

At Standing Rock ‘We’re not going anywhere’

By Monica Moorehead

Dec. 6 — In a full-blown North Dakota blizzard, thousands of veterans, many of whom were stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, led a march Dec. 5 to Highway 1806 Backwater Bridge in solidarity with the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Nations of Standing Rock. The bridge is the site where police viciously used concussion grenades, tear gas, water cannons and more against unarmed water protectors on Nov. 20.

The veterans mobilized delegations of thousands to come to Standing Rock the first weekend in December to act as human shields to protest the ongoing illegal construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline on Sioux land, a \$3.7 billion pipeline that will span four states. The ranks of those standing with Standing Rock swelled to an estimated 20,000 people.

The federal government’s Army Corp of Engineers (ACoE), which controls some of the land and permits for where the pipeline is being built, had issued a Dec. 5 “eviction notice” to water protectors to leave their encampments.

As the veterans — many of them Indigenous, along with hundreds of non-Native vets — descended upon Standing Rock, the ACoE suddenly issued a statement on Dec. 4 saying that they would not grant an easement for the pipeline to be drilled under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe, which is part of Standing Rock’s unceded treaty land. The Obama administration, largely silent on the crisis at Standing Rock for months, announced it was sending a federal mediator to monitor potential “violence” — having failed since August to take any action at all to stop the violence that was suffered repeatedly by water protectors.

Many in the water protector movement were joyous upon hearing this news from the ACoE, but their celebration was short-lived. Energy Transfer Partners and Sunoco Logistics Partners (SXL), Wall Street corporations backing the pipeline, announced several hours later that they were not beholden to the ACoE statement and that they planned to drill under Lake Oahe regardless of whether an easement had been granted.

ETP and SXL had filed an action in federal court on Nov. 14 and issued a press release Dec. 4, stating, “The White House’s directive today to the Corps for further delay is just the latest in a series of overt and transparent political actions by an administration which has abandoned the rule of law in favor of currying favor with a narrow and extreme political constituency.

“As stated all along, ETP and SXL are fully committed to ensuring that this vital project is brought to completion and fully expect to complete construction of the pipeline without any additional rerouting in and around Lake Oahe. Nothing this Administration has done today changes that in any way.”

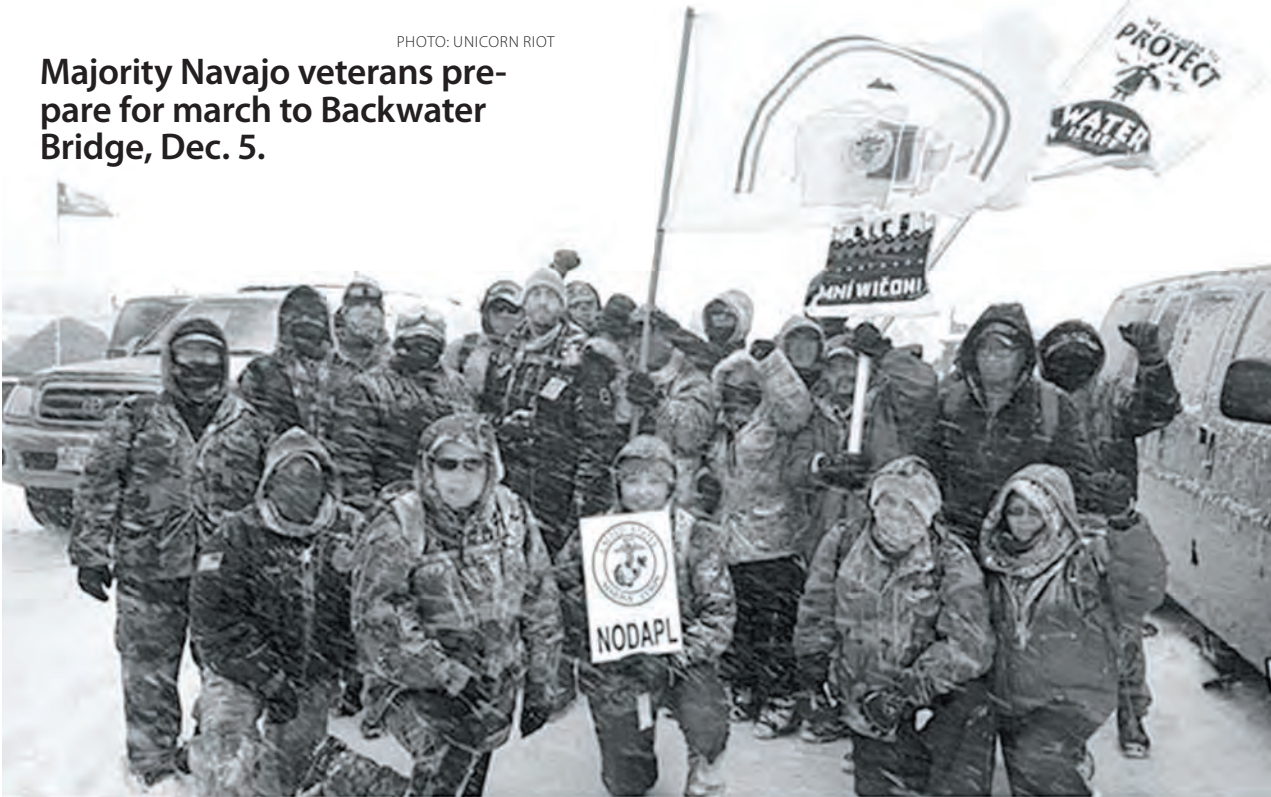
Indigenous Nations inspire broad solidarity

Since last April, members of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation have been in the forefront of uniting hundreds of other Indigenous Nations throughout the Americas to

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Majority Navajo veterans prepare for march to Backwater Bridge, Dec. 5.

PHOTO: UNICORN RIOT



Cuban masses salute Fidel

By Cheryl LaBash

Cuba’s nine-day, islandwide farewell to Fidel Castro ended Dec. 4 in Santiago de Cuba on the island’s southwest tip. The ashes of the undefeated historic leader of the Cuban Revolution were placed into a large granite boulder by Cuban President Raúl Castro. A simple black marker with gold letters FIDEL sealed the enclosure.

Fidel’s death on Nov. 25 coincided with the 60th anniversary of when 82 revolutionary fighters led by Fidel sailed in the yacht The Granma from Mexico to launch an armed struggle that liberated Cuba from the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. The memorial activities

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Mumia Abu-Jamal: Viva Fidel!
Remembering Fidel
Fidel and Billy Dean Smith
BLM: ‘The lessons we take from Fidel’

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WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Putting revolutionary theory into practice

LAMONT LILLY

At Workers World Party National Conference Nov. 11-13

Below is a slightly modified talk that Lamont Lilly gave at the Nov. 11-13, 2016 Workers World Party National Conference at the Shabazz Center in Harlem, N.Y.

I speak you to all today as an ancestral descendant of the Black Liberation movement, as a member of the working class, as a Black man from the U.S. South and as an organizer of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Black Lives Matter movement is still fairly new, still growing, still learning, still building, still fairly young in its theoretical and ideological formation. This movement of the vanguard and most oppressed, not only needs our support, it needs our wisdom and experience. It needs our revolutionary solidarity in a very sincere and tangible way. Thankfully, there are a lot of people who are beginning to wake up now and hit the streets.

But what we have to do now is connect our struggles. As revolutionaries and members of Workers World Party, we have to connect the Palestinian movement with the movement for Black lives. We have to connect the energy of Standing Rock and the Indigenous movement for sovereignty, with the Latinx and immigrant movement. We have to connect the energy of the LGBTQ movement with the environmental movement.

In many circles, these movements still see themselves as separate struggles of separate oppressed groups. Comrade Larry Holmes said how there are no working-class borders anymore. So what we need now is a formal and material shift of not only domestic solidarity, but also international solidarity: a revolutionary movement of multinational, multigendered freedom fighters. Workers World Party can be the bridge for that solidarity.

When we talk about “The Living Struggle: Revolutionary Practice Based in Revolutionary Theory,” we have that right here in this room, comrades. What I mean by that is for, example, Johnnie Stevens can tell you all about the struggle in South Africa because he has lived it. Cheryl LaBash can tell you all about the struggle in Cuba because

she has lived it. Berta can tell you all about the struggle in Puerto Rico and Venezuela because she has lived it. Sara Flounders can tell you all about the struggle in the Middle East because she has lived it. And our dear comrade, Brother Abayomi Azikiwe is a world-renowned Pan-Africanist scholar. There’s living struggle and revolutionary practice right here in this room. We just have to share it now.

I must thank my comrades Imani, Loan, Garrett, Maty and Andre for teaching me so much about the LGBTQ struggle. They’ve taught me so much and have really made me a better revolutionary. But I had to listen. And not just listen, but I had to want to listen. And I had to want to learn.

It’s the process of constantly learning that makes us better revolutionaries. Personally, I always want to relate to as many struggles as possible. Not just through a political context, but in a very sincere, deep-rooted, human way.

What we want is “revolution.” The only way to do that is by becoming better organizers. The only way to do that is getting out and meeting the people where they are. The only way to do that is to challenge our individual and organizational comfort level.

The union halls are great, but we have to get out to the hood. We have to make [Vladimir] Lenin relevant to the ghettos and barrios. And what that means is that we may have to give people the Black Panther Party first before we give them Marx and Engels, particularly in Black and Brown communities. Most of all, we have to be open-minded. We have to listen to new ideas and new perspectives. We have to be able to evolve without sacrificing our principles.

Just to share a brief example, while Monica and I were on the campaign trail, at one of our branch stops we met a young sister who had expressed her interest in “decolonizing the mind.” Though she did describe herself as an anti-racist and anti-capitalist, she wasn’t interested in Marx and Engels. And I can totally understand why.

For most Black people, that’s all we’ve taught: the work of old white men. Just because she was resistant to Karl Marx, doesn’t mean that she’s off target. “Decolonizing the mind” is one of the very first steps to liberation, especially for Black folk. She was speaking on many of the same

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Update from the frontlines in Charlotte, N.C.

By Lexa Rice
Charlotte, N.C.

On Nov. 30, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney’s office announced that Brentley Vinson, the pig who murdered Keith Lamont Scott on Sept. 21, won’t be indicted.

This did not surprise anyone who has been organizing to end police terror, as the capitalist state will never hold accountable the same agents who enforce its own violence. In the same fighting spirit as the day Keith Scott was murdered, but in smaller numbers, protesters hit the streets for several hours. The action was called by Charlotte Uprising, a coalition of groups fighting to end police terrorism, the same coalition that has been in the streets since the Charlotte rebellion started.

As the action began, protesters gathered on the steps of the Charlotte Metro Police Department headquarters, and speakers called attention to the cops behind us, watching us. We faced them and confront-



PHOTO: CHARLOTTE UPRISING

Charlotte Uprising in the streets, Nov. 30. ed them for their lies about their murder of Justin Carr, killed while protesting the night after Keith Scott was killed.

The big-business media painted this confrontation as a “conversation” to try to make CMPD look good. But this had nothing to do with an exchange of information. Rather, community members were publicly denouncing the police.

