



PHOTO: AMBER MATHWIG

Activists leave Trump rally chanting 'Black lives matter.'

## North Carolina

# Anti-racist unity shuts down Trump

Special to Workers World  
 Raleigh, N.C.

Billionaire realtor Donald Trump has been traveling the country, filling stadiums with bigots and building a dangerous movement around a racist, ultra-right ideology. When he came to Raleigh, N.C., on Dec. 4, he was likely expecting much of the same.

Instead, he was met outside the Dorton Arena by a militant, multinational demonstration and was then disrupted inside over 10 times — forcing the event to end early.

Chants of “Hey, let’s be clear, no racists are welcome here!” greeted Trump supporters from the moment the doors to the arena first opened. The demonstration quickly grew to several hundred.

Many people — particularly young immigrant rights and Black Lives Matter activists — had traveled for hours to join the protest. A group of about a dozen mostly young Muslims joined the rally and helped lead spirited chants denouncing racism, attacks on immigrants and Islamophobia.

The rally outside lasted for nearly three hours. Chants of “Black Lives Matter,” “Undocumented and unafraid,” “Money for jobs and education, not for war and incarceration” rang out to confront those entering the arena.

It was a tremendous display of unity and solidarity. The crowd included Black, Latino/a, Arab and white youth and students, fast food workers, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and queer communities, and many others standing shoulder to shoulder. They ultimately shut three of the four entrances to the arena. (Trans\* is used with an asterisk to indicate the spectrum of all the different genders of people who do not conform to the either/or of male/female or masculine/feminine.)

Inside, several dozen people in groups of two to four disrupted Trump’s racist diatribe every five or 10 minutes with chants of “Black Lives Matter!” and “No Trump, No KKK, No fascist USA,” among many others. Corporate news reports following the demonstration noted that the number of disruptions at the Trump rally in Raleigh greatly outnumbered those at any previous gathering.

The events in Raleigh clearly showed that multinational unity and solidarity are the best tools to beat back the rising tide of ultra-right ideology that Trump is spewing nationally, and that these gatherings must be confronted head on by a variety of militant tactics.

### Plans formulated quickly ahead of rally

Trump’s campaign gave only four days’ notice of his rally in Raleigh, allowing only a short time to pull

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Protesters trump Trump, Dec. 4 in Raleigh, N.C.

WW PHOTO: BEN CARROLL

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# Detroit's neocolonial rulers ruin public education

By Elena Herrada  
Detroit

The Detroit Public Schools have been under an emergency manager since 2009 for the stated reason that the district was failing students. That myth has been exposed. The real reason for the state takeover was so elected officials would not be allowed to govern and the state could grab bond money directly.

A bond had been passed previously and the state seized control of the district then, in 1999. A building frenzy ensued, although many of the new buildings were soon closed. Walbridge construction company got the lion's share of the construction contracts. The chair of Walbridge is John Rikolta, backer of right-wing politicians.

In 2009, then Gov. Jennifer Granholm met Robert Bobb at the Barack Obama inauguration. Bobb soon came to Detroit as emergency manager over Detroit Public Schools. Millions of dollars in consultant fees went out of the classroom and into private pockets. Public Act 72 then made Bobb the emergency financial manager. After the finances were blown, the elected school board sued for the right to determine DPS curriculum. A stunning decision was won in court, affirming that the board had a right to determine curriculum.

Gov. Rick Snyder then changed the law from Public Act 72 to Public Act 4 and created the emergency manager law. This allowed the EM complete control over all aspects of the school district previously held by the elected board.

Emergency managers are rotated every 17 months and 29 days. Gov. Snyder, when asked in bankruptcy court by Judge Steven Rhodes if emergency management doesn't strip Detroiters of voting rights, answered that it does not because it is only for 18 months, at which time an elected body can vote by a two-thirds majority to remove the EM.

The Detroit School Board had been under an EM since 2009, so we followed the rule of Public Act 436 and voted out the EM three times in one month with a super majority of the elected board. The EM did not budge. So we went to court. The judge told us the law said that only that particular emergency manager would be removed, but the governor could appoint another one in his place. To avoid

us voting out the EM again, the governor removes the EM before the first day of the 18th month and appoints a new one. Gov. Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan are a tag team whose administrations are ruled by trickery, lies and the theft of public resources. Detroit has been set back generations by losing ground in education.

## Modern-day urban colonization

The elected board was recently threatened by EM Darnell Earley, formerly the Flint, Mich., EM when that city switched its water source to the Flint River, poisoning thousands with lead-tainted water. We were told not to meet without Earley's prior approval of our agenda. He was angered by the board's refusal to accept an audit put in front of us for our approval after it had already been sent to the state and after the media had it.

We had not seen it and were unable to discern the expenditures, since we have no authority and no access to information about what the takeover crew does with the money. It is clearly not going into classrooms, and teachers walked out on Dec. 1. Their health care has been cut again and working conditions are so bad they are walking off the job one by one.

There are not enough textbooks in the schools. The average classroom size is 45 students. Teachers have two prep hours per week and few schools have art or music classes. Many students get only one physical education class per week. Consultants can be seen everywhere. You know them because most of them are white in this majority-Black city. It's a colonial takeover, with the narrative being that Black cities and school districts are best left in the hands of whites, such as Mayor Duggan and emergency managers.

Our schools and our city have been looted by the highest offices of power. Judges affirm these thefts and the media repeat whatever the corporate bosses tell them to say. There is so little information available that the general public has to come to their own conclusions.

Detroit has all the markings of an internal colony. The best news is that colonies eventually revolt.

*Elena Herrada is an elected member of the Detroit Public Schools Board-in-exile.*

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Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: ww@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org  
Vol. 57, No. 50 • Dec. 17, 2015  
Closing date: Dec. 8, 2015  
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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.



## Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That's why for 56 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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# Struggle grows to save Rev. Edward Pinkney

By David Sole  
Detroit

Dec. 5 — An African-American political prisoner in Michigan may be isolated in the far north Marquette Branch Prison in the state's Upper Peninsula, but support for this embattled activist is growing daily.

The Rev. Edward Pinkney is starting his second year behind bars after an outrageous corruption of the legal system took place in a Benton Harbor, Mich., courtroom. He was sentenced to two-and-a-half to 10 years in prison because five dates on a mayoral recall petition in 2014 allegedly appeared to have been altered. No evidence was presented to the all-white jury linking Rev. Pinkney to those charges. In fact, the prosecutor told the jury, "You don't need evidence to convict Pinkney." Pinkney's leadership position in the Black community and progressive movement in Benton Harbor was all they needed to find him guilty of five felony counts of forgery.

Rev. Pinkney, even though he has violated no prison rules, has been denied telephone use for the next six months because of bogus charges by the racist Marquette guards. On Nov. 20, he was seized by guards after a visit from a supporter who had flown to Marquette from Detroit. The reason given was that his visitor had taken notes during their discussion, as the visitor and others had done many times in the past, and walked out of the area with the notes. The 67-year-old Pinkney was thrown into solitary confinement in the super maximum Level 5 section of the mainly Level 1 prison. He



Detroit activists hold birthday party for Rev. Pinkney, Oct. 26.

WW PHOTO

was held there for five days after which he was returned to Level 1.

## Retaliation and burgeoning support

Rev. Pinkney has informed his supporters that the bogus charge of "smuggling" was so ridiculous that even the biased prison system had to dismiss it. Many believe the real motive for curtailing Rev. Pinkney's visits and contact with the outside was the widespread coverage of a press conference about his case shown on TV-6 (an NBC affiliate) and TV-10 (ABC) in Marquette, which infuriated prison officials.

Pinkney had written his supporters: "I was transferred to Marquette Prison, shackled, mistreated and intimidated. I was forced to strip on five different occasions. I am forced into overcrowding, inadequate exercise, lack of clean clothing,

and inadequate medical care. I believe that [they] have put a hit on me, inside the prison system. I believe they are trying to force me to die in prison. If I do not survive this, you will know the reason why."

Media around the United States have started to take note of this miscarriage of justice. Radio stations in California and Wisconsin have interviewed leaders of the "Free Rev. Pinkney" movement.

Support has been building for the Emergency Conference to Save Rev. Pinkney in Detroit on Dec. 12. Among the scheduled speakers are Dorothy Pinkney, Rev. Pinkney's spouse, and two of the lawyers working on his appeal. Participants are coming from across Michigan as well as other regions of the country. Workers World Party's vice presidential candidate, Lamont Lilly,

will be attending the conference.

Pinkney supporters turned out on Detroit's "Noel Night" on Dec. 5, when main streets around the University District and Art Institute were closed and thousands of people thronged to visit booths and join in holiday caroling. Standing in front of the Detroit Institute of Arts, activists unfurled a Free Rev. Pinkney banner and held up signs, spoke over a powerful sound system and distributed hundreds of informational leaflets to passersby, who showed a great deal of interest in the case.

Social media outreach has drawn support from France, where activists contacted organizers of the Emergency Conference to ask how they can help. An international campaign has already been launched to get supporters to 1) send a holiday greeting card to Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, Marquette Branch Prison NE-93, 1960 U.S. Hwy. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855; 2) call Gov. Rick Snyder at 517-373-3400 and Legislative Corrections Ombudsman Keith Barber at 517-373-8573 to demand they investigate the inhumane treatment of Rev. Pinkney; and 3) contribute to Rev. Pinkney's legal defense at [bhbanco.org](http://bhbanco.org) using the PayPal button or mailing a check to BANCO, c/o Dorothy Pinkney, 1940 Union St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

**The Conference to Save Rev. Edward Pinkney will be held in Detroit on Saturday, Dec. 12, 12 noon to 5 p.m., at St. Matthew-St. Joseph Episcopal Church, 8850 Woodward Ave. (at King Street).**

# Leninist party needed to advance class struggle

Excerpts from the speech given by WWP member **Tommy Cavanaugh** of Wisconsin to the Workers World Party 2015 National Conference.

The Wisconsin austerity onslaught is a significant component of the global class war being waged by the ruling class on the working class and oppressed peoples.

In Wisconsin, due to mass people's battles specifically from the late 20th century onward, many progressive reforms and unions have been won. But in the space of five years much of that has been taken back.

This is another cold reminder that any concession won can be stripped away by the ruling class unless there is a people's movement in motion willing and able to defend its gains. Ultimately, only socialism can firmly cement a working-class and oppressed people's victory over the pursuits of the ruling class to constantly erode concessions won by the people.

Without a doubt, there have been militant actions by the youth, the oppressed and the workers in Wisconsin in the recent period. From immigrant youth such as those in "Youth Empowered in the Struggle," to Black Lives Matter groups like the "Coalition for Justice" and "Young, Gifted and Black," and to union workers such as the members of Amalgamated Transit Union 998 — who just won a contract battle — there are forces that continue to resist the increasing racist austerity and police terror in Wisconsin while inspiring hope in those around them.

But despite these positive developments, it's necessary to acknowledge the hard truths about the current setbacks that the working class and oppressed peoples have suffered. Locked into fierce class battles and so focused on building



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Tommy Cavanaugh

the movement that is needed to win, we need a sobering analysis of our current challenges. This is necessary for us to proceed effectively.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's presidential campaign has come to an end, but the agenda he puts forward has not. With a Marxist-Leninist understanding, we know that the situation in Wisconsin does not stem from Walker himself, or the Republican Party, but from the international capitalist-imperialist system which is in a deep crisis that has no option but to continue placing the burden of their crisis on the workers and oppressed.

## What will stop austerity?

Similarly to places such as Greece and Detroit, the dictates of global finance capital are that of a "no compromise" on the terms of mass austerity at the expense of the working class. In Wisconsin, this has taken the form of Act 10; right-to-work-for-less legislation; elimination of ten-

ure protections and shared governance in the University of Wisconsin system; damaging education cuts; environmental attacks; prevailing wage laws; attacks on women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people; and much more.

