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.

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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 together a response.

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Detroit's neocolonial rulers ruin public education

By Elena Herrada

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 in 1999 in anticipation of its being unfreezed. In 2009, then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm met with Robert Bobb at the Barack Obama inauguration. Bobb soon became Detroit as emergency manager over Detroit Public Schools. Millions of dollars in construction fees went out of the classroom and into private pockets. Public Act 72 then made Bobb the emergency financial manager. After the financial blunder that had been 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 to control all aspects of the school district. This was very clear from the law.

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. Under Public Act 336 and voted by a two-thirds EM three times in one month with a supermajority of the elected board. The EM did not judge. So we went to court. The judge told us the law said that only a particular emergency manager would be removed, but the governor could appoint another one in his place. To avoid voting out the EM again, the governor removes the EM before the first day of the sixth month and appoints a new one. Gov. Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan are a tag team whose corruption are ruled by tried-and-true EMs 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 was turned into a WEPS. Earley's threats are 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 of the foundation. Earley said it has 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 autonomy 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 prep hours per week and few schools have art or music classes. Many students get only one physical education class per week. Contractors 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 the two-thirds EM.

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 imperial colony. The only disturbance in this illusion that occasionally reality is Elena Herrada was an elected member of the Detroit Public Schools Board-in-exile.

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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 astounding capitalist system is dragging down workers' living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs and systems of oppression continue, shaping your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven strangulation of 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 WW 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 toils the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WW builds unity among all workers while supporting the right to self-determination. This is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WW 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 Upper Peninsula. Support for this embattled activist is growing daily.

The Rev. Edward Pinkney is starting his second year behind bars after an outrageous conviction 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 memoir recall petition in 2014 allegedly appeared to have been altered. No evidence was presented to the court that would link 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 area of the prison. During his time there, he 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 halt 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. Edward 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 across Michigan as well as other regions of the country. Workers World’s Party vice presidential candidate, Lamont Lilly, will be attending the conference. Pinkney supporters turned out on Detroit’s “Nord Night” on Dec. 5, when main street passed through the University District and Art Institute were closed and thousands of people thronged to visit booths and listen to speakers. In holiday catering, 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 to Rev., and distribut- ed 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 #924571, Marquette Branch Prison NE-93, 1960 U.S.W. Hwy. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855; 2) call Gov. Rick Snyder at 517-373-3400 and Legislative Complex (extension 243) and ask him to “ask Governor Whitmer to investigate the inhumane treatment of Rev. Pinkney;” and 3) send a letter to the legal defense fund at bhhano.org using the PayPal button or mailing a check to BANCO, c/o Dorothy Pinkney, 9140 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 war being waged by the ruling class on the working class and oppressed peoples. In Wisconsin, due to mass protests in the state specifically from the late 20th century onward, many progressive reforms and actions 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 create a working-class and oppressed peoples’ victory over the pursuits of the ruling class to constantly erode the power of the masses.

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 Engaged 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 — as well as the international communist movement, which is in a deep crisis that has no op- tion but to continue placing the burden of the reality of the national oppression from the 2011 struggle, particularly the fact that the Black masses in Wisconsin live under genderial and apartheid-like conditions.

Lenin explained this tendency in “What Is To Be Done?” pointing out that the working-class has only two choices: “either bourgeois or socialist ideology,” and that without revolutionaries combating spontaneous, narrow trade union tactics that isolate the masses and these struggles from each other can fail the 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 and 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 movement.

As we carry on in our organizing, we must always remember that only socialist parties, like the Wisconsin Communist party, with communist cadres, 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

Available at all major online booksellers.
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 Jerem- my McDole, a 28-year-old Afri- can-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 or- ganization in support of the Black Lives Matter movement to combat the rising national epidemic of police murders, particularly of youth with disabilities.

PPA leader and activist Terrea Mitch- ell, a woman with disabilities, led pro- testers first outside the 34th Street ele- vator bank and then through all sections of Penn Station, including the Long Is- 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 ter- ror!” 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 disgrace- ful access deficiencies.

These include inade- quate signage directing people with disabilities to accessible elevators, which violates the Amer- icans with Disabilities Act; unacceptably huge distances for wheelchair users to get to access- ible elevators; and an extremely narrow ramp to New Jersey Tran- sit, Imperato said she was almost once pushed into a pillar there by a speeding able-bodied commuter.

Johnnie Stevens, of Parents to Im- prove School Transportation, urged ev- eryone to show solidarity with the mostly Black and Brown women workers at Ac- cess-A-Ride, the Metropolitan Transpor- tation Authority’s transit service in New York City for people with disabilities. The workers are demanding $15 an hour and a union 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 dis- abilities behind. Trans disabled activist Josefine Perez discussed the special oppression of trans people with disabil- ities. Larry Holmes, of the PPA, told the crowd that union workers are discriminated against and denied the same minimum wage rights as other workers, sometimes earning as little as $2 an hour. 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 emerg- ency room nurse trying to care for peo- ple 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 Cleveland police officers Timothy Loehmann and Frank Garmback pulled 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 dispicable treatment by Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty. Not only has there been no indictment of the officers, but McGinty lauded them and said he will not charge them for the shooting.

Garmback has a racist record. The city of Cleveland had to pay $100,000 to an African-American woman for the beat 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 and anti-racism workshops were held as well as two town hall meetings, which included briefings by the family and their attorney, Sibohd 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 multi-national Black Lives Matter activists and their supporters came from Ohio State University. People came to show respect for the life cut short by the police and to support the 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 prosecute him and step down. He has steadfastly refused. However, due to the militant pushback around the country by 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, 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. These 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 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, represent service workers, university employees, community organizers, 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 853 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.

