

Shift to Jerusalem ignites world protests

Palestinians reject U.S.-Israeli rule

By John Catalinotto

Worldwide protests by Palestinians and those in solidarity with Palestine gave a strong answer to the Trump administration's provocation that it would move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and drop all pretense of being an "honest broker" between Israel and Palestine. Around the world the people picked up the challenge hurled by the hated U.S. president.

In Palestine itself, including the West Bank, Gaza and within the Israeli state's pre-1967 borders, Palestinians challenged the repressive Israeli authorities, clashing with police and military. In Beirut, Lebanon, police erected a two-mile circle of barricades and barbed wire and then employed tear gas and water cannon to block people from reaching the U.S. Embassy. In the far-away Indonesian capital of Jakarta, 10,000 people besieged the embassy there.

On the same Dec. 9-10 weekend, in Turkey's major city, Istanbul, thousands of demonstrators took the streets two days in a row. Al-Jazeera of Dec. 11 quoted demonstrator Ananda Sereka: "I feel like I should defend Palestine because I don't know any other way to defend them. ... This is the least I can do."

Al-Jazeera also reported demonstrations in Rabat, Morocco, where protesters "yelled slurs against Trump and carried banners saying Jerusalem belonged to Palestine." In Srinagar, Kashmir, a city of 1.1 million people, residents closed their shops and stayed home in protest. In Karachi, Pakistan, "hundreds of protesters marched towards the U.S. Consulate" before riot police turned them back.

Three thousand gathered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, while other protests took place in Cairo, Egypt; Tehran, Iran; and Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia. There, thousands gathered before the U.S. Embassy, including Palestinians from the diaspora and Malaysians of all origins.

Solidarity actions also took place in the imperialist countries: in London, Brussels, Paris, Rome and Berlin in Western Europe, in Canada and in cities all over the United States.

In Beirut, along with the siege at the U.S. Embassy, the Hezbollah organization held a rally of thousands in the city's southern suburbs to mobilize its supporters against the U.S. move. In 2006, Hezbollah had stunned the world by holding off an Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah called Trump's decision yet another aggression against the Palestinian cause. He said his group and its allies would renew their focus on the Palestinian cause after the victories in Syria and elsewhere, and called for a united front "in the field." He said he hoped the "foolish decision" meant the "beginning of the end" of Israel. (AFP, Dec. 11)



More on Palestinian struggle: see centerfold

Trump rips off 'honest broker' mask 6



Mom interviews Durham warrior 3

Disabled and militant 4

Taking on racist cops, courts 5 & 9

WWP national conference talks 8

Editorial: Fighting racism not a photo op 10

Tax mega-swindle 10

Honduras vote fraud 11

Subscribe to Workers World

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

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

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Street _____ City/State/Zip _____

Durham anti-racist activists: 'Be a witness in our defense!'

By LeiLani Dowell and Ben Carroll
Durham, N.C.

Activists, community members and family members gathered here the morning of Dec. 5 to show their support and solidarity for 11 anti-racist activists who were returning to court to face charges related to their militant challenges to white supremacy. The Dec. 5 hearing was the first time all 11, who have had several court hearings since August, appeared in court together.

Inside the court, the cases of nine of the activists, who were charged in relation to the Aug. 14 removal of a Confederate statue in front of the old Durham courthouse, were continued to Jan. 11. The cases of the other two, who face charges related to an Aug. 18 community mobilization against an announced KKK march, were continued to Feb. 8. After the hearing, a rally and press conference were held.

The defendants are inviting community members across Durham to sign up to be witnesses for the defense for the Jan. 11 trial. Elena Everett, a Workers World Party member facing charges relating to the statue removal, said, "We invite all those who believe that Durham is a better place without the monument, that the monument had no value to our community, and was in fact a liability, to sign up to be a witness. We will set up an online form and email to collect your testimony."

At the rally, the #DefendDurham group also launched a community contest for Durham residents to submit ideas of what should replace the pedestal where the Confederate monument once stood. Markers were supplied and ample paper unrolled so that community members could draw and write their ideas for a replacement.

Speaking from the mic, community activist Rafiq Zaidi asserted that the Confederate monument should be replaced with a monument in tribute of "Those who were bold enough to put a rope around the neck of that Confederate statue. We have suffered under this injustice and



Some of the 11 stalwart anti-racist Durham activists after their court hearing, Dec. 5.

racism for far too long."

Thousands of people across North Carolina and the U.S. have signed petitions and participated in three call-in days to drop the charges — the most recent on Nov. 30. The case has garnered national and even international attention, with many unions and other progressive organizations submitting statements to the arrestees that noted the significance of their actions and pledged support to beat the charges.

In a press release prior to the hearing, Workers World Party member Loan Tran stated: "The events of Aug. 14 and 18 were an act of community service and defense. We have to remember what happened just a few days before in Charlottesville, Va., when white supremacists and neo-Confederates terrorized, occupied and brutalized its residents. Heather Heyer was murdered, and many other anti-racist activists were injured." Tran asserted: "The 11 facing charges have done their service to the community. We call on D.A. [Roger] Echols to immediately drop the charges."

"Removing symbols of white supremacy from our community is not a crime," said WWP member Jess Jude, one of those facing charges stemming from the statue removal. "What happened on Aug. 14 was a service to the Durham community and an example of taking righteous action, a small step to correct centuries of injustice." □



Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

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

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

National Office
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.221.3775
baltimore@workers.org

Bay Area
1305 Franklin St. #411
Oakland, CA 94612
510.600.5800
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.286.6574
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
Buffalo@Workers.org

Chicago
312.630.2305
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Huntington, W. Va.
huntingtonwv@workers.org

Indiana
Indiana@workers.org

Los Angeles
5278 W Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
la@workers.org
323.306.6240

Madison
Madison@Workers.org

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org

Rockford, Ill.
rockford@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
SLC@Workers.org

San Antonio, Texas
SanAntonioWWP@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Virginia
Virginia@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.

- Shift to Jerusalem ignites world protests 1
- Durham: 'Be a witness in our defense!' 2
- Interview with Takiyah Thompson 3
- Activists demand 'Equality, access and medicare care!' 4
- CUNY workers say: 'Resist austerity!' 4
- On the picket line 4
- From Baltimore to Palestine: Abolish racist occupation... 5
- Mumia Abu-Jamal events raise question:
'Have Black lives ever mattered?' 5
- Trump tears off mask of deceit 6
- Protests across U.S. hit Trump's attack on Palestine 7
- Boston: Justice for Sam Smith 9
- Tacoma, Wash.: Fightback against immigrant detention .. 9
- Portland, Ore.: Philippine solidarity groups launch coalition . 9
- Tax bill sparks protests 10

★ Workers World Conference 2017

- Solidarity and security in revolutionary times 8
- The revolutionary future: Queer, trans and Black 8
- Conference livestream reaches growing audience 8

★ Around the world

- Millions of Hondurans dispute election fraud 11

★ Editorial

- Fighting racism is not a photo op 10

★ Noticias en Español

- 700,000 trabajadoras agrícolas dicen: 'Nosotros también' 12
- Detrás de lo impensable 12

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994

E-mail: ww@workers.org

Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 59, No. 50 • Dec. 14, 2017

Closing date: Dec. 12, 2017

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

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

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

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

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Andrea Bañuelos, Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2017 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011.



Do it like Durham!

Interview with Takiyah Thompson

By Mikisa Thompson

These last few months have been a flurry of emotions. Watching my daughter leaves me in awe, because she embodies everything and more that I would like to see her be in life. She is brilliant, articulate, responsible and caring. She loves her Blackness and her Queerness, and she has a passion that drives her to be the best person in society that she can be.

She helps me to be a better Mom, and for that I'm grateful. She helped lead me to Workers World Party, and now I'm a candidate. So I'm not just her Mom, I'm her comrade. We are on the same team to call out white supremacy and the ways that it permeates our lives.

She was the first to be arrested for her alleged crime against a statue. However, the Nazis in Charlottesville, Va., weren't arrested until the public forced the hands of the police to arrest them.

WWP deals with the issues that we have faced in life as a family, such as homelessness, discrimination, gentrification and homophobia. WWP helps to bring a voice to the voiceless.

I have always taught Takiyah to seek answers to issues on her own. Her perspective is vast because we have lived in various underserved communities throughout the U.S., such as Brooklyn, N.Y., Detroit, Atlanta and now Durham.

We also traveled in 2016 to see for ourselves the people of Cuba after a successful revolution and what a country without imperialism — that flourishes in spite of U.S. sanctions — looks like. We loved it and would like to do more travel internationally to learn from revolutionaries around the world.

My mind still races at the wonderment that Takiyah is. So I sat down with her to gather her thoughts.

Mikisa Thompson: What are you fighting for?

Takiyah Thompson: I'm fighting against all the different "isms" that plague this society — racism, capitalism, sexism, Nazism. I'm fighting for a world where justice and equality can exist. I'm fighting for socialism. I'm fighting for the freedom and liberation of Black people, people of color and queer people.

MT: How has your life changed since Aug. 14?

TT: There's been a lot of ups and downs. I faced death threats, but also a lot of support from my comrades, family and the community. Since then, my belief in a world without white supremacy and capitalism has been steeled. I'm more optimistic than ever; sometimes I'm tired and weary but still very hopeful.

MT: Give me your vision of 2018, now that we are 100 years after the Russian Revolution.

TT: My outlook for 2018 is to continue organizing and mobilizing around this issue. ... I'm about to go to trial for my alleged role in toppling the Confederate statue, and I just want to keep using court to further get my message out there and to talk about white supremacy and capitalism, how the two go hand-in-hand.

I'm hoping that more folks can understand the urgency of the moment that we're living in and not be swayed by these



WW PHOTO: JAYLA HAGGANS
Mikisa Thompson (left) with Takiyah Thompson in front of Durham, N.C., courthouse.

midterm elections, with Democrats trying to convince us to drop everything — forget about racism, about sexism, about capitalism being at a dead end — and just vote for the middle path. You know, don't vote for the middle path; you don't get out of the road. Take a left.

MT: If you could time travel, who would you want to give you advice for how to propel the movement today?

TT: I can't nail it down to one person. The people who I think of immediately are folks like Frantz Fanon, Gaddafi, Thomas Sankara.

Mao — people who are able to resist imperialism, because I think you know imperialism, as I've come to understand it. The struggle abroad is very much like the struggle here in the U.S. that Black people face, with gentrification and mass incarceration. A soldier's very much the same as a police officer in their roles.

I think those folks all had excellent ideas about socialism and about how to resist the U.S. and the Western forces that want to control and dominate us.

MT: Do you feel that your actions have made an impact on society?