This has all been detrimental to the movement's resources and organizational power. Union membership and dues have taken hits. Disorientation, demoralization and division have taken their toll on moving forward as a unified force.

The state Capitol occupation in February-March of 2011 was one of the greatest uprisings in the U.S. since the 1930s.

Spontaneity in this case did temporarily stop the right-wing servants of the ruling class, but without Leninist cadre in strategic and tactical positions the tide swung to the liberals and Democrats, who moved the struggle to the right, away from the masses, and also mostly liquidated the realities of the nationally oppressed from the 2011 struggle, particularly the fact that the Black masses in Wisconsin live under genocidal and apartheid-like conditions.

Lenin explained this tendency in "What Is To Be Done?" pointing out that the working-class movement has only two choices: "either bourgeois or socialist ideology," and that without revolutionaries combatting spontaneous, narrow trade unionism, "the spontaneous development of the working-class movement leads to

its subordination to bourgeois ideology."

Fundamentally — in a pitched political and economic battle against the entire capitalist state, such as 2011 Wisconsin was — trade unions and community organizations in motion are only a start. A Marxist-Leninist party is the only force that can pull together all the different components of the struggle to stop these attacks, advance and ultimately liberate the working and oppressed masses from capitalist ideology.

The right-wing servants of Wall Street are running the Southern Jim Crow program in Wisconsin. Since the unions have mostly severed themselves from the South, they don't see this. Without communist intervention the unions can't adequately counter it. Only by breaking from past tactics that isolate the masses and these struggles from each other can the full strength of the people be put into motion.

The Coalition For Justice showed splendid examples of how the Black Lives Matter movement can be a decisive component of labor struggles with the ATU 998 struggle. And the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition in Madison has opposed every attack on labor since it formed shortly after the Ferguson rebellion.

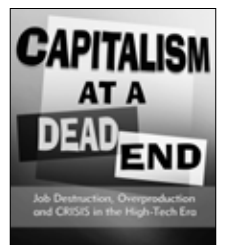
As we carry on in our organizing, we must always remember that only socialism can save Wisconsin and only the working class, with communist cadre, can make that happen. □

## Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to [LowWageCapitalism.com](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)

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# Racist cop convicted of beating autoworker

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

“What goes around comes around” is a popular saying that suggests, one way or another, we all pay for our misdeeds. That isn’t always true, however, especially for the many thousands of victims of police brutality. From Ferguson, Mo., to New York to Cleveland, racist police literally get away with murder.

Thus it was a huge victory on Nov. 19 for Detroit autoworker Floyd Dent and the Black Lives Matter movement when the perpetrator of Dent’s near-fatal beating — suburban Inkster, Mich., cop William Melendez — was found guilty of assault and misconduct by a jury. He was immediately remanded to jail after the conviction. The two felony charges carried a combined maximum sentence of 15 years. The sentencing has been postponed until February.

This victory follows a civil jury award of \$1.4 million to Dent; earlier charges of drug possession, assault and resisting arrest were dropped. Dent, a 57-year-

old Ford worker with 37 years of corporate service, was stopped by Inkster police last Jan. 28. Inkster, a suburb of Detroit, is 73 percent African American, but the police force is 80 percent white.

The dashcam video, which went viral, showed Melendez punching, kicking, tasing and strangling Dent.

As to the racist motivation for the attack, Dent’s attorney, Greg Rohl, said of the near-lynching of his client, “If he was a white guy, would it happen? I don’t think so.” (Detroit News, Nov. 20)

After Dent’s brutal beating, Rohl received a number of calls from Inkster residents alleging racist mistreatment by the police. Hundreds of metro Detroiters participated in marches and picket lines



Spring demonstration demanding justice for Floyd Dent.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

supporting Dent.

Before joining the Inkster police force, Melendez had a notorious reputation in Detroit, earning him the nickname Robocop. He was involved in the murders of Lou Adkins in 1996 and Ernest Crutchfield II in 2003. He was sued 12 times after being caught planting evidence on suspects, falsifying records and display-

ing a pattern of brutality. Remarkably, he and his crew were routinely acquitted — despite the testimony of other officers against him.

“Melendez finally got exactly what he deserved,” said attorney David Robinson, who represented the Crutchfield family. (Voice of Detroit, Nov. 21)

Detroit has a long history of struggle against police brutality and killings growing out of the Black Liberation struggle of the 1960s and 70s. Coleman A. Young, a former communist and the first African-American mayor of this majority-Black city, was elected in 1973 and immediately abolished the racist STRESS police unit that was terrorizing the Black community.

Young served as Detroit’s mayor from 1974 to 1994. On Nov. 5, 1992, Malice Green was beaten and killed by cops after a traffic stop. Green “was literally murdered by police,” Young stated on national television. White Detroit cops Walter Budzyn and Larry Nevers were both convicted of second degree murder for Green’s death and sent to prison. □

## Terror and abortion rights

By Sharon Eolis

Before the Supreme Court’s Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion in 1973, many women died of bleeding, tetanus or infections from botched abortions. Others survived, but lost their ability to have children because they had to have life-saving hysterectomies. As an emergency nurse, I witnessed these medical crises.

Women who had illegal abortions risked their lives — unless they had the money and connections to find doctors who would perform the surgical procedures safely. Some women turned to unsafe home remedies and self-induced abortions.

The women’s movement of the early 1970s fought for legalization of abortion, which gave women some control over their own bodies. After the high court’s

decision, pro-choice advocates set up facilities where women could obtain safe abortions legally. Planned Parenthood became a major national provider of the procedures.

Planned Parenthood is a major health care provider for 2.7 million low-income women and men; many are African-American, Latina, youth, immigrants and women with disabilities. Their clinics provide reproductive health care, including contraception, prenatal care and abortions, as well as breast exams, Pap tests and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

There has been a spate of attacks on women’s health clinics since a conservative anti-abortion group posted online highly edited, fraudulent videos in July, which falsely claimed Planned Parenthood profited from selling fetal tissue and

committed infanticide in the process.

In July, a clinic in the Chicago suburb of Aurora reported an attempted arson. A month later, firefighters found a half-burned car at a new clinic’s construction site in New Orleans. Then, in September, a PP clinic in Pullman, Wash., was set ablaze, and later that month, a makeshift bomb was thrown at another PP facility’s window in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

In response to the attacks, pro-choice activists and clients delivered petitions headed “I stand with Planned Parenthood,” with 2.4 million signatures, on Sept. 29 to Congress. That day some 300 rallies and other events took place around the country supporting the organization.

### Murders in Colorado

But the violence got worse. On Nov. 27, a “lone” white gunman, armed with an

AK-47, attacked a Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs, Colo., killing three people and wounding nine others in a five-hour stand-off with police. He was not shot at or killed by police officers, who let him surrender. This is a very different scenario from how police treat African Americans in encounters, often shooting first, killing unarmed, innocent people.

Hours after the Colorado shootings, Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, stated that “the federal government [should] call these attacks what they are — domestic terrorism.”

The next day, Terry O’Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, put out a statement, which stressed, “Let’s be clear: This was an act of domestic terrorism. NOW calls for a full federal investiga-

*Continued on page 10*

## People with disabilities protest police murder of Jeremy McDole

By Edward Yudelovich  
New York

On Dec. 3, protesters rocked the normally mundane New York City Penn Station rush hour to commemorate the International Day for Persons with Disabilities and to protest the murder of Jeremy McDole, a 28-year-old African-American paraplegic who was shot and killed by police in Wilmington, Del., on Sept. 23 while in his wheelchair.

This protest was called by the People’s Power Assemblies, an organization in support of the Black Lives Matter movement to combat the rising national epidemic of police murders, particularly of youth of color.

PPA leader and activist Terrea Mitchell, a woman with disabilities, led protesters first outside the 34th Street elevator bank and then through all sections of Penn Station, including the Long Is-



Penn Station protest, Dec. 3.

PHOTO: PPA FACEBOOK

land Rail Road, Amtrak and New Jersey Transit, with chants of “Jeremy McDole! What’s his name? Jeremy McDole! Say his name!” “Disabled people need decent jobs, quality health care, not police terror!” and “Disabled Black lives matter!”

Rene Imperato, a transgender Vietnam

veteran with disabilities who also suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, speaking in her wheelchair, pointed out Penn Station’s disgraceful access deficiencies. These include inadequate signage directing people with disabilities to accessible elevators, which violates the Americans with Disabilities Act; unacceptably huge distances for wheelchair users to get to accessible elevators; and an extremely narrow ramp to New Jersey Transit. Imperato said she was once almost pushed into a pillar there by a speeding able-bodied commuter.

Johnnie Stevens, of Parents to Improve School Transportation, urged everyone to show solidarity with the mostly Black and Brown women workers at Ac-

cess-A-Ride, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s transit service in New York City for people with disabilities. The workers are demanding \$15 an hour and a union as well as an end to a hostile work environment.

Kim Ortiz, from NYC Shut It Down, showed profound solidarity with the community when she apologized for a previous protest where demonstrators were impatient and left people with disabilities behind. Trans disabled activist Josephine Perez discussed the special oppression of trans people with disabilities. Larry Holmes, of the PPA, told the crowd how workers with disabilities are discriminated against and denied the same minimum wage rights as other workers, sometimes earning as little as \$2 a day. As many as half of the people killed by police had a disability.

Sharon Eolis, of Workers World Party, talked about her experiences as an emergency room nurse trying to care for people with disabilities for whom medical care is woefully underfunded. □

# One year later Indict killer cops of Tamir Rice

By Susan Schnur  
Cleveland

November 22 marked one year since the police murder of 12-year-old Tamir Rice. The video of Cleveland police officers Timothy Loehmann and Frank Garmback pulling up to the youngster and gunning him down in less than two seconds has been viewed by horrified people in the U.S. and around the world.

Adding to the trauma incurred by Tamir's family is despicable treatment by Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty. Not only has there been no indictment of the officers, but McGinty launched a vicious personal attack on Samaria Rice, mother of the slain youth.

On Nov. 19, while speaking at a suburban Democratic Club meeting, McGinty was asked about calls for a special prosecutor to take over the investigation. McGinty replied, "They waited until they didn't like the reports they received. They're very interesting people ... let me just leave it at that ... and they have their own economic motives." (WKYC-TV, Nov. 15)

McGinty's office released reports to the press by so-called "expert" witnesses, who concluded that Loehmann, who pulled the trigger, thought he was in imminent danger and "acted reasonably." McGinty also issued unsworn statements

by new hire Loehmann and Garmback, the senior officer training him. (New York Times, Oct. 15)

Garmback has a racist record. The city of Cleveland had to pay \$100,000 to an African-American woman for the beating she received from Garmback on Aug. 7, 2010. Then this vicious racist trains a new officer!

McGinty timed his tainted and biased releases to the public while the grand jury is deciding whether to indict the brutal cops. The obviously hateful conduct of this prosecutor has led to increased calls for a special prosecutor to take over the case.

## Keeping the pressure on

To mark one year with no justice for the family, the Tamir Rice Justice Committee, spearheaded by Tamir's cousin, Latonya Goldsby, held three days of events in Cleveland. Healing events for young people who knew Tamir were held on Nov. 21, as well as two town hall meetings, which included briefings by the family and their attorney, Subodh Chandra.

The vigil on Nov. 22, held at the site of Tamir's execution, drew over 400 participants, including car caravans from around the Midwest. A busload of multinational Black Lives Matter activists and their supporters came from Ohio State University. People came to show respect



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR  
Rally at the Cuyahoga County Justice Center Nov. 23; Latonya Goldsby and Elle Hearn at center.

for the life cut short by the police and to support the Rice family. There were also solidarity actions in more than 20 cities.

