparatus.

## Material basis for solidarity

So what does real solidarity look like? Is solidarity based on a moral obligation? Some may see it that way. But Workers World Party sees it in a different way, because we are materialists who view every phenomenon based on objective conditions, which are always in motion.

When Karl Marx stated in the 1860s in his monumental work “Capital”: “Labor in the white skin can never be emancipated while labor in the Black skin is branded,” he was using specific terminology rooted in a very specific epoch — that being two social systems, slavery and capitalism, on a collision course that resulted in the U.S. Civil War; that white workers can never be liberated as wage laborers while Black people were used as chattel, that is, slave labor. He was stressing that it was in the class interests of white workers to fight side by side with their African sisters and brothers to bring down slavery, in order to bring about equality when it came to wages and other basic democratic rights during that time.

The violent, abrupt end of Black Reconstruction set back the struggle for basic democratic rights for Black people from the late 1870s until this very day.

The immediate response to the Trump election has been nothing short of phenomenal. There are even serious rumblings of calling a general strike on Jan. 20, along with a counterinauguration that has the potential of being even larger than the great one-day strike on May Day 2006, led by migrant workers in the millions. That should include other low-wage workers, unionized workers, prisoners, youth — in other words, the entire working class — employed, unemployed, part-time and full-time workers.

Part of strengthening the left is to strengthen solidarity with the most oppressed, especially youth of color, who even before the election were the targets of a genocidal police war. They have been shot down in the streets in Charlotte, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago, Los Angeles and elsewhere. They have been threatened with lynching in Beaumont, Texas, and elsewhere for taking a knee against injustice after Colin Kaepernick inspired them to do so. Police dogs were unleashed on them in Standing Rock, N.D.

This police war illustrates that the left must absorb in their bones that a big section of the working class worldwide, including the U.S., is our youth who are being disenfranchised and demonized by the racist capitalist state. If the youth are not defended by the movement, it helps to weaken the entire working class and serves to strengthen the bourgeoisie.

A genuine revolutionary socialist movement cannot move forward if the answer to the question of uniting the working class is to advise all involved to minimize and marginalize the importance of combating racism, the oppression of immigrant workers, of women and of lesbian, gay, bi, transgender and queer people “for the sake of unity.”

Unity and trust within the working class and within our socialist movement can only be accomplished by making the issues of the most oppressed central to our movement.

Let’s seize the time to build class unity, especially with oppressed nations and peoples, to make a reality of the prediction that Marx and Engels made in their groundbreaking book “The Communist Manifesto,” and that Vladimir Lenin expanded in “Imperialism”: that the workers and oppressed united will become the gravediggers of capitalism. On to the Socialist Revolution! Build a Workers World! □

TERESA GUTIERREZ

# ‘Unity, now more than ever’



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Welcome to Day 4 of the Resistance!!! In organizing for last night’s rally, I reached out to an organization we have not worked with here in NYC to ask them to speak.

This was their response: *“Although many in Workers World have their hearts in the right place, your organization’s desire to create a deeply authoritarian Marxist-Leninist government is at odds with our goal of worker control.”*

For full disclosure — or transparency as Imani would say — here is what I replied: *“Really? Now, today of all days when a white supremacist misogynist is elected president, you want to talk about differences that probably don’t matter in trying to create a united front or help the struggle? Sorry, but I am a Mexican lesbian and I cannot take this today, of all days.”*

Yes, my young friend, we are unabashedly “deeply Marxist-Leninist,” but do not confuse democratic centralism with totalitarianism. They are not at all the same.

I bring up this exchange because after an unprecedented and even depressing election season, our tasks are too great, our challenges too many to entertain any ideas that do not advance the struggle.

And to advance the struggle today

more than ever because we need unity and solidarity: with each other, with the politically conscious — as well as with the unconscious politically.

That is not so easy. So I want to turn to two great Marxist leaders. First is Comrade Fidel, one of the greatest revolutionaries of all time.

As you know, among Fidel’s many accomplishments is that he was able to defy U.S. imperialism and solidify the greatest revolution in this hemisphere. What an astounding task!

I want to humbly focus on one of Fidel’s traits to the best of my ability. It is a skill that I believe is of the utmost importance in this Trump period and with capitalism at a dead end. Over 50 years ago, Fidel was able to begin a political process that transformed the island of Cuba.

How did he do it? How was Fidel able to build socialism only 90 miles from the empire?

Back then, the Latin American movement argued that the United States would never tolerate a socialist revolution in this region, that it was impossible to defeat a regular army, even with guerrilla tactics. Fidel proved them wrong. Armed struggle was heavily debated.

## Fidel sought a political strategy

But to Fidel, there was more than guns. He sought a political strategy. He built a political coalition instead of solely focusing on the armed struggle.

To achieve victory against the brutal Batista dictatorship, the task to him was to unite as many social forces as possible. Fidel carefully and stage-by-stage built unity not just with the revolutionaries but with reformists and EVEN reactionaries.

Anyone who had a contradiction or opposition to Batista — he brought them in.

No one fought for unity like Fidel. He sometimes had to retreat. But he never ceded on his fundamental principles. Fidel understood that the differences would be resolved through practice.

Fidel’s political thought was the foundation that established the revolution and helped it withstand 50 years of imperialist aggression.

This sense of unity, nonsectarianism, always putting the struggle first had impact everywhere. To this day the only meeting where all the left comes together to work on a common cause is Cuba. Cuba unites the left here.

Historians have written: “Fidel’s great historic merit lies in having known how to

identify the decisive link that would make it possible to seize the entire chain and enable the revolution to advance. That decisive link was the struggle against Batista.”

## Fighting Trump: the decisive link?

Comrades, I ask you today, is our decisive link the struggle against Donald Trump?

In less than 24 hours after his election, queer folks, Muslims, people of color, immigrants, Jews have all been attacked by those emboldened by the Trump election. They have risen up, too, thank Marx!

But the Klan calling for a march in North Carolina, swastikas, white youth yelling “Build the wall” to Latinx youth means we have to take our fight to a whole new level. And that level demands a whole new kind of solidarity and unity and organization with as many social forces as possible.

So, second, I turn to another great revolutionary, Sam Marcy, the founder of our Party. Sam is our Fidel. A tenet of Sam was defense of the socialist camp and nations under attack by imperialism — despite their flaws. More study of Marcy is needed as the possibility of war with Syria and others escalates.

But I want to focus on his other main tenet: the national question, which will





WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

# ‘National oppression, economic injustice in Michigan’

Workers World Party’s conference comes at a critical juncture in the world movement against capitalism and imperialism. The only solution for the suffering and exploited masses of working and oppressed people is socialism. Our organizational and ideological efforts could determine our position in this emerging phase of the class struggle domestically and internationally.

In discussing our work in Michigan, it is essential to review the case of political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney. He is a longtime fighter in the southwest region of Michigan, where restructuring of capitalist production rendered cities, such as Benton Harbor, to extreme poverty and exploitation. Through the Black Autonomy Network Community Organization, he and his followers have waged a monumental campaign against the Berrien County Courts’ racist impunity, imposition of emergency management and gentrification of public areas and communities in capital’s interests.

In December, we held a National Organizing Conference to Save Rev. Pinkney; participants came from several states. The gathering pledged to intensify efforts to prevent threats to his life. Due to our work, Rev. Pinkney was transferred from Marquette Branch Prison to a prison in Muskegon Heights, much closer to his family and supporters.