TT: I think my actions have made an impact. I was having a conversation the other day with someone and he talked about how a group of people in Austin, Texas, were picketing and protesting this Cat Cafe. Basically, you go inside and you can pet a cat and drink your coffee. But it's in a neighborhood in Austin that was historically Chicano, and before the cafe it was a piñata store, so just the optics really helped rally the community.

And he's talking about how, you know, this is kind of a useless protest and how the real issue should be with the banks, corporations and politicians who enable this kind of thing. But at the same time I think it's important to understand the role of symbolism, and I think it's true that people need symbolic victories.

The people of Durham allegedly took down the statue. It's not a prison; we didn't free everyone from the Durham County jail. But I think the symbolic victories are important in creating a world where racist symbols are not OK, so that we can start attacking the more structural relics of white supremacy.

Everyone has a role in the revolution.

My role might not be dealing with banks and helping stop predatory lending or stopping the foreclosure of Black and Brown neighborhoods. But somebody's role is going to be smashing windows at the Cat Cafe. If the revolution were to come tomorrow, we're still going to need revolutionary chefs and revolutionary janitors.

I think my role has shown people that regular, everyday people can take a stand and do have a role in combating the ills that they see in society.

MT: How can everyday people get involved in activism in their community?

TT: I think the most important thing anyone can do is find an organization or a group, find something to dedicate

your energy to.

I think about this Kwame Ture video on YouTube. He talks about the importance of being in an organization, and he says the system that we're fighting against is highly organized — they have their courts, schools, media, their New York Times and Washington Post, right? We have to be just as organized if we hope to defeat that.

MT: What fuels your drive and determination for the Workers World Party movement as a queer Black woman in the U.S.?

TT: I want to try to leave a legacy on Earth. To create a world that is kinder and gentler for Black and Brown youth, for queer youth, for poor youth. I always say that I'm grateful for the movements that came before me and it's important to be grateful and thankful, but also to acknowledge that we need more.

You know, it's a wonderful thing that I've never known anyone who was lynched, I've never seen a cross burning. I hope that in 20 to 30 years, kids will say, "I've never seen a Confederate statue. I've never seen a Confederate flag." Just to make this world better — that's what keeps me motivated.

MT: What work would you like to do internationally?

TT: I would like to support all of the anti-imperialist social struggles around the world. I think one of the main places is Venezuela.

The gains that country has made since the Bolivarian Revolution have been important for Indigenous people, Black people, for women, for queer folks. I look at the National Constituent Assembly, and I'm really amazed and proud of the fact that so many different groups, so many different oppressed nationalities can be represented, and that Venezuela was able to execute an open election even in the face of U.S. imperialism and U.S. funding to ensure that it would fail. So I definitely would like to organize in Venezuela or interact with the Venezuelan people and the Freedom Fighters there.

MT: How can people help support you and your efforts?

TT: My PayPal is [PayPal.Me/unrulybabyhair](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchandise/unrulybabyhair). I'm also @unrulybabyhair on Twitter. Also, my next court date is Jan. 11 in Durham. Please come out to support

as well as call the district attorney to have the charges dropped.

MT: I've heard you say that you feel more free since your actions. Please explain.

TT: Even though I'm in court and facing this system that wants to see me in jail because of its white supremacist nature, I do definitely hold my head higher. I think of Fanon. When you are able to defeat your oppressor, to take your oppressor down a notch, it helps with your own sense of self and your own sense of worth.

MT: What do you think of Black Lives Matter and similar movements?

TT: Those movements are integral to ushering in an era of equality that is free from racial violence. We as leftists, socialists, communists and members of multinational organizations have to do everything we can to ensure those movements are sustained, to ensure a world that is free of white supremacy and anti-Black violence and racism. We have to support Black nationalist struggles in the United States.

We can't allow those groups to be isolated, especially with the FBI labeling Black activists as "Black identity extremists." The FBI has a long history of targeting, killing and imprisoning Black activists, so it's absolutely necessary that any organization that considers itself socialist or seeking social justice should work hand-in-hand with Black Lives Matter and organizations like it.

MT: What is your opinion of Trump declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel?

TT: I'm not surprised. The U.S. goal the last 20 or 30 years has been to dominate the Middle East for its labor pool and resources, mainly oil. I think Israel will be the U.S.'s outpost for policing the region, much like Colombia is the U.S.'s outpost in that region.

Floating around the internet was a speech from President Obama a few years ago talking about how Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Trump is not the first person to espouse that view. It just falls in line with the U.S.'s need to spread capitalism. I'm keeping the people of Palestine in my heart and mind.

My poem to you for you ...

by Mikisa Thompson

Young warrior
 Young warrior
 Young warrior I see you
 With your regal locked hair
 You're proud and you're queer
 Young warrior
 Still no crystal stair....
 Young warrior
 You hear the drums as you climb
 those stairs
 Young warrior
 Young warrior
 Quick that yellow rope
 But don't fret, he won't choke
 Climb baby climb
 For they don't want you, here to Palestine
 Take your step for Sojourner because
 many were lost along the way....
 Quick another step, don't you turn back
 The war is just beginning, the flame
 is at your feet
 Quick
 Young warrior you are not meant
 to be a sheep
 You're majestic and Black, proud
 and fierce
 Young warrior I see you. □

On International Day of Persons with Disabilities Activists demand 'Equality, access and medicare care!'



Inside Macy's, activists hold impromptu rally.

By Mary Kaessinger
New York

The People's Power Assembly and wheelchair users led a protest on Dec. 3 that gathered in New York's Herald Square to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Then activists streamed through Macy's department store on ramps between the floors.

Moving through the aisles, protesters wound around until they reached a sizable clear space where they held an impromptu indoor rally to make people aware of the difficulties faced by people with disabilities. Their signs and chants raised many slogans. One demand was "Equal pay for equal work" because employers are legally allowed to pay disabled workers a subminimum wage using waivers created under the so-called "Fair" Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Other slogans were "Disabled Lives Matter" and "Black Lives Matter." That's because 51 percent of those gunned down by police are disabled and a disproportionate number of people killed by police are African Americans. Another demand, "Access is a right," is crucial because only 20 percent of New York's subway stations have elevators. Importantly, "Kill the tax bill"

was also a focal point because Trump's tax "reform" bill would cut medical benefits for people with disabilities.

The protesters held other impromptu rallies in the store. Five speakers addressed sympathetic shoppers to explain why they were there. Security guards looked on and stayed out of the way, backs pressed against the wall.

Then, demonstrators walked or rolled in wheelchairs across the busy intersection outside Macy's to Pennsylvania Station, where they again chanted and held brief street meetings. Travelers who were waiting for trains stood around to listen, building small crowds.

Activists explained and showed what problems people with disabilities face. They rode the elevator down one floor to the train tracks and discovered that one of the two elevators there was out of service. So on the way back, only two people in wheelchairs could ride at a time. One woman left the group because she had once been trapped inside an elevator and didn't trust them.

People with disabilities have to allow extra time to travel. They say they need a 36-hour day!

Kaessinger is a wheelchair user.

CUNY workers say: 'Resist austerity!'



Holding a huge, electrified banner reading "Resist austerity," while chanting to the rhythm of a brass band, hundreds of members of the Professional Staff Congress marched from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York to a board of trustees' meeting at Baruch College on Dec. 4. They were making it clear that they do not want to wait six years for a new contract to get significant pay raises.

In particular, the PSC wants adjuncts — the part-time instructors who do over 50 percent of the instruction at CUNY — to get a pay increase to a minimum of \$7,000 per class. Currently, the best-paid adjuncts get about \$4,500 per class.

The PSC represents about 30,000 full-time and part-time teachers, as well as professional

staff — librarians, registrars and computer programmers — who educate 500,000 students at CUNY. It took six years for the board of trustees to agree to its last contract with the PSC.

Contingents from Local One, Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE); the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees DC 37; the Union of Clerical Staff (UCATS) at New York University; and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists joined the march.

A noticeable feature of the protest was the significant support given fast food workers who are organizing a union at seven CUNY campuses with the support of the Department Store Union (RWDSU).

— Report and photo by G. Dunkel

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

N.C. wages class war against farmworkers

The North Carolina ruling class is trying to rip labor rights from 100,000 farmworkers. The North Carolina Farm Act of 2017 attacks what bosses fear most — the right of workers to organize. The law would prohibit workers from signing agreements relating to lawsuits, settlements or collective bargaining agreements and outlaw automatic dues deduction from paychecks. Workers filed a federal lawsuit Nov. 15 to declare this bill unconstitutional under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

In the workers' corner are the Southern Poverty Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, the North Carolina Justice Center and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. In the past FLOC has used these very agreements to secure higher wages and end exploitative fees. The act is blatantly racist, specifically targeting the Latinx community, who are the vast majority — 90 percent — of the farmworkers in the state. North Carolina farmworkers generate \$12 billion for the state's economy and work seasonally under precarious H-2A visas. (floc.org, Nov. 15)

State Sen. Brent Jackson, the bill's primary sponsor, owns Jackson Farming Co., which farmworkers and FLOC have sued successfully for wage theft. This bill is class warfare, but workers and their allies are returning fire with unity and solidarity. We're confident they'll bring such racist, anti-worker policies to justice.

Proposed DOL regulation would steal tips from workers

Whenever bosses say they're helping workers, your alarm button better start beeping. It sure went off when Trump's Department of Labor announced Dec. 4 that, responding to the need for wage equity in the restaurant industry, it's offering a new regulation: Workplaces can now share tips earned by some employees with co-workers. Pro-worker groups jumped to oppose it. Christine Owens, head of the National Employment Law Project, said the solution was "not for the Labor Department to rig the rules so employers can essentially steal earnings from tipped workers to subsidize the businesses' low-wage model."

Responding for the Economic Policy Institute, Heidi Shierholz noted the latest research shows that total wages stolen from workers due to minimum wage violations exceed \$15 billion each year and that workers in restaurants and bars are more likely to suffer from it than other workers. Due to so much illegal wage theft, "it seems obvious that when employers can legally pocket the tips earned by their employees, many will do so." No wonder the National Restaurant Association applauds the rule. (wsbtv.com, Dec. 5)

Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC), founded "to improve wages and working conditions for the 14 million people who work in America's restaurant industry," initiated a campaign against the regulation. To add your objection, visit rocunited.org/notiptheft.

UE strike wins at Fairmont Scales in Vt.

When bosses at Fairmont Scales in Vermont demanded major concessions, the workers fought back. United Electric Workers Local 234 has represented employees at the St. Johnsbury plant for over 80 years — its members are the only unionized workers in the nationwide company. The elected strike committee, like other UE committees, is majority women. After Fairbanks tried to raise family health insurance to \$200 a month, change how vacation time was accrued and rejected the local's contract offer, the local immediately voted to strike.