On Nov. 23, a militant rally was held on the steps of the Cuyahoga County "Justice" Center to support the Rice family's call for prosecutor McGinty to resign. In an effort spearheaded by the Tamir Rice Justice Committee and colorofchange.org, more than 200,000 people signed petitions demanding McGinty step down and a special prosecutor take over. The petitions were delivered to the prosecutor's office.

The way the rules are written, McGinty himself gets to decide whether to recuse himself and step down. He has steadfastly refused.

However, due to the militant push-

back around the country by the Black Lives Matter movement, the moneyed interests in northeast Ohio are conflicted about what to do with this case. Big-business print media mouthpiece, The Plain Dealer, has published the expert reports commissioned by the Rice family, which state that the shooting was unreasonable and there was no way Tamir was given any warning to hold up his hands. Even Garmback's police report states that the windows of the patrol car were up.

No longer can the hired hands of the ruling class hide their ugly crimes. The Black Lives Matter movement, supported by people of all nationalities, cannot and will not be stopped.

Justice for Tamir Rice and all those killed by racist cops! □

## Oakland, Calif.

# Victory for the 'Black Friday 14'

By Dave Welsh  
Oakland, Calif.

On the so-called "Black Friday" shopping day of Nov. 27, 2014, following the failure to charge cops in the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Mo., 14 Black activists chained themselves together on a Bay Area Rapid Transit platform. They wanted to stop trains from moving at the West Oakland station in response to the police war against Black communities. The 14, a majority of them women, faced criminal charges.

Now, after a year-long campaign by the "BF14" and a broad coalition of allies, District Attorney Nancy O'Malley dropped all the charges on Dec. 4.

"Our criminal case is over, but the war on Black lives remains," read a statement issued by Black Lives Matter Bay Area. "There can be no business as usual while young Black men and women ... are murdered with impunity by police officers, security guards and vigilantes. The police remain an occupying force in our communities. Black bodies are not only over-policed and over-incarcerated, we are also underpaid, overworked, and priced out of communities we've lived in our entire lives."

## Union leaders tie struggles together

Organized labor took several key actions in advance of the DA's decision. In May the Alameda (Calif.) Labor Council

canceled a plan to honor Nancy O'Malley at its annual dinner, citing her handling of the BF14 case. A BART union member showed up at a BART hearing to support the BF14.

Then on Nov. 10, as part of a national Fight for \$15 action and in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, 14 labor leaders held a sit-in at the DA's office, demanding she drop the charges against the BF14.

The labor leaders, including the president of the California Labor Federation and key officers of nine unions, representing service workers, university employees, teachers and hotel workers, issued the following statement:

"Half of Black workers make under \$15 an hour, and our members are people of

color who face a crisis of inequality and displacement as well as police violence and injustice from the courts. We know that economic justice and racial justice are inseparable. And we honor the actions of the Black Friday 14 as part of a long tradition of fighting for dignity in the civil rights and labor movements. ...

"While the charges are dropped, the movement continues," the statement went on, "and continued injustices — from Chicago, to Minneapolis, to the latest police killing in San Francisco — will keep calling us to action. As leaders of the labor movement, we reaffirm our commitment to our workers, to Black workers, to Black people and to standing for the freedom side." □

# Kohler strikers stand firm

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Members of United Auto Workers Local 833 are standing strong on the picket lines at Kohler Co. By the hour, the workers in Kohler, Wis., continue to receive solidarity support from across the country.

The strike started on Nov. 15 when 94 percent of members voted to reject an unequal, two-tier wage system which Kohler refuses to scrap.

Two-tier wages were rammed through in a 2010 contract that had other major concessions, including skyrocketing health care insurance costs. "Tier B" workers make at least \$10 less an hour than "Tier A" workers.

The wealth that Kohler rips off from workers increased over \$5 billion during the last five-year contract.

Local 833 reports that during the week

of Dec. 6, its leadership and company officials will sit down for a discussion over major strike issues.

Since the first day of the strike, numerous solidarity actions have taken place, including mass rallies and marches, food drives, around-the-clock picket line support and more. The UAW Local 833 Facebook page is updated frequently to show worldwide support for the strike. The Wisconsin AFL-CIO is helping to coordinate support from its member unions, while the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association is offering a variety of support. Every day numerous labor-community delegations join the picket lines and visit the Local 833 union hall.

On Dec. 5, a Milwaukee delegation, including Youth Empowered in the Struggle or YES, members of the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement and other

community supporters, walked the picket lines.

"This strike has gone national. We are looking as strong as ever!" stated Local 833 leadership on Nov. 29. "We thank those who are out there and those in the community and across the state who are supporting us, walking with us, and donating to our strike fund. There is more support than we could have even imagined."

For more information and how to support Local 833, visit [facebook.com/Local833local](https://facebook.com/Local833local), [facebook.com/defeatrighttowork](https://facebook.com/defeatrighttowork),



PHOTO: UAW REGION 4

Kohler strikers and supporters in Wisconsin.

#kohlerstrike and [wibailoutpeople.org](http://wibailoutpeople.org).

Supporters can send or drop off contributions, solidarity resolutions and nonperishable goods to UAW Local 833, Emil Mazey Hall, 5425 Superior Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53083.



## Black Students for Revolution

# 'Fight oppression which seeks to destroy us'

The following interview was conducted in early December 2015 by WW Chicago correspondent, Danielle Boachie, with representatives of the Black Students for Revolution (BSFR) at the University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign.

**Workers World: What led to the formation of BSFR?**

Black Students for Revolution at UIUC formed from the desperate need for a modern Black student movement that rejects reformist strategies and contributes to a grassroots intersectional revolution. With over 2 million Black college students in the U.S., the need has never been greater for setting a new standard in how Black students utilize their intellectual privilege to transform the material/social conditions of Black communities. In sum, this organization was formed by like-minded radical Black students at UIUC as a vehicle through which to fight for the freedom of Black people and lend our minds, bodies and souls to the revolution at hand.

**WW: What occurred during the Black Student Solidarity Rally? What responses did you receive from the racist group "Illini White Student Union"?**



PHOTO: BSFR

The rally brought the Black students of UIUC together in solidarity with other Black students at universities and colleges across the country. The rally did exactly what it was designed to do: It ignited a revolutionary and radical spirit across the Black student body. Already, just days after the rally, there is a newfound community and drive amongst Black students. Additionally, the rally centralized Black struggle, Black voices and Black cultural pride on the campus.

Several students, both undergraduate and graduate, spoke during the rally. Hip-hop and spoken word were employed throughout and one participant performed a chilling rendition of Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit." Unsurprisingly, there was also immediate pushback from members of the white student body. This pushback included the formation of a white supremacist group, the "Illini White Student Union," which has been thoroughly covered by multiple news outlets. Despite the racist response of the white student body, we remain committed to seeing Black students on our campus, as well as campuses across the country, demand and seize equal treatment at their respective universities.

**WW: Mizou's #ConcernedStudent1950 has brought awareness to the formation and/or existence of anti-Black student groups on various college campuses like U.C. Berkeley and UCLA. What is your analysis of this trend and its relationship to the Black Lives Matter movement?**

As Karl Marx stated, history is driven by a dialectical relationship between oppression and resistance. As more collective consciousness develops amongst oppressed groups and they construct counter hegemonic actions, the ruling class responds by repressing the colonized through violence, intimidation and removing more material needs. Now that we are in a period of neoliberalism, David Harvey argues that any form of genuine democracy or oppressed struggle to over-

come our colonized position results in serious repression, particularly the creation of white supremacist regimes and increased state-sponsored violence by police forces.

These white supremacy groups that are being created across major universities and colleges in America are a direct result of America's historically foundational, toxic racial climate. #ConcernedStudent1950's success in organizing against and outside of the system sent shockwaves through the white ruling class.

Additionally, the white ruling class fears that Blacks will copy the Mizzou model and shut down the profit-generating machines on their campuses. We do not believe the creation of white supremacist groups on campuses across the country is a legitimate response to the Black Lives Matter movement. These anti-Black groups were created out of white fear of Black collective, radical actions against racial capitalism on college campuses.

**WW: Your statement references Black feminist and intersectional ideologies. How does BSFR tie this to the colonization of the Black nation and the systematic oppression of people of color?**

Frantz Fanon once described colonialism as "violence in its natural state." Fanon's conclusion still holds weight today. The present condition of Black people cannot be detached from the violence that shaped our past. Black women have, inarguably, borne the brunt of this violence. For, even as Black men were worked to death and murdered, forced into poor schools and denied good-paying jobs, we too were starved, and lynched, housed in the worst neighborhoods, sent to the worst schools and raped.

A society that silences its women cannot survive; similarly, the oppression of the Black community has always been linked to the oppression of Black women and Black queer identities. Black feminism argues that class oppression, racism and sexism are inextricably bound together. Our previous refusal to acknowledge the



Anti-racist rally at University of Illinois — Urbana Champaign

intersection of oppressions is a key reason why Black revolutions of times past failed.

It is completely unacceptable that one in three Black women will be raped in her lifetime and that, just this year, over 16 Black trans women have been murdered. We cannot afford to believe that freedom is the right of only one particular group of Black people. Rather, we must fight oppression wherever it seeks to destroy us.

**WW: What connections does BSFR make between capitalism and white supremacy?**

Black Students for Revolution recognizes that capitalism is the creator and driving force behind racial oppression in the American empire and world history. Capitalism derives from a Eurocentric concept of "civilization" and "progress." Thus, for Europeans, capitalism has always been some sort of "evolution" where communal people "progressed" to individualist, competitive and colonial. As a result, the European powers competed with each other to conquer as much land in the Western Hemisphere and extract as much profit as possible from colonized Indigenous groups.

Capitalism became more racialized following Bacon's Rebellion of 1676, where Black slaves and white indentured servants collectivized to overthrow their rulers. The white ruling class understood this rebellion as dangerous to their system, so racialized laws were enacted to subordinate Black people.

As agricultural capitalism transformed into industrial capitalism during the World War I era, racialized working conditions in industry further separated the Black and white working class by positioning Black people as the subproletariat (Black people received the dirtiest jobs and lowest wages with no chance of mobility). So when labor activism developed, Black and white workers were in conflict; therefore, no serious revolution to overthrow capitalism developed.

As industrial capitalism shifted to neoliberal global capitalism in the mid 1970s, deindustrialization devastated Black urban communities more than any other space in America. As Huey P. Newton's "Intercommunalism" argues, the removal of resources and working-class jobs from Black urban centers results in a larger lumpenproletariat; when working class jobs leave America, Black people can no longer obtain basic material needs to survive via subproletariat work, so they become lumpen, or members of an underground economy (what some would call "criminal" activity, but I argue deindustrialization and imperialism is much more criminal).

In other words, institutionalized racism helps keep capitalism afloat because it divides the working class along racial lines so that class-consciousness cannot develop. Without racial oppression, capitalism would fall to working-class communities organizing together to end their oppressive state.

**WW: What does BSFR hope to change at UIUC? What are its goals?**

Foremost, we hope to encourage the development of intersectional revolutionary thought within the minds of Black students at UIUC. Never again should it be said that Black college graduates turn their back on the Black communities they come from and the Black communities

## Protesters denounce racism, war and Islamophobia

Rochester, N.Y.

By Gene Clancy  
Rochester, N.Y.

The Rochester International Action Center organized a protest Dec. 5 against the racist, Islamophobic, anti-migrant frenzy which has followed the recent attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif. This climate of fear had seemingly paralyzed many local progressive forces.

The rally included representatives from the Nation of Islam, Christians Witnessing for Palestine and local Palestinian refugees. A large banner proclaimed: "Say No to Racism, War, Police Violence, and Anti-Muslim and Anti-Immigrant Bashing."

The protest received significant local media coverage, including on two TV stations. "As you can see, there is an anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim hysteria going on around the country by politicians and their supporters," organizer Lydia Bayoneta told the media. "We are here first and foremost to say that all refugees are welcome, no matter what country [they



Protesters say 'no' to racism and hate, Dec. 5.