Protesters continued to turn up at the CMPD, then took the streets for about three hours. During the direct action, four core organizers from Charlotte Uprising were targeted and arrested, a clear repression tactic of the CMPD. Each of the four freedom fighters was trans or gender nonconforming, reflecting the fact that most of the central organizers of Charlotte Uprising are trans/GNC. All freedom fighters were out of jail by the next day.

In the recent release of the autopsy of Justin Carr, no gunpowder residue was found on Justin’s skin, though the CMPD’s story alleged another protester murdered him with a handgun. The people have been saying the whole time that

a rubber bullet, fired by police, killed Justin, and the evidence exposed the cop lie.

Many community members believe that a white pig, and not Brentley Vinson, who is Black, murdered Keith Lamont Scott. However, the Mecklenburg County DA’s office certainly did not make their decision not to indict based on absolving an individual cop, but on absolving the entire police force of any blame for enforcing white supremacy.

As Charlotte saw last year with the mistrial of killer cop Wes Kerrick, an indictment probably wouldn’t have led to a conviction. It certainly wouldn’t have addressed the fundamental system of capitalism that is to blame for Keith Scott’s murder. It would have given Scott’s family something to materially hold onto, but once again the state refuses to give dignity to the people or validity to the people’s justice.

The Charlotte Uprising has been one spontaneous struggle, one of many, to show that this racist capitalist system must be overthrown. □

Fred Hampton ipresente!



Dec. 4 marked the 47th anniversary of the cowardly assassination of Fred Hampton, the state chairperson of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party in Chicago. The dynamic, 21-year-old leader was shot multiple times — as he lay sleeping in his bed — by the Chicago police at the behest of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s counterintelligence program. Cointelpro, founded by the notorious FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, targeted the BPP for extermination using various tactics of infiltration, jailings and assassinations. Mark Clark, another BPP member, was also murdered in that police attack.

Hampton’s partner, Deborah Johnson, aka Akua Njeri, who survived the attack, was eight months pregnant at the time. Their son, Fred Hampton Jr., is a prominent leader in Chicago’s Black community.

Hampton was not only highly respected by BPP members around the country but also admired by the movement, as he promoted a broad united front of organizations in the struggle against racism, capitalism and imperialism. His death brought tens of thousands into the streets carrying banners like that of the then mass organization of Workers World Party, Youth Against War and Fascism, saying “Avenge the death of Chairman Fred!” It was Hampton who declared, “You can kill a revolutionary but you can’t kill a revolution.”

— Monica Moorehead

West Virginia Racist murder of Black teen

By John Ross
Charleston, W.Va.



PHOTO: METRO NEWS
James Means, 15 years old.

James Means — a 15-year-old unarmed Black youth — was killed by William Ronald Pulliam, a 62-year-old white man, on Nov. 22 in Charleston, W.Va. That this attack was motivated by racism is evident from Pulliam’s unapologetic statement after the shooting: “The way I look at it, that’s another piece of trash off the street.”

Means belonged to a program called Dream Chasers, helping “at-risk” children develop career goals. He hoped to become a car mechanic.

Pulliam claims that Means pulled a gun on him. But even the police say that was not the case. Means had no gun. Pulliam himself was barred from owning a firearm due to a prior domestic violence conviction. Pulliam felt the need to punish Means for being “guilty” of being Black. According to Teonno White, a friend of Means, Pulliam had a record of racism.

A vigil at the shooting site was held Nov. 23 to honor Means’ life. Family, friends and classmates were present. Local authorities are charging Pulliam with murder, and have asked the FBI to determine if the murder was a “hate crime.”

Obviously this was a crime of bigotry and racism. Again and again we hear

news stories of unarmed people of color being murdered by police, police-wannabes and civilian racists. Racism is an inherent component of life in Appalachia and, broadly, the United States.

The murder of James Means, a teenager, by a man nearly five decades his elder, must be seen in the context of the ongoing wave of violence against oppressed peoples that has followed the election of President-elect Donald Trump. He won West Virginia with a nearly 70 percent share of the votes cast.

There is a racist war raging against Black and Brown people, North to South, East to West, both domestically and abroad. Until we can establish revolutionary socialism across the globe, we cannot expect to see an end to racist killers, employed by both the state and vigilantes, who plague our society. □

Rev. Pinkney moved, again

By David Sole



Michigan political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney has once again been transferred to another facility. Only two and a half months after being sent from Marquette Branch Prison in far northern Michigan to West Shoreline Correctional Facility in Muskegon Heights, Rev. Pinkney was moved to the adjacent Brooks/Fremont Correctional Facility on Nov. 22 with no prior notice.

Rev. Pinkney, an African-American community leader from Benton Harbor, Mich., has spent almost two years behind bars. He was convicted and sentenced to two to 10 years in prison on Dec. 15, 2014, for allegedly altering dates on a recall petition against Benton Harbor’s then mayor. With absolutely no evidence against him, the all-white jury followed the judge and prosecutor’s advice that “you don’t need evidence to convict Pinkney.” The Michigan Court of Appeals agreed on July 26, finding that Rev. Pinkney’s activist histo-

ry showed “animosity” to the mayor and was enough to uphold the conviction.

Rev. Pinkney turned 68 on Oct. 27 and received over 250 birthday cards from supporters. He recently related that Minister Louis Farrakhan instructed Nation of Islam supporters in prison with Rev. Pinkney to do all they could to protect him. The Nation’s newspaper The Final Call has had articles supporting Rev. Pinkney. On Nov. 12 hundreds of members of Workers World Party heard a message from Rev. Pinkney to the WWP national conference in New York City. In it he thanked Workers World newspaper for its support and praised the WWP election campaign.

A national call has been issued for supporters to send Rev. Pinkney holiday greeting cards starting Dec. 1 in order to both boost his spirits and show the prison administration that people are watching how he is treated. Mail cards to Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, Brooks/Fremont Correctional Facility, 2500 S. Sheridan Drive, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance Leilani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights Imani Henry

Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice! Saladin Muhammad

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal

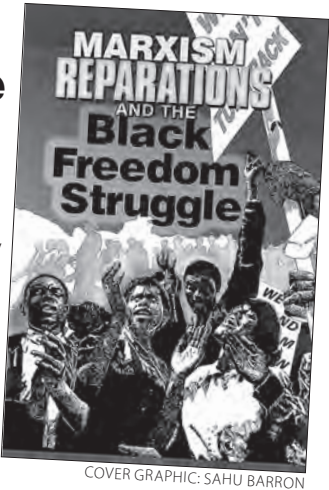
Racism & Poverty in the Delta Larry Hales

Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions Pat Chin

Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation Consuela Lee

Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker

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DETROIT

WW PHOTO: MIKE SHANE

Thousands across U.S. demand ‘\$15 AND A UNION’

By Kris Hamel

Workers held a National Day of Disruption for \$15 and a Union across the United States on Nov. 29, marking the fourth anniversary of the continuing Fight for \$15 movement. The most exploited and lowest-paid workers launched this battle in 2012 when some 200 workers boldly walked out at several fast food restaurants in New York City.

The movement has gained momentum ever since, as millions of workers struggle to survive on a federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour and on low wages in almost every sector of the workforce. Fight for \$15 and a Union now involves workers far outside the fast food industry, including health care, child care and home care workers, airport baggage handlers, other airport workers, Uber drivers, university adjuncts, education workers, bank tellers and numerous others. Many are workers who used to have a decent job, but who are now getting lower wages, reduced benefits, fewer hours or have no job at all.

The Service Employees Union, representing many low-wage workers, has backed the movement and poured resources into the national campaign. SEIU members are seen at most demonstrations, along with members of many other unions. Fight for \$15 workers have had strong connections that overlap with Black Lives Matter and immigrant rights organizations. Locally and nationally FF15 has broad support from community groups, clergy and faith-based organizations, progressive activists and a few politicians.

A Fight for \$15 press release states what the struggle has won: “All told, the Fight for \$15 has led to wage hikes for 22 million underpaid working families, including more than 10 million who are on their way to \$15/hour, by convincing everyone from voters to politicians to corporations to raise pay. The movement was credited as one of the reasons medi-

an income jumped last year by the highest percentage since the 1960s.”

This workers’ battle is likely to become much fiercer when the anti-worker, anti-poor policies of the Trump administration, which are surely coming, take effect.

From sunup to sundown

The FF15 demonstrations began Nov. 29 before the sun came up, starting in the East and moving westward as fast food outlets and other workplaces began opening for the day. Organizers say walkouts and protests occurred in over 340 cities. Disruptions and protests, including strikes, took place at 20 major airports, including Chicago O’Hare and Boston Logan international airports, with hundreds of workers being arrested throughout the day. These mass arrests included 100 people in Kansas City, Mo., 40 in Los Angeles, more than 50 in Durham, N.C., and 34 people in Cambridge, Mass.

Following are reports from several cities where Workers World writers and activists took part.

In **Philadelphia**, more than 100 workers and supporters came out in driving rain to demonstrate. Participants included members of the United Home Care Workers of Pennsylvania, Fight for 15 Pennsylvania, Working Educators Caucus of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, National Association of Letter Carriers and Coalition of Labor Union Women. Low-wage workers, other union members and supporters joined in. They marched and chanted from a McDonald’s restaurant in North Philly to Thomas Paine Plaza across from City Hall.

After several workers and organizers spoke about their struggle, the crowd walked to a nearby McDonald’s store. They carried placards with slogans and demands like “We won’t back down” and “Stop structural racism and police killings of Black people.”

Police blocked off the street in front of



WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

the store and eventually arrested 13 activists for “refusing to disperse.”

Super-exploited workers speak out

In Rockville, Md., the seat of Montgomery County and part of the **Baltimore-Washington, D.C.**, metropolitan area, political activists and religious people joined unionists to rededicate themselves to the fight for \$15 and a union. They gathered outside the Montgomery County Council offices despite rain and fog.

Unions with members present were UFCW locals 1994 and 400 and SEIU locals 500 and BJ32. Carlos Jimenez, the new president of the D.C. Metro AFL-CIO Council, spoke briefly.

The most poignant remarks were made by several Latinx and super-exploited workers organizing on their jobs. A young Safeway grocery clerk in Local 400 described how poor people shop for food. At the checkout she sees the way they have to put things aside or back on the shelf and the pain on their faces as they see the price has gone up on what they used to be able to buy.

A Latina brought the crowd to tears and to raise angry fists. Her landlord raised her rent \$100 a month. She and her spouse don’t believe they can make the rent increase, despite working three jobs. Eight dollars an hour is the “best” of their jobs. Now even the small comforts and joys in their life have to go, like the birthday party for their third-grader which they had to cancel.

Marchers order ‘Number 15 combo’

Low-wage workers in the metro **Detroit** area staged several militant actions. Before sunrise, an estimated 1,000 workers gathered in front of a fast food restaurant on the city’s west side, blocking a major street and sustaining 39 arrests.

Around noon, in an action organized by SEIU Local 1, more than 300 workers picketed at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in support of low-wage airport workers, demanding \$15 hour.

Later in the day, more than 600 workers gathered at another fast food eatery. They marched past the drive-through window, ordering the “Number 15 combo” as they shouted for \$15 an hour.

Pastor W.J. Rideout III, spokesperson for D15 as the local Fight for \$15 affiliate is known, promised more actions in the coming year. He summed up: “The minimum wage is not enough. People can’t

survive off of it. They can’t afford to pay their phone bills, their rent, their lights, their gas. That’s bad that they need three or four jobs in order to survive.”