Rev. Pinkney’s plight reflects the racist nature of Michigan’s justice system. Courts denied his motions for bond pending the outcome of the appeals process and other legal efforts. This illustrates that legal methods cannot be relied on to free our fighters or win justice for the working class and the nationally oppressed.

WW PHOTOS FROM THE  
NOV. 11-13 SOCIALIST CONFERENCE:  
JOE PIETTE AND BRENDA RYAN

be key under a Trump administration. When you have an anti-Central Park Five, ‘pussy’-grabbing jerk in the White House and possibly supercop Rudy Giuliani as the attorney general, the movement had better improve on this issue.

While warmonger Clinton and pig Donald dominated the news, there was hardly a mention of the Black people who had been gunned down in the streets. Police terror conveniently disappeared from the news despite ongoing attacks.

From here on we have to turn that around and do everything we can to put Black Lives Matter back on the national agenda, which many protesters already have.

I raise Fidel and Sam because in order to defeat the coming attacks from the Donald, Wall Street and the Pentagon, we will have to muster every ounce of solidarity to build the necessary coalition to advance the struggle.

For example, I for one refuse to give up on white workers, even some of those who voted for Trump. For heaven’s sake, Latinx voted for Trump! Let’s get them back!

We cannot abolish capitalism, much less build socialism, without white work-

*Continued on page 11*

Nonetheless, resistance is developing inside the prisons in Michigan and across the U.S. A national prisoners’ strike was held in September. The level of consciousness among the imprisoned nation, as Mumia Abu-Jamal refers to it, is reaching new heights. The situation in the prisons represents heightened repression of the masses by the capitalist system, which has exhausted hope for a decent, productive life for growing numbers of people.

## Capitalist ‘democratic’ institutions fail

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice appealed to the United Nations Commission for Human Rights two-and-a-half years ago at the height of the illegally imposed emergency management and forced bankruptcy in Detroit.

In the appeal, entitled “The Favoring of the Banks and Corporations During the Bankruptcy Process,” the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and MECAWI contend that the banks’ and corporations’ egregious policies “are responsible for the underdevelopment and impoverishment” in Detroit. “The banks’ targeting of Detroit and other majority African-American municipalities ... has been well-documented in numerous legal actions where financial institutions have agreed to pay billions of dollars in damages ... not necessarily to the victims ... but to the federal and state governments.”

This report noted: “Resources which should be utilized to keep people in their homes who have been subjected to predatory lending” and “payment of restitution and reparations to communities ... disproportionately affected by [unscrupulous banks’] actions have not taken place.” In Michigan “over \$500 million allocated through the so-called ‘hardest hit’ program to assist distressed homeowners have not been utilized to prevent mortgage or tax foreclosures.” These funds are being used “to identify homes to be torn down; many of these houses and small business were abandoned as a direct re-

sult of the [banks’] predatory actions. A Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) ... is seizing thousands of homes and vacant lots” without consulting residents of Detroit’s affected neighborhoods.

The document emphasizes the disregard of civil rights ostensibly granted to African people after the Civil War: “The 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution passed by ... Congress in 1870 was designed to grant the right to vote to the former enslaved Africans. Despite the nullification of the statewide vote in December 2012 against emergency management, the U.S. Justice Department and the White House are ... collaborating with ... Michigan officials by fostering the blatant violation of the 15th Amendment along with the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”

We told the UNCHR that an appeal to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in 2013 by elected officials requesting the federal government intervene on the denial of voting and due process rights, as protected under the 14th and 15th Amendments and the Civil Rights and Voting Rights laws, has gone unanswered.

The Obama administration submitted a legal brief to the federal bankruptcy court supporting “emergency management and forced bankruptcy of Detroit” and “endorsed the privatization of the administration of federal grants which had been previously handled by Detroit departments and employees.” Expropriating these federal grants from Detroit and “turning them over to private foundations located outside [Detroit]” resulted in “termination of employees and departments that previously administered such grants where employees paid into the pension systems ... under attack by the emergency manager.”

In light of these attacks on the people of Detroit and in Michigan, the Democratic Party had the audacity to campaign among the masses, requesting they vote en masse for their presidential and vice presidential candidates. Based on their

own experiences, the people know that there are no fundamental differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. We need a party of the working class and the oppressed that can speak in its own name and organize for the overthrow of the racist capitalist and imperialist system — for the realization of national liberation and socialism.

## Housing, water, jobs are human rights

For two years our coalition has waged a monumental struggle against massive tax foreclosures and water shut-offs. We have forced the Wayne County treasurer to enact moratoriums on property tax foreclosures resulting from banks’ predatory actions. Tens of thousands of people have been allowed to make payment arrangements on these illegal tax assessments.

Based on our efforts, the Michigan American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP Legal Defense Fund and other entities filed a class-action lawsuit aimed at winning a moratorium on property tax foreclosures, which violate the 1968 Fair Housing Act. We demand that the hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds be used for their intended purpose — to keep people in their homes through payments of delinquent property taxes and inflated water bills.

We forced an upcoming meeting with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, demanding they rewrite the regulations for allocating funds in Detroit and Wayne County for these purposes. The DLBA’s and Mayor Duggan’s city administration corruption is now clear for all to see.

We will continue to build a revolutionary response to national oppression and rapacious capitalism at the March 25, 2017, Party conference in Detroit. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the heroic African-American working-class rebellion in Detroit. It is imperative that the actual history of these important struggles be told from the people’s perspective. □

FRED GOLDSTEIN

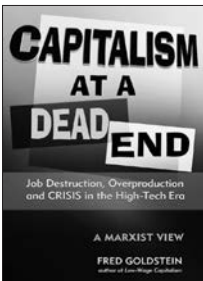
# ‘Capitalist parties & economy in decline’

I send my greetings to the 2016 Workers World Party Conference. I have attended every conference since 1962, but medical reasons did not permit it this year.

I want to congratulate the Party on running a dynamic election campaign. I also want to send special greetings to the many youth attending the conference.

## 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](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)  
Available at online major booksellers

The firestorm of local demonstrations that has greeted the victory of the racist, misogynistic, authoritarian billionaire Donald Trump is truly heartwarming. Boastful intimidation has been met by resistance from Portland to Miami, from Chicago to Dallas.

We are in a new political period in the U.S. It has been a new period since the simultaneous rise of Trump and Bernie Sanders. This signified a crisis for both political parties of the capitalist class.

The Democratic Party and the Republican Party have been the political pillars of U.S. capitalism since the Civil War. They have been the durable instruments that have sustained capitalist rule. Both these pillars are now trembling. And they are trembling as a result of the world capitalist economic crisis.

This crisis has undermined the multinational working class globally, and that includes in the U.S. The political crisis in

the U.S. is catching up with the corrosive economic crisis and irreversible decline.

Our Party has prepared for and patiently awaited a political opening for revolutionary Marxism in the U.S. With the response to Trump and the Sanders campaign, as well as developments like the Black Lives Matter movement, there are rays of light beginning to shine through this opening.

Trump will not be able to fulfill his wild demagogic economic promises to the workers. You cannot restore jobs that have been destroyed and no longer exist because of technology.

The Democratic Party leadership is in a shambles and is becoming more and more discredited. This leaves the field open for a revolutionary party to plunge into the political and economic struggle and build up its forces with the aim of destroying capitalism altogether. Build Workers World Party! □





WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

# 'LGBTQ liberation and working class struggle'

We woke up on Nov. 9 to learn that the ultrabigoted, racist and woman-hating Trump was president-elect and that Mike Pence was vice president-elect. Pence is rabidly hostile to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and, as Indiana's governor, led a massive attack by the state on LGBTQ lives disguised as "religious freedom."