WW PHOTO: LYDIA BAYONETA

are from], whether it be Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, occupied Palestine and all the countries that have been ravaged with war and poverty."

Protesters denounced the racist dema-

gogy, which is not only demonizing Muslims and other immigrants, but trying to distract people from the issues of police terror, inequality, lack of jobs and poverty in the United States. □





## CHICAGO

# Demanding justice for McDonald, Johnson

By Jill White  
Chicago

Dec. 7 — Demonstrations against the police murder of Laquan McDonald continued all week in light of more and more evidence that officer Jason Van Dyke shot McDonald 16 times on Oct. 20, 2014, with no provocation.

Another dash-cam video revealed clear contradictions in the official report, which was also released following the filing of a request under the Freedom of Information Act. The report includes hundreds of pages of police incident reports and police witness statements.

Three lies in the reports were clear from the video. First, the 17-year-old McDonald never advanced toward the officer. Second, after he was initially shot, he did not try to get up. He was incapacitated. One document even stated that Van Dyke was injured by McDonald, which was a complete fabrication.

Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder last week, 13 months after McDonald was killed. The cop's family easily made bail, which was set at a \$1.5 million bond, and he is now free on the street.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, in an attempt to save his own job, withdrew his official support of the police commissioner and then fired him. Pressure remains for both the mayor and the state's attorney to resign.

On Dec. 4, protesters marched around Chicago City Hall 16 times, representing

the number of shots fired at McDonald. They demanded the firing of all cops complicit in the shooting and cover up.

The next day, demonstrations took place again on the "Magnificent Mile" to bring economic pressure on the city. Stores claimed 25- to 50-percent fewer sales for so-called Black Friday last week, after thousands of youth and supporters blocked entrances to stores shouting, "Sixteen times! 13 months!" referring to the number of times McDonald was shot and the number of months the city authorities covered up the murder. More demonstrations are called for this week.

### No justice for Ronald Johnson

The mass actions' impact can be seen and not only in the backpedaling of the politicians, who are clearly on the defensive. Pressure on them mounts as the culture of rampant police terror and cover-up is exposed. This week, again after months of refusal by the authorities to release a dash-cam video that would expose another murder, the mayor agreed to release the video at the requests of attorneys for Ronald Johnson's family.

Johnson, 25, was shot and killed by a white cop eight days prior to McDonald's shooting. The officer remains on desk duty. Johnson's mother filed a federal lawsuit against Chicago police shortly after the shooting of her son. This release is clearly a result of the mass actions that are unraveling the power of the police to



Ronald Johnson and Laquan McDonald

act with impunity to kill Black youth.

The Johnson family's attorney, Michael Oppenheimer, told

CNN on Dec. 2: "The dash-cam video, which I'm not allowed to show you today, clearly shows that he was not carrying a weapon, nor did he ever turn and point anything. The police department planted that gun because there's no way anything would have stayed in Ronald Johnson's hand after he was shot." Johnson was the father of five small children.

Today, however, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez announced she would not press charges against the cop who killed Johnson.

As more outrages continue to occur, only the constant mobilization of youth and supporters will expose and challenge the racist nature of this system.

These actions show who are the real terrorists and mass murderers in a city like Chicago, where there have been over 300 police shootings of civilians since 2010.

More young Black men have been shot and killed by police in Chicago than any other U.S. city. McDonald's case is the first time in this city any police officer has been charged with murder for a shooting while on the job. □

# All out for Mumia on Dec. 18

By Betsey Piette

U.S. Federal Court Judge Robert Mariani has ordered a full evidentiary hearing for Mumia Abu-Jamal in Scranton, Pa., on Dec. 18 based on a preliminary injunction filed in August seeking medical care to treat the hepatitis C virus he contracted from a blood transfusion in 1981.

Abu-Jamal's family and supporters, who for months have been demanding that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections cease their efforts to murder Mumia through medical malpractice, applauded news of the hearing.

For over a year doctors employed by the PA DOC ignored Abu-Jamal's growing health crisis. They never informed him about his rising blood sugar levels and gave him medications for a severe skin rash that only made it worse.

The prison even punished him by denying phone calls when he failed to turn up for morning check-in because he was too sick to stand. It was only the intervention of another prisoner, Major George Tillery, who told prison officials, "Mumia is dying," which saved his life. The prison subsequently punished Tillery by moving him to another prison and putting him in solitary confinement.

In March, Abu-Jamal was rushed to a hospital after collapsing from near lethal blood sugar levels and renal failure. Even after treatment for diabetes, he continued to suffer severe skin rashes and lesions over much of his body as well as swelling of his arms and legs. His skin developed a leatherlike appearance, and he had difficulty standing and walking.

As it became clear that prison doctors were deliberately ignoring Abu-Jamal's health crisis, a global campaign was

launched to pressure the PA DOC to allow Abu-Jamal access to doctors of his choice who could review his records and determine exactly what was going on. In August he was finally diagnosed with the hepatitis C virus, which impacts nearly 10,000 prisoners in Pennsylvania.

Despite the diagnosis, prison officials refused to give Abu-Jamal a new direct-acting anti-viral drug with a 90-95 percent cure rate for HCV. The medication, manufactured by Gilead Sciences, comes with a hefty price tag. At about \$1,000 per pill, it costs \$95,000 for a 12-week course of treatment. Prison officials decided to hold off on treatment until the final stages of the condition — in other words, when it would be too late to save Mumia.

Speaking at a November meeting in Philadelphia, Abu-Jamal's attorney Robert Boyle noted that the cost of the hospital care Mumia needed because the HCV went untreated was easily double that expense.

### Cruel and unusual punishment

In early September, lawyers for Abu-Jamal filed an injunction on his behalf seeking immediate relief through the administration of the anti-viral drug. On Sept. 18, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania Karoline Mehalchick denied Abu-Jamal's motion, even before his attorneys had a chance to respond to the PA DOC's opposition as allowed by court rules.

Mehalchick claimed that Abu-Jamal would not be irreparably harmed if he received no care, even though she acknowledged that HCV is a "sufficiently serious" condition under the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment."

Mehalchick also suggested that the PA

DOC should be allowed to implement its own protocols for prisoners with hep C. However, the PA DOC "treatment protocol" is to deny testing and to deliver no treatment. In June, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons amended its guidelines regarding HCV infection to include use of the new medications and to prioritize treatment for HCV cases as having the most urgent need. Many state prison systems have yet to follow suit.

At the Dec. 18 hearing, attorney Boyle will be able to cross examine DOC witnesses, including prison administrators and doctors about why they are denying medically indicated treatment for Mumia. The DOC has also been ordered to turn over critical discovery: Abu-Jamal's medical records. Mumia will also testify via video hookup, the first in decades where he will be able to testify on his own behalf.

People who have recently visited Abu-Jamal report that his condition seems greatly improved. Yet they caution that as long as the prison refuses to administer drugs that can cure HCV, he remains in grave danger.

Suzanne Ross, with the Free Mumia Coalition NYC, stated in a reportback on her recent visit with Mumia, "Only through the collective power of the people have we been able to pressure prison officials to provide treatment for the symptoms of hep C that Mumia has suffered. However, without the medication to treat the actual disease he could relapse at any time."

Speaking at a gathering in Philadelphia on Dec. 5, Pam Africa, with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, credited the intervention of Abu-Jamal's supporters, along with the diligence of other prisoners, for



Suzanne Ross visited Mumia Abu-Jamal on Nov. 27.

keeping Mumia alive and helping to restore his health. Africa noted, "A legal victory in Mumia's case will also be a victory for the other 10,000 PA prisoners afflicted by hep C."

Undiagnosed and untreated HCV is a major cause of death for millions of people in the U.S., particularly in African-American communities. Several people at the gathering proposed opening up a campaign to expose Gilead for putting its profits before people's health.

The Dec. 18 hearing starts at 9:30 a.m. at the William J. Nealon Federal Building, U.S. Court House, 235 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18501.

For transportation from Philadelphia, call 215-724-1618 or email HepCure-4Mumiaallprisoners@gmx.com. In New York call 212-330-8029.

If you are unable to get to Scranton, you can still show your support on Dec. 18 by calling the PA Department of Corrections at 717-728-2573 and PA Gov. Tom Wolf at 717-787-2500 to demand immediate hep C treatment for Mumia and 10,000 other prisoners. □

# Forces behind electoral setback in Venezuela

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

After midnight on Dec. 6, when the trend was already irreversible, the National Electoral Commission (CNE) publicly announced the results of that day's parliamentary elections in Venezuela. Of the 167 seats at stake in the legislature, the opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) won 99, while the ruling Great Patriotic Pole coalition won only 46 seats. There were 22 seats still in question, whose results would not change the parliamentary majority.

Shortly thereafter, President Nicolás Maduro addressed the people, congratulating them on the massive turnout, amounting to almost 75 percent of the electorate. With the phrase, "We trust your intention. We accept it," he conceded defeat. He added, "It was not the opposition, but the counterrevolution, that won" and "We must accelerate a new economic policy." (telesurtv.net)

This, the 20th election in 17 years of the Bolivarian Revolution, was held in a climate of peace, despite the dire predictions of the national and international right-wing media.

Never before has a nonpresidential election in that nation awakened so many rumors and predictions both nationally and globally. Why did this new situation arise?

The Bolivarian Revolution is not only the government of one country. Since Hugo Chávez won in 1998, starting the locomotive of hope for liberation and participation of the most excluded peoples, for regional unity, dignity and sovereignty together with the glorious Cuban Revolution, Venezuela turned into the compass of progressive movements both in Latin Amer-

ica and in the world. Although it is still a capitalist country, the possibility of freeing itself from the U.S. imperialist yoke, controlling its own resources and economy and speaking in its own voice aroused within the rulers of the empire and their allies worldwide the urgency to overthrow this focus of continental aspiration.

Therefore all of Latin America was hanging onto these elections. Solidarity messages flooded the social networks, including an email from Puerto Rico's tireless hero, Rafael Cancel Miranda, who sent this brief but eloquent message to his list: "Right now, Venezuela is all of us!"

## Imperialist aggression

When capitalism is backed against the wall, it becomes more vicious and stirs up the putrid waters of the most recalcitrant right wing. Faced with progressive movements worldwide, fascist waves awaken, used by the capitalists in their quest to dominate the people. This has happened in Venezuela in the recent past, but the Venezuelan government was able to choke off these violent hordes.

Now, however, the right wing, with U.S. aid, has begun a more subtle campaign, taking advantage of the global economic crisis that has affected many countries, including Venezuela.

The economic situation in the country has deteriorated, caused by external factors such as the global decline in oil prices, as well as by the economic war of the Venezuelan oligarchs who dominate the import sector. The oligarchs take advantage of the exchange rates on the illegal market, using currency that the government turns over to them at low prices. It amounts to theft.

Several other factors play a role, such as the leak of subsidized products across the border with Colombia.

Although the government has taken some measures to counteract all this, these steps have not been sufficiently vigorous and consistent to avoid the huge price increases in some commodities and the shortages of some products. This forces many of the people to wait in long lines to buy certain goods, causing dissatisfaction. The Democratic Unity Roundtable used these problems in its campaign of "change," stating that if they win, this situation and the economy would improve.