‘Justice can’t wait!’

San Diego showed powerful community solidarity on Nov. 29. More than 1,000 people rallied downtown outside the Federal Building and then marched through the streets of the Gaslamp Quarter, a tourist district. The message was “Justice can’t wait! We won’t back down!”

Many people, representing a variety of organizations, spoke at the beginning rally. “An injury to one is an injury to us all” was a major theme. Speakers noted, “If one of us is homeless, it is an injustice to all. If one person is killed by police, it’s an injustice to us all.” Many issues were raised in this manner.

Indigenous people brought participants up to date on the thousands resisting at Standing Rock in North Dakota. There was a die-in where people lay on the ground while Chris Wilson from Alliance San Diego recited words from Maya Angelou’s poem, “Still I Rise.” It was a profound, dramatic expression of how human lives matter little in a society that places profits over people.

As the marchers surged through the streets, mini-rallies were conducted at several major intersections, halting traffic and alerting hundreds of bystanders to the marchers’ concerns. Drummers, led by Ground Zero Players and Indigenous drum circles, drew more people into the streets.

The march concluded in the middle of Park Boulevard, with San Diego City College on one curb and a McDonald’s restaurant on the other. The huge throng was slow in dispersing, with spontaneous speakouts addressing political questions and plans for future actions.

The National Action Network, Fight for \$15, Black Lives Matter, the Alfred Olan- go family, Alliance San Diego, San Diego 350, the San Diego Light Brigade, Workers World Party, the Committee Against Police Brutality, Unión del Barrio, UHU- RU, several labor unions and many churches were some of the organizations and groups represented. People Over Profits was one of the sponsoring groups.

Joe Piette, Kermit Leibensperger (a steward in Food and Commercial Workers Local 1994 in Maryland), Mike Shane and Gloria Verdieu contributed to this article.

Lamont Lilly Putting revolutionary theory into practice

Continued from page 2

political points that a revolutionary communist would speak on, just in a slightly different way. It was a teachable moment for me, and I think for the party as a whole.

When it comes to building solidarity, we have to welcome these differences. We have to respect people’s cultural differences, and really listen to them, especially when it comes to young people and helping them to find a place within the movement.

This process of giving and receiving, of meeting people right where they are is one of the most important ways that we can put our theory into a living revolutionary practice. It is one of the most important lessons I’ve learned this year: patience, listening, understanding.

Donald Trump may be in the White House now, but what we have is much better than the White House. We’ve got “the revolution” right here in this room. Let’s keep building. Let’s keep organizing. □

North Carolina backs down the KKK

By Dante Strobino
Raleigh, N.C.

There was once a time when the Klu Klux Klan could march in the thousands with impunity in state capitols across the U.S. South. But today mass movements across the country have pushed them back, despite the electoral win of bigoted Donald Trump. Millions of people in the streets, marching against Trump and all he stands for, have emboldened the social movement.

Over 2,000 people rallied in downtown Raleigh at Moore Square Park on Dec. 3 to protest the KKK and Trump — to forge ahead with struggles for people’s power and against racism, wars and all forms of oppression.

The Loyal White Knights of the KKK, a small group in Pelham, N.C., had announced they would be holding a Dec. 3 “victory kavalcade” at an unannounced location somewhere in North Carolina.

To oppose them, there were coordinated big rallies in Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro. People also rallied in Salisbury and Mebane. People from countless other cities across the state came to the



Raleigh and Charlotte rallies, truly expressing a statewide day of action.

Desmera Gatewood, emcee of the rally, stated the purpose of the rallies: “We refuse to back down against the endless police murders of Black people. We stand in solidarity with the Black community in Charlotte as they protest against the non-indictment of cop Brentley Vinson who killed Keith Lamont Scott. We stand in solidarity with our immigrant friends who now fear threats of deportation by

Trump. Our movement for not one more deportation will keep fighting ahead!”

Gatewood continued, “We stand against hate crimes and racist violence against our friends who are labeled terrorists by the state and Trump by virtue of being Muslim. We are also workers fighting for \$15 per hour and for collective bargaining rights for public workers! We oppose any new wars that Trump threatens to create. We move forward to advance our struggle for quality public schools and to defend all public services that Trump has threatened to shut down. We won’t let him shut anything down!”

The Triangle Unity May Day Coalition, representing a broad range of freedom fighters and organizations, including Black, Latinx, LGBTQ, Muslim, immigrant, women, workers and people with disabilities, called the rally to assert that #ThisIsOurNC — that the state belongs to the people, not to the forces of Wall Street or the wealthy, not to white supremacists and the police.

The day after the rally, the Triangle (Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh) area

People’s Assembly drew hundreds of new people eager to get involved in the militant social movement.

The rally came a few days after the Charlotte District Attorney decided not to indict Brentley Vinson, the white cop who killed Keith Lamont Scott. It came only a day after a South Carolina jury was deadlocked and failed to convict Michael Slager, a white former North Charleston policeman who killed unarmed Walter Scott. A mistrial was declared Dec. 5.

As for the KKK, they did finally confirm late Friday night that they would be in Pelham. A group of about 150 folks, organized through the Triangle Industrial Workers of the World, traveled there to directly confront the KKK, but they had moved their event. Chasing them to Danville, Va., the IWW took the streets and marched carrying a banner, reading, “John Brown Lives, Smash White Supremacy.” The reference is to the white freedom fighter who organized an armed 19th-century uprising against slavery.

The KKK never publicly displayed themselves in Danville. They later appeared briefly in Roxboro, N.C., with a small caravan of about 20 cars that rode through the town, flying U.S. flags, Confederate flags and KKK flags, for about five minutes with support from the local police.

The unified movement had forced the KKK to scuttle and run. As Manzoor Cheema, of Muslims for Social Justice, said at the Raleigh rally, “The gathering at the anti-KKK rally should not be the only time when people come together to challenge racism and oppression. People need to become part of a long-term movement to challenge all forms of oppression. Triangle People’s Assembly is building such a grass-roots movement that centers power to the most marginalized.” □

Harvard blockade bans neo-Nazi Bannon

By Steve Gillis
Boston

Hundreds of students, university workers, social justice activists and contingents of antifa and other anti-fascist activists from greater Boston blockaded the doors of the Kennedy School of Government in a cold, dark rain on Nov. 30, outraged that “liberal” Harvard had invited Stephen Bannon, former head of the white-supremacist and neo-Nazi Breitbart News, and other Trump “advisers” to a conference.

Protesters viewed the “War Stories: Inside Campaign 2016” discussion as a declaration of war on campus. They came ready to fight. Without a permit and in the face of police, the crowd packed the Kennedy School entrance, chanting, “No Trump, No KKK, No fascist USA!”

Cheers erupted when Tom Arabia and Zachary Lown, two organizers who put the demonstration together in 48 hours, announced that Bannon, a cowardly bigot, backed out last minute in the face of mass opposition.

They called on demonstrators to keep the pressure on Kellyanne Conway, Corey Lewandowski and other Trumpsters inside and to counter the Kennedy School’s dangerous attempt to give legitimacy to racists with continued #HarvardSoFascist actions.

NAACP Boston Executive Director Nia Evans applauded the mostly young, white crowd for coming out in such large numbers to fight racial hatred. Evans told the many new activists to “prepare to be in the streets every day to defend civil and human rights.”

Ed Childs, cook at Harvard for 42 years and leader of Local 26’s recently victorious 22-day dining service strike, said, “The Harvard Corporation needs to immediately rescind their invitation to the bigots and warmongers. This campus belongs to the students, to the faculty, to the workers, and we didn’t invite these fascists here. They need to get off our property, now!”

Nino Brown, of the Answer coalition, reminded people, “At no time in history has fascism ever been defeated by love.



Fascism can only be defeated by shutting it down!”

Many #JewishResistance and LGBTQ activists took the mic to denounce the Trump cabal’s Islamophobia, pledging to put their bodies on the line to defend Muslim and migrant sisters and brothers under attack.

Young attorney Jasmine Gomez, a protest organizer, announced the day’s demands to rousing cheers and fists: “1. No normalization of bigotry, no platforms for hate! 2. Fire Bannon! 3. No to the Trump agenda of racial profiling, “law and order” policing, and legalizing anti-women and anti-LGBTQ discrimination! 4. Make Harvard a sanctuary school! 5. Build our movement by standing together against hate!”

Steve Kirschbaum, vice president of United Steelworkers Local 8751 (Boston school bus drivers) and a Workers World Party leader, related Boston’s experience in fighting an earlier generation of white supremacists: “We’re a union that was born in the crucible of fighting fascism and racism. In 1974, we saw the ugly stench of neofascism.

“They called it ‘Restore Our Alienated Rights’ then. That’s bulls--t, as much as calling it ‘alt-right’ now is bullshit. These are Nazis and Klan, and you don’t debate them, you don’t give them a chance, you shut them down!”

The new generation of anti-fascists then streamed onto John F. Kennedy Street and into Memorial Drive, blasting, “Hey Trump, get out the way! Get out the way, Trump, get out the way!” □

People’s Power Assembly shows anti-Klan solidarity

Scores of activists from New York City’s People’s Power Assembly gathered in freezing weather at Columbus Circle on Dec. 3 to show solidarity with anti-Klan initiatives across the U.S. by loudly indicting police for the murder of Korryn Gaines in Randallstown, Md.

—Story and photo by Taryn Fivek



Buffalo kicks off month of ‘RESIST!’



To kick off a month of resistance to the whole Trump agenda, Buffalo activists turned out with signs on Dec. 1 at a bus transfer point downtown during the busy rush hour. They got enthusiastic respons-

es — including raised fists and “thank you” from a school bus full of African-American ‘tweens!

— Ellie Dorritie
WW PHOTO: IVY YAPPELLI

Fidel’s enduring lesson: Yes,

Continued from page 1

reviewed the history of the Cuban Revolution, which is synonymous with Fidel himself.

Although Fidel was 90, and had noted at the 7th Congress of the Communist Party in April that it was likely the last time he would address them, his death evoked tears, tributes, pledges and the cry, “Yo soy Fidel” (I am Fidel). As the depth of support for the Cuban Revolution became clear in the outpouring for Fidel, the vicious pronouncements parroted by capitalist media at the initial announcement of his death became muted. There would be no counterrevolutionary uprising.

Cubans streamed to the Jose Martí Memorial in Havana to express their condolences and pledged to support the revolution.

On the evening of Nov. 29, world leaders gathered with the Cuban people filling Havana’s Revolution Square. Just weeks after the second anniversary of the announcement that the U.S. and Cuba intended to resume diplomatic relations, the Barack Obama administration did not send an official delegation to the memorial.

Speakers at the public memorial in Havana showed Cuba what Fidel Castro’s leadership had meant, especially for Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. Amid remembrances and history, speaker after speaker condemned the continuing U.S. blockade of Fidel’s homeland.

Granma.cu reported on who spoke: Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa Delgado; President Jacob Zuma of South Africa; Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit of Dominica, also President Pro Tempore of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); President Salvador Sánchez Cerén of El Salvador; Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece; President Abdelkader Bensalah of Algeria; Vice President Li Yuanchao of the People’s Republic of China; Majid Ansari, vice president for Legal Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Russian State Duma; Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, chairwoman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar;



Workers World Party delegation and Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations, Silvia Rodriguez Abascal, second from left, Dec. 2.