The workers set up picket lines at 5 a.m. on Nov. 1. Donations immediately poured in from local businesses, community groups and other unions — coffee, pizza, wood for a warming fire and umbrellas for rainy days. Withstanding heavy rain and boss violence, the workers held the line 24-7 for over a week. Only one truck got through, when cops escorting it threatened to arrest strikers.

Management caved after eight days of no production, offering the workers a solid three-year contract with raises and better benefits and working conditions. Wages were increased by 8 percent, weekly insurance premium contributions were capped at \$10 a year and stewards have more time on the clock to work on grievances. Other wins include new protections for gender identity. (ueunion.org, Dec. 1) UE Local 234 sets an example for all workers: Having confidence in your union and using the strike weapon will lead you to taste victory.

Unions march in D.C. for Dreamers' rights

On the National Day of Action for Immigrant Worker Justice, Dec. 6, unions turned out at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to demand that Congress pass a clean DREAM Act and create a permanent legal pathway for working people with Temporary Protected Status. Joining with immigrant rights organizations and youth fighting for their lives, unions are showing a new social justice militancy against Trump's racist, anti-worker agenda. □

From Baltimore to Palestine Abolish racist occupation

By Addison Gaddis
Baltimore

Dozens of Baltimore activists and locals congregated Dec. 9 outside the Baltimore Police Department headquarters at 601 Fayette St. Despite windy, snowy conditions, the Baltimore People's Power Assembly, Baltimore Workers World Party, Johns Hopkins Students for a Democratic Society, Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America and a radical Jewish students' group at Hopkins gathered to stand against the police and their corruption.

In the wake of the killing of BPD Detective Sean Suiter, concerns have been raised by many that the killing was an "inside job." The detective was killed the day before he was slated to testify on a panel about a notorious, deeply corrupt

Baltimore police unit, the Gun Trace Task Force. Many believe the killing took place under suspicious circumstances. (tinyurl.com/ybedm3jl)

Furthermore, in the wake of the killing, the Baltimore police placed a neighborhood, Harlem Park, under occupation, demanding identification from residents every time they came and went. (tinyurl.com/y7nvr6w9)

In light of the police occupation and the questionable circumstances in which Suiter was killed, Sharon Black, on behalf of WWP and the PPA, called for disbanding the Baltimore Police Department, stating that it is too corrupt to be reformed. The PPA is also calling for restitution for Harlem Park residents who were negatively affected by the police occupation.

Andrew Mayton of WWP expressed



WW PHOTO: PERRI BRIERLY-BOWERS

Baltimore police are 'too corrupt to be reformed.'

the fact that police abolition can only truly occur after the abolition of capitalism. Alec Summerfield of WWP drove home the parallel between the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the police occupation of Baltimore, pointing out that the BPD uses Israeli technology.

The police watched the spirited dem-

onstrators from the front steps of the police headquarters, but did not intervene. This was not a one-time protest, organizers asserted, but the start of a bigger campaign in the fight against police corruption. "When people are occupied, resistance is justified." From Gaza to Baltimore, the fight continues. □

Mumia Abu-Jamal events raise question: 'Have Black lives ever mattered?'

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

"Have Black Lives Ever Mattered," the title of Mumia Abu-Jamal's latest book, was also the focus of Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 events here marking the 36th anniversary of his unjust incarceration.

The weekend started with a teach-in at the Church of the Advocate, as Pam Africa kicked off the program with background and updates on the case. Africa is chairwoman of International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Political activist and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal was unjustly imprisoned and sentenced to death for allegedly killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1981. Abu-Jamal steadfastly maintains his innocence.

Thirty years later, in 2011, the global people's movement forced the state to take Abu-Jamal off death row. Then the state re-sentenced him to life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

After Abu-Jamal was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2015, the people fought for and won treatment for him. However, he still suffers from cirrhosis of the liver and a painful, severe skin ailment. For prisoners, life without parole is a death sentence, especially when denied decent health care.

With the assistance of the Pittsburgh-based Abolitionist Law Center, Abu-Jamal recently released a manual "to walk any person infected with hepatitis C through the obstacle course erected by medical staff and prison officials who seek to deny or delay" treatment.

Activism vs. white supremacy

A panel addressing white supremacy came next. Speakers included Dr. Karanja Carroll with the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the National Black United Front; Candace McKinley, a Philadelphia Black Lives Matter organizer; Lamont Lilly, Durham activist, poet and 2016 Workers World Party vice presidential nominee; and Megan Malachi with Philly for REAL Justice. Discussion began with the question of how Abu-Jamal has influenced their work.

A second panel focused on immigrant



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia march for Mumia takes it to the streets, Dec. 9.

rights and international movements. Nancy Mansour, co-founder of the Palestinian support group Existence Is Resistance, discussed her film "Being Black in the Holy Land." Colombian activist María Serna, with Lucha Pro Derechos (Fight for Rights), addressed the current crisis for undocumented immigrants. Mike Wilson, with Workers World, raised the hurricane devastation in Puerto Rico, where Wilson participated in a November work brigade.

Earlier many people from the teach-in joined a Center City demonstration for Palestine, where Pam Africa spoke on the need for solidarity between oppressed communities in the U.S. and the people of Palestine.

Taking it to the streets

The next day, in wet, slushy snow, nearly 200 activists rallied to demand that Pennsylvania stop trying to murder Mumia. Demonstrators gathered at the statue of notorious former Philly mayor and head cop Frank Rizzo. The march continued around City Hall, stopping frequently for street rallies. Speakers urged people shopping in Christmas Market to join the rally for Black lives.

At a newly installed monument honoring slain educator and civil rights activist Octavius V. Cato (1839–1871), speakers said recognizing Cato's historic contributions is important, but does not answer the crisis for Black youth in seriously underfunded schools.

Then protesters rallied outside the District Attorney's office, demanding the

release of all files pertinent to former DA Ronald Castille's involvement in Mumia's case. As a Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice, Castille refused to recuse himself from ruling on Abu-Jamal's appeals. A 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Williams v. Pennsylvania*, was another death sentence case involving Castille. The court found that his refusal to remove himself was unconstitutional. In April 2017, Abu-Jamal's attorneys filed an appeal for a new trial based on that decision.

Lawyer Gayle McLaughlin Bartholdi's memo to Castille in the files, dated March 27, 1990, allegedly exposes the former DA's direct role in the case. Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker, overseeing Abu-Jamal's appeal, ordered the DA's office to show cause why it should not locate and produce Bartholdi to present testimony regarding her memo's content. It's one item in the documents that the DA's office says it cannot locate. Tucker has ordered an evidentiary hearing for Jan. 17.

Demonstrators also challenged incoming DA Larry Krasner to keep promises made during his election campaign to reopen questionable former convictions. Krasner, claiming to oppose the death penalty, recently appointed Castille to his transition team, sparking strong criticism from many activists.

'Mass incarceration A to Z'

The final Dec. 9 event was a forum on "Mass Incarceration A to Z." Speakers

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Presentation of certificate for work on prisoners' health care crisis. From left, City Council member Jannie Blackwell, Pam Africa, Akeem Browder, PA State Representative Vanessa Lowrey-Brown and Gregg Brinkley.



included Akeem Browder, whose brother, Kalief Browder, unable to afford bail, suffered three years of abuse, including solitary confinement, during pretrial detention at New York City's Rikers Island. Unable to recover from the impact of the abuse, Kalief died by suicide two years after his release. Browder is calling for the notorious prison complex to be shut down.

Panelist Greg Brinkley's nephew, Kevin Brinkley, was imprisoned as a juvenile in 1977 for a crime he did not commit. He was repeatedly denied parole because he would not admit guilt. Due to re-examination of juvenile life sentences, Kevin is being released, but remains subject to parole despite recent prosecutor's testimony acknowledging a cover-up of evidence of his innocence.

Writer and activist Marc Lamont Hill concluded the panel, discussing his own experience with the criminal justice system as a Black youth in Philadelphia and recounting being illegally stopped by police in New York. His credentials as a professor and a political commentator for CNN and FOX News did not give him immunity from police harassment.

A program highlight was the presentation of certificates of appreciation to Pennsylvania Rep. Vanessa Lowrey Brown and Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell for their work in bringing attention to prisoners' health care crisis, including suffering from contaminated water in prison facilities. □

Trump tears off mask of deceit By Fred Goldstein

Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel puts an end to the decades-long deceit that Washington has cultivated of being a so-called "honest broker" between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

This decision tramples on the sovereignty of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination as an occupied people under the boot of the Zionist apartheid regime in Tel Aviv.

Trump has openly and squarely put Washington on the side of the butchers of Gaza. Instead of endlessly stalling the Palestinians with U.S.-brokered negotiations, Trump has unabashedly sided with the oppressors in Tel Aviv.

'A bullet of mercy'

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist organization with a long record of struggle against Tel Aviv and its U.S. sponsors, had this to say:

"The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine described the declaration of U.S. President Donald Trump as a declaration of war against the Palestinian people and their rights that makes the U.S. position clear as a hostile entity toward our people and a partner of the Zionist state in its crimes against the Palestinian people and land, and it must be addressed on this basis.

"Further, the Front considered that Trump also launched a 'bullet of mercy' on the so-called two-state solution, the settlement project and the delusions of the peace process. It called upon the Palestinian leadership to learn the necessary lessons from the devastating experience of reliance on negotiations and U.S. domination." (pflp.ps, Dec. 6)

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine had a similar reaction: "The American aggressive step ... saves the capital of the State of Palestine from the Israeli-American robbery by returning to the Palestinian national program and abandoning the illusion of a political solution sponsored by the United States." (dfplp-palestine.net, Dec. 7)

Trump rips mask off U.S. phony 'peace process'

The decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and its aftermath also illustrates the agony of the U.S. ruling class and its delicate dance with Donald Trump.

On the one hand, the bosses and bankers are in love with Trump's tax giveaways to the corporations and the rich. They thrive on his deregulation of business rules and environmental degradation. They wholeheartedly support his appointment of right-wing judges and heads of agencies who want to destroy what limited protections these agencies were charged with enforcing.

On the other hand, the mainstream capitalist class, and especially their braintrust in the universities, think tanks, media and the political establishment, are virtually apoplectic over his reckless, mindless destruction of their cunning and deceitful diplomatic and political methods carefully built up over many years.

Almost the entire U.S. establishment, as well as the European Union and NATO, are in an uproar. The British and French imperialists, the Russians and others actually called for a United Nations Security Council meeting to condemn Washington's recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

The imperialists are upset because for decades they have been dangling the prospect of East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital as a carrot to continue the "peace process." The status of East Jerusalem was supposed to be settled in a "final status" agreement some time in the future.