To the above we should add the infusion of millions of dollars from the U.S. to destabilize the Bolivarian Revolution. In an article in the Nov. 12 edition of RT, entitled "U.S.: Ambush Against Venezuela," Eva Golinger wrote, "Over the past year, the U.S. government has spent more than \$18 million in public funding for anti-government groups in Venezuela" through agencies attached to the State Department, the National Endowment for Democracy and U.S. Agency for International Development. Later in the article she mentioned, "\$400,000 has been delivered to a program to support members of the National Assembly and policy development." And there is \$40,000 dedicated to "monitor the National Assembly of Venezuela." (actualidad.rt.com)

"You can't trust imperialism, not even a little bit." Che Guevara's famous phrase needs no further explanation. Unfortunately, the Venezuelan government, under the immense pressure of the economic crisis, and maybe in order to try to reconcile with the Venezuelan financial right and get some benefits for the people, made some concessions. Perhaps they were only temporary, but this opened the door to the voracious appetite of the right wing. This is perhaps what President Maduro referred to when he said, "We must accelerate a new economic policy."

Despite the parliamentary majority achieved by MUD, the elections do not put an end to the Bolivarian Revolution. The right is itself divided and won thanks to U.S. advice and injections of aid and the intervention of the international right wing, both of current and former presidents, as well as the corporate media. In this global campaign many participated, including Mauricio Macri, the newly elected president of Argentina. Macri requested that the Democratic Charter be applied to suspend Venezuela as a full member of Mercosur.

Other participants in the destabilization campaign who were in Venezuela during the elections as guests of MUD were Ricardo Lagos of Chile, Andrés Pastrana of Colombia, Alejandro Toledo of Peru, Luis Alberto Lacalle of Uruguay, former president of Panama Mireya Moscoso, the Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and former Bolivian President Jorge Quiroga. The behavior and public statements of some of these leaders were so grossly interventionist that Tibisay Lucena, the president of the CNE, withdrew their credentials.

The Bolivarian people, however, have not forgotten the great progress made in just 17 years. Despite the long lines, the "World Hunger Map 2015, released by the Food and Agricultural Organization, certifies that this scourge does not exist in Venezuela. In 40 years, right-wing governments built 5,000 health centers. The Bolivarian Revolution, in 16 years, has built 9,000 medical centers." ("The 50 Great Achievements of the Unstoppable Bolivarian Revolution," Chavezvive.info.ve)

As with any process, the Bolivarian Revolution has made and will make mistakes, as well as wonderful steps forward. Now, as it embarks on a new stage, the solidarity of the international progressive movement is crucial for the Bolivarian people to find the road to socialism that they want to attempt, but which has run into great difficulties. □

# Racist party ahead in France as gov't curtails rights

By G. Dunkel

In the first round of regional elections Dec. 6, the National Front (FN) led in six of France's 12 regions. While the FN is often called "far right," its current leader, Marine Le Pen, rebranded it from an openly fascist party founded by her father, Jean Marie Le Pen, a torturer for the French army during the Algerian war.

The next, and deciding round, of these elections is set for Dec. 13, but the FN's electoral victories have already shocked France, according to the French Communist Party's (PCF's) newspaper l'Humanité and the conservative newspaper Le Figaro.

The FN's reactionary policies were widely adopted by its rivals in the Socialist Party and the Republican Party of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy, and even supported by left parties like the PCF, albeit grudgingly. These policies and the intensified French airstrikes in Syria — a former French colony — support the assertion that the FN won before the election.

These elections were held under "a state of emergency" declared shortly after the Nov. 13 massacre in Paris and extended to Feb. 26, 2016, with only six votes against the measure, in the French Parliament. Three from the Greens and three from the Socialists voted against.

PCF spokesperson and parliamentary leader André Chassaigne explained his party's anti-worker vote, saying "an equilibrium between the maintenance of security and the respect for public liberties was necessary." (L'Humanité, Nov. 19)

There are three main effects of this

state of emergency that give the cops and the justice system wide latitude for repression against popular organizations and the Muslim community: demonstrations are prohibited; persons who "trouble the public order" can be placed under house arrest; and searches can be conducted, day or night, without any judicial oversight.

## Cops can close mosques

French cops can also close Islamic schools and mosques. One mosque in Brest was closed. The cops can also close down organizations, but they don't appear to have done this yet.

When militant ecologists tried to hold a demonstration the day the Paris Climate Change Congress opened, the cops broke it up, arresting a few hundred people after using stun grenades and pepper spray to drive them away from Place de la République.

The CGT, a major trade union confederation, did have a demonstration at Bobigny on Dec. 2 to support airline workers facing trial for an altercation with their management. But this is the only demonstration the CGT has held since Nov. 13. Commercial demonstrations like Christmas markets have been allowed.

The French media have stopped reporting the number of searches that the cops have carried out nationwide, as well as the number of house arrests. The last figure available was given at over 2,000 searches. Le Parisien newspaper reported 84 searches — about three a day — in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, with a total of 12 weapons, a kilo of explosives, 27 kilos of marijuana and 35,000 euros seized. □

# Europeans protest war escalation against Syria

By Chris Fry

Dec. 6 — Thousands of people marched in England, Spain and Germany in the last eight days to try to stop their governments from joining the U.S. war against Syria. Despite these protests, both the German and the British parliaments voted to send troops and aircraft to the region to join the bombing campaign.

Just as the U.S. is using the Paris attack last month, and now the San Bernardino, Calif., assault, to motivate its continued military campaign against "terror," so too have these junior partners jumped in to get their share of the spoils of war. Though only the Islamic State is named as a target, the military moves will prolong and deepen the war against Syria, not stop it.

The Syrian people will suffer even more from this military escalation. Already 250,000 have died and 10 million have been displaced from their homes.

On Nov. 29, some 5,000 anti-war protesters took to the streets in London, carrying signs that read, "Don't bomb Syria" and "Drop Cameron, not bombs." Then, on Dec. 2, thousands more marched in front of Parliament demanding that the ministers vote down Prime Minister David Cameron's proposal to join the U.S. and France with airstrikes in Syria.

The vote by a large minority of some 60

Labour Party members for war displayed the fractures within that party on this issue. The London Labour councilor, Darren Hackett, described the anti-war portion of the party as "scum." (theguardian.com, Dec. 2)

One of Labour's anti-war shadow cabinet members, Diane Abbot, addressed the anti-war crowd outside Parliament: "In 24 hours, British bombers could be bombing Raqqa. It will be a tragedy. It will not keep the British people safer and will bring forward a further spiral of violence in the region."

## Britain starts bombing Syria

Sure enough, the British military began daily bombing raids in northern Syria even as the vote was taken. A year earlier, Cameron couldn't push a pro-war vote through Parliament.

In Madrid, 5,000 anti-war marchers, chanting "No to war!" and "Not in our name!" protested outside of the Reina Sofia museum on Nov. 28. They forced the rightist Popular Party prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, to "hold off any decision" on joining the U.S. war campaign. (Aljazeera.com, Nov. 28)

Anti-war protests also erupted in more than two dozen cities in Germany, where the Bundestag voted to send the German

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# Behind the San Bernardino shootings

By Deirdre Griswold

The Dec. 3 mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., which claimed the lives of 14 county workers and injured 21 others, occurred less than a week after a mass shooting Nov. 27 at the Colorado Springs, Colo., Planned Parenthood facility. There, it was a “lone gunman” (white) who killed three people and wounded nine others. In San Bernardino, however, the official FBI narrative says the alleged shooters expressed sympathy with the group known as the Islamic State group (often called ISIS or I.S.). Why did this deadly attack happen and how can others be prevented?

On Dec. 6, President Barack Obama gave a prime-time talk from the Oval Office of the White House in which he deplored the event and laid out measures the U.S. government would take in response. While he didn’t echo the extreme Islamophobia being pushed by his political rivals, and instead cautioned against blaming all Muslim people for the acts of a few, he failed in any way to mention the underlying social and economic crises that could bring about such an attack.

What people living in the U.S. and other imperialist countries need to know is that these governments’ military interventions in Southwest Asia and North Africa — where a majority practice some form of Islam — have created a hell on earth for the people living there. The destruction is so horrendous that literally millions have been displaced from their homes and hundreds of thousands of refugees have been risking their lives trying to get away from the fighting.

These crisis conditions began as far back as the CIA’s funding and organizing of right-wing Islamic forces against a revolutionary government in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Since then, things have worsened with the “regime change” invasions and devastation of Iraq and Libya. This has created a level of desperation for the respective populations comparable to that in Europe in the era of fascism and two world wars.

What are the current wars all about? Obama won’t talk about that, because to do so would expose the fact that U.S. foreign policy is crafted by advisers closely associated with the multinational corporations and banks.

For more than a century, U.S. foreign policy has facilitated the drive by these pillars of monopoly capitalism to amass superprofits abroad from the exploitation of other countries’ labor and natural resources. In the case of the Middle East, this particularly means oil companies and the banks behind them. But this is never mentioned. Instead, the interventions are explained as “helping” the peoples of the region create “stable governments.”

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military to join the U.S. war. Some 3,000 marched and rallied at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. The opposition Left Party in Germany instead proposed that German arms exports going to ISIS-supporting countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey be stopped. (jungewelt.de, Dec. 4)

The German military will supply reconnaissance jets and plans to send 1,200 more soldiers to the region, where already 100 are currently in Iraq as “trainers.”

Recently exposed by Russia for its leaders pocketing huge profits by selling ISIS oil, Turkey’s government sent troops and some 25 tanks into northern Iraq, with the bizarre explanation that this is a “training mission.” Iraq’s government protested and demanded that Turkey

**What people living in the U.S. and other imperialist countries need to know is that these governments’ military interventions in Southwest Asia and North Africa — where a majority practice Islam — have created a hell on earth for the people living there.**

How ridiculous and insulting that must sound to peoples whose rich cultural and political histories go back thousands of years!

## U.S. intensifies airstrikes

Obama in his talk said the U.S. would intensify its air strikes against the Islamic State group. The U.S. has already conducted roughly 6,700 strikes in Iraq and Syria, dropping more than 20,000 missiles and bombs during a campaign supposedly directed at terrorist groups. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee said, “We’re in the business of killing terrorists and business is good.” (USA Today, Dec. 4) But the transparency group Airwars estimates those strikes have killed almost 1,000 civilians.

The U.S., like the Islamic State group, has been engaged in a war against the secular government of Syria. On the same day that Obama talked about intensifying attacks on I.S., the Syrian government sent an official protest to the United Nations Security Council charging that U.S. warplanes had just bombed a military base in Deir al-Zor province, killing three Syrian soldiers and wounding 13 others.

The U.S. has also been supporting Saudi Arabia’s air strikes against an insurgent group in Yemen, the Houthis. In doing so, it is helping the I.S., which is carrying out a ground offensive against the Houthis.

One thing is clear: The military actions taken by the Pentagon in the Middle East have not diminished groups like I.S. — they have only elevated them.

## Economic crisis exacerbates

The rising tensions in this area, which are now spilling over into Europe and the U.S., cannot be separated from the unraveling of the capitalist world economy. While the profits of a tiny group of billionaires soar into the stratosphere, the signs of crisis keep multiplying.

A key sign of capitalist crisis is overproduction: a glut on the market caused by producing more goods than people can afford to buy. As far back as April 24 the Wall Street Journal wrote, “The global economy is awash as never before in commodities like oil, cotton and iron ore, but also with capital and labor.” The situation has only deteriorated since then.

As Sara Flounders reported to the Workers World Party national conference in November, “The world commodity markets are crashing. Machine parts, heavy equipment, tubing and pipes, along with oil, gas, steel, coal, copper, zinc, corn, soy and wheat are all valued at less

than half of the price of just one year ago.”

There are signs that the U.S.-led coalition intends to widen the war by having its “coalition” attack Libya, a country devastated by war since the U.S.-arranged torture and murder of President Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The U.S. is already launching its dreaded drone strikes in Libya, and now French reconnaissance planes are eying the town of Sirte for their next bombing campaign. (theguardian.com, Dec. 5)

This widening war in the Middle East and West Asia is wreaking death and destruction throughout the area and only benefits the giant oil monopolies that thrive from the vast wealth of the region, wealth that is denied to the millions of people who live there. □

than half of the price of just one year ago.”