Pence has worked nonstop against same-sex marriage and has opposed all laws to protect LGBTQ adults and children in bathrooms, workplaces and public accommodations. He is deeply anti-woman and vows to overturn the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling on the right to abortion.

This was a blow, as it came after the LGBTQ movement has won so many victories over the last several years, including the Supreme Court decision in 2003 overturning sodomy laws that criminalized gay and lesbian sexuality and its 2015 ruling that legalized same-sex marriage.

But those victories were won at the same time as reactionary campaigns have continued against LGBTQ lives. More than 115 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced at state and local levels in 2015. These included bills to force lesbian, gay and transgender children into "conversion therapy" that claims it can change sexual orientation or gender identity. Scientific research has proven this cannot be done, as stated in "Just the Facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth" published by the American Psychological Association.

Nationally coordinated hate legislation to criminalize transgender people for using public bathrooms spread like a gasoline fire. One such bill is North Carolina's HB2, "Hate Bill 2," which created a national uproar after its March 2016 passage. HB2 was pushed by groups funded by North Carolina billionaire Art Pope, friend of the reactionary Koch brothers.

Pope was listed in 2013 as one of the 10 wealthiest men in the U.S. He is ideologically dedicated to "free enterprise" — meaning no regulation of capitalism and no legal limits on the owning class's "freedom" to exploit workers. (ourfuture.org)

It was no accident that the HB2 law criminalizing trans people also revoked all state laws protecting LGBTQ people, made it harder for all oppressed workers to file state discrimination claims against employers and stymied local governments from raising the minimum wage for some workers.

Queer and trans people of color were the first to militantly resist HB2 with marches, sit-ins and civil disobedience. Our Durham, N.C., comrades played leading roles in organized resistance that resulted in billions of dollars of lost revenue to businesses and established a basis for interlocking unity in resistance.

## Fight every attack on oppressed people

WWP North Carolina organizers said on March 28: "The ruling class does not want to see a united front against homophobia, transphobia, sexism, racism, ableism or any other issue plaguing the working class. They want to divide us, using lies that make us enemies of each other. But as revolutionaries, we understand that fighting for the working class means fighting back against every attack on oppressed peoples."

Bigots justified the anti-trans HB2 bill as necessary with the slur of "protecting women and children from sexual predators."

Those of us who know the centuries of struggle against U.S. enslavement of and racism against Black people, particularly in the South, recognize the lying, unity-shattering accusation of "rapist" and "sexual predator" aimed at oppressed people, especially Black men.

We heard that calumny last year from white supremacist Dylann Storm Roof as he massacred nine African-American people, seven of them women, as they worshipped in a Charleston, S.C., church.

As for the accusation of "sexual predator" thrown at LGBTQ people, I have been accused of and grievously wounded by that slur. I lost custody of my own children when I came out as a lesbian in North Carolina in 1974. I and thousands of LGBTQ people have lost our children, jobs, birth families and often lives because of the bigoted belief that LGBTQ people prey on adults and children.

In those "old days," we were illegal people. Our sexuality and our gender expression were criminal offenses. Yet human ties of love and family continue to be smashed in the U.S. through continued violence against queer people, the criminalization and deportation of migrant workers, cop killings and mass incarceration of Black people and other people of color, and the making of refugees through U.S. imperialist wars.

When workers and oppressed people rise up to fight these injustices, gender-baiting is a constant tactic used to divide the struggle. In 1973 the Equal Rights Amendment for women was defeated in North Carolina primarily because of a right-wing campaign of "bathroom panic," which claimed the ERA would force women to use dangerous "unisex toilets."

Dividing the working class by exploiting fears and biased assumptions about gender or sexuality goes beyond being only a domestic tactic of the U.S. ruling class. In 2001 the U.S. invaded Afghanistan using the false Islamophobic slogan of "oppressed women" to justify imperialist war. This was after the U.S. put the Taliban in power in 1979, overthrowing a revolutionary communist government

that was making sweeping changes for Afghan women's liberation.

The U.S. ruling class spreads false information about LGBTQ lives in countries they want to destabilize, like Iran, while promising so-called "Western freedoms" to LGBTQ people in exchange. Meanwhile, U.S. groups like the so-called Alliance Defending Freedom, funded by Art Pope, sow hatred and division about sexuality and gender in African countries, like Uganda, and promote laws that persecute and imprison LGBTQ people. (mediamatters.org)

The double-face of sex and gender manipulation is shown in a U.S. neoliberal like Hillary Clinton. She boasts of being for all women, yet also boasts of destabilizing the democratically elected government of Honduras, which resulted in the assassination of Berta Cáceres Flores, an environmental activist, Indigenous leader of the Lenca people and linchpin opponent of U.S. economic exploitation of her country.

Our comrade, Leslie Feinberg — who identified as an anti-racist white, working-class, secular Jewish, transgender, lesbian, female, revolutionary communist — wrote the first Marxist analysis of transgender oppression. In "Transgender Warriors: Making History" published in 1995, Leslie showed how oppression against women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender nonconforming people was linked — and arose from what Frederick Engels called the "world historic defeat of women" with the division of humanity into classes.

The only way the capitalist class can stay in power is to keep workers and oppressed peoples from uniting. Our struggle for consciousness about how to unite is the most profound struggle of all. Onward to socialist revolution! Onward together in the struggle! Onward together! □

## Youth energize revolutionary socialist conference

*Continued from page 1*

ponents was the strong showing of young people — many of whom are youth of color, LGBTQ and working class, and who are on the frontlines of the Black Lives Matter movement, Fight for \$15, migrant justice movement and more.

These are the same young people who have taken up the righteous battle against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, ableism, all rooted in capitalism: the global oppressive economic system that dictates our social relations and unites us all as the worldwide multinational class. Young people are on the frontlines of struggle, experiencing the decay of capitalism at each moment that it happens — whether it be in Detroit, where global austerity is concentrated among the Black masses who have become expendable to ruling-class bosses, or in Palestine where the Zionist occupation by Israel is displacing and murdering people daily.

Young people are more and more becoming disillusioned by the capitalist system, primarily out of their own experience with a system that denies them basic income, housing and access to education



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

while demanding their full participation in the system. Both bourgeois presidential candidates, Trump and Clinton, vied for the youth vote, when it is obvious that neither capitalist candidate can provide a promising future for youth.

The conference provided a space for young people to not only participate in conversation with each other and the broader movement about what is needed in the next period, but involved many in meaningful roles.

Throughout the weekend, young comrades and their allies were involved in the creation of the program, chairing sessions, facilitating important discussions, reading solidarity statements and, most importantly, carrying forward a necessary revolutionary energy through art, song, spoken word performances and chants.

The success of the conference and the involvement of young people, more than ever before, reflects a tremendous turning point and a hopeful period ahead for political struggle. It is a reflection of young people's growing desire to be a part of a mass movement for justice and liberation and also our recognition of the need to have a political home and organization that can be relied on in times of crisis to sharpen our analysis, to prepare for combat and to strengthen our militancy.

Historically young people have been on the frontlines of the movement — from the Black Panther Party to the Brown Berets to the American Indian Movement to the anti-war movement to the Stonewall Rebellion to the women's movement — and more. This historic fact remains true today as high school students walk out in protest of a pending Trump presidency; as young people occupy the streets demanding justice for Keith Lamont Scott, Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland and countless other victims of police terror; as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth take up militant action to reject anti-worker and anti-trans bills, like HB2 in North Carolina; and as

students on college campuses show solidarity with workers' struggles.

