

PHOTO: TWITTER, @BLAKEDONTCRACK

Black students lead resistance to racism

By Monica Moorehead

At least 30 U.S. campuses held protests on Nov. 18 to respond to the growing number of racist attacks, which are particularly targeting Black students and the Black Lives Matter movement. These actions were organized by the newly formed Black Liberation Collective, which created #studentblackoutday. Among the campuses that held these protests were Tufts, the University of California at Los Angeles, Stanford, Yale and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The vast majority of these campuses have student populations that are largely white and privileged with a small percentage of African-American and other students of color.

This “National Day of Action” was the second coordinated response since the inspiring victory won at the University of Missouri, where a united front of Black and white students, including the football team, forced the chancellor and system president to resign on Nov. 9. Both of them proved to be indifferent to ongoing racist attacks.

This university is only 100 miles from Ferguson, Mo., where on Aug. 9, 2014, Michael Brown, a Black youth, was murdered by a white police officer, who was subsequently exonerated by a secretive grand jury.

The fact that these protests took place on so many campuses reflects the alarming number of racist incidents, which are not a new phenomenon — but are now occurring all across the country. These campus incidents are an extension of the countless police brutality cases, especially murders, of Black youth in urban centers, and the high rate of mass incarcerations.

The whole world is getting a first-hand look at the ugly reality of what is really going on within these so-called “institutions of higher learning” — that is, the white supremacist attitudes and actions, which start from the top with the school administrations.

An “Illini White Student Union” Facebook page was recently unearthed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This neofascist page demonized the Black Lives Matter movement as being “terrorist.” It called upon people to take photos of Black activists at protests on this campus.

The creators of this reactionary page claim that they got the inspiration to start the racist “Union” from the 1998 movie, “American History X,” a film focused on the life of a Nazi sympathizer.

Harvard law students: ‘Royall Must Fall!’

At the Harvard University School of Law in Cambridge, Mass., racists are defacing portraits of Black professors with black tape. Michele Hall, a second-year Black student, said of the defacings to the Washington Post, “I wasn’t surprised. This is part and parcel of what is happening here at Harvard and also at other institutions across the country. It’s part of a larger narrative of black students and students of color not belonging here and being excluded here.” (Nov. 19)

Along with calling for an investigation of the defacings as hate crimes, the same article reports that Black students have organized under the name “Royall Must Fall.” This

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WWP candidates say

Solidarity with Native peoples!



WWW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

**MONICA MOOREHEAD
FOR PRESIDENT**

**LAMONT LILLY
FOR V.P.**

The following is a greeting of solidarity with Native peoples on the 46th annual National Day of Mourning from Workers World Party presidential and vice presidential campaign candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly.

This year’s commemoration of the National Day of Mourning on Nov. 26 in Plymouth, Mass., will again honor Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, a fighter for the rights of Indigenous and other oppressed peoples. The ailing 71-year-old hero has been unjustly imprisoned for 39 years, and is now in Florida far from his nation, the Turtle Mountain Band in North Dakota.

The so-called “Thanksgiving” holiday starkly recalls the centuries of atrocities committed against Native peoples, first by European colonizers and then by U.S. administrations. Indigenous lands stolen, cultures and languages under siege, bigotry, injustice and murderous violence aimed at this country’s original inhabitants are the real U.S. history, not the myths.

Our campaign is in solidarity with Native com-



Students march against racism at UC-Berkley, Nov. 18.

munities in their ongoing struggles in the U.S. and throughout the Americas for political, economic and social rights. We recognize the right to self-determination of Indigenous people everywhere and support their efforts for decolonization and sovereignty.

Racist discrimination, oppression and corporate exploitation continue. In the U.S., these communities suffer from a racist criminal justice system, along with their African-American and Latino/a sisters and brothers. Indigenous women and men are incarcerated at much higher rates than their white counterparts. While they account for 1 percent of the population, they make up nearly 2 percent of those killed by police.

The economic crisis has exacerbated Native workers’ unemployment; high jobless rates continue. Accessible jobs often have few to no benefits and low wages. Many Indigenous youth have no future; one-half drop out of high school. These young people have the highest suicide rate of any U.S. population group.

At least one-third of Native people are impoverished. Despite food stamps, one in four adults and one in three children still lack nutritious food; one in 10 households faces outright hunger. Governmental cuts of essential benefits have devastated these communities. Refusal to expand Medicaid by 20 conservative state governments denies health care to many Indigenous families.

The U.S. government, however, allots trillions of dollars to wage wars, occupy lands abroad and bail out Wall Street corporations and big banks. Our campaign demands that Congress put human needs first and ensure jobs at livable wages and vital social programs for all Indigenous, oppressed and low-income communities.

We applaud Native peoples worldwide who boldly resist capitalists’ ruthless pillaging of the earth

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Black Friday 14 supporters say:



'Stop the prosecution.' Oakland, Calif., Nov. 19.

**By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.**

Last November, 14 African-American activists chained themselves to each other, with the person at one end of the chain locked into hardware inside the train, and the person at the other end fastened to a bench in the West Oakland Bay Area Rapid Transit station. This action was part of the national protests showing outrage over a grand jury's decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson for fatally shooting 18-year-old Black youth, Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Mo., the previous August.

This action shut down BART train traffic between the East Bay and San Francisco for four and a half hours, representing the time that Michael Brown's body lay in the street after he was shot. It took place on the shopping "holiday" called "Black Friday," the day after so-called Thanksgiving. All 14 protesters were arrested.

Almost a year later, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley is intent on prosecuting the Black Friday 14. Unless she drops the charges, they are scheduled for trial in early December.

Supporters of these freedom fighters took the offensive on Nov. 19, by rallying before the BART Board of Directors meeting. Then they all marched inside, and more than 50 of them testified during the board's public comment period, calling on its members to direct O'Malley to drop the charges.

Strong support came from labor; many union representatives were among the spokespeople. Resolutions had been passed by both the Alameda and San Francisco labor councils. Backing also came from the faith-based community, with a number of ministers testifying for the 14 activists.

The board was reminded of BART's role in defending the officer who killed Oscar Grant, and of its response to the struggle against police killings. One speaker pointed out the contradiction between O'Malley's failure to prosecute the cops who killed Raheim Brown, Alan Bluford, Yvette Henderson, Nate Wilks, Yonas Alehegne, Demouria Hogg and other oppressed people in the Bay Area, and her insistence on prosecuting the Black Friday 14, who were protesting the lack of an indictment of Wilson for killing Michael Brown. □

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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 56 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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UAW strikes at Kohler Co. in Milwaukee

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

Nov. 22 — In a courageous stand against the multibillion-dollar Kohler Company, about 2,100 members of United Auto Workers Local 833 went on strike Nov. 15 immediately after 94 percent of its members voted to reject a concessionary tentative agreement. Pickets went up immediately at plant gates in the company town of Kohler, Wisc., and other nearby plants. Workers at Kohler produce sink, shower and toilet fixtures, generators and other products.

This strike continues a long, militant history of fighting workers at Kohler. In 1934, two workers were killed and hundreds injured on a picket line after a police riot. From 1954 to 1962, Local 833 members went out on one of the longest strikes in U.S. history. The last strike at Kohler was in 1983.

The membership's main grievance in this contract battle is Kohler's intent to keep a two-tier wage system. Two-tier wages were rammed through in a 2010 contract that had other major concessions, including skyrocketing health care insurance costs. For the first time in this union's history, the last contract had two-tier language for "tier B" workers who make at least \$10 less an hour than "tier A" workers.

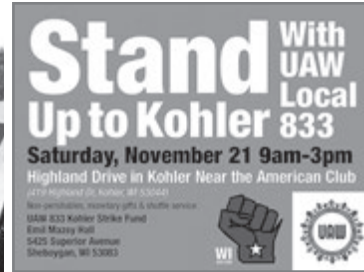
The wealth that Kohler rips off from workers increased over \$5 billion during the five-year contract, largely because of the two-tier wage structure.



UAW Local 833 members and supporters participate in mass picket and rally at Kohler headquarters Nov. 21.

Babette Grunow, of Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement, reports that a Nov. 21 mass picket at Kohler was spirited and upbeat, with the workers' encampments, fire barrels and picket signs well represented. "It has been inspiring seeing all the support for the union," said Grunow. "Members expressed their thanks for the solidarity. It's an uplifting experience. The workers seem well organized and are a good example for other unions."

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO and many others helped publicize the mass picket action, and supporters came from throughout the Midwest and beyond, in-



cluding Texas. Grunow said those on the picket line snapped up "We Stand With UAW Local 833" leaflets produced by WIBOPM, which details various organizations' solidarity expressions.

Worker unity, Yes! Two-tier, No!

Charles Kestell, a manual grinder in the Castings Division who has worked for Kohler for 41 and a half years, said Nov. 21: "I will not vote for a contract that does not allow for tier B workers to have a chance to work their way up to tier A."

On their first full day of the strike on Nov. 16, UAW Local 833 members, their families and community supporters flooded Kohler with their bodies and righteous anger, marching from the Emil Mazey Union Hall to numerous picket locations. Kohler locked all plant gates except one, so hundreds took to the streets, backing up traffic for miles in all directions.

On Nov. 17, a Sheboygan County judge issued a temporary injunction against UAW Local 833, barring union members from "interfering" with traffic near Kohler property. The judge issued no orders against Kohler, however — such as ordering Kohler to pay workers a living wage so they could feed their families.

Also on Nov. 17, many guests of the American Club, a five-star hotel owned by the Kohler Company, canceled their reservations early, alleging that loud horns had kept them awake all night.

Despite police and private Pinkerton-type goons hired by Kohler, pickets remain strong, and UAW member reinforcements and supporters are arriving by the hour.

"As an organization of rank-and-file autoworkers, we want to salute you for rejecting Kohler Company's insulting contract offer," reads a Nov. 18 statement by the Autoworkers Caravan, a group of rank-and-file UAW activists fighting two-tier and other attacks at Fiat Chrysler, Ford and GM. "Two-tier wages and benefits sap worker solidarity, which is absolutely vital as we work side by side."

Members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 526 at the Milwaukee Public Museum issued a statement Nov. 17 referring to Kohler workers' inspiring history. It noted, "The current action by UAW 833 will play an important role in the post-right

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Public workers fight for health care

By Benji Pyles
Huntington, W.Va.

Some 300 public workers and residents crammed into an auditorium in Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, W.Va., on Nov. 17 to denounce proposals to fund a \$120 million hole in medical benefits. The Public Employees Insurance Agency held the meeting, which was one of six across the state, to present their proposals for benefit cuts and to hear comments from the public.

Representatives of the West Virginia Education Association, the West Virginia School Service Personnel Association, the American Federation of Teachers and other organizations were present.

The PEIA's proposal would cut \$83 million in benefits for active employees and nearly \$41 million for retirees. Workers' health insurance costs would rise dramatically. Annual deductibles would increase by \$500 for state workers with individual plans and \$1,000 for those with family plans. Out-of-pocket maximum costs would rise by \$1,500 per year for one person and \$3,000 for a family.

The proposed plan would change coverage for preferred brand prescription drugs. Copayments for the drugs have been \$25, but the new plan would charge workers up to 30 percent for each prescription's cost. Premiums for retirees would increase by 8 percent.

Danny Gray, president of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees, said the 8 percent increase would cause many of its members to face the "Do I eat, or do I take my prescription medication?" dilemma. He said, "These draconian changes would have a devastating impact, especially on those retirees who have had the audacity to live into their 80s or 90s and who struggle to live on low fixed incomes that have not

changed since they retired."