Even more recently, petroleum prices fell from \$100 a barrel in 2014 to \$37 a barrel on Dec. 7. The political fallout from this can be seen in all the oil-producing countries, from the U.S. itself to Russia, Venezuela and of course the area now engulfed in war.

This reflects the completely chaotic character of the capitalist mode of production. The boom-bust cycle has been made even more intractable with the high-tech revolution. Initially, the bosses

vastly increase their profits by introducing labor-saving technology, but the rise in productivity while jobs are being cut eventually leads to a big crash and intense suffering for the masses of people.

Demagogic politicians who know that even tougher times are coming are trying to focus mass anger anywhere except on the capitalist rulers who have brought the world to this disastrous situation. That was the role of Hitler and Mussolini in the 1920s and 1930s, of Le Pen in France today, and of Donald Trump and his virulent Muslim-bashing in the U.S.

If we are to defend the lives of innocent people not only from random killers but from the ravages of more wars and depressions, we must fight for the unity of all workers and oppressed peoples against the racist warmongers. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Members and supporters of the Philadelphia-Camden Boricua Committee demonstrated on Dec. 2 in front of the UBS Financial Services office in Philadelphia Center City. The protest was part of a national appeal by the New York Call to Action on Puerto Rico to demand the cancellation of Puerto Rico’s debt and expose the criminal role of the banks and financial institutions that impose brutal austerity measures on the residents of

the island. That same day in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on Puerto Rico’s financial crisis. Puerto Rican elected officials testified, requesting approval of a law providing for Puerto Rico’s right to declare bankruptcy, among other demands. The action in New York City was held on Wall Street, and there were similar protests in Puerto Rico.

— Berta Joubert-Ceci

## Los Angeles WWP forum

# Exposing the media’s war fever and anti-Muslim hatred

By Scott Scheffer  
Los Angeles

Despite all the distractions during the holiday season, people turned out for a Los Angeles Workers World Party meeting in the aftermath of the Nov. 13 events in Paris. They were eager to hear a working-class and internationalist view of the mounting anti-immigrant sentiment and war fever being whipped up by the ruling classes in both France and the United States.

The meeting was held at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice on Nov. 21. It featured Ramiro Fúnez, national secretary of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) and member of the National Popular Resistance Front (FNRP) of Honduras.

In his remarks, Fúnez exposed how the corporate media in imperialist countries fuel hatred and violence against immigrants and refugees. “The media frenzy around the Paris attacks is testimony to the double standard of journalism in capitalist-imperialist society. This double standard manifests itself as racism and first-world privilege.

“Several days before the attacks in Paris, hundreds of people in Yemen, Lebanon, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Iraq and several other countries were victim

to United States-backed terrorism. These events were never covered in the mainstream capitalist media. If an imperialist country like France experiences recoil, however, we are taught to blame oppressed peoples in the Third World and attack their migrant brothers and sisters living within the belly of the beast.”

Irena Varjabedian, a longtime activist and member of Arab Americans for Syria in Los Angeles, also spoke. Her group has led the movement to oppose a U.S. overthrow of the elected government in Syria.

Varjabedian explained how the U.S. influenced the opposition to the Syrian government, provided funds and other forms of support and abetted its transformation into an armed insurgency in the service of U.S. imperialism. This imperialist plan, Varjabedian said, kicked into high gear at a time when the Assad government was negotiating with opposition figures and seemed — from the point of view of both sides — to be nearing a successful outcome to the talks.

Varjabedian pointed out how U.S. wars against Libya and Iraq, and Washington’s relentless and destructive campaign in Syria, led to the massive migration from the Middle East and Africa into Europe as hundreds of thousands flee with their families. □



## WORKERS WORLD

### WWP candidates on San Bernardino:

# Imperialist wars breed racism, violence

*Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, running in the 2016 national election for president and vice president, issued the following statement on Dec. 4 regarding the most recent mass shootings in the United States, this time in San Bernardino, Calif.*

As revolutionary socialists committed to the struggle of getting rid of this rotting capitalist system, we are horrified and saddened at the latest explosion of violence in this country. This time it was at a holiday luncheon of San Bernardino County Health Department workers held in a center for the care of people with disabilities. The attack left 14 dead and even more wounded.

At this point, we have only the official story to rely on regarding what happened. Therefore, we must proceed with caution, given the history of endemic twisting of facts and outright lies by police authorities, particularly when people of color are involved. This has been proven again and again by videos and brought to public attention by the courageous struggles of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Nevertheless, while we do not just accept the word of the FBI and local police as good coin, we can subject what they are saying to examination. They say that one of the workers, Syed Rizwan Farook, left the festive gathering and then returned with Tashfeen Malik, his spouse and mother of their small child, the two of them wielding military-style weapons and proceeding to shoot indiscriminately into the crowd. If this scenario is really true, then how is this kind of terrible, unpredictable slaughter to be prevented in the future?

We know what the answer of the liberal politicians is: stiffer gun control. However, California already has the most restrictive gun laws of any state!

#### Stop racism and Islamophobia

The answer of hardcore right-wingers is to impose Draconian anti-immigrant laws and strengthen state repression in this country, which already has the highest rate of mass incarceration in the world and spends billions of dollars on uniformed and plainclothes police of ev-

ery kind, ramping up the military arsenals at their disposal.

Both these reactions will only make things worse for the multinational working class here, especially people of color and immigrants who are leading the struggle against poverty wages.

The FBI claims there were two shooters, the young Muslim married couple, although early reports spoke of three. Both the accused were killed by police in a hail of bullets, meaning we will never hear what they might have had to say.

This leaves the field free for official speculation that this was an “act of terrorism,” similar to others that have happened in recent months in France, Lebanon, Syria and other parts of the world.

Already there is pressure to intensify the bombing of Syria by the U.S. and other NATO powers, ostensibly aimed at the Islamic State group. However, the openly stated U.S. position all along has been to topple the elected government of Syria, which has also been under fierce attack by the Islamic State.

If reports about FBI speculation turn out to be true, then all the more reason NOT to widen the war against Muslims and other people of the oil-rich Middle East, North Africa and West Asia. Intensifying hatred of the imperialists doesn't come out of thin air. These destructive wars — instigated and directed by the multibillion-dollar oil and banking interests in the U.S. and other imperialist countries — have killed hundreds of thousands and driven millions of desperate people from their homes. Capitalist politicians and the gutter media then unleash a tide of Muslim-bashing to justify the horrors the wars have produced.

The working people of the United States didn't create imperialism. We are its victims, too. The best thing we can do is reject prejudices and warmongering, and instead build multinational unity in the struggle against the class of exploiters who put our lives at risk every day in their vile drive to amass obscene fortunes and dominate the whole world. Say “no!” to Islamophobia! U.S. out of the Middle East, North Africa and West Asia! Stop police terror against Black and Brown peoples! □

## Terror and abortion rights

*Continued from page 4*

tion into the shooter and any others who may be connected with his act.”

Yet, even before the bogus videos surfaced or the Colorado murders occurred, there has been a long history of violence against women's health centers. The National Abortion Federation states “since 1993, eight doctors and clinic staff members have been murdered for working to provide abortion, most recently, Dr. George Tiller of Wichita, Kansas, in 2009.” (slate.com, Oct. 19)

The Feminist Majority Foundation's report in 2014, entitled “National Clinic Violence Survey,” said, “The percentage of women's health clinics that received threats of violence doubled since 2010.”

RH Reality Check, a pro-choice website, said on Sept. 18 that “radical anti-choice activists are emboldened by

GOP legislative attacks on reproductive rights.” These legal restrictions have severely impacted women's access to reproductive health care in many states.

Texas laws now require abortion-performing clinics to unnecessarily meet the standards of ambulatory surgery centers and their doctors must have admitting privileges at local hospitals. Since most clinics did not meet these requirements, only 17 clinics now perform the procedures, while 41 facilities provided abortions in 2012.

In the coming year the Supreme Court will hear the case of Whole Women's Health vs. Cole to decide the constitutionality of Texas' laws concerning clinics which perform abortions. If the restrictions are upheld, seven more clinics will be forced to close there, with only 10 remaining open.

## Unity shuts down Trump rally

*Continued from page 1*

together action plans.

After consultation among various organizations and individual activists, using social media and conference calls, plans were quickly developed for both the demonstrations outside and the disruptions inside.

The danger that Trump and his followers represent in this period, and the hate and racist vitriol that pour out of his mouth every time he speaks, have been easily recognized. Trump's words move his supporters to violence; he is a modern-day George Wallace or David Duke.

The shooting of Black Lives Matter activists in Minneapolis, the attack on Planned Parenthood in Colorado, the attacks on mosques, the Muslims pulled off flights, the refugees barred from entering the U.S., the vicious anti-immigrant slurs and the escalating police killings — all these vicious acts are on the minds of many. They clearly demonstrate the urgent need for progressive forces to unite and fight back against this ultra-right movement.

The main banner at the demonstration clearly illustrated this understanding: “No to fascist Trump! No to Muslim and immigrant bashing, bigotry, racism, war and police violence! Black Lives Matter!”

Under the auspices of a rally for presidential candidate Trump, enraged bigots of every stripe gathered like an ominous cloud. The white supremacist, misogynistic and heterosexist character of this event was readily apparent. “We can't all be on welfare” and “Benghazi matters” were among the cries of those selling buttons and bumper-stickers reading “Trump that bitch” to the eager, almost exclusively white crowd, whose whole sense of reason was fogged by fury. The crowd moved through a Secret Service checkpoint into the arena, filling it with a sea of hate.

After a convocation delivered by a Black pastor, in which we were exhorted to pray to “the God of the Bible,” and heard an utterly terrible rendition of the U.S. national anthem, Trump came onto the stage. He started by boasting of his polling numbers, assuring his supporters that, once he's elected, they too will feel the joy of “winning.”

#### Trump rallies crowd with hateful diatribe

Four minutes into this self-aggrandizing diatribe, the first disruption occurred. A solitary demonstrator began exclaiming “Black Lives Matter,” effectively halting the proceedings. This affirmation of the importance of Black life was quickly drowned out by thousands chanting “U.S.A.! U.S.A.!”

After the demonstrator was removed by police, Trump claimed that the “dishonest media” were going to blow the disruption out of proportion, noting that it was just one person — totally unaware of how

ironic this statement would soon become. He told the crowd to “Be nice.” But at the same time he fabricated the claim that being nice to protesters would result in him being criticized as “weak.” The continuing disruptions were then met with far greater hostility, often including physical violence from both Trump supporters and police.

Trump's stream-of-consciousness ranting then sank ever lower, tapping into deep reservoirs of all kinds of chauvinism latent in this audience of mostly white people so fearful of losing what they have, yet themselves increasingly made poorer by the functioning of the economic system for which they seek scapegoats.

Trump agitated the crowd with some of the following: racist imagery of strong, young, male refugees from foreign lands infiltrating the U.S.; promises to “go a couple of steps beyond waterboarding” and to take Iraqi oil, leading a call and response of “To the victor, go the spoils”; boasts of being “the most militaristic,” followed by a vow to “make this country proud again,” presumably through war; claims that the San Bernardino, Calif., shooting would have been anticipated were it not for “political correctness”; and, of course, laying all the country's economic woes at the feet of immigrants, whom he plans to forcibly expel while constructing a great wall to block further immigration.

#### Disruptions wear down the bigots

Against this frenzied current, protesters repeatedly rose from the crowd to affirm the rights of oppressed peoples to live with dignity and be treated with respect.

Every five minutes, like clockwork, another group or individual bravely stood up to halt the hateful proceedings. With each successive disruption, Trump and the crowd grew more belligerent. Chants of “U.S.A.!” were replaced with shrieks of “You're a traitor to this country!” Trump's pretense of kindness was replaced by belittles of “Get 'em out of here!”