President Evo Morales Ayma of Bolivia; President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico; President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua; and President Nicolás Maduro Moros of Venezuela.

Delegations from 60 countries confirmed representatives to the tribute, including presidents from Namibia, Zimbabwe and Cape Verde. World Federation of Trade Unions General Secretary George Mavrikos, Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization Executive Director Gail Walker and progressive actor Danny Glover were among the invited guests.

From Havana to Santiago, a Freedom Caravan retraced in reverse Fidel’s victory caravan after the Jan. 1, 1959, revolution ousted the brutal U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. As in 1959, the caravan demonstrated the revolution’s close ties with the masses of Cuba. Everywhere the streets were lined with people of all ages paying their last respects, recording the passage of the caravan on cellphones, crying, chanting, waving Cuban flags. The world saw the faces of a determined and revolutionary Cuba, nurtured, educated and healthy because of their socialist revolution.

Fidel’s ashes rested overnight in Santa Clara’s Che Guevara Memorial with the remains of Che and his internationalist comrades. In the last days of December 1958, Che’s Rebel Army column had broken the back of the dictatorship’s resistance by derailing a train full of arms and reinforcements in Santa Clara. Batista then fled to the Dominican Republic.

Now, thousands of people waving Cuban and July 26 Movement flags waited for

Fidel’s caravan, keeping an all-night vigil.

Santiago says goodbye

Fidel’s ashes were put to rest in Santiago. During an evening public gathering, Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento, secretary general of the Cuban Workers’ Federation, pointed out that with the triumph of Jan. 1, 1959, the working class had become essential to the construction of the new social project.

“Fidel always encouraged consultation with the labor movement regarding the most important tasks of the Revolution,” he added, concluding that, thanks to Fidel, Cuba is a dignified, independent, anti-imperialist country that practices solidarity. Fidel would live on in the hearts of all Cuban workers.

The presidents of the Association of Small Farmers and the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution were followed by a member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and the National Coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

The National Secretary of the Federation of Cuban Women, Teresa Amarelle, stated, “We Cuban women are the Revolution. Raúl, you can count on Cuban women.”

Miguel Barnet, president of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, noted, “Fidel articulated in a harmonious way the thinking of Bolívar, Martí and Marx, which made the Cuban Revolution unique in the world.”

Two young women — Jennifer Bello, president of the Federation of University Students, and Sucelys Morfa, secretary



Rainbow placard honors Fidel at the Cuban Mission in New York in Dec. 4. Rally.

of the Young Communist League — spoke right before Cuban President Raúl Castro. Granma.cu quoted Bello: “Cuba is ours to take care of and defend. Each university classroom will be our Moncada.”

Then Raúl Castro closed the last public event. In a speech on “Fidel’s enduring lesson is that, yes, it is possible,” he reviewed many accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution that would have seemed impossible, including defeating apartheid in Southern Africa. He then summarized:

“Fidel’s enduring lesson is that, yes, it is possible, that humans are able to overcome the harshest conditions as long as their willingness to triumph does not falter, they accurately assess every situation, and do not renounce their just and noble principles.”

He added that Fidel, “following the first disastrous battle at Alegría de Pío — which the day after tomorrow will celebrate its 60th anniversary — never lost faith in victory, and 13 days later, already in the mountains of the Sierra Maestra ... with just seven rifles and a fistful of combatants, stated: ‘Now we have won the war!’ [Applause and shouts of “Fidel, Fidel! That’s Fidel!”]

“This is the undefeated Fidel that brings us together through his example and demonstrates that, yes, it was possible, yes, it is possible, and, yes, it will be possible! [Applause and shouts of “Yes, we can!”] Yes, it will be possible to overcome any obstacle, threat or disturbance in our resolute effort to build socialism in Cuba, or in other words guarantee the independence and sovereignty of the homeland!”

Fidel’s final resting place is in Santiago de Cuba’s Santa Ifigenia Cemetery. Mariana Grajales is buried there. She and her family served in the Cuban wars of independence and against slavery in the late 1800s. Her son, Antonio Maceo, known in Cuba as the Bronze Titan, was killed in battle Dec. 7, 1896. A 52-foot-tall statue of him on a rearing horse dominates the Santiago plaza where the final public event was held.

Nearby are the Mausoleum of National Hero José Martí and Fidel’s compañeros in the struggle at Moncada, the Granma, the Rebel Army and from clandestine campaigns and internationalist missions.

It was through the socialist Cuban Revolution, led by Fidel Castro, that the struggle for liberation, independence and sovereignty, begun more than a century ago, was finally achieved. □



Fidel and Billy Dean Smith

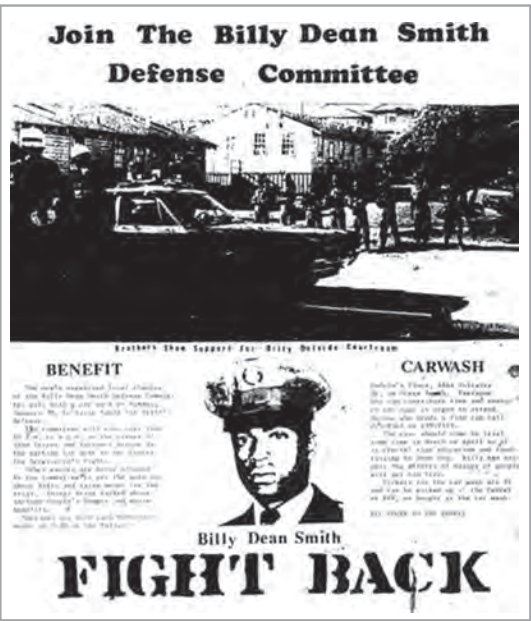
By John Catalinotto

It was Sept. 28, 1972. Angela Davis and Fidel Castro were speaking at a mass meeting in Havana. Davis, recently freed from U.S. prisons by worldwide support, had brought up the case of Pvt. Billy Dean Smith.

Smith, openly anti-war while stationed in Vietnam, stood accused of lobbing a fragmentation grenade on March 15, 1971, that killed two officers and wounded one at the U.S. Army base near Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. Smith, 24, a Black enlisted man from the Watts section of Los Angeles, was singled out by his racist “superiors” to die for the fragging.

When Fidel spoke, he said, “A man became a criminal. A man who refused to destroy schools and hospitals and dikes, who devoted himself to refusing to kill Vietnamese people, who refused to kill women and children, to burn homes, to torture and commit all acts of this type. They are demanding his head and therefore there is now a new symbol: Billy Dean Smith.

“Here is a new cause for the progressive movement and a new cause for inter-



national solidarity,” said Fidel, comparing Smith’s case with that of Lt. William Calley, who massacred hundreds of Vietnamese in My Lai. Fidel called for raising banners supporting Smith, just as the world’s people had done for Angela Davis. (tinyurl.com/zxqf6cq)

Eleven years earlier, Fidel declared he was a Marxist-Leninist. His immediate support for Billy Dean Smith showed he

meant it. Davis wrote in her autobiography that posters showed up all over Havana in the following days calling for freedom for Smith.

As a Marxist-Leninist, Fidel understood the class struggle also existed within the U.S. Armed Forces. He understood that the consciousness of the U.S. troops changed day by day. Encouraging this growing resistance could aid the Vietnamese liberation struggle. And much more.

At the time, Workers World Party and those of us who were organizing the American Servicemen’s Union also supported union member Billy Dean Smith. The ASU would back any rank-and-file troop who resisted the war — by whatever means were available.

Smith won his court-martial. According to ASU chairperson Andy Stapp, Fidel presented Smith “with one of those old 1959 Marine Corps caps that were worn by guerrillas fighting the dictator Fulgencio Batista in the Sierra Maestra mountains.” (transcript of January 2013 speech)

Catalinotto discusses the ASU in his forthcoming book, “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions.”

revolution is possible

Nov. 29, 2016 aerial Havana

A communist in the U.S. remembers FIDEL

By Monica Moorehead

In the third week of June 2000, I traveled to Havana, Cuba, as part of a U.S. delegation to participate in a roundtable discussion on the prison-industrial complex in the U.S. Some of the delegates included Pam Africa from the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia-Abu-Jamal; Gloria Rubac, a leader of the anti-death penalty movement in Texas; Rosemari Mealy, a former member of the Black Panther Party with Mumia in Philadelphia; attorney/activist Lennox Hinds; the late movement lawyer Leonard Weinglass; Gloria LaRiva ; and myself, representing Workers World Party.

Many Cubans were interested in the struggle to free political prisoners, especially the cases of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Shaka Sankofa, who was eventually executed in Texas just weeks after our visit. One of those interested Cubans was Comandante President Fidel Castro. We had the honor of meeting Fidel on June 19 after we filmed the roundtable discussion seen by millions of Cubans on the island. As we sat around a table in the office at his residence, he asked us many questions about Mumia and Shaka's cases, along with the state of the prisoner solidarity movement inside the U.S. We then took photos with him, along with an official group photo, as he signed books for Mumia and Shaka.

The next day during our tour of Old Havana, we were suddenly told by our guide that we had a "visitor" waiting for us, so we would have to cut our tour short. That "visitor" happened to be Fidel, waiting for us at our guest housing, quite an unexpected and indescribable surprise for us. As we walked into the room, he pointed to his watch and stated in Spanish and with a laugh that we kept him waiting, which put us all at ease. We then sat together with Fidel to watch our roundtable discussion as he discussed each of our comments in a very serious manner.

Thinking back to that moment, I reflect on how few leaders of a country would take time out of their overwhelmingly busy schedule to visit, not once but twice, individuals who are neither diplomats nor have any kind of official title. But how many leaders are like Fidel? A leader who was always about showing solidarity with the struggles of oppressed peoples, be it in Africa, Latin America or the U.S.

I have been very lucky to have visited Cuba four times, including as part of the



Pam Africa and Monica Moorehead with Fidel as he signs books for Mumia, June 19, 2000.

Venceremos Brigade in the late 1980s and the World Youth Festival in 1997, where I first met Black freedom fighter Assata Shakur. But the meeting with Fidel will always hold a special place in my heart and mind.

Upon hearing of his death on Nov. 25, all of those memories of being in his almost overpowering presence brought both an appreciative smile and tears. There will never, ever be another Fidel, and the best way to honor his legacy is to aspire to live like him — a revolutionary socialist dedicated to liberate all humankind from all the evils of imperialism.

Fidel presente! □

Para Fidel:
FIDEL CASTRO-RUZ
(1926-2016):

VIVA FIDEL!

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Fidel Castro, father of the 1959 Cuban Revolution, has died, after 90 years of a life of rebellion and resistance. That this bold revolutionary figure lived as long as he did is itself a victory, for he outlived at least 11 assassination attempts launched by the CIA — 11 times that the U.S. government has admitted to!

As a young man, he earned a law degree, but he never practiced; he took the revolutionary path — and began a struggle against the U.S.-supported Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista. That struggle, which led to the fall of Batista, inspired people all around the world.

One of those inspired was the late Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, who, in a 1967 jail interview, noted: "When Fidel Castro started the Revolution, along with Che Guevara, with 12 of them altogether, they realized that they wouldn't be able to topple the oppressive regime in Cuba. What they were essentially was an educational body. They engaged with the Army, they fought with the Army, and they showed the people that the army was not bulletproof, that the police were not bulletproof. And

that Batista's regime was not a regime that was impossible to topple, so the people began to feel their strength."