Now more than ever, we must bring young people in, fortify youth leadership and recognize that the deepening capitalist crisis is forging a new layer of leadership of those who study the lessons of the Black Liberation movement, the Vietnam war, the victory in Angola, the MOVE 9 bombing, the fall of the USSR, the Attica 45th anniversary prison strike and who demand the freedom of political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oscar Lopez Rivera, Rasmea Odeh, Leonard Peltier and more. This vital history of revolutionary struggle against oppression inspires and enriches youths' everyday life in new, unique and meaningful ways.

The conference this year played a role in connecting where we've come from, where we are and where we are going in true Marxist-Leninist fashion. It demonstrated not only that history is on our side, but that young people are the vanguard of realizing a socialist revolution and that we have a duty to build a party that is capable of nurturing and supporting this vanguard. □





WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Everyone has heard of the magnificent struggle going on in North Dakota, which has united Indigenous nations worldwide as the Oceti Sakowin, the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Great Sioux Nation, fights to protect the mighty Missouri and Mississippi rivers. They are fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline to defend their sovereignty, their lands, waters and the lives of future generations.

Standing Rock has captured the hearts and minds of many around the world, despite the lack of truthful media coverage.

Energy Transfer Partners is building DAPL to move millions of gallons of fracked crude oil from the Bakken shale oil fields in western North Dakota under the Missouri River to a pipeline in Illinois and then to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico for export. A Missouri spill would destroy clean water for Standing Rock and affect 18 million people downstream.

Pipelines corrode and rupture. Recently there were a Susquehanna River spill and an Alabama pipeline explosion. Big Oil never totally cleans up spills — from BP Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico to Exxon Valdez in Alaska — although they damage peoples’ health, habitats and wildlife. We now face the sixth extinction event in Earth’s history, due to global warming and ecological damage.

Bismarck, N.D., rejected DAPL to protect the city’s water, so the racist ETP moved the pipeline downstream to Standing Rock over Native opposition. In April women from Standing Rock established a camp in the path of the proposed pipeline. Youth organized to run cross-country to build awareness. More and more people began to flood in, and by August thousands had gathered to take a stand. Women and youth remain very much in leadership!

Indigenous peoples from throughout the hemisphere have gone to Standing

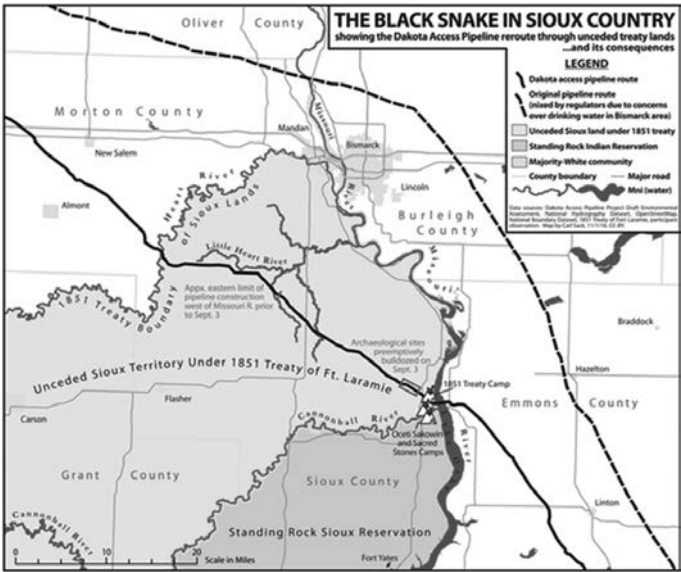
Rock. The American Indian Movement, Idle No More, Indigenous Environmental Network and many environmental groups and activists have mobilized. Delegations include Black Lives Matter, Palestinian students from California, even people from Japan. Maoris in New Zealand are doing their sacred haka dances in solidarity. Mongolians, the Philippine organization BAYAN and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine sent statements of solidarity. Unionists created a Labor Camp. Four international unions and many locals made solidarity statements.

Recently 500 multidenominational clergy symbolically burned the 600-year-old Doctrine of Discovery used to justify colonial genocide. They shut down the North Dakota state Capitol and were arrested protesting Gov. Jack Dalrymple.

Water protectors have marched and blocked bulldozers. Some locked themselves to construction equipment. Unarmed, they have faced weapons while trying to block the pipeline construction. They were tear gassed and Maced while swimming to protect grave sites on Turtle Island, where the police, National Guard and DAPL mercenaries have set up military headquarters.

Gov. Dalrymple responded with a military mobilization of sheriffs and cops from several states, the National Guard and DAPL’s hired mercenaries, including from G4S. Peaceful water protectors have been surrounded for weeks by soldiers and riot-gear-clad cops, cell tower blockers and nonstop surveillance flights overhead. Public highways are blockaded.

Water protectors have been beaten, bitten by attack dogs, tear gassed, pepper sprayed, shot with rubber bullets, injured by criminal use of LRAD sound cannons, arrested, brutalized while praying, strip searched, numbered and held in dog kennels.



CARTOGRAPHER: CARL SACK, NORTHLANDIA.COM

Map of unceded Native lands under the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The Dakota Access Pipeline cuts through these stolen Native lands.

Women and elders have been strip-searched; one woman was left naked overnight in a jail cell. All their possessions — including spiritual items — were taken from them during arrests. They were later returned from a truck that dumped them all on the ground, soiled with urine. National Guard snipers threaten the defenders and even killed one person’s horse. DAPL has bulldozed sacred sites, rare historical and burial sites.

Corrupt state politicians, including Dalrymple, invested in this pipeline. Trump is an investor, too.

Despite confusion in the corporate media, the camps of the water defenders

and their supporters are all on unceded treaty lands — not private, but stolen lands and waters.

**Pipeline in violation of treaties**

Under the 1851 Treaty of Ft. Laramie, the Oceti Sakowin lands, bounded by the Missouri River to the east, encompass half of South Dakota, large areas of North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana. Millions of acres were later stolen by settlers and the U.S., including the most fertile agricultural land which now lies flooded under Lake Oahe. This area provided farmland and orchards for both Standing Rock and the Cheyenne River reservations.

The U.S. Constitution declares that a treaty, an agreement between two nations, is to be the “supreme Law of the Land.” This makes the Indian treaties the constitutional “Law of the Land.” All these lands are Indian Country, Great Turtle Island.

In addition, the Supreme Court ruled in 1908 that lands set aside for a reservation imply American Indian water rights, known as federal reserved water rights.

Federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers are mandated to have

*Continued on page 11*

**MILT NEIDENBERG**

# ‘Labor on the road to socialism’

The elections are over. What a hoax and despicable display! Over a year and a half of debate, in which fortunes were spent and lost, and Trump won. This has revealed the undemocratic practices of the U.S. to the world working class. Trump has manipulated the electoral process and seized the real estate of the U.S. for his personal and political fortunes. Will this be a repeat of any of his other speculative projects — casinos, golf courses, hotels? Bankrupt, sold-off or abandoned?

The capitalist infrastructure is crumbling. There is a \$20 trillion debt on the U.S. as property. Congress is in gridlock and capitalism is at a dead end, as Comrade Fred Goldstein has explained. The rate of profit has declined over the last decade since the 2008 crash. Disenfranchised whites in the middle class who brought Trump to power are in disarray. To solve the crisis, Trump has unleashed a frenzy of racial hatred, misogyny and “law and order.”