The Trump move on Jerusalem has sparked imperialist moaning about the danger to the so-called two-state solution and fueled speculation about a one-state solution whereby the Palestinians would be absorbed into the racist Israeli state. For the imperialists to speculate on restructuring Palestinian statehood is a gross violation of self-determination. This is a matter strictly for the Palestinians to decide through their popular organizations.

False 'opposition' to Trump

Of course the "opposition" to the Trump proposal by the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, etc., is not in the least serious. While they cannot publicly collaborate with Trump on this matter, they will deal with the State Department and the Pentagon freely under the table and continue to collect military and CIA aid.

The anger and disapproval of the imperialists have nothing to do with sympathy for the cause of the Palestinian people. First, it comes from their fear of rebellion in Palestine and the Middle East. But equally important, it comes from what they fear will be the end of Washington's role as a so-called "honest broker" in the region.

It is this role that has allowed diplomatic deception for over four decades. This "honest broker" reputation, carefully cultivated, has given cover to U.S. clients and puppets in the region, from Cairo to Riyadh, to Amman and Beirut, as well as to the other imperialist jackals, to participate in continued support for Tel Aviv's oppression of the Palestinians. This has been done under cover of the so-called "peace process." Now, Trump has ripped the mask off the phony impartiality of Washington, and all the imperialists and their stooges are horrified.

To show the total lack of strategic thinking by Trump — which is what bothers the ruling-class establishment — he is in the midst of trying to cement an anti-Iran coalition, centered around Saudi Arabia, Cairo and the Gulf States. But his recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital is going to make it more difficult for Trump's allies to openly embrace him in this maneuver.

Oppression under U.S.-sponsored 'peace process'

Under cover of this so-called "peace process," the Pentagon has given \$3 billion a year in lethal military supplies to the Israeli Defense Forces. Washington has supplied well over \$100 billion in jet fighters, killer helicopters, missiles, missile defense batteries, tanks, armored personnel carriers, bulldozers, tear gas, stun grenades, anti-personnel weapons, etc., to use against the masses. Under the U.S.-supported occupation, the Palestinians have had to fight mainly with stones and slingshots against the occupiers.

During the decades of the U.S.-spon-

sored "peace process," Tel Aviv has continued to expand settlements in the West Bank. There are now 200,000 settlers in East Jerusalem, compared to 350,000 Palestinians. Thousands of Palestinian homes throughout the West Bank have been destroyed over the decades. Olive groves have been ripped out. Checkpoints have been established where Palestinians have to wait hours to go to work or visit relatives while being scrutinized by racist Israeli soldiers.

Some settlements are virtual cities, often on hilltops. They are built on expropriated Palestinian land where Palestinians are not allowed, allegedly for security reasons. Israeli-only superhighways have been established across the West Bank, while Palestinians must travel poorly maintained roads. The settlements are scattered across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They are located in such a way as to make travel by Palestinians from place to place extremely difficult.

This is an example of what the "peace process" has brought to Palestine: "When the Israelis and Palestinians first began peace talks after a 1993 interim agreement, the West Bank settlers numbered a little over 100,000. Today they total around 400,000 and live in about 130 separate settlements." (National Public Radio, Dec. 29, 2016)

Trump, billionaires and evangelicals

Trump took this unilateral imperialist measure in response to the call of some of his Zionist billionaire backers, such as Sheldon Adelson, a fellow casino mogul who was a major donor to his campaign.

Trump also timed the recognition of Jerusalem to coincide with the Roy Moore senatorial campaign in Alabama. Moore is backed by Christian Zionists in evangelical churches, which have a large constituency in Alabama.

The recognition of Jerusalem has also served to draw attention away from the numerous charges of sexual harassment of teenagers lodged against Moore. And it also helped Trump fire up his reactionary base among the bosses, the petty bourgeoisie and sections of the workers.

By embracing Roy Moore, Trump and his former chief aide Steve Bannon have aligned with an open fascist in the mold of former Gov. George Wallace of Alabama. Moore has praised the era of slavery "when families were together." He says that the U.S. is the center of evil because it recognizes same-sex marriage. He is a theocrat who was twice removed as a judge in Alabama — once for refusing to remove a monument to the Ten Commandments he had installed in the lobby

of the state judicial building in Montgomery and once for refusing to recognize same-sex marriage.

Trump has gone so far to the right that even reactionaries are worried about his discrediting the capitalist system, especially among the younger generation. The Mueller investigation, carried out under the diversionary premise about Trump-Russian connections, is closing in on him. The ruling class has begun a whispering campaign about his mental health and fitness for office. The New York Times ran a major piece looking into Trump's daily behavior, including his egoism, self-centeredness, disregard of reality, reliance on television, etc.

Their reaction to Trump's recognition of Jerusalem must be put in the context of the inner struggle within the ruling class over their own chief executive.

Palestine and right to self-determination

The Jerusalem question has unleashed a torrent of speculation about the dimming prospect for a "two-state solution." When the bosses call for a two-state solution, they are calling for something that will preserve both the security of their Israeli clients and the subjection of the Palestinian people.

In addition, the Zionists under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a whole series of his predecessors have never given any serious consideration to a sovereign Palestinian state. The constitution of Netanyahu's party, the Likud Party, calls for a single state under Zionist rule, including all of the West Bank.

Be that as it may, the Leninist position on the right of self-determination calls for the Palestinian people to determine how they want to structure their own sovereign state in their homeland, including the right to return to lands stolen from them, beginning in 1948 through 1967 and up to today.

The structure of the Palestinian state must be decided by the Palestinians themselves, not by false leaders manipulated by imperialism, but by the popular masses through their genuine grass-roots organizations and leaders.

Because of the ironclad support for Tel Aviv by the Pentagon and U.S. imperialism in general, plus the retreat of the bourgeois Arab leaders, the relationship of forces at the moment is not favorable to the Palestinian struggle. Under these conditions, if the Palestinians themselves — not false leaders — feel the need to compromise, revolutionaries must recognize their right to make tactical concessions as they see fit.

But under no circumstances can there be any compromise by revolutionary supporters of the Palestinians on their right to self-determination, including the absolute right of return and the right to set up a genuinely sovereign state as they see fit. □



New York City

Protests across U.S. hit Trump's attack on Palestine

By Kris Balderas Hamel

Demonstrations were swiftly organized in cities around the United States in opposition to the U.S. declaration on Dec. 6 that it would move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and in solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people in the face of this decisive attack. Workers World Party members actively participated in many of these actions. The following are reports from some of them.

On just two days' notice, 4,000 to 6,000 people came to a Times Square rally in **New York City** on Dec. 8 to "Say NO to Trump's recent move of 'recognizing' Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," as the call of NY4Palestine put it. NY4Palestine is a coalition of Palestinian support groups in the New York City area. The protesters were mainly Arab; whole families came, from mothers carrying infants in their arms to grandmothers. It was a very political protest with sharp slogans: "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" "Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine!" "Israel — tool of U.S. imperialism!" and "Long live the Intifada! Free, free Palestine!"

After the rally at Times Square, the crowd marched uptown to the Trump Hotel at Columbus Circle, where another rally was held. Twitter posts show protests continuing on the subways both coming from and going to the demonstration.

Thirty years to the day after the declaration of the first Intifada, or uprising, hundreds of activists took to the streets of **Philadelphia** in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Led by Palestinian activist Susan Abulhawa, the crowds expressed outrage at Donald Trump's decision to build a U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.

The Dec. 8 protest was initiated by the Philadelphia International Action Center and endorsed by CAIR-PA (Council on American-Islamic Relations); Philly BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions); Food not Bombs; Philly REAL Justice; the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Workers World Party; the Black Alliance for Peace; MOVE; the Party for Socialism and Liberation; and Brandywine Peace Community.

Abulhawa stressed that the fight to free Palestine is the same as the struggle to get rid of the paramilitary occupation forces that terrorize, assault and murder Black and Brown people in the United States. Lamont Lilly, the WWP 2016 vice presidential candidate, echoed this sentiment: "Across the sea we call the U.S. Marines,

Special Forces and Army the military. Here we call them the police, the sheriffs, the FBI. But they are the same state apparatus terrorizing oppressed people."

Pam Africa, representing ICFMAJ, spoke on the need for solidarity between Black communities facing oppression in the U.S. and Palestinians under occupation by Israel. The rally ended with chants to "Free Mumia!"

Protesters marched around City Hall, taking the streets and blocking traffic. As night fell, marchers chanted slogans in English, Spanish and Arabic, and the words "Israel is a terrorist state!" and "End the occupation now!" echoed off the stone edifices in Center City. A handful of young Palestinian activists climbed onto the statue of former Mayor Frank Rizzo as the crowd began to disperse and hung a sign around his neck reading, "Hands off Jerusalem!"

People came out Dec. 8 in front of the federal building in downtown **Rochester, N.Y.**, to protest Trump's decision. A number of groups helped the local Palestinian community organize the rally, including Christians Witnessing for Palestine, Jewish Strike for Peace and Workers World Party.

Activists from the **Baltimore and Washington, D.C.**, branches of WWP attended a Palestine solidarity demonstration directly in front of the White House. The protest was called by American Muslims for Palestine.

About 500 people came out in **Detroit** for a militant action organized by the U.S. Palestinian Community Network-Detroit and led by Palestinian women and youth.

The demonstration was notable for linking the struggle against the occupation and destruction of Palestine by Israel with the displacement of the oppressed community of Detroit. Water shutoffs and foreclosures there have been spearheaded by the same banks and imperialist interests that fund the Israeli occupation. Rally organizer Julia Kassem noted how Trump has been joined by Democratic Party leader Chuck Schumer in the call for moving Israel's capital to Jerusalem.

The demonstrators marched from Hart Plaza to Campus Martius in the center of downtown Detroit, chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" At a rally, Abayomi Azikiwe from the Moratorium Now Coalition expressed the solidarity of Detroit's African-American community with the Palestinian struggle, and Joe Mshahwar from Workers World Party linked the struggle against Israeli occupation with the ongoing battle of Syr-

ia against U.S. imperialist intervention.

About 1,000 protesters rallied at **Chicago's** Federal Plaza the evening of Dec. 7, angry at Trump's imperialist, racist and insulting designation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The action, which included a march to the Israeli Consulate, was organized by the Coalition for Justice in Palestine.

Tourists visiting **San Antonio's** Alamo on a warm sunny Sunday, Dec. 10, were greeted with loud chants of "Trump, Trump, you will see! Palestine will be free!" from activists across the street at the federal building. Cars driving by honked support, tourists began videoing the action and even a few Alamo visitors joined in.