Fidel was a friend of Malcolm X, and a lifelong friend of Africa. The racist regime of apartheid South Africa got whipped in Angola, with tens of thousands of Cuban troops in the field. The notorious battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, was where South Africa saw the bloody handwriting on the wall.

Castro once said: "African blood flows in our veins. Many of our ancestors came as slaves from Africa to this land. As slaves they struggled quite a great deal. They fought as members of the liberating army of Cuba. We're brothers and sisters of the people of Africa and we are ready to fight in their behalf."

Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution never bowed to the U.S. empire — not once in over half a century.

The Cuban Revolution produced the finest educational system in the Caribbean and much of the world. They have sent their doctors all around the Earth.

The world mourns the passing of a giant.

Fidel Castro-Ruz, Comandante de la Revolución. ¡Presente! □

BLACK LIVES MATTER Lessons from Fidel

Statement from Black Lives Matter, Nov. 26.

We are feeling many things as we awaken to a world without Fidel Castro. There is an overwhelming sense of loss, complicated by fear and anxiety. Although no leader is without their flaws, we must push back against the rhetoric of the right and come to the defense of El Comandante. And there are lessons that we must revisit and heed as we pick up the mantle in changing our world, as we aspire to build a world rooted in a vision of freedom and the peace that only comes with justice. It is the lessons that we take from Fidel.

From Fidel, we know that revolution is sparked by an idea, by radical imaginings, which sometimes take root first among just a few dozen people coming together in the mountains. It can be a tattered group

of meager resources, like in Sierra Maestra in 1956 or St. Elmo Village in 2013.

Revolution is continuous and is won first in the hearts and minds of the people and is continually shaped and reshaped by the collective. No single revolutionary ever wins or even begins the revolution. The revolution begins only when the whole is fully bought in and committed to it. And it is never over.

Revolution transcends borders; the freedom of oppressed people and people of color is all bound up together wherever we are. In Cuba, South Africa, Palestine, Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique, Grenada, Venezuela, Haiti, African America and North Dakota. We must not only root for each other but invest in each other's struggles, lending our voices, bodies and resources to liberation efforts which may seem distant from the immediacy of our daily existence.

Revolution is rooted in the recognition that there are certain fundamentals to which every being has a right, just by virtue of one's birth: healthy food, clean water, decent housing, safe communities, quality healthcare, mental health services, free and quality education, community spaces, art, democratic engagement, regular vacations, sports and places for spiritual expression are not questions of resources, but questions of politi-

cal will and they are requirements of any humane society.

Revolution requires that the determination to create and preserve these things for our people takes precedence over individual drives for power, recognition and enrichment.

A final lesson is that to be a revolutionary, you must strive to live in integrity. As a Black network committed to transformation, we are particularly grateful to Fidel for holding Mama Assata Shakur, who continues to inspire us. We are thankful that he provided a home for Brother Michael Finney, Ralph Goodwin, and Charles Hill, asylum to Brother Huey P. Newton, and sanctuary for so many other Black revolutionaries who were being persecuted by the American government during the Black Power era. We are indebted to Fidel for sending resources to Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and attempting to support Black people in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina when our government left us to die on rooftops and in floodwaters. We are thankful that he provided a space where the traditional spiritual work of African people could flourish, regardless of his belief system.

With Fidel's passing there is one more lesson that stands paramount: when we are rooted in collective vision, when we bind ourselves together around quests for infinite freedom of the body and the soul, we will be victorious. As Fidel ascends to the realm of the ancestors, we summon his guidance, strength, and power as we recommit ourselves to the struggle for universal freedom. Fidel vive! □



Raúl Castro closed the last public event. In a speech, "Fidel's enduring lesson is that, yes, it is possible," he reviewed many accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution.



At Standing Rock: ‘We’re not going anywhere’

Continued from page 1

stop this pipeline that threatens the desecration of ancestral lands, violates the 1851 and 1868 treaties signed between them and the U.S. government upholding the Sioux people’s right to land sovereignty, and poses a real threat of poisoning the water supply for at least 17 million people, with the potential of inevitable pipeline leaks.

Facing down horrific violence on the part of the Morton County, N.D., Sheriff’s Department, along with that of the G4S Private Security Firm (armed mercenary thugs), thousands of water protectors have braved tear gas, hypothermia from freezing water shot out of water cannons in below-zero temperatures, bites from vicious attack dogs, rubber bullets and more from the repressive state.

Complicit in this violence have been the pro-establishment media like CNN, MSNBC, Washington Post and New York Times that have whitewashed any major coverage of this significant development that shines a bright light on environmental racism for profit. When there was any coverage at all by the mainstream media, their reporting was often shamefully biased by falsely accusing unarmed water protectors of perpetuating violence

against the highly militarized state police and mercenaries.

But in social media, especially Twitter and Facebook, there were reports on every delegation coming to Standing Rock in the ones and twos, in the hundreds or even thousands. That resulted in anywhere between 8,000 to 20,000 or more people in the various camps, all dedicated to halting the pipeline construction. Except for that communication, this important struggle could have succumbed to isolation and alienation which always historically favor the interests of the 1%.

The steadfast resistance to the DAPL by the Sioux and other Indigenous Nations fighting the powers-that-be for their land and resources has inspired organizations and individuals to travel to Standing Rock to show solidarity.

This includes delegations representing Black Lives Matter, Palestinian solidarity, labor and environmental groups, along with political figures like Cornel West and Rev. Jesse Jackson; hip-hop artists; actors Shailene Woodley, Mark Ruffalo, Jane Fonda and James Cromwell; and University of Wisconsin basketball player Bronson Koenig. Solidarity #NoDAPL actions all over the U.S. continue to attract thousands of activists from Boston to New York to Detroit to

Los Angeles, and international support has been substantial.

An apology from veterans

And then there are the veterans led by Wesley Clark Jr., who traveled to Standing Rock from many states in cars and vans to oppose the DAPL. The veterans built barracks at the campsites to keep out the below-zero temperatures.

Before the Dec. 5 march to the Backwater Bridge took place, the veterans participated in a prayer service where Clark, speaking on behalf of the veterans, made a public apology on bended knee to Indigenous elders for U.S. genocidal crimes committed against Indigenous peoples, their land, their culture and resources. A Sacred Fire ceremonial dance led by Indigenous veterans took place at Oceti Sakowin Camp near the bridge.

Indicating that this is just another phase of the #NoDAPL struggle despite winter

temperatures, John Bigelow, head of the Oceti Sakowin camp’s media committee and a member of the Standing Rock Sioux, stated, “As water protectors, we have a responsibility to be stewards of the water. We declare here today, we are not going anywhere.” (tinyurl.com/je3l4km)

Loan Tran, a member of the Durham Branch of Workers World Party who recently traveled to Standing Rock as part of a North Carolina delegation, told WW: “What we saw in Standing Rock was not just a struggle to stop a pipeline, but a continuation of the fight for Indigenous sovereignty that Native people have been waging for centuries. With tens of thousands of people working and living in the encampment, the struggle at Standing Rock is a reminder and example to us all of the power and necessity of solidarity with national liberation movements everywhere.”

Mahtowin Munro contributed to this article.

Peltier’s message on Day of Mourning

Day of Mourning
November 24, 2016
Greetings, my relatives,

Here we are again. This time the year is 2016. It has been more than 41 years since I last walked free and was able to see the sun rise, and sit and feel the earth beneath my feet. I know there have been more changes then I can even imagine out there.

But I do know that there is a struggle taking place as to whether this country will move on to a more sustainable way of life. This is something we wanted to have happen back in the seventies.

I watch the events at Standing Rock with both pride and sorrow. Pride that our people and their allies are standing up and putting their lives on the line for the coming generations, not because they want to, but because they have to. They are right to stand up in a peaceful way. It is the greatest gathering of our people in history, and has made us more connected than ever before. We need to support each other as we make our way in these times.

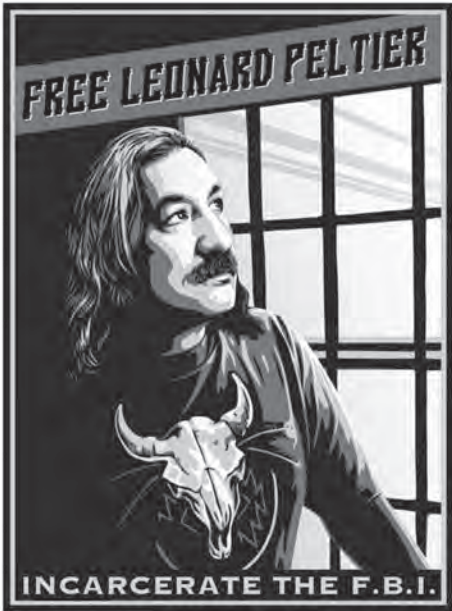
Water IS life, and we cannot leave this issue for our children and grandchildren to deal with when things are far worse for the natural world than they are now.

And Mother Earth is already in struggle. And I feel sorrow for the water protectors at Standing Rock because these last few days have brought a much harsher response from the law enforcement agencies there, and our people are suffering.

At least they are finally getting attention of the national media.

My home is in North Dakota. The Standing Rock people are my people. Sitting Bull lies in his grave there at Fort Yates. My home at Turtle Mountain is just a few hours north of Standing Rock, just south of Manitoba, Canada.

I have not seen my home since I was a boy, but I still hold out hope of returning there for whatever time I may have left. It is the land of my father and I would like



to be able to live there again. And to die there.

I have a different feeling this year. The last time I felt this way was 16 years ago, when I last had a real chance for freedom. It is an uneasy feeling. An unsettling one. It is a hard thing to allow hope to creep into my heart and my spirit, here in these cold buildings of stone and steel.

On one hand, to have hope is a joyful and wonderful feeling, but the downside of it for me can be cruel and bitter.

But today I will choose hope.

I pray that you will all enjoy good health and good feelings, and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done and continue to do for me and for our Mother Earth.

Please keep me in your prayers and thoughts as these last days of 2016 slip away.

I send you my love and my respect for all of you who have gathered in the name of Mother Earth and our unborn generations. I stand with you there in spirit.

Doksha.
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier

Bank pipeline to DAPL blocked



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Over 200 people joined a rally and march in Philadelphia on Dec. 1 in solidarity with water protectors and Indigenous warriors at Standing Rock, N.D. The event took place 10 days after police and National Guard violently attacked a peaceful gathering at Standing Rock with tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper spray, concussion grenades and water cannons in subfreezing conditions, injuring hundreds of people. Supporters also came out to oppose the eviction notice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, effective

Dec. 5, threatening to “close” all lands north of the Cannonball River, where Oceti Sakowin ancestral and treaty land and the encampments are located.

Demonstrators marched with signs, chants and banners from the hated Rizzo statue in Thomas Paine Plaza to the TD Bank at Broad and Sansom where a group of supporters was blocking the entrance to the bank. They then proceeded past the offices of the Army Corps of Engineers, heavily protected by a line of cops, to a “die-in” at the busy intersection of Market and Juniper next to City Hall. The marchers ended the protest at Thomas Paine Plaza. □

Virginia for Standing Rock

Dozens of community members from throughout the Roanoke Valley of Virginia participated in a Solidarity with Standing Rock protest in Roanoke Dec. 3. Gathering at the square at City Market, protesters held a speak-out and then marched to a nearby Wells Fargo to demand the bank stop funding the Dakota Access and other pipelines.