For five consecutive years, the West Virginia Legislature has not added new money to the program, despite PEIA adding 3,600 new employees and yearly increases in medical and prescription costs. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, a Democrat, has not earmarked any additional state funding for 2016. This all comes on the heels of tax cuts which have been enacted for businesses since 2009.

Arch reactionary Bill Cole, Republican candidate for governor, is on record as saying that the government should not fund public workers' medical care. His party controls both chambers of the state Legislature and its members are talking about introducing right-to-work (in poverty!) legislation. Therefore, a progressive outcome to this crisis is unlikely.

Which way forward?

Some speakers promoted the idea of raising sales taxes on tobacco and soda to recover the necessary funds. Sales taxes, however, are regressive as they hurt workers and low-income people more than they impact the rich. Other speakers were closer to the mark when they called for raising property and business taxes, especially taxes on companies extracting natural gas. Fossil fuel extraction is a booming business that is destroying the environment.

Workers need to hear a revolutionary socialist perspective which explains that the needs of the working class cannot be met under the capitalist system. Marxists understand that capitalism cannot be controlled or properly reformed for the benefit of workers and low-income people.

What is needed is the removal of the profit motive from the health care system. A nationalized, planned health care system, placed under working-class

control would guarantee free care for everyone and remove the need for private insurance altogether. Only socialism — where society bears the costs — can pro-

vide quality medical care for all. Cuba shows how this can be done.

Pyles is an organizer with the West Virginia Branch of Workers World Party.

Airport workers hit the bricks for \$15 an hour

By Chris Fry

The nationwide struggle for \$15 an hour sparked a seven-airport strike by some 2,000 workers on Nov. 18, the onset of the busy holiday season. Not only are the workers demanding this living wage, but also medical insurance coverage and the right to join a union.

Cleaners, wheelchair attendants, baggage handlers and security guards at Kennedy and LaGuardia, and Newark, N.J.'s Liberty airports and those servicing Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago O'Hare and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., hit the picket lines for at least one day.

These workers are employed by subcontractor companies. Giant airline companies like JetBlue, Delta, United and American have used this tactic to boost their profits by not paying the workers directly and breaking the workers' unions. The subcontractors are hired based on paying the workers low wages, denying them medical insurance and union membership, and dividing them from unionized airline workers like pilots and flight attendants.

Jean Trimmer, a cabin cleaner for Ultimate Aircraft at JFK, explained that he makes a meager \$10.10 an hour, not enough to support his family. He also objects to not being covered by health in-

surance: "Safety concerns are a really big deal, and if we get injured, who's going to pay for that? We are." (cnn.com, Nov. 18)

The airport workers have found strong support from the Service Employees union, which has been seeking to unionize them for several years. The workers carried signs reading, "On strike over unfair labor practices!" and "Intimidation, harassment and anti-worker tactics don't belong in airport," according to a SEIU press statement.

Already the workers' struggle has forced state governments to investigate the companies' anti-worker behavior. The Massachusetts Port Authority, which oversees the Boston airport, acknowledged "it had received allegations in recent months that private firms working at the airport had violated state wage laws, discriminated against workers based on national origin and retaliated against workers seeking to unionize." (nbcnews.com, Nov.19)

The actions by airport workers tie in directly with the nationwide struggle for \$15 an hour. This movement by fast-food, department store, hotel, restaurant and many other low-paid workers has galvanized support from the entire working class. It is bound to grow strong, win victory after victory, and set a tremendous example for working people everywhere! □

Retaliation for media coverage

Marquette prison officials lock down Pinkney

Following is a first-hand account of a visit to Marquette Branch Prison by David Sole, a retired Detroit trade unionist and supporter of political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor, Mich.

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, already in 24/7 isolation in Marquette Branch Prison, was slammed with bogus charges on Nov. 21 and placed into “segregation,” canceling any prison visits.

Pinkney had been punitively transferred to the western part of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula on Oct. 6 from downstate Lakeland Prison. At Lakeland, he had absolutely no problems from the prison guards or administration. But many believe this political prisoner was getting “too many” visitors and “too much” media coverage, leading to his transfer.

Since his arrival at Marquette, he has been targeted by vindictive and racist guards, slapping him with numerous “tickets” for so-called violations of prison rules. Pinkney is African-American. Since Oct. 23, he has been denied access to the telephone and put into “house arrest,” barred from leaving his cell except

for 15 minutes in the cafeteria.

Rev. Pinkney’s isolation was finally broken on Nov. 12 and 13 when his spouse, Dorothy Pinkney, and Detroit supporter Marcina Cole drove a total of 1,400 miles round trip to visit him.

On Nov. 20, I flew to Marquette to visit Rev. Pinkney. A press conference outside Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder’s Marquette office just prior to the visit attracted local television reporters. That night, ABC-TV 10 gave a clear account of the threats and harassment guards were directing at Rev. Pinkney.

After the press conference, I had a three-hour visit with Rev. Pinkney inside Marquette Prison, during which I took several pages of notes. The previous week, a guard had provided Cole with paper and pencil for notes she took with her on leaving. This time, the front desk guard, an Officer Johnson, demanded I empty my pockets and confiscated my notes. He stated that nothing could leave the visiting area and refused to answer when asked why the guard on duty inside had said nothing for three hours while I took notes in front of her.

As I arrived at the prison on Saturday evening for another visit, Officer Johnson was waiting and came out to the car. I was told that I would not be able to visit Rev. Pinkney as he had been placed into “segregation” for “smuggling.” I objected that Rev. Pinkney had not written anything and that the guard had watched for hours as I took notes. Johnson refused to discuss any of this and shouted that I must leave the prison grounds immediately.

From my visit the day before it is clear that numerous guards — all of them white — have it in for Rev. Pinkney. He had reported that one prisoner was Tased to death that month and four others had been killed in September. Marquette Prison is a low-security, Level 1 facility.

Pinkney stated that the food served the prisoners was unfit for human consumption and speculated that someone high up might be profiting from scrimping on the food contract. “The meatballs they serve are balls, but there is no meat,” he joked. Recently served “pizza” was “undercooked dough with a drizzle

of cheese.” He was considering writing a grievance to demand a forensic audit of the prison.

Rev. Pinkney, along with his supporters, are concerned for his health and safety under these conditions. Already, he has developed high blood pressure, which he did not have before his December 2014 incarceration. The prison medical staff has been ordered to check his blood pressure once a week, which is clearly not adequate care. With no exercise and the terrible diet, Rev. Pinkney’s health cannot improve, especially because of the psychological strain of what he described as “daily confrontations with aggressive and arrogant guards.”

A protest at the gates of Marquette Branch Prison was held at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 22. Supporters throughout Michigan and across the region have scheduled an “Emergency Conference to Save Reverend Pinkney” in Detroit on Dec. 12 from noon to 5 p.m. The location is St. Matthew/St. Joseph Church, 8850 Woodward Avenue. See workers.org for background on Pinkney’s persecution by Michigan authorities. □

‘We will not quit nor back down’

Black Lives Matter activists arrested for ‘singing while Black’



Dontre Hamilton

By Milwaukee Workers World Bureau

Milwaukee police on Nov. 19 viciously attacked and arrested six members and supporters of the Coalition for Justice who were singing songs at Red Arrow Park in tribute to Dontre Hamilton. The park is where Hamilton was shot 14 times and killed instantly by Milwaukee cop Christopher Manney on April 30, 2014.

When attacked, the COJ members were holding a memorial vigil for Hamilton during Milwaukee County’s annual tree-lighting ceremony and caroling. A vigil was then held outside the Milwaukee County Jail all night by COJ, All People’s Church members and community supporters. Other supporters worked to inform the public about the attacks and arrests through social media and also gathered bail funds.

The six were taken to various police districts and held for over 12 hours before being charged with disorderly conduct and released. Milwaukee police towed the cars of some of those arrested and their supporters.

One of the arrested was Nate Hamilton, Dontre’s brother. He says while white

and Black kids were in the park caroling, “They need to know that we live in a society that will allow the police to murder them and get off free of charge. This city will try to demonize all we do in their efforts to stop the movement toward equality. I care more for our children than you ever would know. I can’t bring Dontre back, but I’d be damned if they keep killing us without any accountability. ...

“This will not be the end of our fight; we will not quit nor back down. ... We will fight this unlawful display of hate aimed at only Blacks during this display of civil disobedience. The fight is for our children’s future. It’s for justice.”

Last December Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said he wouldn’t bring charges against Officer Manney. On Nov. 10, the U.S. federal Civil Rights Division told the Hamilton family that no federal charges would be brought against Manney either. The killer cop is now receiving disability benefits tax free.

Since his brother was killed, Nate Hamilton and his family have helped to lead some of the largest protests in Wisconsin history to fight police terror. They have been active nationally as well, protesting in Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere. Maria Hamilton, Dontre’s mother, has been instrumental in building the organization Mothers for Justice United, which builds support for mothers of those killed by police. ([facebook.com/mothersforjusticeunited](https://www.facebook.com/mothersforjusticeunited))

The Coalition for Justice is also a supporter of low-wage and union workers. Nate Hamilton spoke at the thousands-strong Nov. 10 Fight for \$15 rally at Milwaukee City Hall and later protested the Republican Party debate in Milwaukee. He has also participated in numerous worker actions, including joining the picket lines and marches of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 during their three-day strike last July. ATU 998 won a better contract this

Tamir Rice remembered



Samaria Rice and attorney Subodh Chandra

On Nov. 21, at the Martin Luther King Jr. branch of the Cleveland Public Library, the “Greater Cleveland Civil and Human Rights Network” held one of many events this weekend to call for justice for Tamir Rice. Nov. 22 represents one year since cops gunned down 12-year-old Tamir, who was playing outside of the Cleveland Cudell Recreation Center. A day after he was shot, Tamir died at the hospital. Shown holding Tamir’s photo is his mother, Samaria Rice, with attorney Subodh Chandra. On Nov. 18, there was a picket line in front of Cleveland City Hall, protesting the appeal by officer Michael Brelo, who gunned down Tamir, to be reinstated on the Cleveland Police force.

—Report and photo by Susan Schnur

fall due to its members’ militancy and decisive community support from organizations such as COJ.

One of those arrested was Jennifer Epps-Addison, executive director of Wisconsin Jobs Now and a leader in the Fight for \$15 movement. She said, “Do not believe a word that comes out of [Police] Chief Flynn’s mouth. There were no warnings given, there was no opportunity for us to ‘comply,’ and the protesters were not arrested indiscriminately. White folks participating in the protest outnumbered Black folks at least 4 to 1, and yet ONLY Black

folks were arrested. They targeted specific people. This is racism; this is selective application of the Constitution; this is why we must continue to stand and fight.”

Hours before her arrest, Epps-Addison and a large group of low-wage workers met with U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez at Coffee Makes You Black, a nationally known cultural institution and gathering spot for those of African descent.

For more information and how to support COJ: visit [facebook.com/justicefordontre](https://www.facebook.com/justicefordontre) and #justicefordontre.

Protesters at Stewart Detention Center and Fort Benning demand: Free immigrant detainees!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

STEWART DETENTION CENTER Lumpkin, Ga.

“Shut down Stewart!” shouted protesters on Nov. 21 at the gates of the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga. Some 1,400 joined this ninth annual rally and march of the “Expose and Close Stewart” movement, aimed to end the brutal incarceration of undocumented people there.

Mario, a speaker who was 17 years old when held there, said it was “like living in a chicken coop.”

Mary Hooks of “Southerners on New Ground” said, “The status quo profits off our suffering.” She emphasized the solidarity of Black and Brown people, including the undocumented, and the estimated 250,000 undocumented lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* people in the U.S.