At the rally, speakers condemned Trump's announcement and told of the horrors going on in occupied Palestine. The overriding opinion was that no U.S. president has the right to declare a capital in another country.

Students from the University of Texas at San Antonio said it was imperative that students stand up for people in Palestine and denounce Trump's proclamation.

Judy Lerma, an organizer for National Nurses United and speaking for Workers World Party, said, "The Palestinian people suffer from lack of medicines, inadequate health care, the worsening of existing health conditions and the creation of new ones, not the least of which are injuries caused by the military violence perpetrated by the Israeli terrorists who are bought and paid for by the U.S. government."

A representative of Jewish Voice for Peace, Judith Norman said, "This issue is not about Jews versus Muslims or Christians. It's about a colonialist oppressor and the people who have been subject to a brutal and illegal occupation."

The protest and rally were organized by University of Texas-San Antonio Students for Justice in Palestine, local chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, and San Antonio for Justice in Palestine.

Members of the International Action Center and Workers World Party participated in two demonstrations in **Los Angeles** on Dec. 10. In the first, at the Westwood Federal Building, several hundred people participated in a solidarity



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

with Palestine rally led by Al-Awda.

The second was an International League of Peoples' Struggle coalition event, of which the International Action Center is a part. That event, marking International Human Rights Day, was a protest and march from the Wilshire Federal Building to the Downtown Detention Center and included the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; School of the Americas Watch; Human Rights Alliance; the Filipino organization BAYAN-USA; California for Progress; Puerto Rican Alliance; Korean Peace Alliance; American Indian Movement Southern California; and more. All made solidarity with Palestine a primary focus while pledging solidarity with all targets of U.S. imperialism — from South Central and East LA to Honduras, the Philippines and Korea.

Hundreds took to the streets of **San Francisco** on Dec. 9 in response to a call by the Arab Resource and Organizing Center; the General Union of Palestinian Students of San Francisco State University; and American Muslims for Palestine. Marchers demanded hands off Jerusalem; U.S. out of Palestine; no to white supremacy here or in our homelands; boycott, divest and sanction Israel; and end the colonial occupation of Palestine.

Starting with a rally at United Nations Plaza, they marched, led by Palestinian youth, down Market Street to the Embarcadero, where they held a second rally. Chants included, "From Palestine to Mexico, the border walls have got to go!" and "There is only one solution: Intifada/revolution!"

Sharon Black, Gene Clancy, G. Dunkel, Terri Kay, Ted Kelly, Andrew Mayton, John Parker, Gloria Rubac, Jeff Sorel and the WW Detroit bureau contributed to this article.



San Antonio

WW PHOTO: PANCHO VALDEZ



Washington, D.C.

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK



Los Angeles

WW PHOTO: SCOTT SCHEFFER



Detroit

WW PHOTO



San Francisco

WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

★ WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ★

Excerpts based on talks given on Nov. 18 - Nov. 19 at the 2017 Workers World Party national conference in Newark, N.J. Full talks are available at workers.org.

Solidarity and security in revolutionary times

Everyone here knows that we are living in a capitalist system that is in crisis.

A hurricane in Puerto Rico or in Houston, a fire in California, a plant closing — and people are on their own for survival. There is no plan to deal with an economic collapse or a natural disaster impacting millions.

It is the determination to fight for change that brings us to revolutionary activism. I wish I could say that the future is rosy, that the path is straight.

We can only assure you that each militant here today is more secure in a political party than if you are on your own confronting state repression.

Holding this conference takes organizing security on different levels. We speak boldly and give confidence. We are not just talking to each other. We are talking to a wider audience that is hungry to hear about fightback, resistance and socialism.

But a repressive state apparatus and racist white supremacists are listening, too. If we take ourselves seriously, we all



Sara Flounders

ways need to keep both audiences in mind. So we have to constantly make plans, project struggles and know when to spin on a dime and respond to crisis.

Training to be a cadre

It takes training to be a cadre — a skilled revolutionary fighter. A fighter doesn't have only one move. It takes training to duck and weave, feint, dip and confront full-on. It takes training to think a step ahead.

Our collective strength is one resource. Past struggles are another resource. Communist revolutions, communist parties' experiences, and past and historic mass uprisings provide a rich history, worthy of study.

Revolutionary theory is a science. It can be studied and creatively applied. It is a science of showing solidarity on

a working-class basis. Political theory provides the tools to understand national oppression and build unity as well as analyze the capitalist state and global imperialism.

Cadre training is never-ending. We are constantly learning how to contend with the crises this system, based on theft and duplicity, throws at us. This is why communists take up so many issues on so many fronts and answer every lie the capitalists throw at us with class truth.

There is no such thing as a humanitarian mission carried out by U.S. imperialism. Whenever the media appear to speak with one voice, we need to be wary and ask, "What's behind this?" Then we must prepare to stand our ground.

Class viewpoint key

Workers World Party has a consistent view. It is how we have survived decades of political upheaval worldwide. Our view is based on an analysis of the "Global Class War" — that there are two fundamental classes.

Four years ago, 80 billionaires owned

more wealth than the poorer half of the planet. Today, it's just eight billionaires. The capitalist concentration of wealth is criminal and extreme. The world's workers produce everything and own practically nothing.

To protect this system of expropriation the state apparatus has grown to gargantuan proportions. It has a gigantic military machine, a vast repressive police apparatus and prison system, and well-paid corporate media.

This dying system needs racism and other forms of divisiveness. It needs to fund the most reactionary ideas and fascist forces. U.S. imperialism has become more dangerous and more desperate in its decline.

We must find the young workers and oppressed people who are looking for us, those who are determined to fight for a better world.

We must build a movement of unity and solidarity. WWP builds solidarity with the most oppressed people, those most marginalized, isolated and ignored by society.

Continued on page 11



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

The revolutionary future: Queer, trans and Black

Adjoa Achia

a Black woman, to support young women of color facing sexual trauma and harassment. As Burke has noted in an interview: "Sexual violence doesn't see race or class, but the response to it does." (vox.com, Oct. 28)

The current surge of mass disclosure proves again that this system only cares about victims if they are rich and white. White privilege means that a campaign created by a Black woman can be taken, whitewashed the f—k out, and the voices of Black women and femmes thrown away without remorse.

What is continuously and intentionally left out, not only from the mainstream feminist campaign, but from its conversations about victimization, are the stories of Black and Brown, queer and trans people; the violence from white men, white women and white supremacy; and

how these are inherently tied to capitalism. At its core, mainstream feminism is anti-Black, anti-queer and anti-trans because it relies on the same oppressive principles under capitalism in order to remain valid.

Look at the history of the "women's movement." For instance, the 1890s, dubbed "the era of woman" in the U.S., was seen as key in defining the onset of the women's movement. Middle-class white women were increasing their visibility in the public sphere to prove themselves capable of engaging in male-dominated spaces. They opposed social evolutionist theorists who maintained (straight, white, cisgender) manhood as superior and struggled for issues like women's suffrage.

But they and their supporters often linked their work to an evolutionary

"progress" that posited the colonial-capitalist U.S. as superior to the "primitive" cultures of Asia and Africa. These feminists appealed to the white male ruling class in a way that necessarily rejected Blackness and queerness. They adhered to traditional gender norms as a way to "preserve the white race," and emphasized white women's differences from women of color in order to align themselves with white men.

The placing of Black queer and trans femmes as everything that is "not white" is an ongoing product of slavery and colonialism. As Black feminist thinker Patricia Hill Collins has said: "White women's sexuality could not be constructed as it is without corresponding controlling images applied to U.S. Black women." ("Black Feminist Thought," 2002)

I would add that this also applies to Black women in Africa and globally. We are, ultimately, not part of the category of "woman/womanhood" and are therefore unable to claim palpable narratives of women's oppression because "wom-

Continued on page 11

Conference livestream reaches growing audience

This is the second year the party has livestreamed the national conference.

Before giving the numbers, here are the advances that contributed to a successful weekend of livestreams.

Right-wing trolls mostly commented on the first livestream. It is not unusual for them to troll left-wing livestreams. They clearly copied and pasted the same talking point because their comments were repetitive. The way we combated trolls was to hide and ban them. Abusive trolls were reported to Facebook.

We now have a larger, more coordinated team of social media comrades, who made all those awesome graphics, including the banner at the bottom of our Facebook livestream that let people know this was a Workers World Party conference. And the graphic artist also designed the Russian centennial banner that Durham provided.

We held one-on-one livestreams on the side of the stage for in-depth conver-

sations with several activists. Other comrades provided some work before the conference.

For the first time we advertised on Facebook before the conference weekend to entice people to register for the conference and to "like" our Facebook page. Facebook reports that both our ads reached 36,329 people, and the registration ad drove 1,500 people to our registration page.

We saw a spike on our website for requests to join the party. That tends to happen whenever the party is in the spotlight (around Charlottesville) or when people are frustrated, as after Donald Trump was elected president. This time, some people mentioned the livestreams in explaining their interest in becoming party members.

A combination of a higher number of Facebook followers, combined with our sharing strategy and Facebook's algorithm placing livestreams high in peo-

Julie Varughese



PHOTO: DEREK PASHUPA GOODWIN

ple's newsfeeds, helped increase our reach and views. A YouTube video was sent out in a Nov. 16 email about how to help increase the reach of Facebook posts. (youtu.be/8LT0jRCyBJE)

Here are our spectacular numbers, updated to reflect the most recent social-media analytics:

Facebook Analytics (as of Dec. 6)

Reach: 183,103, a 1,708 percent increase over last year (Reach refers to how many people see a livestream in their Facebook newsfeed, regardless of whether they click to view it.)

Views: 63,283, a 1,604 percent increase

Peak # of viewers while live: 131

Reactions (mostly likes and hearts): 15,362

Comments: 5,397

Shares: 700

Page likes generated, Nov. 16 to Dec. 5: 6,477 to 7,141, a 8.5 percent increase.

Twitter Analytics 515 viewers

Most popular viewing locations: U.S. states, including California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington state, West Virginia, and countries such as Australia, Ecuador, England, Finland, Italy and Mexico. □

JUSTICE FOR SAM SMITH: Uniting to fight racism & anti-LGBTQ bigotry

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

A struggle is building to win a new trial to free Sam Smith of Roxbury, Mass. This Black man was railroaded to prison after police and prosecutors committed acts of gross misconduct. These included relying on anti-trans bigotry and white supremacy to eliminate jurors who might be sympathetic to this Black man caught in the injustice system when he was a youth.