-- Story and photo by WW Staff.



Syria and the Trump administration

Excerpted from a talk by Sara Flounders, co-coordinator of the Hands Off Syria Coalition, to a Dec. 2 coalition meeting in New York.

The Hands Off Syria Coalition is part of a continuing effort to develop basic political unity on the massively destructive war in Syria and the way forward. The coalition's "Urgent Message for peace on the eve of wider war" has now gained thousands of signers. Hundreds of peace and social justice organizations have endorsed its Points of Unity.

The statement focuses on the U.S. role: "We raise our voices against the violence of war and the enormous pressure of war propaganda, lies and hidden agendas that are used to justify this war and every past U.S. war. ... We commit to working together to help achieve four very basic demands: "An immediate end to the U.S. policy of forced regime change in Syria ... including respect for the independence and territorial integrity of Syria.

"An immediate end to all foreign aggression against Syria. An immediate end to all military, financial, logistical and intelligence support by the U.S., NATO and their regional allies to all foreign mercenaries and extremists in the Middle East region. An immediate end to economic sanctions against Syria."

Maybe the most important point for unity here in the center of imperialism is that "It is not our business to support or oppose President Assad or the Syrian government. Only the Syrian people have the right to decide the legitimacy of their government. The fundamental rights of the Syrian people to independence, na-

tional sovereignty and self-determination ... include the right of the Syrian government to request and accept military assistance from other countries."

New administration, same system

Big political changes can catch some of us off guard. Hope can lull people into the illusion that a new U.S. administration has a secret plan for peace.

One month ago, the media were unanimous: Clinton's electoral victory was a sure thing. All who know Clinton's criminal role in Syria, Libya and in NATO's expansion had every reason to be concerned. Donald Trump's electoral victory came as a big surprise.

Now, all the same media pundits, Republicans and Democrats, are telling us that we must give the racist bigot Trump a "chance."

We cannot "give a chance" to a president who says: "I'm the most militaristic person there is," "I always said, take the oil," "I love war in a certain way," "I would bring back a hell of a lot worse than waterboarding," and "Why have nuclear weapons if we are not going to use them?"

Yet he claims to be a deal maker, willing to talk to Putin and Assad.

U.S. wars are not just policy mistakes. A change of face does not change the capitalist system, a system that breeds war, that lives off the profits of conquest and global domination.

The United States is an empire in de-

cline. It is decaying and desperate to hold its global position and profits. It has an enormous military machine.

The U.S. policy of regime change has been an all-out effort to inflame sectarian, cultural and religious divisions, arouse fanatical groups and the hatred of one group against another. It has meant arming and unleashing mercenaries and extremists whose only goal is to pull Syria apart and bring down this progressive, secular Arab state.

While opposing the war criminal Clinton, we need to remember that for 18 months, Trump rallies focused on using racism; attacks on immigrants, LGBTQ people and Muslims; and the most offensive conduct toward women.

Trump's appointees

Much publicity was given to Trump's claims that he does not intend to expand the war in Syria. But we should view with great apprehension the naming of generals, far-right extremists and known fascist forces, including Steve Bannon, Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions and retired generals Michael Flynn and James Mattis, to key cabinet positions.

We need to prepare for ramped-up war at home and abroad.

Mattis is a warhawk on Russia, Iran and Syria. From 2010 to 2013 he was at the helm of the military's Central Command, overseeing all military activity in the Middle East.

Every U.S. war is a racist war for domination, not for democracy or human rights.

The great frustration of U.S. imperi-

alism is that, even after almost six years of unrelenting war, a majority of Syrians support President Bashar al-Assad. Otherwise, the government would have collapsed.

I've traveled to Syria twice during these years of war. What made the greatest personal impact was seeing the enormous determination of the people to resist the efforts to pull Syria apart. More than a third of the population is displaced. They flee en masse toward the government and away from the areas under the control of marauding mercenaries.

Trump has tweeted about improved relations with Russia. He has also spoken of secret plans to end the war in Syria and of putting boots on the ground to defeat ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

For over two years the U.S., France, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have bombed Syria, supposedly to attack ISIS. They have hardly scratched ISIS but have destroyed much of Syria's infrastructure. Saudi Arabia's role in arming ISIS is hardly a secret.

A section of the U.S. ruling class hopes to tempt Russia into a tactical alliance against China or a break with Iran and Syria. This is the basis of Trump's thin promises of talks and deals with Russia.

We need to build a movement based on the forces fighting for change right here in the U.S.: Refuse to align with racists and militarists of either party. Instead, consciously align with the Black Lives Matter movement, the resistance at Standing Rock, with women and LGBTQ people, with immigrants and Muslims. □

Hands Off Syria kicks off speaking tour

By Taryn Fivek
New York

It was standing-room-only at the Manhattan Theatre Club. People not able to find seats stood in the hall or in the back to hear members of the Hands Off Syria Coalition report on what the next U.S. president might mean for the war in Syria.

The panel discussion on Dec. 2 kicked off a national speaking tour that will headline Eva Bartlett, an independent journalist, along with local activists in different cities. Also participating were Dr. Ghias Moussa of the Syrian American forum, Margaret Kimberley of the Black Agenda Report and Sara Flounders representing the International Action Center. The tour will also bring speakers to audiences from Detroit to Denver and several cities in California. Bahman Aziz of the U.S. Peace Council chaired the event.

Bartlett, who had just returned from East Aleppo, spoke about how Syrians were pleased to hear that there are people in the West who support their struggle against foreign-backed fighters and can see through the haze of corporate media fog surrounding the war.

Moussa told the audience what life in Syria was like before the war began to tear the country apart. Bread was subsidized, education was free and sectarianism was kept in check by the state.

Kimberley drew connections between racism in the United States and the racism inherent in the foreign policy of destruction that has decimated Libya, Haiti and Syria.

Flounders spoke of the need to resist Donald Trump, as his foreign policy is



Eva Bartlett and Dr. Ghias Moussa.

likely not to deviate too much from the previous administration and that, if anything, the violence and grief the Syrian people have suffered

over the last years will increase under a Trump presidency if there is no resistance.

Many attending were curious about how the new presidency might affect the situation in the Middle East. While Hillary Clinton was certainly openly belligerent in her plans for Syria, some have assumed that Trump will be less exuberant about continuing the U.S. government's decades long brutal onslaught against the people of the Middle East and North Africa.

As many of the panelists pointed out to the audience, the U.S. history of war across the world is not new, and indeed knows no party affiliation. In the Gulf War of 1990-1991, President George H.W. Bush, a Republican, sent U.S. forces to Kuwait and later invaded Iraq. Sanctions on Iraq were continued under President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, and a second war against Iraq



Margaret Kimberley and Sara Flounders.



WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL
Hands Off Syria on Dec 2.



Bahman Aziz.

Several cities in California: Dec. 14-18.

For detailed information about each of these events, please visit the coalition's website at HandsOffSyriaCoalition.net.

was launched in 2003 by George W. Bush, a Republican. The same bipartisan treatment has been handed out to Palestine, as year after year the

U.S. government funds and arms the Israeli apartheid machine that dumps white phosphorus on hospitals in Gaza.

The panelists indicated that we shouldn't expect much of a change between a Democrat like Obama and a Republican like Trump when it comes to the war in Syria. All were in agreement that we need to build a strong coalition that is ready to take militant action against Trump's racism and imperialism.

More dates for the Hands Off Syria Campaign speaking tour are:

Washington, D.C.: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

National Webinar: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 9 p.m.

Newark, N.J.: Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

New Haven, Conn.: Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

Boston: Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.



WORKERS WORLD ☆
editorials

Carrier ‘deal’: Liars, damned liars and politicians

It is not even Inauguration Day and the president-elect is making speeches about the jobs he claims to have saved at a Carrier plant in Indiana. Supposedly, this deal, which he says saved 1,100 jobs that the company planned to move to Mexico, was negotiated after Trump made a phone call to the head of parent company, United Technologies.

A few details were left out when this Rust Belt Cinderella story hit the presses. Like the fact that 300 of those jobs were clerical positions that weren't going anywhere. And the fact that UT is still axing 1,300 jobs at this and another Indiana facility. Plus, a number of nearby plants are also about to close. The vice president-elect, current Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, isn't lifting a finger to save those 14,000 jobs.

Indiana taxpayers are forking over \$7 million in tax breaks — which could cost more losses in public sector jobs — to keep the Carrier factory open.

Now other companies will have their hands out. They will be whining that “Carrier got their present, I want mine.” At a speech in the plant, the president-elect promised not only Carrier but all of the country's bosses that under him they would get close to the lowest possible

tax rate. The move would take them down from 35 percent to 15 percent. That loss of tax revenue will devastate already cash-starved urban and rural communities.

Trump added that regulations that impinge on profit-gouging would soon be a thing of the past. In other words, no more fair labor standards, no more Occupational Health and Safety Administration rules, no more civil rights laws, no more environmental protections. He promised tax breaks and a gutting of “nonsense” regulations. He'll dangle carrots for the rich when they threaten to leave the country. That is the essence of Trump's bogus jobs program.

Oh, there's one more thing the president-elect neglected to mention. This crony capitalist owns stock in Carrier's parent company, United Technologies,

The Carrier deal exposes him — to paraphrase Mark Twain — as a liar, damned liar and a politician. That's besides being a fascist, racist, Islamophobic, sexist, anti-LGBTQ, xenophobic, anti-people-with-disabilities, union-hating pig, whose only concern is his self-interest and that of his class.

He is not our president! Capitalism is not our system! All out for the Counter Inaugural on January 20! □

Dec. 9 in Philly

Stop hep C, fight for Mumia!

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

A street rally and indoor panel discussions here on Dec. 9 will focus attention on a major health care crisis, made worse by polluted and even toxic water in state prisons. Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's supporters are raising the issue of untreated hepatitis C, which affects 7,000 prisoners in Pennsylvania.

Thirty-five years after being unjustly incarcerated and sentenced to death row and later having his sentence converted to life in prison without parole, Abu-Jamal, who suffers from untreated hep C, is once again threatened with a state imposed “death sentence.”

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has refused to provide lifesaving drugs that could cure him and the other prisoners.

The rally starts at 3 p.m. at the Frank Rizzo statue at 15th Street and JFK Boulevard, chosen to express solidarity with the #FrankRizzoDown campaign. The REAL Justice Coalition started the campaign to have this statue of notoriously racist former mayor and top cop Rizzo taken down.

An indoor rally follows at 6 p.m. at the Arch Street United Methodist Church. Speakers will discuss the health care crisis impacting prisoners and communities alike. Lawyers will also give updates on Abu-Jamal's legal appeals.

Pam Africa, minister of confrontation for the MOVE organization, told Workers World, “We got Mumia off death row. Now we are demanding an immediate hep C cure for Mumia and other Pennsylvania hep C infected prisoners. Mumia and many others are very sick and will die

‘Mad Dog’ at the Pentagon

“It's fun to shoot some people,” declared “Mad Dog” James Mattis to an audience of laughing U.S. military officers in occupied Iraq in 2005. (ABC News, Dec. 1)

Donald Trump just chose this retired Marine four-star general to be Secretary of Defense.