Trump will use the disenfranchised middle class as a battering ram against our multinational sisters and brothers, immigrants and the Black movement fighting against oppression and for their right to self-determination. Trump will support and finance the 1% and aid the monopoly corporate banks, like Gold-

man Sachs and Wells Fargo, to deepen and widen austerity. He will likely offer the job of Secretary of the Treasury to a Goldman Sachs veteran and Wall Street hedge fund manager.

But the Trump win has unleashed the power and spirit of fightback, particularly among the young and multinational working class, the unemployed and underemployed, who work for starvation wages, including students on campuses in high schools and colleges.

Herein lies the future — building solidarity among our sisters and brothers who are fighting for liberation and self-determination, led by Black Lives Matter, the women’s movement and LGBTQ people. The use of state repression emboldened by Trumpism demands fightback and devising new ways to defend the movement.

The study of Marxism will confirm that our future lies in the fight for socialism.

We encourage young comrades and friends new to the labor movement to join the Party’s Labor Fraction and discuss strategies, experiences and ideas to help lead the party to face this new challenge on the road to socialism.

*Neidenberg is a founding member and leading labor organizer of Workers World Party.*

## 47th National Day of Mourning From Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock — #WaterIsLife

**Thurs., Nov. 24, 12 noon sharp  
Cole’s Hill, Plymouth, Mass.**

Since 1970, Native peoples have gathered in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. “Thanksgiving” holiday. That day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the relentless assault on Native culture. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and the struggles of Indigenous peoples to survive today — against continuing racism and oppression.

United American Indians of North America asks supporters to join them in this commemoration dedicated to the #NoDAPL water protectors at Standing Rock and the struggle to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day. There will be a special message from political prisoner Leonard Peltier.



A campaign is underway calling on President Obama to grant him clemency.  
**FREE LEONARD PELTIER!**  
Email: [info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) • [www.uaine.org](http://www.uaine.org) • twitter: [@ndnviewpoint](https://twitter.com/ndnviewpoint) @mahtowin1  
[facebook.com/events/1836658466568754/](https://facebook.com/events/1836658466568754/)

### Get on the International Action Center bus to Plymouth!

Meet at 6 a.m. sharp at Solidarity Center, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, Manhattan.  
(Leave Plymouth at 4:30 p.m. to arrive in NYC at 9:30 p.m.)  
Round-trip tickets: \$30-\$45 (sliding scale)  
Buy bus tickets in advance at Solidarity Center, 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.  
Tickets go fast. **Buy your tickets today! For info: 212-633-6646. See [IACenter.org](http://IACenter.org)**





# WORKERS WORLD editorial

## Give Trump a chance? Not on our lives!

The photo was top of the news: Obama and Trump shaking hands in the Oval Office at the White House, with Obama saying “Give Trump a chance.”

But that gesture and those words reveal the rotten heart of capitalism at the center of the U.S. political system.

Trump’s first staff appointments confirm that he absolutely intends to use that “chance” and the power of the presidency to open direct economic and social war against people of color, workers, women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, people with disabilities and other oppressed groups in the U.S. In a Nov. 13 “60 Minutes” interview, Trump again promised mass deportations of millions of immigrants, defaming them as “criminals.”

Trump has appointed racist, anti-Semite Steve Bannon as his chief strategist and senior counselor. Bannon is a former Wall Street hedge fund manager and Goldman Sachs fat cat. He is also a hate monger-in-chief who presided as CEO of the alt-right Breitbart website, a cesspool

for white supremacists and unabashed anti-Semites and racists.

Bannon was Trump’s campaign manager and “general” in their hate campaign to divide U.S. workers through racism and put Trump in office. Now the Goldman Sachs former partner will undoubtedly be chief strategist in planning a direct assault on workers, unions and social benefits.

That this war has already started is evident in the huge postelection increase in physical and verbal attacks against Latinxs, Muslims, African Americans, immigrants, Indigenous people, women, Asians, LGBTQ people and others.

The short list of those Trump might appoint as his “governing team” shows his blatant intent to exploit the people of the U.S. as thoroughly as a coal company decapitates a millennia-old mountain top to get to short-term profit.

On Trump’s list for interior secretary is former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, known for her Big Oil “Drill, baby, drill” chant and eagerness to devastate the environ-



PHOTO: VOCES DE LA FRONTERA

Wisconsin workers pledge resistance to Trump’s deportation threats.

ment. For attorney general or secretary of state, a leading contender is former U.S. Attorney and New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Giuliani is infamous for his racist and aggressive policing of Black and Brown communities and his later business investments in militarizing law enforcement.

Health and Human Services might be headed up by either Rep. Tom Price or former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. Both want to overturn the Affordable Care Act and are anti-abortion. And Homeland Security? One Trump favorite is Joe Arpaio, former Arizona sheriff who defied federal law to super-persecute immigrants.

Trump’s election and his plan to try to govern the U.S. with these ultraright racists, woman-haters and anti-LGBTQ bigots have exposed the utter decay of the U.S. capitalist system, which has nothing to offer the workers.

People are afraid, yes, but they are also enraged. There have been huge demonstrations in the U.S. since Trump’s election. Grassroots organizing is underway everywhere, especially by the youth.

In meetings in Wisconsin, organized by the pro-immigrant group Voces de la Frontera, hundreds of people took a pledge together to strike and mobilize massive actions to stop the attacks underway and those that are coming.

Regardless of his “populist” rhetoric, Trump speaks for the tiny minority of billionaires in this country. The real majority has been in the streets every day since the election. And networking has already begun to bring tens of thousands of protesters to D.C. on Jan. 20 for the counterinaugural.

Give Trump a chance to attack our movement with his cast of bigots and exploiters? Not on our lives! □

## As workers in diaspora organize to help Haitians face threat of famine

By G. Dunkel

A month after Hurricane Matthew slammed into southwest Haiti with wind speeds of up to 155 miles an hour, much of the electrical grid, roads, houses and food stocks destroyed have not been repaired or replaced.

Some 800,000 people need food desperately, according to UNICEF-Haiti. The hurricane destroyed the homes of hundreds of thousands of subsistence farmers in Grand Anse and Sud, the two worst-hit departments. It also destroyed their food and the seed they need to raise

their next crops, along with thousands of fruit trees.

Some 112,000 children are at the greatest risk from hunger because they are already so thin after a three-year drought.

Even these UNICEF figures are probably too low. Local government officials have said that the devastation of roads and tracks leading into the mountainous areas of these departments is so great that they won’t be able to reach some remote communities until the end of November.

One man reportedly spent two days walking out of his isolated village to tell authorities that so many people there had

died that they were burning the bodies instead of burying them. (Washington Post, Nov. 3)

The flotilla of U.S. ships with heavy lift helicopters that could have supplied these communities left several weeks ago, after delivering promised supplies.

There are other dangers besides the hunger and destruction left by Matthew. Cholera, brought to Haiti by U.N. troops through careless sanitation, has caused hundreds of deaths in Haiti’s southwest in the past month. The overall total since 2010 has reached 10,000 deaths, with 800,000 sickened.

Haiti’s Interim President, Jocelerme Privert, told the BBC on Nov. 11 that his country was facing a “major food crisis” and worsening levels of malnutrition. He said he “didn’t want to see Haitian people die because of the unavailability of international assistance.”