In the standing section of the auditorium, right in front of the podium, a young man was punched in the face, to the cheers of the ravenous crowd. At one point, three undocumented immigrants disrupted Trump's speech with “Stop the hate, we make America great!” Felyta Hernandez, one of the three, told Workers World: “After we led chants about the deaths on the border between Mexico and the United States, Trump supporters immediately began to grab us, shouting racist, anti-immigrant threats. One of us, a 12-year-old girl, was scratched by police as they violently escorted us out.”

All three are members of Si a Las Licencias, which organized militant sit-ins and rallies in October to challenge Gov. Pat McCrory's signing of a reactionary bill. It restricts the types of identification recognized by law enforcement and the

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Olga Khazan's Nov. 17 Atlantic article, entitled “Texas Women Are Inducing Their Own Abortions,” addresses how these laws affect women. It is based on Texas Evaluation Project surveys on the impact of state reproductive policies, conducted by the University of Texas.

The study reads, “Between 100,000 and 240,000 Texas women between the ages of 18 and 49 have tried to end a pregnancy by themselves.” The most common method used is Misoprostol (Cytotec), a drug which induces medical abortion; it can be purchased without a prescription in Mexico.

The right-wing's goal is to abolish women's right to safe, legal abortion and sev-

eral types of contraception, which they falsely claim are abortifacients (causing abortion).

The terrorism that is aimed at the Black Lives Matter movement and at Planned Parenthood is meant to intimidate activists and break their fighting spirit. But BLM and all the struggles against racism, sexism and the oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and queer people will continue. The fight for women's rights — including for reproductive and other health care — is part of that struggle. The fightback against capitalist reaction goes on.

*Eolis is a retired emergency department nurse/family nurse practitioner.*



# China-Africa forum commits to development

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

A gathering of African Union member-states and the People's Republic of China on Dec. 4-5 under the banner of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation has placed strong emphasis on greater collaboration between the two regions based on mutual benefit. It was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme "China-Africa Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development."

Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized during his speech before the FOCAC Summit that Beijing has become Africa's principal cooperation partner in several significant areas. By the conclusion of 2014, the volume of Chinese investment in Africa reached \$101 billion in more than 3,100 Africa-based enterprises. During 2014, bilateral trade reached \$221.9 billion. (Xinhua, Dec. 5)

Xi announced that China was offering \$60 billion in funding, including \$5 billion of grant assistance and interest-free loans, \$35 billion in preferential loans and export credits on more favorable terms, \$5 billion each in additional capital to both the China-Africa Development Fund and the Special Loan for the Development of African SMEs (small- and medium-sized enterprises), and a China-Africa production capacity cooperation fund, with initial capital funding of \$10 billion.

AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said, "President Xi Jinping's speech was great in the sense that it identified areas where Africa is interested in and which are in our agenda 2063. Those are areas we are going to cooperate on and take this relationship to new heights." (Xinhua, Dec. 7)

## China-Africa cooperation on infrastructure

Plan 2063 is a 50-year plan for development and unification outlined at the 2013 AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A state-of-the-art AU headquarters in Addis Ababa was recently constructed by the Chinese.

Dlamini-Zuma also said, "We are going to cooperate with China whether in modernizing agriculture, infrastructure, energy, training of the young people and culture. The cooperation with China will enable us to implement the three network projects, which include highways, railways and aviation."

During President Xi's Africa tour to both South Africa and neighboring Zimbabwe earlier that week, some 26 agreements were signed that center around the construction and strengthening of infrastructural development, which will result in what Xi called "win-win cooperation."

Hosted by President Jacob Zuma of the ruling African National Congress party, the Johannesburg gathering represented the continuation of a decades-long relationship, dating back to the early years of the Chinese Revolution, which paralleled the emergence of the national independence movements on the African continent. During the course of various political and military struggles against colonialism, China, under the leadership of the Communist Party, has provided material and political support.

Currently, China, through its role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, has blocked the imposition of even more draconian Western sanctions against the states of Sudan and Zimbabwe. Beijing also deploys troops as participants in peacekeeping operations in the Darfur region of Sudan and in the Horn of Africa state of Djibouti.

The South African gathering is the latest in a series of such meetings since 2000. There have been five other ministerial conferences, four of them held in Beijing.

The current meeting, officially described as the second FOCAC Summit, was treated as a major event in both geopolitical regions. Preliminary meetings, as well as the two days of deliberations, placed the summit in the context of the world economic crisis, which has impacted both China and the African continent.

Before the summit, Xi Jinping visited

Zimbabwe, led by President Robert Mugabe, who is the current AU rotating chair. Xi signed additional agreements with Zimbabwe, which is still under sanctions by the U.S. and other imperialist countries. Zimbabwe's state media gave lead coverage to the visit of President Xi and his large delegation.

The Zimbabwe Herald on Dec. 2 reported: "Landmark deals worth \$4 billion signed between Zimbabwe and China on [Dec. 1] will convert provisions of the Government's economic blueprint, Zim-Asset, into programs of action. The two nations signed 12 investment agreements covering different sectors of the economy. The deals include financing for the expansion of the Hwange Power Station, construction of a new parliament building and a pharmaceutical warehouse, expansion of a national fiber-optic broadband project and provisions of wildlife monitoring equipment."

## Western banks suppressed development

Zimbabwe is still overwhelmed with debts to global capitalist financial institutions. An attempt to reschedule its obligations to Western banks and their subservient lending agencies will prove formidable in light of declining commodity prices that the African state depends on to earn foreign exchange revenue known as hard currency.

The Herald article adds: "Zimbabwe has, for over 15 years, been unable to secure long-term loans to fund infrastructure because it is in arrears with global lenders — the [International Monetary Fund] and the World Bank. However, the multilateral institutions might resume financial sup-

port to Zimbabwe after a deal was struck with international creditors on how the country intends to repay its arrears. Zimbabwe intends to clear its arrears to the three multinational institutions, the IMF (\$110 million), the World Bank (\$1.15 billion) and the [African Development Bank] (\$601 million) by the end of April 2016."

In South Africa, Xi signed agreements worth \$6.5 billion with the ANC-led government. These agreements are mainly designed to build infrastructure in the continent's most industrialized nation.

During Xi's visit, President Zuma championed relations between South Africa and China as being at their "best ever" after the two leaders held discussions concentrating on the boosting of investments.

"China and South Africa relations are at a new historical level. We want to build it into a model for relationships between China and other emerging economies," Xi told media representatives after the initial talks. (TVC, Dec. 3)

In response to criticism leveled by Western imperialist states, including the U.S., over allegations that Africa-China relations represent a new form of "colonialism," Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta rejected this, saying that both regions are benefiting from the burgeoning partnerships. "China is ready to help us develop and meet our socio-economic objectives without imposing its agenda on us. This is the outstanding aspect of our cooperation with China," Kenyatta said at the FOCAC Summit.

Xinhua news agency quoted Kenyatta: "China is doing what the colonialists failed to do in the past: help Africa out of poverty." (Dec. 5) □

# Haitian elections discredited by fraud

By **G. Dunkel**

Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), in an attempt to silence its critics, opened up a selection of its vote tallies to public inspection. Seventy-eight out of 13,000 were randomly selected and then inspected. One hundred percent of this sample was found to be invalid. (Haiti Sentinel, Dec. 2)

The CEP threw out the 78 fraudulent tallies, but still went ahead and decided not to review how they were counted and how the counting was conducted. They declared the vote count "official," with Jovenel Moïse of the governing Parti Haïtien Tèt Kale (PHTK) coming in first with 33 percent and Jude Célestine, running for the Alternative League for Progress and Haitian Emancipation (LAPEH), second, with 25 percent of the vote.

Célestine has endorsed a statement by a group of eight Haitian political parties saying that he will not contest the next round of voting on Dec. 27, but he has not officially withdrawn.

The U.S. government invested \$30 million in these elections. The European Community sent in teams of observers. Both were quick to accept the results of these elections. What this means is that the imperialist powers support the policies of Martelly's PHTK government and want to see them continued under Moïse.

Martelly has announced that he is taking steps to reinstitute the Haitian army. This instrument of state power will make it easier for the bourgeois rulers to repress and exploit the Haitian people and guarantee "stability." (Haïti-Liberté, Dec. 2)

The Haitian people had a vastly different perspective. They wanted their votes counted fairly. They wanted to run their own country and it was obvious that extensive ballot stuffing and other fraud had been perpetuated to produce favorable results for the PHTK.

A U.S. delegation of election monitors from the National Lawyers Guild and International Association of Democratic Lawyers said the voting arrangements "fell far short of minimum standards for fair elections" and called for an independent investigation. (Haïti-Liberté, Nov. 25)

The Haitian people came out in the tens of thousands both in Port-au-Prince and nationwide to protest the CEP and to demand a fair vote. This happened day after day at the call of LAPEH, Fanmi Lavalas and Dessalines Children Platform (Pitit Dessalines), three of the opposition parties.

After Martelly resigned, some of the protesters raised a call for a transitional government and completely new elections.

In a country where many working people live without electricity or telephone service such massive and frequent demonstrations reflect a deep anger.

Both the Catholic hierarchy and the Protestant churches in Haiti called for an independent investigation and examination of the Aug. 9 and Oct. 25 elections.

The new U.S. ambassador to Haiti, Peter Mulrean, said he hoped the new Haitian president would be chosen by the ballot box rather than in the streets. He was speaking at a Christmas party held at his private residence. (Radio Metropole, Dec. 6)

*Continued from page 10*

state of North Carolina that would also deny local governments from adopting "sanctuary city" policies.

The waves of verbal abuse and physical repression did not erode the stalwart demonstrators, and the increasingly frustrated Trump was clearly stumbling. As he tried to speak over the protesters, he also made hand gestures calling for their expulsion. Groups of three or more would bring the entire event to a shrieking halt for a minute or two, only to have the next disruption occur five minutes later.

This lurching, stop-and-go movement took its toll. Trump's speech lasted only about 25 minutes before transitioning to questions and answers. One questioner asked what would befall "our women" if the refugees didn't become celibate. Trump pretended not to hear so that it would be repeated. The protests kept coming. He stoked the petty, infantile persecution complex of the crowd by assuring them he'd "Bring Merry Christmas back to America." And the protests kept coming.

He exploited the emotional distress of a 12-year-old by making her repeat three times a question about what he would do to make the country safe so she wouldn't have to be scared anymore. She finally wailed over the microphone, "You will build our military SO strong, SO POWERFUL!" And the protests kept coming.

The event finally ended after about

45 minutes — half of Trump's normal time, during which he was interrupted 10 times. Rather than being worn down by the torrent of bigotry, the demonstrators wore down the bigots. Through endurance, they carried the day and effectively dispersed the cloud of hate.

But what was on display that evening has not ceased to exist. This storm will appear again and must be opposed always, lest the storm produce stormtroopers. Victory can only be achieved through determined, sustained resistance.

As we build from the momentum of our victory and continue our revolutionary work, it is important that our opposition to Trump and his right-wing supporters is understood in the larger context of capitalism and colonial imperialism.

Trump is not an abnormal product of the system. Though he may be forthcoming and unabashed in his violent and hateful rhetoric against immigrants, Muslims, women, Black lives, non-able-bodied individuals, refugees, the LGBT\*Q community and more, the narratives that he and his supporters subscribe to stem from the illogic of white supremacy, which is intrinsic to the foundation of this country. It is not Trump alone, but the entire capitalist system that must be fought.

The actions in Raleigh must be replicated elsewhere to beat back this growing danger wherever and however it rears its ugly head.

*Danielle B., Ben Carroll and Patrick Snipes contributed to this article.*



¡Manos fuera de Assata!