If anybody thought the war danger would diminish with billionaire Trump in the White House, his pick for the Pentagon should be a wake-up call.

Mattis is a superhawk obsessed with Iran. Mattis told an April 22 meeting at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington, D.C., think tank, that the three biggest threats facing the U.S. are “Iran, Iran, Iran.” (Politico, Dec. 4)

Mattis denied that Iran's 80 million people belong to a country, calling Iran “a revolutionary cause devoted to mayhem.” The brass hat even made the absurd claim that Iran is in cahoots with the Islamic State group.

Overthrowing Syria's elected government and confronting Russia are on the “Mad Dog” agenda as well.

The résumé of the future Pentagon boss includes war crimes. In May 2004 Mattis gave the order to bomb a wedding party in the Iraqi village of Mukareeb. Forty-two children and adults were slaughtered. (London Telegraph, Dec. 2)

A month earlier, forces under Mattis's command attacked the large Iraqi city of Fallujah in retaliation for the deaths of four Blackwater mercenaries. Of the 736 Iraqi people killed, at least 60 percent were children and women, according to journalist Dahr Jamail, who spoke to lo-

cal doctors. (Huffington Post, Dec. 3)

So it's no surprise that Mattis wants to keep the U.S. concentration camp at Guantánamo open. His bigoted and hateful views can be seen in the book “Warriors and Citizens: American Views of Our Military,” which he co-edited with Kori N. Schake.

He and Schake criticized “allowing open homosexuals to serve and opening combat assignments to women.” They also claimed that a culture of “victimization” was being created within the military because of attention paid to casualties, suicides and veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mattis and Schake even attacked President Barack Obama for being more likely to visit the wounded at Bethesda Naval Hospital than to go to a military base. They claimed too much of the war budget was being spent on “pay and benefits to the detriment of training, equipment and numbers in the force.”

Neither his war crimes nor his reactionary views have stopped newspapers and commentators, including those who opposed Trump, from hailing Mattis as a “warrior intellectual.”

Since Mattis was in active service less than seven years ago, he will need a congressional waiver to become defense secretary. Less than four years ago President Obama fired him from the Pentagon's Central Command.

But civilian control over the military has become a myth, as Workers World Party Chairperson Sam Marcy pointed out in “Generals over the White House.”

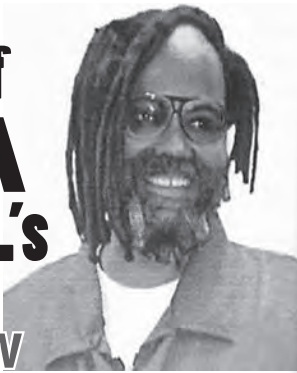
“Wherever the military lays its hands, the more it invests its field of operations with repressive, anti-democratic and totalitarian measures,” wrote Marcy. “Nothing escapes their long, grasping reach.”

Only the people can stop the two mad dogs, Mattis and Trump.

All out to J20Resist Counter-Inauguration!

Find out more at workers.org/j20/ □

**On the 35th
Anniversary of
MUMIA
ABU-JAMAL'S
FRAMEUP,
ARREST & NOW
MUMIA'S LIFE IS IN
IMMEDIATE DANGER**



**BE IN
Philadelphia
Fri ► Dec 9
3 pm Rally & March
Frank Rizzo statue
15th St. and JFK Blvd.
5:30 pm Indoor event
Arch Street United Methodist Church
Corner Arch St. and Broad St.
Food will be available for donation
6 pm – 9 pm Program
215.724.1618
Mobilization4Mumia@gmail.com**

if the state keeps refusing to treat them.”

DOC's murderous ‘protocol’

In December 2015, during a court hearing on Abu-Jamal's behalf before Federal Judge Robert D. Mariani, the Pennsylvania DOC accidentally let slip that the state's “protocol” withholds hep C treatment until a prisoner suffers life-threatening severe sclerosis of the liver. Only 50 prisoners have received treatment.

While denying Abu-Jamal's lawsuit, Mariani declared that the state's protocol was unconstitutional. Lawyers for Abu-Jamal and other prisoners have charged that even delaying treatment is “cruel and unusual punishment.”

New antiviral medications Harvoni and Sovaldi with 95 percent cure rates for hep C have been available since 2013. However, the pharmaceutical industry charges around \$94,000 for a 12-week course, putting it out of reach for millions of people, including prisoners if the state won't pay.

“There are 3.2 million people in the United States living with Hepatitis C. This is unacceptable when there is a cure for the illness,” said Prison Health News' Teresa Sullivan, who will be speaking on Dec. 9.

The latest guidelines from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease and the Center for Disease Control recommend that all chronic hep C patients be given the antiviral drugs without regard to severity of symptoms. Despite these guidelines, less than 1 percent of U.S. prisoners are receiving treatment for hep C.

City Council Resolution

At SCI Mahanoy and SCI Frackville water is so toxic that prisoners cannot drink it or bathe in it. This crisis and similar unresolved water problems at other prisons prompted the Philadelphia City Council to call on Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania state Legislature to “ensure that individuals incarcerated and working in state prisons have access to clean water and proper health services.”

Dec. 9 demonstrators will march to Wolf's Philadelphia office, read the City Council resolution and deliver thousands of petitions demanding hep C treatment for Abu-Jamal and other prisoners.

‘Let's build movements’

The Dec. 9 program will also give updates on a new lawsuit, which could reopen all of the decisions made against Abu-Jamal since 1998.

The program will conclude with a discussion on the tasks ahead to win Mumia's freedom. It also will respond to Abu-Jamal's call to build a united front to confront the incoming national racist billionaire administration.

“As the Trump presidency takes shape ... let us build movements. Let's lift our hearts. Let us remake our history with the brick and mortar of struggle,” Abu-Jamal said on Prison Radio on Nov. 21. □

S. Korea swept by massive protests

By Deirdre Griswold

Dec. 5 — The downfall of the regime in south Korea seems imminent.

For the sixth Saturday in a row, huge crowds gathered on Dec. 3 in many cities and towns to demand the president's impeachment for a corruption scandal. The People's Emergency Action for Bringing Down the Park Geun-hye Regime estimated that 2.12 million people were involved in candlelight rallies across south Korea, including 1.7 million in Seoul and tens of thousands in Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju and other cities.

Aerial photos of the downtown Seoul rally showed dense crowds clogging the streets in every direction. The latest opinion polls put President Park's approval rating at only 4 percent.

Daily protests are planned for the week beginning Monday, Dec. 5, building up to a vote on impeachment to be held that Friday in the National Assembly.

The Korea Times reported on Dec. 5: "The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), one of the nation's two umbrella unions, is organizing rallies at



PHOTO: LIM YUN SUK
Millions protest in south Korea.

several spots on Yeouido where the public can participate.

"One is in front of the National Assembly, where an investigation into the scandal is underway. The KCTU said it will continue the rally until the vote is held.

"The umbrella union will also hold a gathering in front of the Federation of Korean Industries today, demanding that it disband for encouraging member companies to raise funds for two foundations set up by Park's disgraced confidante Choi Soon-sil."

Corruption and the military

President Park is the daughter of Park Chung-hee, a general who took power in 1961 through a military coup and ruled

south Korea with an iron hand until his assassination in 1979. The Park dictatorship was approved by the U.S. government, especially after Park sent 320,000 troops to supplement U.S. forces in the Vietnam War.

Since World War II, the Pentagon has maintained a large military presence in south Korea, which was greatly expanded after socialist revolutions in both the north of Korea and China and especially during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The current president's troubles are linked to a scandal involving funds donated to two foundations controlled by her close associate, Choi Soon-sil.

Samsung and Hyundai are embroiled in the scandal for allegedly having donated to the foundations after being pardoned by the president for economic crimes. According to the Dec. 5 Wall Street Journal, "Park has pardoned top executives convicted of crimes, for example, Chung Mong-koo, chair of Hyundai Motor Group, sentenced to three years for

embezzlement, pardoned without serving any time. One of the foundations allegedly controlled by Choi was funded by 15 of South Korea's largest conglomerates.

"The chairmen of Samsung, SK, Hanwha, Hyundai Motor and CJ groups have all been pardoned in the past decade."

The implications are clear: The president and her friend have enriched themselves by favoring the most powerful corporations in the country.

Adding to popular fury at the Park kleptocracy was south Korea's worst maritime disaster, the sinking of the Sewol ferry on April 16, 2014. It was caused by vast overcrowding due to building an additional deck on top that allowed the vessel to easily capsize. The sinking resulted in the deaths of 304 people, mostly students. Park did not show her face in public until seven hours after the disaster.

The U.S. government is acting low-key about the current turmoil in south Korea, but there can be no question that it is working feverishly behind the scenes trying to shore up both the military and the ruling class to prevent the popular masses there from making any real gains. □

Palestinian boycott defeats giant G4S

By Joe Catron

The Palestinian prisoners' and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movements celebrated a landmark victory on Dec. 2 as British-Danish conglomerate G4S, the world's biggest security company and second-largest private employer, announced the sale of its Israeli unit.

"This experience with G4S proves that international campaigns, working with the Palestinian prisoners' movement, can exert real pressure on even the largest multinational corporations," Khaled Barakat, international coordinator of the Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat, told Workers World.

The BDS National Committee and a coalition of other Palestinian organizations launched a campaign of economic pressure against G4S on April 17, 2012 — Palestinian Prisoners' Day — demanding that the company end its services to Israel's prisons and detention centers, as well as its checkpoints, settlements, military and security forces, and other occupation infrastructure.

The effort gained fresh urgency in Au-



PHOTO: SAMIDOUN: PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK
Palestinian prisoners' and BDS movements celebrated international victory over G4S and Israeli state terror, Dec. 2 in New York City.

gust 2015, when the Palestinian prisoners' movement issued its own call for supporters to prioritize the struggle against G4S.

In New York, Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network activists launched a series of weekly protests outside a local G4S office that have continued nearly every Friday for over a year.

Elsewhere, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Methodist Church divested their shares in the company. G4S also lost a security contract with Durham County, N.C., and faced mounting defeats across Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

At the same time, Black-led student campaigns focusing on the company's private prisons forced divestment by Co-

lumbia University and the University of California and the termination of a security contract at Cornell University's Johnson Museum of Art.

In March, G4S announced plans to sell its main Israeli subsidiary, G4S Israel, and end its operation of private youth prisons in Britain and the United States, all of which the Financial Times called "reputationally damaging work."

Victory for international solidarity

"Ahmad Sa'adat and the Palestinian prisoners' movement see this as a victory ... an example of what can be done when international movements work with Palestinian prisoners," Barakat said.

Even after pending regulatory approval of the sale, G4S will remain implicated in Israel's crimes against Palestinians through its direct co-ownership of the Policy, a training center for Israeli security forces in occupied East Jerusalem.

G4S also faces continued pressure over

its transportation and deportation of detainees for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the operation of private police forces, like transit cops in Charlotte, N.C., and deployment of personnel to secure the planned route of the Dakota Access Pipeline against water protectors.

But G4S' forced withdrawal from nearly all of its Israeli contracts is, nevertheless, a significant blow against the company, as well as a landmark in attempts to internationalize support for the Palestinian prisoners' movement and isolate Israel.