Marchers ranged from residents of the nearby Alterna community in LaGrange, Ga., to a delegation commemorating “disappeared” teacher trainees of Mexico’s Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers’ College and another from Colombia’s “Congreso de los Pueblos.”

A strong labor presence included members of the Fuerza del Valle Workers Center from Austin, Texas, and the Adelante Workers Center of Birmingham, Ala. United Auto Workers members, including those from its Women’s Committee, traveled 16 hours from Michigan to be there.

Along the red-dirt road, “Workers’ Dignity/Dignidad Obrera” of Nashville, Tenn., kept up fiery chants and nonstop drumming. Their huge banner connected the Black and Brown struggles against racism: “From the South in Solidarity with Minneapolis/ #BlackLivesMatter/ Justice 4 Jamar.” BLM protesters and allies in Minneapolis occupied a police precinct after cops killed unarmed Jamar Clark.

Eleven protesters broke through the fencing closing off the jail to assert their solidarity with detainees. They were arrested and released after paying \$100 fines.

Speakers tell of immigrants’ resistance

Rally speakers announced hunger strikes and work stoppages going on at nine immigrant detention centers, in-

cluding by South Asian detainees in the El Paso Processing Center in Texas and the LaSalle facility in Jena, La., women in the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Texas and men in California’s Adelanto Detention Facility. More than 400,000 undocumented people are jailed in the U.S. annually.

Of the 1,750 men jailed at the Stewart Detention Center, on any given day some detainees are on hunger strikes. When a mass hunger strike began on Labor Day weekend, the Corrections Corporation of America’s “Special Operations Response Team” in riot gear used rubber bullets and pepper spray to brutally suppress it.

The “Detention Watch Network” named Stewart as one of the 10 worst U.S. detention centers, rife with abuse and human rights violations, including solitary confinement, rotten food, medical neglect and indefinite detentions.

The Corrections Corporation of America — the U.S.’s largest private, for-profit prison company — runs Stewart, and is paid \$60.50 per day per detainee. Longer detentions mean more profits, but exploited detainees are paid as little as \$1 a day for their work assignments.

At a Nov. 20 #ShutDownStewart workshop, two Georgia women whose partners and spouses had been Stewart detainees unmasked the racist policing behind their incarceration. Cops told one woman’s spouse, stopped for a broken tail light, “We’re going to send you back where you came from,” as they spit out a racist term. Persecuted for being Latino, he was jailed and later deported — for not having a driver’s license, which undocumented people cannot legally obtain in Georgia.

An undocumented mother whose children are U.S. citizens described immigration police appearing at her house, pursuing someone with her spouse’s last name. When his documents proved he was not that man, an agent said, “I don’t care,” and arrested him anyway. He was deported — and, “The children are crying for their father.”

The Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition sponsored the 200-person strong workshop, where coordinator Dianne Mathiowetz, a Workers World Party ac-



#ShutDownStewart march at immigrant detention camp in Georgia

WW PHOTO: JIMMY RAYNOR

tivist, explained, “Capitalism is a global system where the profit motive is driving the policies, not just so-called ignorant politicians.” The root cause of the U.S. “immigration crisis” is the capitalists’ need to control markets and exploit people’s labor through military intervention in Latin America and elsewhere, she said.

The workshop and Stewart protest were part of the “School of the Americas Watch” annual vigil at the U.S. Army’s Fort Benning, outside Columbus, Ga. Event speakers linked SOA training of other countries’ military officers with the subsequent terror unleashed in these countries, from which thousands have fled, many seeking asylum in the U.S.

A Guatemalan banner at the Stewart march made that point. Staring out from the banner were the faces of some of the 45,000 people killed by Guatemala’s repressive forces. Most military officials in that country’s dictators’ cabinets, including that of Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt, have been SOA graduates.

Protesters shouted: “Free all undocumented people! No borders in the workers’ struggle!”

FT. BENNING, GA. - SOA WATCH

As the U.S., France and other imperialists feed the fires of war, using the Paris deaths as fuel, the School of the Americas Watch marshalled a national anti-U.S. military intervention protest of almost

1,500 people at the gates of Ft. Benning on Nov. 22.

SOA Watch is in its 25th year of actions to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas, a site for training South and Central American militaries in techniques to repress their own people.

This year’s action connected U.S. militarism, its massive expenditures and consequences, to many other issues. These included immigrant detention, mass incarceration and exploitation of prison labor, racist police terror and the Black Lives Matter movement, Israeli oppression of Palestinians, and U.S. labor struggles.

The rally’s end featured a litany of “¡No más! No more! We will end these dirty wars!” The chants alternated with information that added up to a primer on the impact of U.S. imperialism. Speakers chanted the names of those tortured, disappeared and murdered through U.S. military and CIA intervention, as the crowd responded “¡Presente!” and placed the names on the fence around the fort.

Father Roy Bourgeois, a former Catholic priest who led in founding SOA Watch, said to the rally, “The time has come in our movement to make the struggle of our migrant brothers and sisters our own.” SOA Watch will move next year to the Texas border to further stress the connection between U.S. militarism and immigrant rights. □□

Alabama lesbian mother fights the right wing

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Centreville, Ala.

An Alabama lesbian mother has been denied joint custody or any visitation rights as the adoptive parent of three children she has co-parented from their birth. Assisted by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, she is petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse that ruling by the Alabama Supreme Court.

The children, now 13 and 11, are not permitted any contact with their co-mother.

V.L., as she is named in court papers, had a 16-year relationship with E.L., during which time they decided to have children through artificial insemination. With E.L. as the biological mother, they had one child in 2002 and twins in 2004.

Not able to marry to protect V.L.’s parental rights, the couple moved briefly from Alabama to Georgia, where there was some possibility of a second-parent adoption. There, in 2007, V.L. and E.L. were both legally acknowledged as the children’s parents.

The couple returned to Alabama but

split up in 2011. V.L. attempted to gain joint custody after the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationally.

Same-sex marriage has been explicitly illegal in Alabama, beginning with a 1996 gubernatorial executive order. That ban was reinforced by a 1998 legislative bill and a 2006 “anti-gay marriage” state constitutional amendment. Alabama did not recognize same-sex marriages from other states. None of these orders or laws have been repealed by Alabama.

The NCLR petition to the U.S. Supreme Court pointed to the agony of V.L.’s separation from her children as showing limitations in what federal same-sex marriage could accomplish.

The petition also stated, “There was reason for concern about the [Alabama] court’s motivations.” (Washington Post, Nov. 16)

Undoubtedly true, given that this Alabama Supreme Court ordered all county judges in the state to refuse to issue same-sex marriage licenses even after

the U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Alabama’s chief justice, Roy Moore, has close ties to a virulently right-wing national movement hell-bent on instituting a Christians-only theocratic legal standard in the U.S. This movement is advancing a new tactic of so-called “religious liberty” for public officials — actually an attempt to abolish secular law and the separation of church and state.

In 2004, Moore authored the Constitution Restoration Act, introduced as a bill into the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, which aimed “to take out of federal court jurisdiction cases that involved public officials that acknowledged God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, or government, and provided for the impeachment of federal judges who disregarded the act.” (YuricaReport.com)

Bankrolled by superrich donors like the Wilks brothers, who made their billions selling fracking technology, the “Christian-dominion” movement paid for the legal team that backed up Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis. Davis continues to refuse marriage licenses to same-sex

couples and yet retains her job, with the blessing of newly elected Kentucky governor, Matt Bevin. (ChristianToday, Nov. 6)

The Christian-nation movement is rabidly racist, anti-Muslim and anti-woman in addition to being violently anti-lesbian, anti-gay, anti-bisexual and anti-trans*. (Trans* is a word currently used with an asterisk to indicate the spectrum of all the different sexes and genders of people who do not conform to the either/or of male/female or masculine/feminine.)

In a 2002 decision against another Alabama lesbian mother, Moore essentially authorized imprisonment and the death penalty against LGBTQ people. He organized a successful campaign to keep the requirement for segregated schools in the Alabama state constitution, where it remains to this day. Moore attempted to bar the first Muslim elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from taking office. (WorldNetDaily, Dec. 13, 2006)

These vicious positions cannot be minimized by stereotypical explanations of “backwater judge” or “backward state.” □

Solidarity and repression:

Muslims in France and Belgium

By G. Dunkel

The clearest example of popular solidarity with Muslims under attack in France and Belgium is a video of a young man wearing a blindfold and standing in the Place de la République in Paris.

At his feet are two signs: "I am a Muslim. They say I am a terrorist." And "I trust you. Do you trust me? Then give me a hug."

The video shows scores of people, some with tears in their eyes, giving this young man a hug. As of Nov. 22, it had been seen well over 2 million times and garnered thousands of comments.

The French magazine *Mademoiselle*, addressing an audience of mostly young women, said of it: "We see in this video a message of hope, of an openness of spirit and of solidarity which doesn't make barriers out of religious beliefs. A symbol of living together, to sum up."

The French media have made it clear that the majority of the people carrying out the Nov. 13 attacks were French citizens, with the rest Belgian. Even if they were members of the Islamic State who had fought in Syria, their roots were in France.

The Muslim community has deep roots in France, which was the major colonial power in North and West Africa. Some 100,000 Muslims died fighting under the French flag during World War I. To mark their sacrifice, the Grand Mosque of Paris was constructed and completed in 1926. After World War II, tens of thousands of North Africans came to France to work on its reconstruction.

Some anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist groups in France have been critical of the campaign the French state is waging to justify its bellicose behavior in Iraq, Syria and Libya.

Coup pour Coup 31, a collective based in Toulouse whose name means "Blow for Blow," said: "The media frenzy and its injunction to patriotism, national unity and nationalism has a clear purpose: to use our emotions and fear to justify government policy both on French territory and around the world."

VivelePCF, a group opposed to the reformist drift of the leadership of the French Communist Party, said: "We denounce all politicians who use the tragedy to stoke fears, divisions and hatreds. ... We will not let them scandalously and in-

sidiously consider part of the population of France as criminals."

Commenting on President François Hollande's state of emergency and banning of demonstrations, the Young Communist Club of Paris' 15th District said this affected major trade union demonstrations that had been planned against cuts in leave time at hospitals, degraded working conditions in Paris mass transit, the liquidation of Air France as a public company, and mergers and staff cuts in public finances.

Reactions of French, Belgian politicians

Belgian talk radio host Eric Zemmour, who is also heard in France, called for the French to bomb Molenbeek, a mostly Muslim neighborhood in Brussels where some of the alleged attackers had lived.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of the neofascist National Front (FN), called for restoring the death penalty for "terrorists ... with decapitation," as well as deporting illegal immigrants and creating 100,000 new prison cells. Le Pen began his career as a torturer for the French army in the Algerian War.

Marine Le Pen, his daughter, who cur-

rently leads the FN and has expelled her father, called for deporting everyone who is requesting asylum in France and for the government of François Hollande to resign, even though it has adopted many of the FN's positions. She wants the borders of France controlled by border police.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who was born in Spain, claims that France is "at war," using the word nine times in a six-minute interview on TV2.

Declaring a state of war allows the French government to use extraordinary measures, like banning demonstrations, conducting raids and searches without any judicial oversight, and closing meeting halls, sports stadiums, bars and so on. The authorities can close whole neighborhoods and detain designated individuals who they say are interfering with their operations. The minister of the interior can even order house arrests of selected individuals. (*L'Humanité*, Nov. 19)

The French government is trying to use the Paris attacks to justify its military aggression in Western Asia and Libya, as well as keep the French people, who don't support this aggression, in line. □

Anti-racists drown out immigrant bashers

In an action important for international solidarity, a strong showing of 150 anti-racist protesters drowned out a much smaller rally of anti-immigrant racists in Olympia, Wash., on Nov. 20.