## EUA amenaza gobierno centro-izquierdista de Portugal

Por John Catalinotto

¿Es enviado de EUA a Portugal o pro-cónsul del Imperio? El embajador Robert Sherman, hablando en Radio Renascença de Portugal hace una semana advirtió a los portugueses que EUA estaba “preocupado” por el nuevo gobierno. Preguntó si el gobierno de centro-izquierda portugués se mantendría leal a la OTAN y cumpliría con las crecientes demandas de la alianza.

Si el imperialismo EUA dice que está “preocupado”, es una amenaza. Eso hace que sea importante examinar lo que ha estado sucediendo en Portugal.

Durante los últimos cuatro años, mientras un gobierno de centro-derecha estaba recortando pensiones, eliminando la atención médica y disminuyendo la educación, la economía estaba estancada. Hubo una tasa de un 14 por ciento de desempleo oficial en marzo y una tasa de desempleo real - que teniendo en cuenta la emigración y los trabajos de tiempo parcial - era más como un 29 por ciento. (Algarve News, 26 de marzo)

Estas condiciones llevaron a un fiasco

electoral para la coalición derechista.

En las elecciones del 4 de octubre, la coalición de centro-derecha perdió el 12 por ciento de los votos y 25 escaños. Ahora esta coalición derechista, odiada por las/os trabajadoras, no podrá formar una mayoría.

El Partido Socialista (PS) tuvo algunos logros, pero con 86 puestos no tenía lo suficiente para una mayoría. El Bloque de Izquierda (BE), cuyo programa y estructura es similar al de Syriza en Grecia, es decir, izquierda socialdemócrata, duplicó sus votos y ganó 19 escaños. La alianza del Partido Comunista Portugués—Verdes, llamada CDU, ganó un poco y obtuvo 16 escaños. Si los tres se ponen de acuerdo sobre una coalición, podrían garantizar una mayoría estable en la Asamblea Nacional (AN).

En las semanas siguientes a la elección, el derechista Presidente Cavaco da Silva, estaba violando la Constitución. Se negó a invitar al PS para tratar de formar un gobierno haciendo algún tipo de acuerdo con el PCP y BE. En vez, trató de mantener al antiguo régimen en el poder.

Finalmente, el PCP hizo una moción para rechazar el gobierno derechista mi-

noritario. El 10 de noviembre, esta moción ganó en la AN, mientras miles de trabajadoras/es se manifestaban movilizadas por la federación sindical CGP-IN.

El PCP y BE están apoyando al gobierno PS desde afuera. No van a participar como ministros. Según el acuerdo, el PS no atacará la clase obrera, y la coalición intentará revertir algunas medidas de austeridad impuestas anteriormente. El BE y PCP, quienes se oponen a la OTAN, no harán de esta oposición una condición para permanecer en la coalición.

No hay que hacerse ilusiones sobre el PS. Este partido nació en el período revolucionario de 1974-1975 nutrido por EUA y el imperialismo alemán con el fin de sacar al PCP. Desde los 40 años transcurridos desde ese período, el PS ha alternado en el poder con los dos principales partidos de derecha, y últimamente también ha impuesto austeridad.

Hasta el momento, la única victoria de las/os trabajadoras es que derrocaron el gobierno de centro-derecha. Es poco

probable que la coalición PS-BE-PCP, aunque permanezcan unidos en la AN, podrá obtener logros para las/os trabajadoras a través de la vía parlamentaria. Es posible, sin embargo, que los partidos de izquierda utilicen su presencia en la AN para movilizar la lucha de clases en las bases de las masas populares en las calles, fábricas y recintos universitarios.

De 1974 a 1978, el embajador estadounidense Frank Carlucci actuó exactamente como un pro-cónsul del Imperio. Amenazó con intervención militar por la OTAN desde el Atlántico, maniobró con los elementos de derecha que quedaban en el Ejército y con el PS. Su objetivo era evitar una revolución obrera y mantener al PCP fuera del gobierno.

Por eso es un recordatorio para todas/os nosotros cuando el odiario.info advierte en un editorial que Sherman está “imitando” a Carlucci. Washington está amenazando nuevamente la soberanía de Portugal. El movimiento obrero aquí tiene que estar listo para protestar y detener esta intervención. □

## Solidaridad de Cuba con Assata Shakur

Por Cheryl LaBash

En una entrevista el 9 de noviembre con Kenia Serrano, presidenta del Instituto de Amistad con los Pueblos y delegada a la Asamblea Nacional de Cuba, el periodista de radio Netfa Freeman basado en Washington, D.C. preguntó acerca de Assata Shakur.

A Assata le fue concedido asilo político en Cuba en 1984, después que la policía le disparó teniendo sus manos en alto, tratando de matarla durante una parada de tráfico y luego condenándola falsamente por vida en una prisión de Nueva Jersey.

Después de su fuga, se le concedió asilo político en Cuba. Las relaciones diplomáticas renovadas entre EUA y Cuba - iniciadas el pasado 17 de diciembre, después de que el gobierno de EUA liberara los 3 restantes de los 5 agentes de seguridad estatal cubanos en prisiones EUA - ha llevado el caso de Assata al frente, tanto entre combatientes del movimiento Vidas Negras Importan y como condición para las fuerzas que se oponen a la continuación de la normalización de las relaciones diplomáticas entre EUA y Cuba.

**Freeman:** Y por último, para aquellos que están preocupados por la hermana Assata Shakur, quien tiene asilo político, algunos piensan que tal vez...

**Serrano:** Bueno, ya mencioné que nos guiamos por principios. Nos guiamos por principios y Cuba ha tomado una decisión muy importante en el caso de Assata y en otros casos. Cuando aceptamos a una persona como refugiada política debido a las diferentes consideraciones que tenemos, es algo que no está sujeto a ningún debate, diálogo o precondición. Cuba se rige por principios—nuestros compañeros aquí, nuestros hermanos y hermanas, deben saber que somos así. Estamos aquí por eso. Si hubiéramos hecho concesiones en nuestra historia, Cuba no sería el país soberano y socialista independiente que somos.

¡Manos fuera de Assata!

Desde Oakland-Calif., a Ferguson-Mis-

souri, y Baltimore, las personas en primera línea de resistencia del movimiento Vidas Negras Importan usan camisetas que declaran “Assata me enseñó”. Después de testificar la verdad en las audiencias de la comisión de la policía de Chicago y en reuniones grandes y pequeñas capturadas por todas partes en vídeo - incluyendo la conferencia del Partido WW-Mundo Obrero 2015 - las/os participantes corean la afirmación de Assata:

“Es nuestro deber luchar por nuestra libertad.

Es nuestro deber a ganar.

Debemos amarnos y apoyarnos mutuamente.

No tenemos nada que perder, solo nuestras cadenas”.

- Assata Shakur, 4 de julio 1973

En Nueva York y Wisconsin, el nombre de Assata se ha cubierto y removido de centros de estudiantes. El gobernador de Nueva Jersey Chris Christie dijo que no habrá vuelos charter a Cuba desde los aeropuertos de NJ mientras ella esté libre en Cuba. El FBI la etiquetó de “terrorista” ofreciendo recompensa de \$2 millones.

Ella es tema en un reciente drama político, “Señora secretaria,” donde su retorno voluntario a EUA es la clave para poner fin al bloqueo. Incluso allí, funcionarios cubanos crudamente retratados rechazan airadamente cualquier sugerencia de entregar a Assata a las autoridades EUA - reconociendo los principios de asilo político de Cuba por esta heroica mujer negra.

Serrano estuvo en Washington-DC, como parte de una visita a tres ciudades EUA del 3 al 17 de noviembre. Además, mientras en DC, Serrano intercambió con representantes de organizaciones EUA en solidaridad con Cuba en la reunión anual de la Red Nacional sobre Cuba y habló en una reunión pública. La entrevista completa de Serrano fue transmitida el 24 de noviembre en la estación de radio Pacífica WPFW en la segunda mitad del programa “Voces con Visión”. Está disponible en los archivos: [tinyurl.com/pr6sobc](http://tinyurl.com/pr6sobc). □

## El pueblo puertorriqueño está luchando

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Al título de la conferencia, “Poniendo el socialismo revolucionario en el tapete”, agrego “en el tiempo del capitalismo en un callejón sin salida”. Necesitamos un debate serio y profundo sobre la manera de derrotar al capitalismo. No con reformas, no con parches; necesitamos un cambio estructural.

¡Necesitamos socialismo!

Fidel dijo una vez que mientras el imperialismo EUA esté, el racismo no acabará. El imperialismo alimenta el racismo, se beneficia de él y de todas las diferencias que puede utilizar para dividir a la clase trabajadora para que no se una y luche contra los capitalistas.

Durante varios años he estado informando sobre el giro a la izquierda en Latinoamérica. Pero quisiera plantear las dificultades enfrentadas por los movimientos y gobiernos progresistas allí, porque muchas de esas dificultades surgen del imperialismo estadounidense. ¡Los grandes logros ganados en la región son insostenibles para el imperialismo!

EUA ha intensificado su intervención en la región, alineado con la derecha reaccionaria de muchos de esos países. El capitalismo en su fase en encrucijada está tratando de dar marcha atrás a los avances logrados.

La crisis del capitalismo es global, pero también la lucha. Hay dos campos en el mundo: los capitalistas junto a quienes los sirven, y las masas que luchan contra ellos.

Pero yo quiero enfocarme en Puerto Rico, un país que durante mucho tiempo no fue siquiera considerado latinoamericano, y que ha estado en las noticias debido a su inmensa deuda de \$73 mil millones.

Puerto Rico es el ejemplo perfecto de la virulencia del capitalismo en su etapa sin salida final.

**Puerto Rico: colonia de EUA**

Puerto Rico es una colonia de EUA. No tiene soberanía. El capital extranjero es dueño de todo, lo decide todo. El gobierno de la isla es solo una figura decorativa; Wall Street y el Pentágono, a través del Congreso

EUA, son los verdaderos gobernantes.

Puerto Rico ha sido un laboratorio para las prácticas de EUA desde que invadió en 1898. Trató de borrar nuestra historia y nuestros héroes y suprimir nuestro lenguaje y nuestra bandera; nos usó para experimentos farmacéuticos; esterilizó a nuestras mujeres; usó nuestra tierra para probar armas tóxicas y practicar sus intervenciones militares en otros países; atacó, mató y encarceló a líderes del movimiento independentista; etc. — un largo etcétera.

Una de las prácticas más criminales ha sido la destrucción económica. Ha dejado a PR en una profunda depresión. Todas las medidas para hacer frente a la crisis actual son en beneficio a los bonistas de Wall Street, de fondos buitres.

El gobierno puertorriqueño ahoga a las/os trabajadoras y las/os pobres para pagar a los bonistas. Mientras el pueblo es cada vez más pobre, leyes han sido implementadas para gratificar a multimillonarios estadounidenses — eximiéndolos de pagar impuestos de sus ganancias obtenidas en la isla.

El pueblo puertorriqueño recibe aumentos de impuestos y mayores costos por servicios públicos, gasolina y medicamentos. Medicare, que se deduce de los salarios en la misma proporción que aquí, solo proporciona cerca de la mitad del beneficio. Y mientras que los beneficios de Medicare serán aumentados en EUA, en PR se reducirán aún más — un 11 por ciento.

El gobierno de Puerto Rico está pagando millones a agencias consultoras yanquis para “resolver” la crisis. Economistas del FMI han elaborado un informe que el gobierno está tratando de imponer. Incluye la privatización de la educación, electricidad, agua y alcantarillado, y carreteras; recortes de salario; aumento de la matrícula universitaria, etc.

Pero el pueblo de Puerto Rico está luchando. Hay asambleas populares sobre las consecuencias de las reformas del gobierno. Hay un llamado a una huelga general que debemos apoyar en todo lo posible aquí.

¡Viva Puerto Rico libre! ¡EUA/Wall Street fuera de Puerto Rico! ¡Libertad para Oscar López Rivera! □