In early 1991, Smith was caught up in the dragnet of racist policing and his fate put in the hands of racist prosecutors, judges and the court system. Smith's trial was a farce, riddled with irregularities that prevented any semblance of justice. He was subsequently convicted of murder in 2001.

But one aspect of Smith's ordeal has recently been brought to light as a potential pole for unity in the struggle to expose the injustice system and win Smith's freedom.

At Smith's trial, prosecutor James Coffey used hideous, derogatory, anti-transgender language to invalidate a potential juror. Partway through Coffey's transphobic ranting, the judge cut him off, resulting in Coffey using a peremptory challenge to eliminate the juror.

When lawyers for the defendant later asked for room recordings of the trial proceedings, the prosecutor refused to hand them over and said the recordings were "missing." Written transcripts of the court proceedings omitted the sections where Coffey uttered his vile words.

Coffey has since gone on to become a judge while Smith has spent more than 25 years locked up in the hellholes of the prison system.

Smith and his lawyers have appealed his sentence with this argument: To deny someone a seat on a jury for being transgender is a violation of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, which deals with issues of citizenship and equal protection by the law.

Smith's legal team went to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which then refused to rule on the use of a peremptory challenge to remove a juror due to their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The court made this ruling despite the fact that Article 12 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights in the state Constitution prevents the use of a peremptory challenge to remove a juror because of their affiliation with "particular defined groupings in the community."

Trans organizer and Workers World Party member Gery Armsby told Workers World: "This racist, piece-of-garbage prosecutor did what every prosecutor tries to do during jury selection: remove jurors who might have a reason to side with the oppressed. I don't know if the juror was trans or how they identified. But the fact that this cop-lawyer launched an audible, vitriolic, transphobic rant in the courtroom questioning a juror's eligibility to function at trial on the basis of their gender expression, intimidating other ju-

rors or potential jurors, shows how much the cops, courts and prisons have relied on homophobia and transphobia to buttress their racism."

Armsby added: "We in the anti-police brutality and prisoner solidarity movements need to link the struggles against racism and against anti-LGBTQ bigotry in an eternal bond and fight like hell for our brother, Sam Smith."

A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 15 when Smith's lawyer will demand release of the tapes. If the tapes are not turned over, the lawyer will ask for a retrial for Smith. His legal team feels he will most likely be freed if granted a retrial. Supporters, friends and members of the LGBTQ community and progressive movement will be packing the court that day.

To demand a retrial for Sam Smith, call Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey at 617.727.2200.

Unite to fight racism and anti-LGBTQ bigotry! Justice for Sam Smith! An injury to one is an injury to all! □

Tacoma, Wash.

Growing fightback against immigrant detention

By Jim McMahan
Tacoma, Wash.

The increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and detentions has led to an increase in resistance to the Trump/ICE reign of terror against immigrant workers. All through 2017, due to the struggles of immigrant prisoners themselves, many people have come out against the raids, detentions and deportations.

At the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, prisoners have held hunger strikes against inhumane conditions almost all year long. In fact, prisoners held seven hunger strikes in 2017, with the last one ending in early December. At one point in the spring there were 750 prisoners on strike. At NORCOR (Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facilities), a newer immigrant detention prison in The Dalles, there were two strikes this year.

All the strikes have been for the most basic survival reasons: for decent food, health care, legal representation and

against racist treatment, deportations and slave wages of a dollar a day for prisoner labor. The hunger strikes have been labor strikes as well.

The striking prisoners have been represented on the outside by the Northwest Detention Center Resistance. The organization gives the prisoners' demands to the news media and also organizes protests against the prison administration's attacks on prisoners, such as solitary confinement, transferring prisoners arbitrarily, threats of forced feeding, etc. The NWDCR has helped the prisoners produce the Hunger Strikers Handbook — an organizing tool available at hunger-strikershandbook.org.

Many other solidarity groups on "the outside" participate. The International Action Center has been picketing the NWDC monthly for over 10 years.

A group of 120 protesting students from the University of Washington in Seattle descended on the prison from a bus and a number of cars on Nov. 28. They held a rally demanding the release of



Univ. of Washington students and teachers protest immigrant arrests outside Northwest Detention Center.

fellow student Bangally Fatty from Gambia. Fatty, the father of an infant child, was a victim of labor trafficking when he moved to the U.S. and has applied for a special visa. As students demanded his release, those that could get inside the prison went to Fatty's bond hearing, but his release was denied.

Outside the prison, which is owned by Geo, a for-profit prison corporation, several university professors and activists gave the students a teach-in on the issues of mass incarceration and criminalization. One professor revealed that the

prison was located on a toxic superfund site. A huge slag pile of toxic material, dumped in the prison's backyard when the facility opened in the early 2000s, has been charged with making many of the prisoners sick.

This was one of many rallies that have been held at the detention center this year. There are growing calls for the city of Tacoma to end its contract with Geo. Spurred by prisoners' protests, Washington state Attorney General Robert Ferguson has actually gone to court to demand Geo pay the prisoners the state minimum wage. □

Philippine solidarity groups launch coalition

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Ore.

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) launched a broad-based coalition on Dec. 9 and Dec. 10 that will work to help stop the increase in killings in the Philippines.

The killings have intensified since President Donald Trump's visit to the Philippines. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, working under the influence of U.S. imperialism, labeled the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines as terrorists.

The upbeat ICHRP event here pulled together dozens of national organizations and leading activists who will work together to dis-

seminate information and organize solidarity for the people's movement in the Philippines.

Trump's recent trip to the Philippines to meet with Duterte shows that the U.S. government is pushing to expand the U.S. military presence there. The administra-

tion wants to build up regional U.S. military power against China and get support from the Philippine government in the U.S. war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The U.S. plans to send up to \$111 million in military aid to the Philippines, despite more than 14,000 il-

legal killings under Duterte's regime.

Duterte's reactionary government is robbing the country of natural resources, exploiting Philippine workers, creating land grabs and tremendous food and medical shortages, and destroying the environment. □



Coalition members say 'Stop the killings!'

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

Fighting racism is not a photo op

In another move in the disgusting game that is capitalist electoral politics, the racist, woman-hating, anti-immigrant, KKK-endorsed U.S. president, Donald Trump, became the first person to “tour” the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum that opened Dec. 9 in Jackson.

The state’s Republican governor was trying to use Trump’s lying double-talk authority to induce public amnesia about Mississippi’s 300-year slaughter of people of color by white supremacists. Literally white-washing history is part of the competition among Southern “right-to-work-for-less” states to get corporations to relocate there.

But public outrage at Trump’s attendance was so intense that he could not speak at the public opening outside the museum, where he would surely have been booed and possibly disrupted. Trump had to hide out inside with a small crowd, mostly white politicians, donors, their families and carefully chosen journalists, in order to deliver brief remarks clearly scripted by someone else.

Nobody has ever heard Trump utter such phrases before: “the oppression, cruelty and injustice inflicted on the African-American community, the fight to end slavery, to break down Jim Crow, to end segregation, to gain the right to vote, and to achieve the sacred birthright of equality here.”

Clearly not words written by a man who once inadvertently revealed he had no idea who the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass was. Nor by a man who said that the neo-Nazis who beat up anti-racists in Charlottesville, Va., and murdered one woman were “good people.”

Then this violent, despicable racist revealed off-script his ultimate disdain for the bloody sacrifice of Civil Rights activists who died for the right to vote. Immediately after reading out his scripted lines, he ad-libbed: “Those are very big phrases. Very big words.”

Because to Trump, the struggle against racism is not life and death. To him, the struggle is nothing but “big words.”

His appearance at a Civil Rights museum was nothing but the figleaf of a photo-op — an attempt to hide how racist to the core U.S. “democratic” politics are.

The progressive African-American mayor of Jackson, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, refused to attend the ceremony, where he would not have been allowed to speak anyway, saying: “I’m not going to be a part of a photo op.” (Jackson Free Press, Dec. 8)

U.S. Representatives Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) and John Lewis (D-Ga.) also boycotted the ceremony, saying in a press release: “President Trump’s attendance and his hurtful policies are an insult to the people portrayed in this Civil Rights museum.” (JFP, Dec. 7) One of those Civil Rights veterans who spoke at the public ceremony was Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of martyred



Protesting against Trump’s racist, anti-immigrant policies in Jackson, Miss., Dec. 9.

NAACP leader Medgar Evers, who was assassinated by white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith at their Jackson home in 1963 in front of the Evers’ children.

The life-and-death struggle for justice was condescended to and exploited by a U.S. president, who then reboarded Air Force One and flew off only one hour after touching down in Jackson.

But those still in the struggle recognized him and the white supremacists for what they are — and denounced them.

Speaking on behalf of the “direct political heirs” of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that fought white supremacy, Jacqueline Amos said: “Trump has no place at a celebration of the very values and aspirations his presidency is clearly committed to destroy. Mr. President, leave Mississippi alone. We have had far too much experience with your kind already.” (JFP, Dec. 5)

Talamieka Brice, who helped organize the 200 protesters assembled along Jackson streets, was vehement: “The ideology that was the catalyst that keeps people demonizing others, that needs to be in a museum, and Donald Trump is evidence that it is not.” (New York Times, Dec. 9)

That ideology isn’t in a museum — yet. But all across the U.S. are signs of a growing struggle against the ideology that keeps demonization in place — the ideology of capitalism.

And when there is a U.S. Museum of the Revolution, then Boss Trump will be nothing but a photo moment in a historical display of how ruling-class capitalist ideology was ultimately defeated. □

Tax bill sparks protests

By Chris Fry

From small towns to big cities, nationwide protests erupted in response to the pro-rich “tax reform” bill passed by both the House and the Senate. The bill now goes to a conference committee, where pro-business legislators will create a final bill that will cut taxes by some \$1.5 trillion, with almost all the savings going to Wall Street.

From Asheville, N.C., to San Diego, from Pocatello, Idaho, to Pittsburgh, from a few dozen people to many thousands, people poured into the streets voicing their objections. Some objected to one or another particularly onerous part of the bill, others to the whole rotten thing.

It’s easy to see why. Both the Senate and House versions eliminate the Affordable Care Act mandate, and cause premiums to rise. This erasure would take away health insurance for 13 million people, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). It would remove Medicaid recipients. It would even cancel subsidies to employer-sponsored health insurance, just as premiums skyrocket.

Protesters disrupted a Senate hearing in Washington on the health cutbacks in the bill on Nov. 28, shouting “Shame!” and “Don’t kill us! Kill the bill!” Thirty-six protesters, some in wheelchairs, were arrested. (huffingtonpost.com, Nov. 28)

Graduate students at more than 40 campuses held protests against the provision in the House portion of the bill that would tax their tuition waivers. “One in four doctoral students nationwide received tuition waivers in 2012, according to the Council of Graduate Schools — along with a smaller percentage of undergrads. The American Council on Education estimates the measure would cost students some \$65 billion by 2027.