He explained, “Our projection is that we need between \$25 and \$30 million dollars to resolve the farming issue. Right now we have \$2.5 million.”

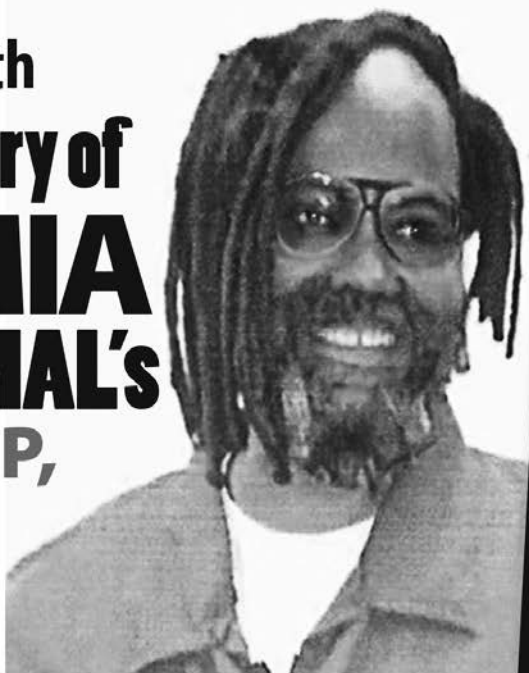
The natural impulse for working people and progressives, when we see a tragedy like what Hurricane Matthew and capitalism have done to Haiti, is to give our own personal funds to help our fellow workers.

When Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2010, half the families in the United States made a donation to help. The American Red Cross collected half a billion dollars to aid Haiti. Out of this huge pile of money, the organization sent a few emergency supplies and built exactly six houses to replace the hundreds of thousands of homes destroyed.

An official of Steelworkers Local 8751, which represents the union of school bus drivers in Boston whose members are 95 percent Haitian and Haitian American, told Workers World that the local is donating \$5,000 in union funds. They are looking into how to send the money to Haiti with a small delegation of union members. One bus driver lost five family members in the devastation of the hard-hit city of Jeremie. Some individual members of USW 8751 are raising additional funds.

With a large concentration of Haitian workers in Boston-area hospitals and hotels and an active branch of the progressive Fanmi Lavalas party there, Local 8751 is hoping to put together a union-based coalition to gather and send concrete solidarity to the people of Haiti. □

**On the 35th  
Anniversary of  
MUMIA  
ABU-JAMAL’S  
FRAMEUP,  
ARREST,  
& NEAR  
DEATH**



We demand immediate **HEP C cure** for Mumia & other PA hep-c infected prisoners! Mumia and many others are sick, and will die if PA keeps refusing to treat them!

**BE IN  
PHILADELPHIA  
fri ▶ DEC 9**  
**3pm RALLY & MARCH**  
**NO Frank Rizzo statue**  
15th St. and JFK Blvd.  
**5:30 pm INDOOR EVENT**  
Arch St. United Methodist Church  
Corner Arch St. and Broad St.  
**6 pm – 9 pm PROGRAM**  
**Mobilization4Mumia@gmail.com**

Free Mumia & All Political Prisoners ▶ Clean water for All PA prisoners Now ▶ End mass incarceration ▶ End Life without parole ▶ Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!  
▶ End solitary confinement ▶ Solidarity with prison workers trikers ▶ BLACK LIVES MATTER! ▶ End Stop & Frisk! ▶ NO to Standing Rock Pipeline ▶ Protect Our Water!



# Interview with Amarjeet Kaur

## Women & the All India Trade Union Congress

Amarjeet Kaur is National Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress. Martha Grevatt interviewed her Oct. 7 during the 17th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions, held in Durban, South Africa. They discussed the 180-million-strong general strike of Sept. 2.

Kaur explained that until 1947 AITUC was the only trade union umbrella organization. Another 11 union centers were formed since the 1940s by various political currents — from the Marxist left to social democrats to “the right reactionary religion-based organizations.” The federations led by the previous and current ruling bourgeois parties are the largest, followed by AITUC, which is “the top among the left.” This is the second segment of her interview.

**Martha Grevatt:** Why were women essential to the success of the strike?

**Amarjeet Kaur:** Women were essential because they are hard hit. All the social security investment which the government is reducing is hitting women because it is making education, health, drinking water and food items expensive. Good jobs and opportunities are being lost. Women are being engaged only in precarious jobs, where wages are not protected at all, so women’s participation in our strike was immense. They were in the forefront everywhere.

Women could really digest the whole campaign [because] we are the worst oppressed. Once again child labor is increasing in India. There are too many migrations from rural to urban areas. Trafficking is happening. Women are really suffering so they were a very important component to make this strike a success. All of the welfare schemes — there are almost 10 million women working in that area. None of them have worker status. [These women perform necessary social services but are considered “volunteers” and receive no wages, only below-minimum-wage payment as an “honorarium,” and are not protected by labor laws.] So they were out in the streets. Our domestic workers were in the streets. So women were very, very important in making this strike a success.

STEPHANIE HEDGECKE

## ‘Indigenous unite to defend water and stolen lands’

Continued from page 9

meaningful consultation with Native nations before signing off on land and water use permits. Consultation requires thorough environmental studies and exploration of Native sacred sites and graves.

### Standing Rock was not consulted!

DAPL is now 90 percent complete and must be finished by Dec. 31. They don’t have the permit to drill under the Missouri River; yet they stated on Nov. 8 that they would go ahead and drill anyway. Their drillbox is in place, surrounded by a type of protective wall used on U.S. military installations.

The contract to build DAPL was based on \$70 to \$80 a barrel for crude oil, but the price has dropped and overproduction has thinned profit margins. If it’s not completed by Dec. 31, ETP has to renegotiate and might not be able to make

This strike went beyond the workers. It was appealing not only to our workforce and our targets. We told our workers we have to go to the communities, we have to go to the people. We have to go beyond our boundaries and tell the people the strike is not only for us, it is meant for India, to save its sovereignty and not to sell out our interests to the foreign companies and finance capital. This is how we moved. And that’s why we got so much support.

For women I have a message: They should understand that they and their children are the worst affected with this neoliberal economic market. All humans suffer but they are the worst sufferers so they should be in the forefront of these struggles of class-oriented organizations. The working class needs to take the lead today.

**MG:** What is the role of the left?

**AK:** The left political parties came out openly in support of the Sept. 2nd strike. They said, “We support your demands, we support your strike, we will ask our cadres to help you in this strike.” Many even appealed to the local governments of those states which are controlled by political parties other than the [ruling] party so some of those governments did not use their police against the strikers. But where these hostile governments were, there workers had to face the police. They were trying to break the strike but they could not break it.

**MG:** Do you want to add anything else?

**AK:** I think a very big problem we are facing today is that new industries are coming up; several of the multinational corporations are coming in and investing money. They are violating the Indian constitution and labor laws. And the governments are siding with them. When workers want to form unions they are sacked [fired], retrenched, suspended. So we were glad to have the solidarity with the unions of those corporations, who have offices in various countries.

For example, there are Japanese, German and U.S. companies in several countries producing a single item. They are threatening to move out of a country if you ask for your rights and the government [echoes them]. So I think it is high

\$8 a barrel. Yet on Nov. 10 President Obama’s Department of Justice said that an announcement was coming soon for a DAPL “path forward” at Oahe.

Dalrymple’s military mobilization in coordination with DAPL’s mercenaries is an act of war. A governor has no right to declare war. He should be in jail.