Samidoun's efforts against G4S and other companies profiting from Israel's detention and torture of Palestinian political prisoners will continue, starting with its next protest at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, outside G4S' New York office at 19 West 44th Street.

For more information and announcements, visit Samidoun's website at samidoun.net and subscribe to its newsletter at eepurl.com/XFJr9.

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

Revolted by Trump? Ready to fight back?

Workers World exposed Trump's racist, bigoted agenda throughout his 18-month campaign — and was part of militant protests against both him and Clinton all across the country. Now he's won and is putting together an anti-working class administration: a die-hard white supremacist for attorney general, a Wall Street billionaire for the Treasury, an adversary of Medicare and the Affordable Care Act for Health and Human Services, a gung-ho ex-general for Defense Secretary.

U.S. workers and oppressed people need a fighting voice for the big struggles ahead!

Workers World is ready for that challenge. We believe Marxism is now more needed than ever to pinpoint where capitalist reaction comes

from. And Leninism shows that fighting oppression of all kinds is absolutely necessary to unify the working class and abolish this decaying profit system.

We need your financial help!

You know our politics. We rely on the financial support of our members, friends, allies and subscribers. For the past 39 years — during spring and fall special fund drives and regular donations to the Workers World Supporter Program — we've welcomed your contributions that help put WW's revolutionary socialist outlook into action.

We asking you to contribute now to help counter Trump with a people's agenda. Write one-time checks

to Workers World, or join the Workers World Supporter Program with either a yearly lump sum or monthly donations. Members receive a year's subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free trial subscriptions to give to friends — all for a donation of \$75 a year. For \$100 you also get any book from World View Forum. For \$300 a year (only \$25 a month) you get your pick of five books or PVN videos.

And you can always contribute more. We won't complain.

We invite you — sign up today! Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate/.





Trump, antisemitismo y la solidaridad

Por Shelley Ettinger

A finales de la campaña electoral, cuando Donald Trump enfatizaba sus viles ataques contra personas de color, inmigrantes, musulmanes, mujeres; mientras reforzaba el apoyo entre los peores elementos racistas como el Ku Klux Klan, las milicias blancas y la llamada derecha alternativa, también apelaba abiertamente a las fuerzas antijudías.

La consecuencia inmediata de la elección de Trump se vio cuando supremacistas blancos llevaron a cabo cientos de horribles incidentes racistas en todo el país. Estudiantes latinas/os fueron confrontados por condiscípulos blancos gritando “Construyamos la pared, construyamos la pared”. Estudiantes negras/os universitarios recibieron repugnantes mensajes de texto racistas. Musulmanes fueron atacadas/os físicamente.

Ahora nada es más urgente que derrotar estos ataques racistas. Todos debemos unirnos en solidaridad con las/os más oprimidos – negras/os, latinas/os y otras personas de color, musulmanes, inmigrantes indocumentadas/os.

Lo que la solidaridad significa para las personas blancas, incluyendo a las judías, es seguir el liderazgo de las personas oprimidas, marchando y luchando con ellas. Significa defensa antirracista política y físicamente en las calles, en escuelas y lugares de trabajo y, si necesario, en las carreteras y en las vías del tren para bloquear las deportaciones.

Unidad frente a tácticas intolerantes

La masiva presencia de indignación y resistencia contra Trump desde la noche de las elecciones, demuestra que una lucha importante ha comenzado.

Liderada por negras/os, latinas/os y otras personas oprimidas, atraerá cada vez más personas a la lucha. La unidad debe ser y será la característica central de estas luchas.

Con los actos antijudíos que también han tenido lugar después de las elecciones, comprender la historia del antisemitismo ayudará a construir esta lucha unitaria. En Filadelfia, las ventanas de unas tiendas de propiedad judía fueron destrozadas y pintaron esvásticas sobre la estrella de David. Estudiantes judías/os en varios colegios informaron que al despertar, encontraron esvásticas pintadas en las puertas de su dormitorio.

Trump dio la luz verde para tales actos en los días finales de su campaña, hablando sobre “la conspiración bancaria internacional,” una frase de código antisemita clásica.

Su último anuncio televisivo fue un descarado llamado al antisemitismo. Se escuchaba la voz de Trump acusando a un enemigo que “ha despojado a nuestro país de su riqueza”. Las imágenes de pilas de dinero fueron intercaladas con fotos de George Soros, Janet Yellen y Lloyd Blankfein. Cada uno es judío.

Soros es un inversionista multimillonario. Yellen es la directora del Sistema de la Reserva Federal. Blankfein es ejecutivo de Goldman Sachs. Son efectivamente enemigos de la clase obrera, pero como figuras burguesas, no porque sean judíos.

El anuncio era un mensaje dirigido



FOTO: TWITTER VIA IAN GAVIGAN

Si No Ahora, un grupo judío contra la ocupación, marcha a la sede de Trump en Washington D.C., para protestar contra el antisemitismo.

a los elementos más viles que habían salido a la superficie en la campaña de Trump. Únase alrededor de Trump, decía el anuncio. Él está contigo, contra los negros, los latinos, los musulmanes, y para que quede claro, él también está contigo contra “los judíos”.

Luego, días después de la elección, Trump anunció que su presidente de campaña, Steve Bannon, serviría como “estratega jefe” en la Casa Blanca. Bannon tiene una historia documentada de racismo manifiesto, misoginia y antisemitismo, tanto personalmente como en el ultra-reaccionario Breitbart News.

Media Matters, que monitorea la desinformación de la derecha en el internet, llama a Bannon “un nacionalista blanco que odia a los judíos”. Se puede esperar que él sirva a Trump en la forma en que Joseph Goebbels, ministro de propaganda en la Alemania nazi, sirvió a Hitler.

Datos e historia

Los hechos ayudarán a armar al movimiento con entendimiento para vencer los intentos de división.

El pueblo judío no controla el capital bancario y financiero mundial. Los judíos no son ni siquiera cerca de la mayoría de los propietarios, accionistas o altos ejecutivos de la mayoría de los bancos. Sí, hay banqueros judíos, al igual que hay gente judía en muchas otras esferas. Pero no dirigen el juego capitalista.

No hay mucha gente judía, punto. En los Estados Unidos, las/os judíos representan entre el 2,5 y el 3 por ciento de la población. La proporción de la gente judía en el mundo es sólo el 0,2 por ciento.

Para que tan pocas personas tengan el gran poder que Trump y los antisemitas alegan, las/os judíos tendrían que tener superpotencias. Y no la tienen. La caricatura de un titiritero judío de nariz curvada y despectivo manipulando negocios y gobiernos, es una clásica propaganda antisemita.

En realidad, durante gran parte de la historia, la mayoría del pueblo judío estuvo empobrecido, perseguido y oprimido.

A finales del siglo XIX y principios de 1900, una serie de horribles pogromos - disturbios asesinos contra las comunidades judías - barrieron el imperio zarista de Rusia, Polonia, Lituania, Ucrania y países vecinos. Patrocinados por esos gobiernos y la clase dominante como parte del esfuerzo por contener el creciente malestar de las masas hambrientas, los

pogromos mataron a miles de personas. En las primeras dos décadas del siglo XX, olas de judíos europeos huyeron a los Estados Unidos.

Cien años más tarde, en la pequeña población judía en los Estados Unidos, ciertamente hay trabajadoras/es judíos - conductores de autobuses, maestros, enfermeras y vendedores al por menor, trabajadoras/es en fábricas, oficinas y en otros trabajos. Pero otros están cómodamente en la clase media. Algunos forman parte de la clase dominante burguesa.

Muchas/os judíos han tomado parte en las luchas por el cambio social. Algunos lo dieron todo, como Andrew Goodman y Michael Schwerner, que fueron asesinados junto a James Chaney por el Klan en Mississippi en 1964 por inscribir a personas negras para votar.

Pero entre los judíos de los Estados Unidos también han habido errores, ofensas y han fracasado en la solidaridad.

La población judía estadounidense es mayormente blanca y llega a la lucha de las/os trabajadoras y oprimidos con todo el racismo, el atraso, la ignorancia, el privilegio y la insensibilidad de los blancos en este país. Adicionalmente y trágicamente para el objetivo de solidaridad, la ideología sionista ha mantenido un dominio por décadas sobre la conciencia de la mayoría de las/os judíos estadounidenses.

La buena noticia es que esto finalmente está cambiando, al menos entre la generación más joven. El movimiento de boicot, desinversión y sanciones, y organizaciones relacionadas a la solidaridad con Palestina, está ganando cada vez más jóvenes judías/os. Al romper con el apoyo de sus padres al Estado racista de colonos de Israel, también se vuelven más abiertos a las ideas radicales en general. Comienzan a comprender mejor el significado y la necesidad de la solidaridad con los pueblos oprimidos.

Las/os jóvenes judíos que se alejan del sionismo están saliendo a la calle como activistas en solidaridad con las luchas de las personas de color, marchando con el Movimiento Las Vidas Negras Importan contra asesinatos policiales racistas, manifestándose con inmigrantes indocumentadas/os contra incursiones y deportaciones y uniéndose a manifestantes anti-apartheid para la liberación de Palestina.

Algunas/os lo llevarán más lejos y se unirán a la lucha por derrocar el capitalismo, siguiendo la larga tradición de los

revolucionarios judíos que comenzaron con el propio Karl Marx.

Unirnos para luchar

La mentira de la campaña de Trump de que los judíos son responsables de los problemas de los trabajadores es una táctica para obstaculizar la unidad entre las/os trabajadoras, los pueblos oprimidos y las/os progresistas en un momento en que tal unidad es vital para construir resistencia.

Trump mismo es un multimillonario. Él y su clase - compuesta en su mayoría por blancos y anglosajones de la religión protestante, son responsables de la desaparición de puestos de trabajo, la caída de los salarios y de los altos costos de la vivienda, la educación y la atención de la salud.

Él y su clase son responsables de que policías asesinos racistas asesinen a personas negras con impunidad. Él y su clase son los responsables de enviar a los militares estadounidenses alrededor del mundo para invadir, ocupar y destruir países.

Esta clase capitalista quieren echarle la culpa a otros. Quieren dividir a la oposición. No es de extrañar que utilicen a esa vieja y fiel herramienta - culpar a “los judíos”.

El pueblo judío no es ahora un grupo oprimido en los Estados Unidos. No se enfrentan a la discriminación institucionalizada, sistémica o generalizada, la violencia, los sesgos y peores cosas como lo hacen las personas de color.

Sin embargo, el antisemitismo existe. Nunca se fue, y ahora debe ser directamente combatido.

El movimiento como un todo debe construir la unidad. Es vital tener unidad contra el racismo, el sexismo, la islamofobia, el ataque a las/os inmigrantes, la opresión de la comunidad LGBTQ y también el antisemitismo.

En cuanto a la gente judía en este país, muchos de repente se aterrorizan, temiendo un regreso a los peores días del horror del antisemitismo. Para ellas/os, el camino hacia adelante es la solidaridad con las/os más oprimidos. Defender a las/os musulmanes, tanto política como físicamente. Solidarizarse y marchar y batallar hombro con hombro con el Movimiento Las Vidas Negras Importan. Organizar escuadrones de defensa de inmigrantes.

Esa es la manera de luchar y ganar. □



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!