The racist rally was called after Gov. Jay Inslee declared that Washington state would welcome refugees from Syria. "ACT for America," a hate group, organized the

small rally. Their rhetoric encourages hate crimes at home and imperialist war abroad.

The anti-racists overwhelmed the hate speech, chanting, "Say it loud! Say it clear! Refugees are welcome here!" The anti-racist demonstration was made up of community and political activists carrying signs saying, "Welcome Refugees!"

— Report and photo by Jim McMahan



Haitians protest, say –

'We won't let you steal these elections!'

By Dave Welsh

Nov. 20 — Hooded gangs today attacked a large demonstration that was protesting election fraud in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. According to radio reports, a group of about 20 hooded men exited a white pickup truck — license plate 1-00692 — armed with machetes, pipes, hammers and guns, and attacked marchers in the Delmas 95 district while police looked away.

One marcher was wounded in the head by a machete, reported the Associated Press. In the Delmas 40 district, a young man in the march was shot and killed by a unit reportedly affiliated with the national police of outgoing President Michel Martelly.

Haitians, determined to thwart what they see as an ongoing "electoral coup d'état," have been in the streets almost daily by the tens of thousands since the first round of the presidential election on Oct. 25.

On Nov. 1, a big election protest in the plebeian Bel Air district, led by a Rara musical band, was attacked and two marchers shot dead. Later that day, a third protester was ambushed and killed on the way home.

Huge demonstrations on Nov. 18 were punctuated by police firing into the crowds, wounding several. They had been celebrating the anniversary of Haiti's defeat of Napoleon's armies at the Battle of Vertières in 1803, which paved the way for the island's



DAVE WELSH

Billboard in Haiti shows Aristide's support.

independence from France and the abolition of plantation slavery in Haiti.

Massive and sustained protests

"Only continuous mobilization throughout the country can win respect for the people's rights and their votes. When one person tires, their neighbor must take up the fight," said a communique from Fanmi Lavalas, the party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted by a coup in 2004. Fanmi Lavalas had been banned outright since then from running candidates until this year, and was credited with few votes in the disputed election results.

Lavalas presidential candidate Dr. Maryse Narcisse, who is in the streets every day getting teargassed with the protesters, has officially challenged the results with the National Electoral Litigation Bureau. Other major parties have

unofficially protested the fraudulent elections, in which President Martelly's hand-picked candidate, a political neophyte, miraculously emerged as the front-runner. A runoff election is due in December.

Many recall the 2010 election, when Martelly was illegally catapulted into the runoff under pressure from then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Organization of American States. Occupying forces of the U.S. and the United Nations have continued their in-your-face interference in the 2015 election as well.

U.N. charged with major role in election fraud

Haiti's political crisis took a dramatic turn in mid-November with revelations by Antoine Rodon Bien-Aimé and two other candidates for Parliament from President Martelly's own PHTK party (Parti Haïtien Tèt Kale).

It has been reported that some 10,000 Haitian police and 2,500 U.N. personnel from Minustah, the U.N.'s military mission in Haiti, were deployed during the Oct. 25 voting, and that both Minustah and the U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS) were involved in transporting ballots to be tallied in Port-au-Prince.

Now, Deputy Bien-Aimé and two of his colleagues are accusing UNOPS, headed by Sandra Honoré, with direct involvement in the Oct. 25 election fraud. Specifically, they charge UNOPS and its electoral logistics coordinator, the Cana-

dian national, Sylvain Côté, with direct responsibility for taking boxes of ballots actually cast by the people and switching them with boxes of pre-filled-out ballots. Sylvain Côté scurried out of the country the day after the revelations surfaced.

Fifteen well-known Haitian intellectuals were so outraged by the "clear involvement of U.N. agencies in the fraud that marred the elections of October 25" that they wrote an "Open Letter to Sandra Honoré" on Nov. 16, saying, "The whole world is discovering, under pressure from the street ... the truth of the biggest electoral fraud operation ... for the last 30 years in Haiti."

But the main resistance is coming from the street. Many are comparing today's nonstop mass demonstrations to the uprisings that led to the 1986 collapse of the dictatorship of "Baby Doc" Duvalier. The people are turning the defense of their vote into a focus of mass struggle against the hated neo-Duvalierists in the Haitian government and their U.S., French and Canadian backers.

On Nov. 9, another general strike by transportation workers forced the government to rescind draconian price and fee hikes by effectively shutting down most of the country for half a day. Haiti is defiant and its people determined.

Welsh was a member of a Human Rights and Labor Fact-Finding Delegation to Haiti in October that reported on systematic voter suppression, violence and intimidation in the election process.

Crisis in Mali follows U.S., French intervention

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The head of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), Army Gen. David Rodriguez, continues to maintain that the purpose of Washington's military policy on the continent is to assist nation-states with enhanced security.

However, over two dozen people died in the siege of the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali, on Nov. 20, despite the presence of French and U.S. Special Forces.

AFRICOM identifies its purpose as working with African states in the so-called "war on terror," which is a by-product of successive imperialist interventions, from Afghanistan to Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. So-called "Islamist extremist" organizations have been nurtured, funded and coordinated by the U.S. since the early 1980s, when the administration of President Jimmy Carter worked vigorously to overthrow the pro-socialist government in Afghanistan that had turned to the Soviet Union for support.

The overthrow of the government of President Saddam Hussein in Iraq strengthened these same strains of Islamic organizations, spreading their influence into the Syrian conflict beginning in 2011. The outbreak of the Syrian war coincided with the destruction of Libya, which then brought unrest and instability throughout North and West Africa and eventually across the Mediterranean into Southern, Central and Eastern Europe.

Referring to Africa, Rodriguez said that the U.S. is providing help in "command and control and communications, [and] intelligence — we do a tremendous amount of intelligence training throughout the African continent. They need help in logistics and mobility. They need help in specialty skills, anti-mine or [improvised explosive devices]." (Department of Defense, Nov. 20)

Another key aspect of this policy is the molding of African military officials

in the image of the Pentagon. Rodriguez stresses, "For their militaries and institutions, the most important thing for them is to grow leaders and select the right people and build the systems that sustain their efforts for the long run."

This purported selection of the "right" leaders resulted in a military coup in Mali over three years ago. The elected head of state, Amadou Toumani Toure, was overthrown on March 23, 2012, by military officer Capt. Amadou Sanogo. After regional pressure from the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, Sanogo later turned over the ostensible reins of power to an interim government headed by parliamentary leader Dioncounda Traore.

Sanogo was a student of the Pentagon, participating in the International Military Education and Training program. He received instruction in Georgia and at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., which specializes in counterterrorism education, and studied English at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

In the Nov. 20 attack in Bamako, at least two gunmen walked into the hotel frequented by diplomatic personnel and international business professionals, opened fire on staff and guests, and took approximately 130 people hostage.

It was reported that Malian, French and U.S. soldiers stormed the building, ending the siege. At present it is not clear whether the gunmen or security and military forces killed the hostages.

Two organizations claim responsibility

Two Islamist groups operating in Mali and Algeria have claimed responsibility for the attack. A Nov. 20 statement on the Al Akhbar site suggested the Radisson attack was to obtain "the release of all the imprisoned mujahedeen in the prisons of Mali and the cessation of the aggression against our people in the north and center of Mali."

In 2012, a secessionist movement based

among the Tuareg people declared an independent state in northern Mali. In 2013 the French government deployed its air force and 3,000 troops to the area at the request of the newly installed president, Dioncounda Traoré.

The occupation continued through July 2014, when French forces opened a broader offensive across large swaths of the Sahel region. A United Nations mandated force, MINUSMA, has been operational since April 2013 and now numbers approximately 10,000 troops.

Pentagon air support was critical in this occupation of Mali. With the U.S. already well established in the country's military, it was poised to carry out logistical flights transporting personnel and equipment to the French and their allies.

Pentagon and NATO occupation

French forces, with Pentagon assistance, occupied Mali nearly three years ago after the collapse of the authorities in the north and central regions of the country. It is important to note that the seizure of substantial portions of Malian territory took place after the March 2012 military coup led by Pentagon-trained Capt. Amadou Sanogo.

Many analysts say a major contributing factor in the destabilization of northern Mali was the war of regime-change engineered and waged by the CIA, the Pentagon and NATO against the Libyan government of Col. Moammar Gadhafi. Members of the Tuareg nationality in Mali were living and working in Libya during the Gadhafi era; some participat-



ed in defense of the country during the 2011 counterrevolution.

Many Tuaregs fled Libya after the bombing campaign by Western imperialist states and their allies, returning to northern Mali, where unresolved inter-ethnic conflicts have reappeared since national independence in 1960.

AFRICOM and other allied forces are already planning further deployments in the so-called "war on terrorism." Nearly two years ago the Obama administration announced the deployment of 3,500 troops to about three dozen African states.

The largest AFRICOM base is in the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, with thousands of U.S. and French troops at Camp Lemonier. This base has also been utilized in the Pentagon-supported bombing campaign by the Saudi Arabia and Gulf Cooperation Council coalition that has ravaged Yemen since March.

There appears to be no change in U.S. relations toward Africa and the Middle East. Both Democratic and Republican presidential candidates say nothing about the instability spreading throughout the region. It will be up to a regenerated anti-war movement in the U.S. and Western Europe to take up these issues within the broader struggles for social justice and peace. □

Historic crimes of the French military

By **John Catalinotto**

The imperialist governments of France and the United States have seized upon the terrifying attacks in Paris and Bamako this November to open up both a military offensive in Syria and an anti-Muslim offensive at home. The attacks provide an opportunity for the military-industrial-banking conglomerate in both countries that they wouldn't miss.

For the rest of the population in the U.S. and Europe, the lesson should be that while ruling-class forces order crimes against the world's people, they also force ordinary people to make sacrifices for these crimes.

When the Pentagon, which is the world's biggest terrorist, invades a country like Iraq or Libya and destroys its infrastructure, killing and wounding millions, making tens of millions homeless, it should be no surprise that it arouses anger. The same is true for French imperialism.

Many young people in Paris were innocent victims of the Nov. 13 attack, but that doesn't mean the French imperialist state is innocent. While the 1789 French Revolution raised the idealistic slogan of liberty, equality and fraternity, French imperialism, which developed from that bourgeois revolution, has a bloody his-

tory across the world. The actions of the French ruling class have created many enemies, but it is the ordinary people, not the elites, who pay the price.

When imperialist France emerged from German occupation after World War II, the Arab and Berber peoples began carrying out mass demonstrations and uprisings in Algeria against French colonial rule. To suppress that rebellion, for several days French troops and police, acting on orders from the French president on May 8, 1945, massacred as many as 45,000 Algerians who peacefully demonstrated in the cities of Setif, Guelma and Kherrata. (tinyurl.com/nczqar5) Trying to hold onto that nation, the French occupiers killed as many as a million Algerians, until the people finally won their liberation in 1962.

In 1947, French colonial troops slaughtered 89,000 people to "pacify" a rebellion in Madagascar, an African island in the Indian Ocean. (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, March 1997) During the long French war in Indochina, the French military killed many more Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians and some Chinese until French imperialism was finally driven out in 1954.