Clean water is a human right from Flint, Mich., to Standing Rock. We don’t need more fossil fuels. We demand President Obama revoke all permits now. End DAPL and free Leonard Peltier!

I’d like to take a moment to thank everyone who has gone to Standing Rock and represented us, including our vice presidential candidate, Lamont Lilly. Fists up, everyone! Mni Wiconi! Mni Wiconi! Water Is Life!

*Hedgecock received the 2008 annual award for journalism given by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers.*



AITUC delegation at the WFTU Congress in Durban, Oct. 8. At left, Amarjeet Kaur.

PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

time for our solidarity, our closeness among various unions working in different countries, hearing of and sharing our experiences, victories and achievements, the methods and forms of our agitation. That will help us, exchanging those opinions and all the close working of the unions will be very, very important.

I definitely feel that the capitalist world is in a crisis they are failing to contain and they are telling lies that they are doing okay, but it is not happening. They are attacking one country after another for natural resources. That means the armament industry will have more business creating conflicts here and there. They are against the working class and we should see to it that in our respective countries we do not allow warmongers to take over the psy-

chology of the masses. The trade unions once again will have to speak out against conflicts, violence and local wars ... and those who are creating terrorist groups and utilizing that situation against their own workers in their own home country as well as creating problems for the workers in other countries.

The working class needs to understand that this decay has increased the challenges but has also given us more openings. Now more and more unions want to be in a fighting mood. Once they are in a fighting mood then they would like to desert the unions who are not fighting. They would like to come to the centers which are fighting. So this is providing us opportunity to strengthen the class-oriented unions and WFTU. □

TERESA GUTIERREZ

## ‘Unity, now more than ever’

Continued from page 7

ers. We have seen that the best of the best of the white workers understand that if you want to be a real fighter, you had better stand with Black Lives Matter.

Sam Marcy understood this; he knew that without the oppressed in front as leadership, well, give it up. This is why myself, Larry, Monica, Berta, John, Lydia and others stand here today. We are Brown and Black. But we are also red.

We are the only party in this country that has a Black chairperson! Thank you, Sam. Sam is our Fidel, but Larry is our Lenin. And a special shout-out to Fred who laid our foundation for today with “Capitalism at a Dead End.”

What has happened in the streets since the elections shows this period will be

like no other. We have to work to channel this momentum into something great. And understanding political strategy like that of Fidel will be necessary.

To build the movement and to shut things down, let us continue to assess how to win like Fidel. Look to Sam and Harriet Tubman, Rosa Luxemburg, Emma Tenayuca, John Brown and so many others.

Finally comrades, I believe with all my heart and soul that this is the only Party that can take the struggle to the next level.

On to defeating the Trump agenda!  
Let’s make this country unfxxkinggovernable!  
Build WWP!  
In the words of our Cuban comrades: Socialism or death! □

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

**Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes

**Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy

**Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani Dowell

**The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead

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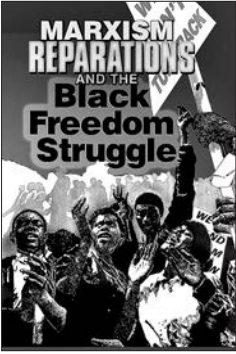
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GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON





# Marchas de protesta estallan después de la elección de Trump

Por Deirdre Griswold

11 de noviembre - Aunque los resultados de las elecciones presidenciales todavía se estaban contando, lo que colocó a Donald Trump por delante en votos del Colegio Electoral - pero no del voto popular - lxs jóvenes salieron a la calle a protestar.

Durante los dos días siguientes, desde Los Ángeles a Nueva York, de Portland, Ore., a Charlotte, Carolina del Norte, miles de personas en ciudades de todo el país atascaron carreteras, marcharon por las calles y gritaron su repulsión hacia el racismo, el sexismo, la homofobia y el desprecio hacia inmigrantes.

A pesar de muchos arrestos, lxs manifestaciones continuaron durante los próximos dos días, 9 y 10 de noviembre, incluso mientras líderes de ambos partidos de la clase gobernante, demócratas y republicanos, instaron a que se aceptara un gobierno Trump y se “curaran las heridas” de una amarga elección.

Esto no sofocó el espíritu de resistencia entre lxs jóvenes, muchxs de los cuales están personalmente amenazadx por el aumento en las atrocidades e insultos racistas, brutalidad hacia las mujeres y personas LGBTQ, y los ataques contra quienes son percibidos como musulmanes y/o inmigrantes - que la victoria de Trump ha alentado.

Notablemente ausentes en estas manifestaciones estuvieron los signos de apoyo al Partido Demócrata. Estas no fueron manifestaciones pro-Clinton, aunque muchxs hubieran esperado ver por fin a una mujer presidente. Fueron protestas contra la política de reacción sobre todos los asuntos sociales que Trump representa.

Muchos están hablando ahora de una gran protesta en Washington, D.C., en la inauguración el 20 de enero como el siguiente gran paso en las protestas para detener a Trump.

A continuación se presentan los informes de testigos oculares de sólo algunas de las acciones que siguieron a las elecciones.

## Filadelfia

Cerca de 1.000 estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad indignados por la elección de Donald Trump se reunieron el 9 de noviembre frente al Ayuntamiento y luego marcharon por la calle Broad pasando por la Universidad de Temple para llegar a los barrios del norte de Filadelfia. Por otra parte, unxs 200 estudiantes progresistas y miembros de la comunidad de la Universidad de Temple se reunieron en el campus para hablar sobre Trump a pesar del clima lluvioso y frío. Discursos apasionados destacaron su indignación de que el machista y racista Donald Trump sea el próximo presidente.

Especialmente bien representadx estaban los supervivientes de agresión sexual, quienes expresaron su asombro por la elección de un depredador sexual a la oficina más alta de la nación, así como su determinación de combatir la misoginia y apoyarse mutuamente.

En la noche siguiente, miles de manifestantes anti-Trump cerraron calles en el centro de la ciudad por segunda noche consecutiva. A partir de la plaza Thomas Paine, más de 3.000 manifestantes, prin-

cipalmente mujeres vestidas de negro, celebraron una vigilia antes de tomar las calles para marchar a la estación de trenes Amtrak de la calle 30.

Llamada por ‘Our 100: Philly Women in Formation’, el evento comenzó desde una publicación en Facebook bajo el hashtag #GOPHandsOffMe. La manifestación se abrió al reconocer que muchas mujeres que asistieron necesitaban espacio para expresar su pesar y preocupación por haber elegido a Trump, un misógino admitido que hablaba abiertamente de agredir a las mujeres. Sin embargo, el estado de ánimo rápidamente cambió a uno de resistencia. Una oradora dirigió a la multitud con una consigna popular de Assata Shakur: “Es nuestro deber luchar por nuestra libertad. Es nuestro deber ganar. Debemos amarnos unxs a otrxs y apoyarnos mutuamente. No tenemos nada que perder sino nuestras cadenas”.

La mayoría de lxs participantes eran mujeres jóvenes de color, muchas marchando por primera vez. La respuesta de la gente reunida a lo largo de la ruta de la marcha mostró que no estaban solas en su insistencia de que Trump no es “mi presidente”.

La llamada de Facebook decía: “Estamos mostrando a todo el país que el liderazgo de las mujeres de color no termina con esta elección. Recordaremos a la gente que esta elección fue y es sobre nuestras vidas: vidas negras, vidas de mujeres, vidas de inmigrantes y la vida de gente LGBTQ”.