“The [University of Texas] would collapse without our labor,” said Nick Bloom, a 27-year-old doctoral student in American studies who helped organize the event. “We grade papers, we work as teaching assistants, we work as tutors, all in addition to our coursework and research.” Bloom said he makes about \$18,000 a year from teaching, researching and running social media for his department. Bloom says he pays nothing in tuition, and if he were required to pay taxes on the full amount [of tuition as if it were income], he might have to drop out of school.” (texasobserver.org, Dec. 6)

Protests against this particular tax were so powerful that the Senate dropped this provision from the bill. But these students are quite aware that the conference committee could put it back into the final version.

One outrageous provision of the Senate bill is that it opens up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling by the oil and gas industry. This pristine area of Alaska, some 1.5 million acres, is home to abundant wildlife, including caribou and much-threatened polar bears. Pointing out this provision, two women in Pittsburgh chained themselves to the Grant Building on Dec. 4.

Protesters in San Diego against the tax bill joined activists for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) on Dec. 4, blocking traffic on several downtown streets. (cbs8.com, Dec. 4)

Over and over again, proponents of this “tax reform” bill proclaim that this is a “middle-class” tax cut — meaning it’s a cut for those near or below the average income. However, the Washington Post reports that after taking the health insurance cuts into consideration: “The effect, then, is that over the short term the federal government will be saving money on poorer Americans, even after cutting their taxes. By 2021, the CBO estimates that federal revenue will be up about \$24 billion from households that earn less than \$30,000 a year, even as it loses \$198 billion thanks to tax cuts on those making more than \$75,000 a year.”

That means poor people are paying for the billionaire and corporate tax cuts. And the workers know it, which explains why only 29 percent of the public supports this bill — less than any tax bill in history.

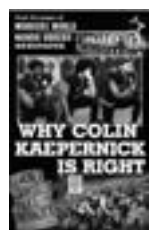
Pressure from Wall Street

Why is Wall Street pressing their minions in Washington so hard to pass this shameful bill? For decades, big business has more and more relied on automation and global production networks to lower labor costs and increase profit margins. But now they face the dead end of overproduction and a declining rate of profit. To increase profits they are driven to lower their own taxes while at the same time vastly increasing the deficit.

They will then use the existence of a large deficit as their excuse to destroy every hard-won social program starting with the New Deal passed during the 1930s depression. This includes cutting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, the Children’s Health Insurance Program and so much more, while they wallow in their hoarded wealth.

The protests so far, strong as they are, are only a beginning. Millions of workers and oppressed people are waking up to what big business and their politicians have in store: one harsh austerity measure after another. By taking to the streets and disrupting “business as usual,” the workers and poor can win this fight. And will. □

Learn more. Available on line without charge. Find them at: www.workers.org/books



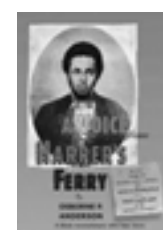
WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero Newspaper



The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

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



A Voice From Harpers Ferry

Osborne P. Anderson’s account of the raid on Harper’s Ferry appeared in pamphlet form in 1861 right after the start of the Civil War.

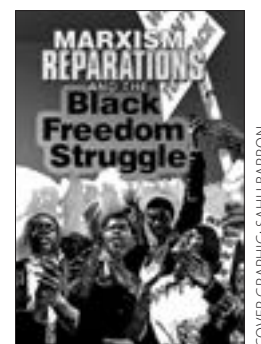
MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

Available at all major online booksellers.



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

Millions of Hondurans dispute election fraud

By John Catalinotto

Dec. 11 — Tens if not hundreds of thousands of people, especially youth, have poured into the streets of Honduras, a country of only 9 million, to protest election fraud.

“They have stolen the votes from us,” Salvador Nasralla Salum said at a march on Dec. 10 in Tegucigalpa, the capital, that ended in a three-hour demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy. “This country will be ungovernable starting now.”

In national elections on Nov. 26, Nasralla was the presidential candidate of the Alliance (Alianza), made up of his own Anti-Corruption Party and the Libre Party, led by former President Manuel Zelaya, who was overthrown in a U.S.-backed coup in 2009. Xiomara Zelaya, the former president’s spouse, was Alianza’s vice presidential candidate in the current election.

The Alianza was clearly winning the election when the regime stopped the count and then after three days announced the incumbents had won. Nasralla accuses the United States, the European Union and the Organization of American States of being “accomplices to fraud.”

The EU and OAS have hesitated to endorse the election, given the massive number of Hondurans who have come out to protest the fraud. U.S. President Donald Trump, however, praised incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernández for winning the election.

On Dec. 10, two weeks after the elections took place, tens of thousands of Hondurans supporting the Alianza

demonstrated in Tegucigalpa and other cities throughout the country.

A week earlier, when the government tried to impose a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew on the population, Nasralla called on members of the armed forces and police to refuse this order. The National Police announced on Dec. 5 that they would no longer repress the population. Others described scenes of police and the people dancing together in the streets after this refusal to be servants of the rich.

Any indication that the police and army — the core elements of the repressive state that has killed 14 people in the days following the election — might even be thinking of refusing to play that repressive role strikes terror into the hearts of the Honduran oligarchy and their imperialist masters.

In the five days after Dec. 5, there has been very little movement by the incumbent regime and its Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE). According to The Economist of Dec. 7, the government increased the pay for the police and they went back on duty.

Nasralla has asked the TSE to either recount all the ballots in a way transparent to the people or rerun the entire election. In a letter issued on Dec. 9, former President Zelaya said the OAS was trying to split the opposition, but that he would support Nasralla’s decisions. For now, both call on the Honduran people to stay in the streets.

Zelaya blames U.S. for crisis and 2009 coup

In an interview with Democracy Now!

on Dec. 8, Zelaya explained why he and millions of other Hondurans don’t believe the regime and the TSE. He placed the blame for the current crisis in Honduras squarely on Washington and for the 2009 coup backed by the U.S.

“On the day of the election, the tribunal said ... that we had a 5 percent lead, with 71 percent of the votes counted. It was a 5 percent lead and growing. Then, the system went down for three days. They say that the server was overloaded. That’s like putting three needles into a room. How is a server going to be overloaded with so little data. ...

“And we were told that they had reset, when we asked for the backup, and it was all lost. And then it was resumed, and we’re told, with 29 percent of the vote left to be counted, that we were losing” — by 1.6 percent.

“Since the coup d’état [of 2009], the United States has done what it wants with this country. They changed all the laws. This is a military state, with laws like Plan Colombia, like the laws in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is what’s happening in Honduras. ... We are calling for people to defend them-

selves in the streets, so that what we won at the polls, we defend in the streets. ...

“The coup d’état against me was planned in Miami at the Southern Command. [The U.S.] finance the main churches, evangelical churches, as well — not all of them, but most of them. They run the large owners of the media corporations. They feed them a line, day after day. And the military obey them, because they were trained by them at the School of the Americas. It now has another name, but the graduates are throughout Latin America. ...

“That’s how the history of this country has been. They run the transnationals, private sector, the churches, the major media — not just here, around the world. The major media conglomerates answer to the U.S. line. ...

“There’s less hypocrisy with Trump. He’s more direct about what he’s going to do, and he does it. Under the previous administration, there was a lack of sincerity in the words. And so, in a way, we like this. But Trump is very repressive. He’s very cold and harsh. He only sees the world from the standpoint of business.” □

The revolutionary future: Queer, trans and Black

Continued from page 8

an” was never meant to include us. And so mainstream conversations and work around gender and sexual oppression get limited to the experiences of cisgender white women.

For the past month and a half, Black and dark-skinned New York City strippers have been organizing a strike, speaking out against racism and colorism in the industry. Discrimination means dark-skinned Black women have had consistent difficulty getting or keeping jobs because of the systemic preference to hire white and Latinx dancers. Dark-skinned strippers are not allowed to dance on high-earning nights or are barred from VIP sections. Celebrity bartenders — often white or light-skinned, with body types not only unrealistic, but rooted in anti-Blackness — are brought into the clubs, earning their money on the backs of Black femmes and our labor.

I want to emphasize that this strike is not simply an issue of stripper rights or the conditions that sex workers face. Spe-

cifically, dark-skinned Black women and femmes are fighting against the manifestations of anti-Blackness in sex work.

In every area, our voices and our struggles are not part of “the future is female” mainstream feminist bullshit, because at the same time that those white women are speaking out against cisgender-hetero-patriarchal violence, they are benefiting from the oppression of Black women and Black femmes, especially those of us who are dark-skinned, trans and/or fat.

What we need is a revolutionary socialist and revolutionary feminist movement that recognizes that the capitalist system encourages and benefits from every oppressive system. We must recognize that any form of work or activism that concedes to capitalist ideas, no matter how well-intentioned, “intersectional” or “radical” its claims, is fundamentally flawed.

Liberation will never be allowed to flourish under this system because the survival of capitalist patriarchy is dependent upon our oppression. Under revolutionary feminism and socialism, the future will be queer, trans and Black. □

Solidarity and security in revolutionary times

Continued from page 8

We support and join struggles of African-American, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Arab, Muslim and LGBTQ and disabled people, immigrants, women and workers. We give voice and listen to the demands and needs of the most oppressed.

It is a global war. We build solidarity with struggles and countries targeted by U.S. imperialism around the world: Venezuela, Cuba, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Iran, Yemen, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan, north Korea, China and Russia. The African continent is under siege; in the

past year, the U.S. carried out 3,500 U.S. military operations in Africa, averaging 10 a day.

As communists we need to plan our weekly newspaper, classes and meetings. We need to initiate our own campaigns, set dates and bring in allies. But we must also be geared to respond to racist outrages, police crimes and new wars.