Even in Paris itself, on Oct. 17, 1961, French police opened fire on a demonstration of 30,000 Algerians, killing between

70 and 300 people. If you haven't heard of this, it's because the French police and media conspired to keep it secret until it was finally verified in the 1990s. ("The Battle of Paris," Jean-Luc Einaudi, 1991)

This history of imperialist military in-

tervention continues. French jets opened the air war against Libya in 2011, leading NATO's barbaric destruction of that country. French jets are bombing today in Syria and Iraq, along with the U.S.-led "coalition." □

Don't let Paris be a pretext!

Philadelphians from the Black Lives Matter, anti-war, Palestinian and other people's movements joined a "Don't Let Paris Attacks Be Pretext for Racism & War" rally and march on Nov. 20. Pam Africa, of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, electrified the rally when she said: "My family was bombed here. Eleven men, women and children died," referring to the 1985 Philadelphia Police Department bombing of the MOVE organization. "So we know firsthand what that feels like. ... I fight imperialism no matter where it's at."

A militant march followed, stopping at the the French Consulate, Comcast Headquarters and the Israeli Consulate for short speeches. Police became more aggressive as the demonstrators approached Rittenhouse Square,



home to some of this city's very wealthiest people, and finally arrested one protester.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

What makes China able to plan for the future

By Deirdre Griswold

In Parts 1 and 2 of this series, we have discussed the phenomenal rise of the People's Republic of China as a major world manufacturer and what has fueled its growing economy. Since China has more coal compared to other fossil fuels, it has relied — like the United States — on coal for most of its energy.

But coal is one of the worst generators of greenhouse gases. As China rose to become the number one manufacturer in the world, it also surpassed the U.S. in greenhouse gas emissions — although not on a per capita basis. That dubious distinction still belongs to the U.S.

Now, at a time when global warming has been clearly identified as the major threat to our environment, China has laid out very detailed and ambitious plans to move away from fossil fuels and toward renewables. It will continue to expand its solar and wind capacity, but a more significant source of energy now embraced by Chinese planners is nuclear.

In the U.S., there is much opposition to nuclear energy. Nearly all the plants here are privately owned and operated for profit. There is much justifiable fear that the profit motive will override safety considerations, especially as these plants are old.

China is a young nuclear power. It has no old plants. By contrast, the average U.S. nuclear plant was built 36 years ago when reactors were subject to dangerous accidents, especially if something damaged the cooling system — as happened to the General Electric reactors in Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant. However, China has the benefit of many improvements in reactor design developed by scientists since then.

Ironically, one of the designs China originally pursued was worked on at the Argonne National Laboratory in Idaho from 1984 to 1994. Called the Integral Fast Reactor, it takes a very different approach than the light water reactors then in use. Several books on the subject explain that the great advantages of the IFR, also called a fast breeder or fourth-generation reactor, involve safety

and solving the problem of nuclear waste.

The IFR, instead of being water-cooled, uses a passive system to cool the reactor. If anything happens to interrupt the working of the reactor, it will passively shut down. No human intervention is necessary.

The IFR, also known as a closed nuclear fuel reactor, can burn up to 99 percent of the energy in uranium, leaving very little radioactive waste. This contrasts with the light water reactors, which use only 1 percent of the energy in enriched uranium, leaving the rest as waste to decay over hundreds of thousands of years. Even better, the newer reactors could run on the waste left behind by the older reactors, thus helping clean up the vast amounts of radioactive materials that have presented a danger for many, many generations to come.

The Argonne scientists were certain they were in the process of developing a safe technology for powering the world. However, in 1994, Washington suddenly shut down the program to build the IFR, just three years before its scheduled completion.

Leading the charge in Congress against the project was then-Senator John Kerry. The scientists involved were baffled and outraged. Many saw the hand of the oil, gas and coal lobby in the shutdown. One can only imagine their frustration today as the dire news about the consequences of global warming make headlines.

In the meantime, three other countries have succeeded in developing functioning fast-breeder reactors. Today, China, Russia and India all have them, after years of testing involving pilot projects. The expense of developing and building these fourth-generation reactors has been borne by the governments involved.

When the Argonne IFR program was shut down in 1994, neither the U.S. government nor any of the privately owned U.S. energy companies were willing to lay out the large sums of money that would be needed to develop a new, safer generation of nuclear power.



The U.S. today has by far the most nuclear power reactors in the world — 99, operated by 30 different power companies. But they are old. Almost all the nuclear-generating capacity in the U.S. comes from reactors built between 1967 and 1990. Only five new reactors are under construction, and they are all light water reactors.

By 1990, the U.S. had already gone to war in oil-rich North Africa and Southeast Asia against Iraq. That was just the first in a series of conflicts, from Iraq to Syria to Libya, that held the promise of vast profits for the military-oil-banking-industrial complex — especially since it's the public, not the energy companies, that pays for these wars. Whatever the outcome, the war budget doesn't come out of their bottom lines.

For the hundreds of millions of people living in North Africa and West Asia, the result of these wars for oil has been a disaster. Is any more proof needed than the millions of refugees now risking their lives trying to find somewhere to live in peace?

And the whole world is affected. The scramble by the imperialist powers, most of all the U.S., to control profitable fossil fuels has precluded any adequate expenditures to develop renewable energy. It would take a massive investment on the scale of what is now spent on imperialist wars for the U.S. to change course and wean itself off coal, oil and gas. That's not going to happen without a revolutionary change in class relations.

Why socialist planning is necessary

The World Nuclear Association summarizes China's nuclear power development as follows:

"China has 30 nuclear power reactors in operation, 21 under construction, and more about to start construction. Additional reactors are planned, including some of the world's most advanced, to give more than a threefold increase in nuclear capacity to at least 58 GWe by 2020-21, then some 150 GWe by 2030, and much more by 2050. The impetus for increasing nuclear power share in China is increasingly due to air pollution from coal-fired plants. China's policy is for closed fuel cycle. China has become largely self-sufficient in reactor design and construction, as well as other aspects of the fuel cycle, but is making full use of Western technology while adapting and improving it."

The rich imperialist countries accumulated their wealth generations ago by grabbing much of the world's resources and super-exploiting workers in the global South. So how is it that a developing country like China can forge ahead with a nuclear program that promises to outdistance them in every way?

The answer lies in China's ability to

control and plan the central components of its economy, especially the infrastructure on which all other activity is based. While the Communist Party and the government made a decision decades ago to allow private ownership of many types of commercial enterprises in order to amass the capital they needed for growth, they have not surrendered ownership and control of the land, the sources of energy, the means of transportation and communication, and other essential elements underpinning modern life.

This allows government economic and social planners, scientists and technical people — not beholden to any private interests — to work together, look ahead and make decisions based on solving immediate and anticipated problems. The government is then tasked with carrying out these plans. While the existence of for-profit enterprises and very rich capitalists can impede this, leading to corruption of many officials in China, the planning principle remains strong.

This is how workers' wages have been increased on a very steady basis for at least the last two decades. Even U.S. publications like the New York Times and Wall Street Journal acknowledge that in the last 10 years alone, wages in China have increased fivefold. In the same period, workers' wages in the U.S. have actually declined in constant dollars, even as the income of the capitalists has soared exponentially.

This is also how the Chinese government is able to allocate a great deal of wealth for future development on a sustainable basis. Its planners are able to think nationally and even globally because they are not hamstrung by the immediate profit needs of the dog-eat-dog economic system, in which each enterprise is in a life-and-death struggle against its competitors.

And how did China get to this point?

Through the revolutionary struggle of millions of poor and oppressed people. Many of them were very exploited workers, but a majority were downtrodden peasants, whose life offered nothing but unending toil and brutal punishment by parasitic landlords. Since that revolution and China's economic growth, hundreds of millions of young people have migrated to the cities from rural areas and become workers. They are organized, educated and demand a better life. From their ranks also come a new generation of scientists and technical personnel.

The Chinese Revolution was victorious because it was led by communists, who saw the potential for China to become great based on the unity of the workers and peasants. Their goal was to get rid of the old and build something new — a socialist society. Despite detours and setbacks, that goal has not been abandoned, and the hard-won fruits of its planning can be seen more clearly as China continues to shake the world. □

WWP candidates say

Solidarity with Native peoples!

Continued from page 1

in search of oil, gas, minerals — and super-profits. They oppose "climate injustice" — whereby poor countries and peoples are harmed by climate-made disasters caused by carbon emissions, fracking, hazardous pipelines and environmental racism. Indigenous peoples' demands should be met for reparations from corporate polluters for ecological damage!

Victory: Keystone XL Pipeline stopped!

Our campaign congratulates heroic Native communities who stood strong and won a major victory in stopping the Keystone XL pipeline. For seven years, these activists, with their non-Native allies, put themselves on the line in this life-and-death struggle against environmental genocide. They pressured the Obama administration into vetoing this project, which would have transported Canadian

tar sands oil through tribal lands to Texas refineries, escalating carbon emissions and contaminating groundwater. Yet the struggle goes on against corporate extraction of fossil fuels from the earth — and more pipelines.

We stand with the movement of Native nations and individuals and their supporters who have been protesting racist names of sports teams and mascots. Their righteous struggle has successfully turned the tide against team owners, as more people deplore this bigotry and demand the abolition of these insulting names.

The Moorehead-Lilly campaign raises high the banner of solidarity with all Indigenous peoples on this National Day of Mourning. We join with millions of people worldwide in loudly proclaiming, "Free Leonard Peltier!" We stand with all Native peoples who are fighting back against capitalism's escalating destruction of the planet. □

UAW strikes at Kohler Co. in Milwaukee

Continued from page 3

the Overpass Light Brigade, the People's Power Assemblies, the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement, Workers World Party and many others.

Other labor and community organizations both locally and nationwide are building support for UAW Local 833, including Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998, Defeat Right to Work in Wisconsin, Fight For \$15 Wisconsin, Fightback News, Moratorium NOW! in Detroit,

the Overpass Light Brigade, the People's Power Assemblies, the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement, Workers World Party and many others.

For more information and to aid the strikers, see #KohlerStrike and www.wibailoutpeople.org.

Pfeifer's grandfather, George Pfeifer, and great uncle, Art Pfeifer, participated in the 1954 Kohler strike with UAW Local 833.

Excerpts from the talks at the Workers World Party national conference, published in full on workers.org

WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

The working class needs a compass to fight imperialism

The Pentagon is rushing F-16C Dog-fighter jets to Syria.

There were 13 countries bombing Syria before Russia came into the war: Saudi Arabia, France, Belgium, Canada, Jordan and Turkey, among others — none invited by Syria. The U.S. military is coordinating the whole operation. These countries claim to be hitting ISIS but are totally destroying Syria; half the population is displaced.

But the jets that the U.S. Air Force just sent to Syria are capable only of fighting other aircraft.

ISIS does not have an air force. Russia does.

At the same time, President Obama made the first public announcement of ground troops, Special Ops forces, to Syria, along with a big reinforcement of U.S. “advisors” to Iraq.

A very dangerous provocation is looming. We need be prepared. We don’t know what incident might touch off a far wider war. To understand what is going on behind all these crises, we need to view them as one world war on many fronts.

Capitalist glut

What is driving these nonstop crises?

Capitalism is facing a giant glut. The world commodity markets are crashing. Machine parts, heavy equipment, tubing and pipes, oil, gas, steel, copper, zinc, corn, soy and wheat are all valued at less than half of the price of one year ago.

There are increasing predictions in the business media of a new, disastrous capitalist crash. Yet the workers have not been rehired from the 2007-08 capitalist crash.

We face today a larger gap between rich and poor than at any time in human history. There are 80 multibillionaires worth more than the combined assets of one-half the population of the world. This is how distorted the whole capitalist system is. It has productive capacity far beyond what it can ever hope to sell at a profit.