## Seattle

En respuesta a la victoria de Trump, por lo menos 3.000 personas marcharon aquí el 11 de noviembre contra su movimiento racista. Salieron a las calles gritando consignas: ¡La vida de los negros importa! Y “Trump es un violador, él es racista, él no nos representa”!

La bandera principal decía: ¡“Solidaridad con Standing Rock! ¡El agua es vida”! La manifestación, que fue iniciada por Alternativa Socialista, pasó por el centro de la ciudad durante la hora punta. El anuncio de una protesta contra-inaugural contra Trump el 20 de enero fue muy aplaudido. Marcharon más de cinco millas al campus de la Universidad de Washington, donde se unieron a una manifestación de estudiantes contra Trump. Por lo menos en dos escuelas secundarias de Seattle lxs estudiantiles se salieron de la escuela.

En las elecciones, lxs votantes del estado de Washington eligieron a Dennis Habib, un iraní progresista que también es no vidente, para ser teniente-gobernador. Habib será el máximo funcionario electo en el país nacido en Irán. Pramila Jayapal, una defensora de los derechos de inmigrantes, fue elegida para la Cámara de Representantes del Séptimo Distrito en Seattle, convirtiéndose en la primera persona nacida en la India elegida para el Congreso.

## Buffalo, N.Y.

Además de las enormes y militantes multitudes que protestaban contra Trump en todas las grandes ciudades, hubo grandes manifestaciones en lugares más pequeños, incluso frente al edificio federal aquí. Fue muy necesario comenzar el primer día de la Resistencia saliendo a las calles, levantando los puños

# Lamentarse no, ¡organizar!

Editorial WW-MO,  
9 de noviembre de 2016

Estamos tan enojadas/os y sorprendidos como nuestras/os lectores. Las encuestas estaban equivocadas. No somos las/os únicos que están horrorizados de que un candidato que se jactó de su misoginia y echó mano de los peores discursos racistas mientras hablaba basura contra las/os inmigrantes, pueda ser elegido.

Pero no es tiempo de lamentarse. Es un tiempo para reafirmar el apoyo y la solidaridad militante con todas/os aquellos que han sido los principales objetivos de la demagogia y el odio de Trump: las mujeres, las personas de color, las/os inmigrantes. Ese es el único camino hacia la unión de la clase obrera contra sus verdaderos enemigos: los gobernantes multimillonarios de este país, incluido Trump.

El día después de la elección debe convertirse en el Primer Día de Resistencia.

Más información saldrá sobre quién votó y por qué. Trump se aprovechó de muchas quejas existentes y las usó para ser elegido, prometiéndolo todo y cualquier cosa mientras dirigía su ira contra el primer presidente afroamericano. Sin embargo, tanto Trump como Clinton eran impopulares, y ni él ni ella ofrecían soluciones reales a los problemas de explotación capitalista, de racismo, de sexismo y de guerra.

Trump no obtuvo tantos votos populares como Clinton. Eso demuestra algo sobre la actitud de la gente. Pero el sistema electoral en este país no se basa en el voto popular. Tampoco brinda a terceros partidos la oportunidad de ser escuchados. (La campaña de Moorehead/Lilly del Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero logró que sus opiniones socialistas revolucionarias fueran escuchadas al estar en las calles con el movimiento, incluyendo en las redes sociales.) Además, muchas/os de los más oprimidos están impedidos de votar por la pobreza, las amenazas y las leyes reaccionarias.

No olvidemos que a principios de este año Bernie Sanders movió grandes multitudes al enfocarse con furia en los problemas económicos que enfrentan las/os trabajadoras. Cuando fue eliminado de la

y compartiendo nuestra determinación. La respuesta - lxs conductores apoyaban continuamente tocando la bocina durante la demostración – el mensaje fue fuerte y claro: “¡No lloremos, organicémonos”!

## Chicago

Decenas de miles de manifestantes rodearon la Torre Trump de Chicago, entraron por las calles circundantes y marcharon durante horas por el Loop el 9 de noviembre para protestar por la elección de un presidente que sólo promete racismo, fanatismo y guerra. La multitud multinacional - en su mayoría joven - fue recibida con entusiasmo por peatones y conductores, incluso aquellxs atrapados por el mar de manifestantes.

## Syracuse, N.Y.

Más de un centenar de personas se reunieron el 9 de noviembre en el centro de Syracuse en el monumento de abolicionistas William Henry/Jerry Rescue para

carrera, es posible que algunas/os de sus partidarios se negaran a apoyar a una sonriente Clinton o incluso optaran por votar por un iracundo Trump.

**El peligro no es sólo Trump la persona, sino la misoginia, el racismo y los ataques contra las/os inmigrantes y las comunidades LGBTQ que su victoria electoral puede desencadenar.** Su principal apoyo proviene de los hombres blancos. Ya sea que se den cuenta o no, cuando votaron por Trump no se identificaron con la clase obrera - en la que la mayoría son ahora mujeres y personas de color - sino con el establecimiento gobernante, con la clase dirigente.

La cultura corporativa estadounidense presenta una fantasía - la fantasía del hombre fuerte, rico y blanco que puede arreglarlo todo, desde “Batman” hasta el espectáculo de “realidad” de Trump. Los capitalistas “buenos” proveerán buenos trabajos para todos. En esta atmósfera dominada por la compañía Fox, que se extiende desde películas, a la radio, la televisión y los cómics, muchos creyeron en la pura fantasía de Trump.

Pero las promesas de los neoliberales de Clinton también son fantasía. La fantasía es que el capitalismo estadounidense puede ser fuerte y seguir creciendo bajo el presidente adecuado, uno cuidadosamente escogido por el establecimiento.

Los próximos cuatro años traerán una fuerte dosis de verdadera realidad. La casa de naipes que es el sistema capitalista mundial ya está reaccionando con una baja de de la bolsa de valores. Podrían rebotar por un tiempo, y miles de millones se ganarán y perderán, pero el sistema capitalista nunca podrá recuperar su vigor anterior, y los financieros lo saben.

Son precisamente las/os afroamericanos, las/os latinos, las naciones indígenas, las mujeres, las/os árabes, las/os musulmanes y las personas LGBTQ quienes han estado a la cabeza de tantas luchas que desafían este sistema. Trump no puede satisfacer las necesidades de la gran mayoría de la gente en este país. La lucha continúa desde la base, y la única respuesta es forjar la mayor unidad de todos los movimientos que luchan contra el capitalismo y la reacción. □

hablar sobre el dolor y la rabia que la gente sentía por la elección de Trump. Tanto un refugiado paquistaní documentado como un ciudadano estadounidense de padres hondureños hablaron de tener miedo después de las elecciones en un país que ha sido el único hogar que han conocido.

Rebecca Fuentes y Nikeeta Slade, del Centro de Trabajadores del Centro de Nueva York, hicieron un llamado para apoyar los derechos ampliados de lxs trabajadores agrícolas, así como una campaña para poner a disposición de todxs, los permisos de conducir en Nueva York, sin importar el estatus de ciudadanía de las personas. El WCCNY trabaja con muchxs trabajadores migrantes. La multitud aclamó el apoyo a Standing Rock, derechos LGBTQ y las vidas musulmanas. A intervalos gritaban “Luchar, luchar, luchar”, “Sí, se puede!”, Y “¡Actúen, luchen!” En clara decisión de derrotar la agenda de Trump. La manifestación fue convocada por el Consejo de Paz de Syracuse. □