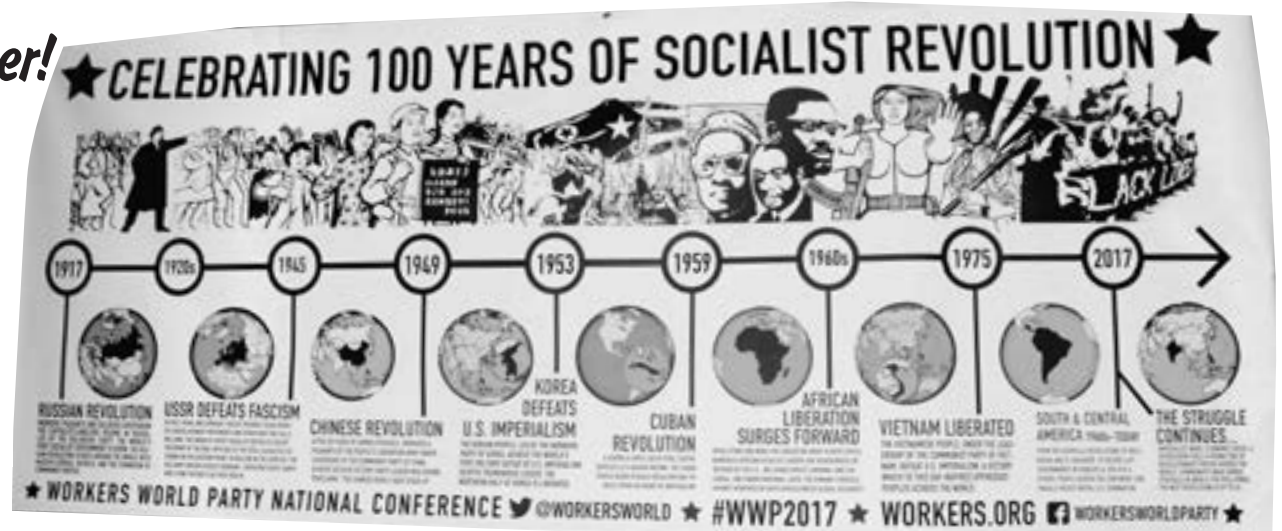
If you are feeling overwhelmed, embrace it! It is the new normal. We are training ourselves to overwhelm this racist, chaotic, dying system with organized peoples’ power. Dare to struggle! Dare to win! □

Give to Workers World newspaper!

We like to think our readers value Workers World — because for 51 weeks a year we bring you news that doesn’t appear in the corporate media through a working-class lens. And our Marxist analysis of both national and international issues can’t be found anywhere else in the progressive U.S. press.

We trust you rely on Workers World for coverage of such topics as:

- The importance of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution
- Why WWP sides with People’s Korea against U.S. warmongering
- Defense of the right of athletes to protest racist injustice
- The many ways Trump and Co. like screwing poor and working people every day
- Why defending Durham activists should be at the top of labor’s agenda
- Ending the racist death penalty, working to free political prisoners and tear down the jails
- How imperialism is expanding its military presence in Africa while China builds that continent’s infrastructure
- Why Che Guevara still lives 50 years after his death



- Fighting for worldwide socialism means plenty for all workers and the oppressed

How can you show your gratitude for what WW newspaper gives you every week? One way in this capitalist economy is with hard-earned dollars. That’s why we set up the Workers World Supporter Program 40 years ago. Help us continue to publish working-class truth and build many critical struggles in 2017 and beyond.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year — and much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription

to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/; it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. Know that we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future! □



FOTO: COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

700.000 trabajadoras agrícolas dicen: 'Nosotros también'

Por Kathy Durkin

Los organizadores de Alianza Nacional de Campesinas hablaron conmovedoramente a una multitud de miles de participantes en la Marcha #Me Too Survivors el 12 de noviembre en Los Ángeles. En la concentración, leyeron una carta de solidaridad de 700.000 trabajadoras agrícolas a las valientes mujeres que se han manifestado públicamente sobre sus experiencias de acoso y abuso sexual en Hollywood. La alianza nacional está compuesta por mujeres trabajadoras agrícolas actuales y anteriores y sus familiares.

En su declaración se lee en parte, "Escribimos en nombre de las 700.000 mujeres que trabajan en los galpones agrícolas y empacadoras en todo Estados Unidos. [Hemos] visto y escuchado con tristeza al darnos cuenta de los actores, modelos y otras personas que se han presentado para hablar sobre la violencia de género que han experimentado en la industria del entretenimiento. Tristemente, no nos sorprende porque es una realidad que conocemos demasiado bien. Innumerables trabajadoras agrícolas de todo el país sufren en silencio debido al hostigamiento y el acoso sexual generalizados que enfrentan en el trabajo".

Continúa: "No trabajamos bajo luces brillantes o en la pantalla grande. Trabajamos a la sombra de la sociedad en campos aislados y empacadoras que están fuera de la vista y fuera de la mente. Nuestro trabajo nutre a la nación con cultivos que plantamos, cosechamos y

empacamos. Aunque trabajamos en diferentes entornos, compartimos una experiencia común de ser víctimas de individuos que tienen el poder de contratar, despedir, poner en la lista negra y amenazar nuestra seguridad económica, física y emocional".

Ponerse de pie públicamente para denunciar las agresiones sexuales en los agro-negocios muestra gran coraje, como revelan los trabajadores agrícolas: "Quejarse de cualquier cosa, incluso el acoso sexual, es impensable porque está en riesgo demasiado, incluida la capacidad de alimentar a nuestras familias".

En conclusión, las mujeres enfatizan: "Entendemos el dolor, la confusión, el aislamiento y traición que puedes sentir" y la vergüenza y el miedo. "Sabemos que no es culpa nuestra. Las únicas personas culpables son las personas que abusan de su poder para hostigarnos, amenazarnos y dañarnos, ya que nos han perjudicado. ... A medida que lidias con el escrutinio y la crítica porque con valentía decidiste hablar en contra de los terribles actos que se cometieron contra ti, por favor, date



Alianza Nacional de Mujeres Trabajadoras Agrícolas en la 'Marcha de Supervivientes Me Too' en Hollywood, 12 de noviembre.

cuenta que no estás sola."

'Les creemos y nos unimos a ustedes'

Cientos de miles de mujeres, en su mayoría inmigrantes latinas, muchos indocumentadas, trabajan en los campos agrícolas de los Estados Unidos. La violencia sexual es tan endémica que una trabajadora agrícola en Iowa comentó: "Pensábamos que era normal en los Estados Unidos que para mantener su trabajo, tenía que tener relaciones sexuales". (New York Times, 19 de enero de 2016)

Las regulaciones gubernamentales

prohíben que los grupos de asistencia legal representen legalmente a las personas indocumentadas. Además, la guerra de Washington contra los indocumentados crea un clima de temor de detención o deportación para las mujeres inmigrantes que denuncian incidentes de abuso. Esta situación urgente debe ser asumida por los sindicatos y por las organizaciones de mujeres y otras organizaciones progresistas.

Esta carta abierta fue publicada originalmente en la revista Time, el 10 de noviembre. □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO
editorial

Detrás de lo impensable

Un crimen potencial de proporciones históricas se discute y evalúa abiertamente en los medios de comunicación imperialistas de Estados Unidos. Están debatiendo los pros y los contras de si millones de personas deberían perder la vida en un instante, en lugar de rechazar inmediatamente esa posibilidad.

Los "analistas" están discutiendo sobre la destrucción nuclear de la República Popular Democrática de Corea por parte del Pentágono. El hecho de que posiblemente haya "dos lados" en tal discusión es en sí mismo una confesión de cuán arruinado se ha vuelto este sistema imperialista. La RPDC ha declarado que ahora tiene un elemento de disuasión nuclear confiable para cualquier ataque de los EE. UU. Y ha completado las pruebas tanto de armas nucleares como de misiles que podrían alcanzar a objetivos en los EE. UU.

A pesar de esto, los Estados Unidos acaba de llevar a cabo sus "juegos" de guerra más amenazantes, justo en la frontera de la RPDC.

Muchas voces en la clase dirigente de la política exterior de Estados Unidos admitieron públicamente que el programa nuclear de la RPDC está motivado por

su necesidad de defensa, e incluso mencionaron los estragos que EE. UU. infligió a países como Irak y Libia una vez que carecieron de la capacidad de tomar represalias. Sin embargo, las voces asociadas con la administración Trump piden un aumento de las amenazas, incluyendo incluso una guerra total.

¿Qué tipo de pensamiento apocalíptico genera tal postura? ¿Es todo fanfarroneo? Ya deberían saber que las bravatas no funcionan con la RPDC.

Cabe señalar que la República Popular China se toma muy en serio los ejercicios militares de los EE. UU. Un artículo en el People's Daily del 4 de diciembre informó:

"El vocero del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la RPDC dijo que este simulacro no tendría precedentes en cuanto a tamaño y naturaleza para simular la situación real de combate y contar con el mayor número de activos estratégicos importantes de los EE. UU. Incluidos los F-22 Raptor y F-35 Stealth Fighters.

"Los EE. UU. anuncian públicamente que el objetivo del simulacro es mejorar la capacidad real de combate para desactivar las principales bases estratégicas de la RPDC en las primeras etapas de la guerra", señaló el portavoz.

"Señaló que Washington acaba de cerrar un simulacro de guerra nuclear a gran escala contra la RPDC, que involucró a tres grupos de ataque de portaaviones con propulsión nuclear. Dichos ejercicios están alimentando la especulación de que un ataque nuclear de EE. UU. contra la RPDC es posible y plausible.

"El equipo de Trump está pidiendo una guerra nuclear al organizar una jugada nuclear extremadamente peligrosa en la Península Coreana", dijo.

Al citar al Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la RPDC, China está enviando un mensaje a los promotores de guerra de los EE. UU.

¿Qué impulsa a los gobernantes de EE. UU. hacia la guerra?

Al final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la clase dominante de los EE. UU. controlaba el único arsenal nuclear del mundo. La capacidad productiva de los Estados Unidos, prácticamente no afectada por la destrucción de la guerra en otras partes, representó el 50 por ciento del producto interno bruto mundial. Sus empresas podrían, y lo hicieron, recorrer el mundo en busca de super ganancias, con poca competencia.

Hoy, los Estados Unidos sigue siendo la mayor potencia militar del mundo. Pero incluso cuando la clase dominante aquí se ha enriquecido en proporciones astronómicas a expensas de los trabajadores en todas partes, la fuerza económica relativa de los EE. UU. se ha reducido significativamente en comparación con la de otros países imperialistas -consideren a Europa Occidental y al Japón- y también se compara con la de La China Popular, una vez hogar de cientos de millones de campesinos al borde de la inanición. El noticiero Bloomberg News predice que China superará a los EE.UU. en el Producto de Ingreso Bruto dentro de una década.

Los ideólogos desenfundados de la derecha, y que esta administración se ha movido a la cima, preferirían arriesgarse a un holocausto que ceder a su ambición de gobernar y explotar el mundo. Pero la RPDC, un pequeño país socialista, ha demostrado un valor sin paralelo al negarse a ser intimidado.

Eso puede infundir miedo en los corazones de la clase dominante imperialista de EE. UU., Pero debe alentar a todos los que luchan por construir un mundo libre de opresión nacional y de clase. □