Capitalism has an unsolvable problem. How can this brutal global empire hold this bloated, decaying system all together? It needs endless war. It needs



Secretariat member Sara Flounders

racism, division, repression.

Great, unanticipated crises have been the undoing of many a movement and political party. But with crisis comes opportunities to intervene.

Even a handful of communists — if they have revolutionary determination and are not caught off guard — have the ability to give leadership in times of crisis. This is something that Workers World Party has been able to do again and again.

We face a crisis a minute. There are racist police murders every day; the largest prison population in the world; U.S. war crimes around the world every day and every hour. How to orient the Party and a movement fighting for change? This is where [Vladimir] Lenin is our anchor.

This period needs a revolutionary socialist movement where every cadre’s instincts and reflexes are to stand against racism, with the oppressed and always oppose its own ruling class. That is Leninism.

Today we have to contend with political leaders who claim to be socialists and yet support U.S. wars. Bernie Sanders promises a political revolution but also promises that he will defend “America’s vital interests. Force must always be an option.” Sanders has voted funds for every U.S. war, supports free trade and Israel’s “right to defend itself.” In essence, he stands for defending the whole rotten, racist system.

Lots of campus socialists say no against U.S. wars, but always explain why you should hate whomever the U.S. government is targeting in Syria, Ukraine, Libya, China, Venezuela or Cuba.

A compass for the movement

A compass always points north. It does not point all over the dial.

It is the same with us. Our compass points toward opposing U.S. imperialism. If we keep our focus, we won’t get diverted or confused.

We need to constantly point the movement back toward opposing U.S. imperialism. Acting as a compass for the working-class movement in the U.S. will build socialist unity.

In every crisis the media are full of “blame Russia,” “blame China” and denounce them as imperialists; or the message is “blame Syria,” “blame Iran” and demonize them as monsters. U.S. imperialism is let off the hook.

The class struggle is one war and we take sides. Workers World Party is a combat organization.

Leninism recognizes the responsibility of workers’ movements in imperialist countries to always oppose their own ruling class. Otherwise, we will drown in the layers of propaganda, chauvinism and racism that saturate the air we breathe. This poison can immobilize us. It is more difficult in the center of imperialism to maintain this revolutionary edge.

Facing a refugee and migrant crisis

Tens of millions of migrants are fleeing economic disaster created by free trade zones and globalized capitalism. There are millions of refugees of U.S. wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Yemen. U.S. wars have totally desta-

bilized Africa and West Asia.

Every war is preceded by a big media blitz of desperate people or weapons that supposedly put the world at risk and a call that “we must do something.”

We need to be on guard that the media focus on the flow of refugees is being orchestrated to break down the resistance to NATO strikes to set up no-fly zones in Syria.

Declaring a no-fly zone was the pretext the U.S. used in Libya, in a seven-month bombing campaign that left an entire country in smoking ruin.

Build international solidarity

The one weapon the working class has is international solidarity. This means always standing with the oppressed. It means never accepting any excuse for a U.S. war. Any war where U.S. imperialism succeeds, the workers suffer a huge setback.

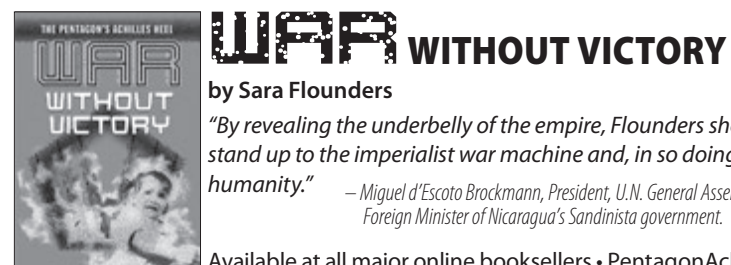
Internationalism builds unity and class consciousness. The working class today is more international in its composition and in communication and more open to understanding the need for solidarity. Millions of workers come with rich experiences of class struggle.

U.S. imperialism is in a desperate situation because none of their wars have succeeded in stabilizing U.S. domination.

Let’s be determined to focus our party and the whole movement on opposing U.S. imperialism, the enemy of all humanity.

We need the same absolute determination that the Palestinian struggle conveys when they say, and the whole world now responds: “Palestine will win!” The same confidence that the Cuban people exude when they declare: “¡Venceremos! The workers united will never be defeated!”

Flounders is co-director of the International Action Center.



U.S. imperialism shows its flaws in Syria

Excerpts from a speech given by Joe Mchahwar of the Detroit Branch to the Workers World Party 2015 National Conference in New York City Nov. 7-8.

Over the course of my life, my generation has witnessed one disastrous imperialist conquest after another. This has left us with the impression that the Empire cannot be defeated, whether or not it achieves its stated goals. We are being proven wrong in Syria right now.

For over four years, the Western powers and their protectorates have waged a relentless war against the Syrian people and their nation’s sovereignty. The Saudis and their allies in the Persian Gulf have funded and trained the Islamic State. The United States created fertile ground for this organization in Iraq, while also piping in arms and supplies under the pretext of supporting the so-called Free Syrian Army, an organization of mercenaries that works hand in hand with the al-Nusra Front, Syria’s al-Qaida affiliate. Under the cover of this storm, Israel and Turkey have seized the opportunity to conduct attacks against the Syrian gov-



WWP member Joe Mchahwar

ernment, the strongest force dedicated to eradicating the Islamic State.

The U.S. further escalated its role with a bombing campaign, with over a dozen other countries, across Syria for the past year, under the pretext of fighting the Islamic State. Though it hasn’t produced results in that regard, it has served as a means to destroy Syria’s infrastructure,

shown clearly by the bombing of a power plant in Aleppo, Syria’s largest city.

This genocidal proxy war in Syria has been responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths, over 100,000 of those deaths befalling pro-government forces. Seven million Syrians have been forced out of their homes. Four million have left the country.

In spite of these horrific hardships, the Syrian people and their government have held themselves together for four years with scarce international support or aid. For over a month, Russia has coordinated airstrikes with Syrian government forces against the Islamic State and al-Nusra Front with astonishing results. The Syrian government has gone from making small advancements to launching successful full-scale offensives on multiple fronts.

As Marxists we recognize that Russia is acting in full accordance with its material interests. The fall of the Syrian government would mean the loss of Russia’s strongest Arab ally. The spread of Islamic State activities would put Russia’s inter-

national security at risk [and] be an irreversible victory for U.S. imperialism globally.

Things are looking up for Syria, but that also means the stakes are higher than they’ve ever been. The imperialist powers are visibly desperate. Despite the U.S.’s insistence on many occasions that they had no intention to invade Syria, the Obama administration announced it is sending special forces and advisors to northern Syria. The last time the U.S. sent advisors to a country under the boot heel of imperialism, it ended in millions of deaths in Vietnam, and devastation for decades to come.

We must not let history repeat itself, especially during the decline of global capitalism. Workers World Party has supported the Syrian government for upholding its people’s sovereignty without faltering. We oppose all imperialist wars, and we know how to oppose them: in the streets. It is our duty from within the belly of the beast to stop the genocide against Arabs and all oppressed peoples in the Middle East.

Long live Syria! ☐

Excerpts from the talks at the Workers World Party national conference, published in full on workers.org

WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

Africa faces 21st-century neocolonialism



Africa has been severely set back by imperialist destruction of Libya and interference in Egypt's and Tunisia's democratic processes. Five years ago a rebellion throughout Tunisia toppled longtime dictator Zen El Abidine Ben Ali.

The unrest spread to Egypt, leading to President Hosni Mubarak's forced resignation. The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party won the next presidential elections.

Demonstrations spread to Algeria and Yemen, bringing different outcomes. The rebellions in Tunisia and Egypt did not lead to the consolidation of progressive forces which could seize power and establish a political order committed to revolutionary transformation and socialism.

Egypt's military-turned-civilian regime is still subsidized by the CIA and the Pentagon. Tunisia has been returned to the Ben Ali's regime's political collaborators, taking its place in the Washington-led "war on terrorism."

When a rebellion erupted in Libya, a more ominous trend was revealed. Counterrevolutionaries targeted Col. Moammar Gadhafi's Jamahiriya system. When Western-backed armed opposition groups faced growing resistance by loyalist troops, the U.S. and its NATO allies engineered U.N. Security Council resolutions approving widespread bombing of Libya.

Today Libya is a major source of instability throughout North and West Africa. Imperialist militarism has compounded crises in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen. In the worst interna-



WWP National Committee member
Abayomi Azikiwe

tional humanitarian disaster since World War II's conclusion, more than 50 million people have been displaced.

African and Middle Eastern states and Southern and Eastern European countries are bearing the brunt of the migration. The hundreds of thousands flooding into Europe face racism, xenophobia, brutality and marginalization.

Imperialism spreads tentacles

The U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) is escalating deployments across the continent through direct intervention and partnerships with states and regional organizations. Emboldened by its operations in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt, imperialism is spreading its tentacles.

An AFRICOM base in Djibouti at Camp Lemonnier is being refurbished

for the expanding mission, involving thousands of Pentagon troops. Airstrips are being constructed to ostensibly assist African Union member-states in the fight against "terrorism."

Creation of an African Standby Force — first advanced by the Pan-Africanist and Ghana's socialist leader Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and later by Gadhafi — has been realized, absent its revolutionary orientation. ASF exercises in South Africa rely on Pentagon and European Union funding.

Any continental military force aimed at fostering peace and stability in Africa must be independent of imperialism. Otherwise such efforts will serve as an appendage of Pentagon-NATO forces and serve neocolonial interests.

This crisis of imperialist militarism is coupled with the debt dilemma resulting from the advanced capitalist states' economic decline. Despite reports hailing "phenomenal economic growth" in Africa, these states have higher debt-service ratios, joblessness and rapid currency devaluations, partly stemming from commodity price declines due to capitalist overproduction.

This monumental debt burden is sparking militant working-class struggles, and socialism is being re-examined. In Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa — "emerging economies" — workers, students and youth are striking and demonstrating, demanding action to halt rapidly declining living standards fueled by inflation and diminishing foreign investment.

This developing crisis requires an

ideological and political response. The lessons of Egypt and Tunisia show that uprisings must be informed by anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist politics. Otherwise the Libyan model will spread.

Rising oil and mineral production without transforming productive relations within the emerging economies will only benefit imperialism. The contradictions between the capitalist modes of production and the social relations of production must be resolved.

The only solution is socialist revolution, where workers, farmers and youth can determine their future without the domination of Western financial institutions bolstered by CIA, Pentagon and NATO forces.

Western capitalists depend upon acquiring natural resources and labor from the oppressed nations on terms set by corporations and financial institutions. Workers and the oppressed inside imperialist countries are sacrificing their standard of living with declining wages, evisceration of social services and privatization of public assets.

The basis for international revolution exists. We must link the struggles of the workers and the oppressed globally against U.S. imperialism, the center of world exploitation. Only this revolutionary transformation can achieve peace, stability and mutual cooperation internationally. □

Iran's sovereignty vs. U.S.-European imperialism

On Nov. 2, masses of students and other strata poured into the streets of Tehran to commemorate the historic day that revolutionary students took over the U.S. Embassy in 1979 and named that embassy the "Den of Espionage."

This was the most meaningful message of solidarity to the national conference of Workers World. At this very critical moment, the message is clear: "Iran's Nuclear Deal" is no honeymoon between Iran and the U.S. You, comrades, can be sure that Iranian people have no illusions about imperialism.

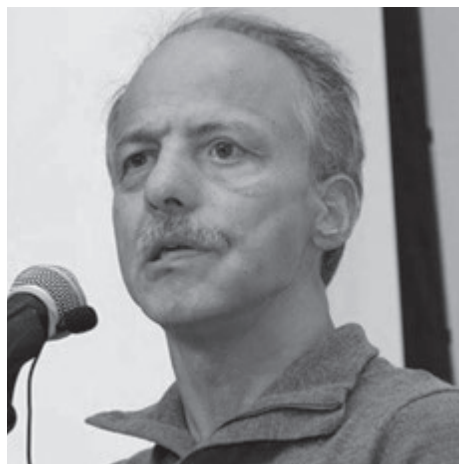
Iran's revolution changed the Middle East's geopolitical and social development and also liberated the productive forces within Iran. The facts speak for themselves:

- Sixty percent of university students, 60 percent of civil servants and 80 percent of teachers in Iran are women, while 90 percent of women in rural communities and 45 percent women in cities were illiterate before the revolution. Iran achieved full literacy for all youth six years ago.

- Iran's comprehensive social protection includes the highest level of pensions, disability insurance and disaster relief programs. Basic food is subsidized all over the country. Housing and energy are affordable to all.

- Iran has a strong health care system, from preventive care to sophisticated hospitals. Sixteen thousand "health care houses" are the cornerstone of the health care system.

- Iran sets a record in family planning. All kinds of contraception are available.



Kazem Azin

The fertility rate only 13 years after the revolution dropped from 8.1 births per 1,000 women to 2.4 births in rural areas and 1.8 births in urban areas. (World Bank)

- Iran, with 233,695 engineers, is ranked third among 124 countries after the Russian Federation and the United States. (Forbes, June 9)

- According to the data provided by the National Science Foundation, Iran had a 19.3 percent average annual growth rate for publications in all science and engineering fields during 1997-2011 (National Science Foundation, 2014) and in all subjects was 11 times higher than the average growth rate for the rest of the world. (Sciencematrix, 2010)

- Iran has made great advances in nuclear technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology, aerospace and missile technology, pharmaceutical technology, and information and communication technology over the last two decades.

Iran's external debt of \$9.45 billion is

rather small compared to external debts of some neighboring countries and minuscule compared to the \$6 trillion U.S. external debt.

All of these were achieved in the wake of 36 years of sanctions, assassinations of scientists, sabotage and other hostilities by U.S. imperialists and its European allies, the Zionist regime of Israel and the most reactionary puppet regime in the region, Saudi Arabia, NATO member Turkey, and the other "gas stations" of the imperialists such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, etc.

U.S. imperialism hates our revolution

The ultimate goal of the U.S. is to destroy Iran's revolution and re-establish a puppet regime. Then, after nearly two years of "negotiation," what does the "Iran nuclear deal" mean?

[U.S. imperialism] intensified its murderous sanctions and started "talks" and "negotiation" seeking "regime change" through economic penetration. Iran also decided to seize the opportunity and engage in painstaking "negotiation" to break the regime of sanctions.

Iran does not need U.S. imperialist or European allies. Iran needs extensive relations with Latin America, Africa and Asian countries, including Russia and China. Iran's relationship with the West is only tactical, as important as it may become.

Iran's leader is very aware of this, and this is what he said in his "The National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance" speech three days ago [Nov. 3]: "The U.S. objectives regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran have not changed at all and [the

U.S.] would not spare a moment if they could destroy the Islamic Republic. ... 'Death to America' is not aimed at the [U.S.] American people, but [U.S.] policies. ... The nature of U.S. policies has not changed and the nation will not forget."

These few quotations from the leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, show what we should expect in post-"Iran's nuclear deal."

Long live international solidarity! Victory to the Syrian people! Long live Workers World Party!

Kazem Azin is a leader of Solidarity with Iran, an organization which defends the right of Iran and its people to self-determination.

Black students lead resistance

Continued from page 1

group describes itself as "a movement of students calling for the decolonization of our campus, the symbols, the curriculum and the history of Harvard Law School."

One of this group's first demands is to replace the law school's crest, which is the same as the coat-of-arms belonging to Isaac Royall Jr., a slave owner, whose estate helped to found Harvard Law School.

What is going on at the University of Illinois and Harvard is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of a growing revolutionary struggle of resistance on U.S. campuses. Protests against racism, sexism and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and queer oppression are taking all forms

Excerpts from the talks at the Workers World Party national conference, published in full on workers.org

WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

The people of Puerto Rico are fighting back

To the conference title, “Putting Revolutionary Socialism on the Table,” I add, “at the time of capitalism at a dead end.” We need a serious and deep discussion on how to defeat capitalism. Not with reforms, not with patches; we need structural change.

We need socialism!

Fidel once said that as long as imperialism is standing, racism will not end. Imperialism nurtures racism, profits from it and from all the differences that it can use to divide the working class so the workers don't unite and fight against the capitalists.

For several years I have been reporting on the turn to the left in Latin America. But I want to raise the difficulties confronted by the progressive movements and governments there, because many of those difficulties arise from U.S. imperialism. The great achievements won in the region are too much for imperialism to bear!

The U.S. has intensified its intervention in the region, aligned with the reactionary right wing of many of those countries. Capitalism in its final dead-end phase is trying to turn back the forward march.

The capitalist crisis is global, but so



Editor of Mundo Obrero Berta Joubert-Ceci

also is the struggle. There are two camps worldwide: The capitalists together with those who serve them, and the masses fighting it.

But I want to focus on Puerto Rico, a country that for a long time was not even considered Latin American, and has been in the news because of its immense \$73 billion debt.

Puerto Rico is the perfect example of

the virulence of capitalism in its final dead-end stage.

Puerto Rico: U.S. colony

Puerto Rico is a colony of the U.S. It has no sovereignty. Foreign capital owns everything, decides everything. The island's government is just a figurehead; Wall Street and the Pentagon, through the U.S. Congress, are the real rulers.

Puerto Rico has been a laboratory for U.S. practices since the U.S. invaded it in 1898. Erasing our history and our heroes; trying to suppress our language and our flag; using us for pharmaceutical experiments; sterilizing our women; using our land to test toxic weapons and to practice for military interventions in other countries; targeting, killing and imprisoning the independence movement; etc. — a long et cetera.

One of the most criminal practices has been economic destruction. It has left Puerto Rico in a deep depression. All the measures to deal with the current crisis are to benefit the bondholders in Wall Street, many of them “fondos buitres” — vulture funds.

The Puerto Rican government squeezes the workers and the poor to pay bond-

holders. While the people are getting increasingly poorer, laws have been implemented to give a free ride to billionaires from the U.S. — by exempting taxes from their profits made in Puerto Rico!

The Puerto Rican people receive increased taxes and higher costs of utilities, gasoline and medicines. Medicare, which is deducted from wages at the same rate as here, provides only almost half of the benefit. And while Medicare benefits will be raised in the U.S., in Puerto Rico they will be lowered even more — by 11 percent.

Puerto Rico's government is paying millions to U.S. firms to “solve” the crisis. Economists from the International Monetary Fund have produced a report that the government is now trying to impose. It includes privatization of education, electricity, water and sewage, and roads; cuts in wages; an increase in university tuition; etc.

But the people in Puerto Rico are fighting back. They are holding people's assemblies about the consequences of the government's reforms. There is a call for a general strike that we should support in any way possible here.

Viva Puerto Rico Libre! U.S./Wall Street out of Puerto Rico! Free Oscar López Rivera now! □

Class struggle rages in Ukraine, Moldova

On Nov. 6, the U.S.-dominated NATO alliance completed its largest-ever military exercises, Trident Juncture. These massive war games, involving 30 countries, were planned well ahead of the current escalation in Syria. In fact, Trident Juncture is all about NATO expansion in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union specifically, using the far-right junta in Ukraine as a stepping stone to regime change in Russia.

The U.S. proxy war by Ukraine against the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics has temporarily taken a back seat to the conflict in the Middle East. This conflict in the Donbass could flare up again at any time, and inevitably, it will.

These are challenging days for the Donbass republics, under pressure from the Russian government to abide by the Minsk ceasefire agreement, which the Ukrainian government does not respect for a single day. Donbass residents and the people's militias feel like they are in a state of limbo — their battle “frozen” and seemingly out of their control, at least for the moment.



WW Contributing Editor Greg Butterfield

The Ghost Brigade, the most radical, class-conscious and internationalist detachment of the people's militia, continues to recruit, train and prepare for the inevitable battles ahead. Several comrades from the outlawed Ukrainian communist organization Borotba are now working with the Ghosts in Lugansk.

It was just a year ago, at a rally honoring the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, that Ghost Brigade Commander

Alexei Mozgovoï declared: “We shall build a free, anti-fascist and socialist Novorossiya.” After several months building the Ghost Brigade, Mozgovoï had learned that some of his best allies were communists, whom he promoted to leadership roles, and who deeply influenced his thinking.

Last February, he tasked the head of the Volunteer Communist Detachment, Pyotr Birukov, with operational leadership of the offensive that handed the Ukrainian military a stinging defeat. It was then that Ghost comrades raised the red flag of communism over the liberated village of Debaltsevo.

Mozgovoï's meteoric development — from a working-class populist with ambiguous politics to the region's leading symbol of socialism and internationalism — put a target on his chest, and he was assassinated by unknown assailants on May 23.

Despite this tragic loss, the Ghost Brigade marches on. Recently, Ghost announced the formation of Interunit — a military/propaganda squad made up of internationalist volunteers from several countries. Interunit takes its motto, “No

pasaran!” from the international brigades of the Spanish Civil War.

Workers World Party stands firmly with the people of Donbass, Ukrainian-occupied areas of Novorossiya, as well as the embattled communists and antifascists of Ukraine, in their struggle against U.S. imperialism and its agents.

Finally, a word about Ukraine's southern neighbor, Moldova.

A big protest movement has engulfed Moldova, a country dominated by pro-Western oligarchs and strongly influenced by the Ukrainian junta. This protest movement has both right and left wings, which so far have created a different dynamic from the far-right Maidan movement that dominates Ukraine.

But the critical role of communists has been seriously hampered by the jailing of seven leading activists, including Red Bloc party leader Grigory Petrenko, for the last two months. Petrenko and his comrades face up to eight years in prison. Our party stands with the Red Bloc and the workers and youth of Moldova to demand: Free the political prisoners now! □

to racism

and issuing immediate demands.

For instance, at Princeton University, students conducted a sit-in at the president's office on Nov. 19, demanding that racist President Woodrow Wilson's name be removed from all campus buildings. During Wilson's presidency in the early 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan was emboldened and marched in the thousands on the streets of Washington, D.C.

It is important for all those in the progressive movement to continue to strengthen their anti-racist solidarity with the Black Lives Matter upsurge on and off the campuses — to help weaken capitalism's divide-and-conquer rule at home and abroad. □

Exigencias comerciales de EUA aumentan problemas en Sudáfrica

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de Pretoria, la cual según la Casa Blanca, dificulta el acceso de EUA a los mercados nacionales. Estados Unidos amenaza con retirar sectores agrícolas claves de los acuerdos con Sudáfrica, lo que podría causar mayor daño a la economía. Las negociaciones continúan hasta una fecha límite del 1º de enero.

Una declaración del 9 de noviembre del Partido Comunista de Sudáfrica apoya la posición del gobierno del CNA en las negociaciones con EUA. El PCSA dice que a pesar de sus declaraciones encomiables “en realidad la AGOA es imperialista tanto en términos de su contenido como en su objetivo estratégico disfrazado con la

ilusión fetichista de ‘mercado libre’. Su contenido imperialista extraterritorial está siendo agresivamente empujado por EUA contra Sudáfrica”.

El PCSA enfatiza que “permitir que EUA prohíba la propiedad de activos económicos por parte del estado en nuestro país es usurpar nuestro derecho constitucional a la soberanía nacional democrática. Este equivaldría a entregar al imperialismo estadounidense nuestro derecho a determinar nuestra propia trayectoria de desarrollo y decidir las políticas para lograrla”.

El partido también ha señalado que “la independencia de Sudáfrica debe ser salvaguardada en el interés de completar

nuestra lucha por la liberación nacional y la emancipación social. ¡Nuestra independencia nacional democrática y los derechos de propiedad pública — el derecho a la propiedad colectiva de los bienes de producción incluyendo a través del estado — son cruciales para el éxito de nuestra segunda, y más radical fase de transformación”!

La postura de la administración Obama muestra la verdadera agenda detrás de la AGOA y los imperativos generales de la política exterior de la Casa Blanca. Sudáfrica tiene el derecho inalienable a determinar su propio programa económico sin la interferencia de Washington y Wall Street. □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO



EUA y Francia aumentan amenaza de guerra contra Siria

Por Sara Flounders

Los ataques en París atribuidos a ISIS han fijado la atención del mundo. Pero la pregunta más urgente que enfrenta la clase obrera es: ¿"Utilizará el campo imperialista los ataques como pretexto para ampliar la guerra"? Utilizando como velo la gran simpatía por las 129 personas muertas y las demás que quedaron heridas, los gobiernos imperialistas occidentales podrían poner decenas de miles de otras vidas en riesgo.

Suscitar odios racistas, anti-inmigrante y anti-musulmán es el primer paso para la movilización guerrillera. La satanización de la nación en la mira es una parte esencial para justificar la destrucción imperialista.

Según encuestas realizadas en los meses antes de la masacre, casi dos tercios de la población francesa se oponían a la participación de Francia en una guerra en Siria. Pero el régimen que sirve al imperialismo francés y que anteriormente tenía a Siria como su colonia, se ha comprometido totalmente a la completa destrucción de la soberanía Siria a través de un derrocamiento violento del gobierno sirio. París incluso ha armado a fuerzas rebeldes similares a ISIS y a la propia ISIS para lograr esto.

Los asesinatos en París no son las únicas muertes violentas o asesinatos en masa en la región. Una enorme explosión en Beirut un día antes; un avión ruso con pasajeros derribado en el Desierto del Sinaí dos semanas antes; el bombardeo estadounidense de un hospital de Kunduz-Afganistán, hace mes y medio; y un ataque en la primavera pasada en Kenia, han sido igualmente asesinos.

Sin embargo, los medios imperialistas sólo han proporcionado una amplia

efusión de simpatía por las víctimas en París. Esta respuesta no solo expone el racismo y el prejuicio sistemático de la prensa que valora más las vidas de aquellas/os en los países imperialistas, sino que a la vez sirve para exponer una agenda política: la intensificación de la guerra.

El Pentágono ha enviado aviones F-16C DogFighter a Siria, armados con misiles aire-aire. Son capaces solamente de luchar contra otras aeronaves. ISIS no tiene una fuerza aérea. Rusia sí. Esta es una peligrosa escalada.

El presidente Obama ha anunciado que va a enviar 50 fuerzas especiales a Siria, junto con miles de asesores estadounidenses a Irak. Una zona de exclusión aérea en la frontera con Turquía se ha discutido activamente por meses y se encuentra en etapas de planificación.

Los imperialistas rehusaron invitar al gobierno sirio a la ronda de negociaciones que discuten su futuro en Viena. Allí los gobiernos de EUA y Francia fueron los más firmes en exigir arrogantemente que el gobierno sirio entregara su soberanía y "renunciara". En cada reunión internacional, mientras hipócritamente declaran que quieren desesperadamente la paz, los imperialistas afirman que la guerra continuará hasta que sus fuerzas "democráticas" estén instaladas en el poder.

Caos de las guerras EUA

La necesidad más urgente en la lucha contra esta movilización de guerra es explicar y exponer el papel del imperialismo EUA junto con la participación francesa y de la Unión Europea, en décadas de guerra en la región. Las guerras imperialistas han desgarrado a países enteros y destruido sus vibrantes culturas.

También es esencial extender la sol-

idaridad a quienes están bajo ataque, y resistir conscientemente el clima racista.

Veinticinco años de sanciones, sabotajes, ocupaciones e invasiones, comenzando con la primera guerra de EUA contra Irak en 1991, han desarraigado a más de 10 millones de personas en la región.

La política imperialista de EUA y Francia dirigida a "cambios de régimen" cultivaron las mismas fuerzas que ahora reclaman la responsabilidad de los atentados en París, comenzando en Afganistán en la década de 1980. Las dos potencias entrenaron, financiaron y equiparon a las fuerzas de la "oposición" en Siria y Libia, resultando en destrucciones masivas. Su aliado, la monarquía saudí, ha organizado y capacitado a algunas de las fuerzas más reaccionarias, conocidas como ISIS, con la aprobación de los asesores estadounidenses.

El gobierno sirio dice que capturó combatientes en posesión de pasaportes de 60 países. Muchos no hablan árabe ni tienen raíces sirias. Cientos vinieron de Francia y Bélgica, sin obstáculos, incluso con el apoyo del Gobierno.

Los gobiernos de EUA y Francia, junto con el apoyo británico, turco, saudí, jordano e israelí, han dado cobertura política a los grupos rebeldes y corruptos en contienda, declarándolos "fuerzas democráticas de oposición". Suman decenas de miles de voluntarios y mercenarios reclutados por todo el mundo.

Grupos como Al Qaeda, el Frente Al-Nusra y el Estado Islámico tienen diferencias políticas. Las alianzas son fluidas. Pero todos sirven el mismo propósito: tratar de separar al gobierno sirio, destruir la infraestructura y desmoralizar a la población. Entre las decenas de miles que participan en los combates, es-

tán las fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales y asesores, entrenadores y agentes de inteligencia estadounidenses, franceses, británicos y jordanos.

Por décadas, Siria se enorgulleció de su rico tejido de diversidad cultural y religiosa, modernización de su infraestructura, educación completa y los más altos niveles de atención de la salud. Había también el orgullo nacional por enfrentarse a la ocupación israelí de Palestina, a pesar de que una parte importante de Siria, el Golán, fue robada en 1967 por Israel. La política de Siria de controlar sus industrias nacionalizadas, mantenerse libre de la deuda de los bancos occidentales y ser independiente del control imperialista era una frustración constante para los gobernantes corporativos de EUA y la UE.

Políticas progresistas similares, impulsadas por levantamientos de masas y levantamientos revolucionarios en los años 1960 y 1970 en Irak, Libia e Irán, también hicieron a estos países objetivos de EUA y del imperialismo mundial, cuyo propósito era restaurar estas tierras a su condición colonial antes de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

La agitación social en Egipto y Túnez llamada la Primavera Árabe en 2011 contra los dictadores respaldados por el imperialismo, se utilizó como una apertura para la intervención imperialista en los países árabes vecinos que estaban en lista de objetivos de EUA - Libia y Siria.

Las fuerzas derechistas en Francia no han perdido un minuto en lanzar ataques contra las/os desesperados refugiados de guerra que han inundado al país. Pero los verdaderos criminales son EUA y los imperialistas europeos que han lanzado estas guerras, y que se están posicionando ahora para una nueva ofensiva. □

Exigencias comerciales de EUA aumentan problemas en Sudáfrica

Por Abayomi Azikiwe

El gobierno de Sudáfrica enfrenta tres graves problemas económicos. Trabajadoras/es legislativos han estado en huelga por aumentos salariales desde el 9 de noviembre, impidiendo la labor legislativa normal. La sequía actual, que probablemente reduzca la producción agrícola, ha provocado ceses y cortes periódicos de energía, disminuyendo los ingresos de la empresa estatal. Además, la administración del presidente Obama está exigiendo cambios en la política comercial de Pretoria que ponen en peligro la soberanía del país.

Las/os miembros del Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Educación, Salud y Afines están desafiando una orden judicial para poner fin a su huelga. NEHAWU [por sus siglas en inglés] es filial del Congreso de Sindicatos de Sudáfrica, COSATU. El gobierno afirma que la huelga es ilegal porque las/os trabajadores realizan "servicios esenciales".

Las/os trabajadores del Parlamento limpian, atienden y supervisan las operaciones de las reuniones de las comisiones legislativas para que sean eficientes,

y controlan el acceso al centro de visitantes. Desde el 9 de noviembre, las/os trabajadores en huelga en el interior del edificio del Parlamento en Ciudad del Cabo han impedido el trabajo legislativo normal y han forzado la cancelación de algunas reuniones del comité.

El 16 de noviembre, los líderes de NEHAWU informaron que los salarios de las/os trabajadores fueron retenidos debido a la participación en la huelga. Las negociaciones se interrumpieron, y NEHAWU dijo que no se reanudarán hasta que se restablezca el pago. COSATU y sus sindicatos han enviado muchos mensajes de apoyo, al igual que los líderes regionales de NEHAWU y organizaciones estudiantiles y juveniles.

Un acuerdo a principios de año sobre un incremento salarial del 9 por ciento no incluía bonos por desempeño, que es un tema importante de la huelga. (Noticias 24)

En una manifestación el 16 de noviembre, NEHAWU dijo que sus demandas no eran negociables. La secretaria recién elegida de la región Ikapa Sur de NEHAWU, Baxolise Mali, dijo a la multitud: "Vamos a tener un paro nacional . . . es-

tamos muy claros. No estamos luchando contra la alianza [del gobierno], estamos luchando contra el empleador".

El 11 de noviembre la policía utilizó granadas aturdidoras en enfrentamientos con el sindicato. Oficiales de policía vestidos con armaduras se llevaban a miembros de NEHAWU. Por segunda vez en un mes el edificio del parlamento de la Ciudad del Cabo fue escenario de batallas. La primera, en octubre, involucraba a estudiantes.

Un portavoz parlamentario dijo que las demandas del sindicato "no estaban presupuestadas y eran inasequibles para el Parlamento dado su limitado presupuesto." (News24, 16 de noviembre)

Problemas con la empresa estatal

En la Cumbre del G-20 que tuvo lugar en Turquía, el ministro de finanzas de Sudáfrica Nhlanelo Nene, dijo que la sequía en el subcontinente, ahora que el hemisferio sur de África comienza el verano, podría afectar la producción agrícola y consecuentemente, provocar un aumento en los precios de los alimentos y otros bienes de consumo, reducir los ingresos y aumentar el desempleo.

Los problemas con la agencia estatal de servicios públicos Eskom también han aumentado en los últimos meses. Los apagones periódicos han obligado al gobierno a hacer frente a la caída de los ingresos por generación de energía.

La respuesta del gobierno a la crisis de Eskom incluye la conversión de la deuda subordinada a acciones, lo cual dice Nene que ha aliviado la presión de financiación. La agencia de utilidad aún no ha aprovechado los cerca de 50 mil millones de rands (aproximadamente \$3,5 mil millones de dólares) de la banca financiera garantizada por el gobierno.

Obama amenaza con suspensión de AGOA

La Ley de Crecimiento y Oportunidades de África [AGOA], fue establecida durante el último período presidencial de Bill Clinton. Está ostensiblemente diseñada para fomentar la exportación de capital al continente mientras proporciona acceso a los mercados de los productos procedentes de EUA y de naciones africanas.

La administración Obama está exigiendo cambios en la política comercial

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