Two new workers 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 853 reports that during the week of Dec. 6, its leadership and company officials will sit down for a discussion on major strike issues.

Since the first day of the strike, numerous solidarity pickets have taken place, including mass rallies and marches, food drives, around-the-clock picket line support and more. UAW Local 853, 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 853 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 853 leader 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!
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 representation 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 reflects reformed 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 capitalizing on our minds, bodies and souls to the revolution at hand.

WW: What occurred during the Black Student Solidarity Rally? What respons- es did you receive from the racist group “Illini White Student Union”?

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 undergradu- ate and graduate, spoke during the rally. Hip-hop and spoken word were em- ployed throughout and one participant performed a chilling rendition of Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit.” Unsurprising- ly, there was also immediate backlash 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 thor- oughly 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, de- mand and seize equal treatment at their respective universities.

WW: Mizzou’s Concerned Student 1950 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 re- lationship to the Black Lives Matter movement?

As Karl Marx stated, history is driv- en by a dialectical relationship between oppression and resistance. As more col- ections and consciousness develop amongst oppressed groups and they construct counter hegemonic actions, the ruling class responds by repressing the colo- nized 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 cre- ation 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 re- sult of America’s historically foundation- al, toxic racial climate. #ConcernedStu- dents90’s success in organizing against and outside of the system sent shock- waves through the white ruling class.

Additionally, the white ruling class fears that Blacks will copy the Mizou model and shut down the profit-generat- ing machines on their campuses. We do not believe the creation of white supreme-acist groups on campuses across the coun- try 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 coloniza- tion of the Black nation and the system- atic oppression of people of color?

Frantz Fanon once described colo- nialism as “violence in its natural state.” Fanon’s conclusion still holds weight to- day. The present condition of Black peo- ple cannot be detached from the violence that shaped our past. Black women have, inarguably, borne the brunt of this vio- lence. For, even as Black men were worked to death and murdered, forced into poor schools and denied good-paying jobs, we too were starred, and lynched, housed in the worst neighborhoods, sent to the worst schools and raped.

A society that silences its women can- not 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 intersection of oppressions is a key reason why Black revolutions of times past failed. We are fully aware and ready to do what is em- pirically verifiable and analytically correct: 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 must acknowledge that race is the right of only one particular group of Black people. Rather, we must fight op- pression wherever it seeks to destroy us.

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

Black Students for Revolution recognize- es that capitalism is the creator and driv- ing force behind racial oppression in the American empire and world history. Cap- italism derives from a fundamental need of “civilization” and “progress.” Thus, for Europeans, capitalism has always been some sort of “evolution” where communal people “progressed” to individualist, com- petitive and colonial. As a result, the Eu- ropean 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 fol- lowing Bacon’s Rebellion of 1676, when the Black slaves and white indentured serv- vants collectively to overthrow their labor. The white ruling class defined this rebellion as dangerous to their sys- tem, 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 posi- tioning Black people as the subproletari- at (Black people received the dirtiest jobs and lowest wages with no chance of pro- motion). So when labor activism developed, Black and white workers were in conflict; therefore, no serious revolution to over- throw capitalism could be developed.

As industrial capitalism shifted to neo- liberal global capitalism in the mid 1970s, deindustrialization devastated Black ur- ban communities more than any other space in America. As Huey P. Newton’s “Intercommunism” argues, the remov- al of jobs 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 un- desired, subproletariat. The lumpenproletariat would fall to working-class com- munities organizing together to end their oppression.

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

Protesters denounce racism, war and Islamophobia

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

The rally included representatives from the Nation of Islam, Christians Witnessing for Palestine and other Palestinian refu- gees. A large banner proclaimed: “Say No to Racism, War, Police Violence, and An- ti-immigrant, anti-Muslim Bashing.”

The protest received significant local media coverage, including on two TV stations. “As you can see, there is an an- ti-immigrant, anti-Muslim hysteria going on around the country by politicians and their supporters,” organizer Lydia Bay- ones told the media. “We are here first and foremost to say that all refugees are welcome, no matter what country [they are from], whether it be Syria, Iraq, Af- ghanistan, occupied Palestine and all the other countries that have been ravaged with war and poverty.”

Protestors denounced the racist dema- gogy, which is not only demonizing Mus- lims and other immigrants, but trying to divide us, and by the issues of police terror, inequality, lack of jobs and poverty in the United States.

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Protestors say ‘no’ to racism and hate, Dec. 5. Rochester, N.Y.
Demanding justice for McDonald Johnson

By Jill White

Dec. 7 - Demonstrations against the police murder of Laquan McDonald con-
tinued 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 Informa-

tion 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 Mc-
Donald never advanced toward the offi-
cer. Second, after he was initially shot, he did not try to get up. He was incapacitat-
ed. One document even stated that Van Dyke was injured by McDonald, which was a complete fabrication.

Van Dyke was charged with first-degree mur-
dery last week, 13 months after Mc-
Donald was killed. The cop’s family easily made half, which was set at a $1.5 million bond. He is now free on the street.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, in an attempt to save his own job, withdrew his official sup-
port 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 covering up.

The next day, demonstrations took place again on “Magnificent Mile” to bring economic pressure on the city. Store sales for so-called Black Friday last week, after thousands of youth and sup-
porters blocked entrances to stores shoot-

ing, “Sixteen times! 13 months!” referring to the number of times McDonald was shot and the number of months the city author-
ities covered up the murder. More demon-
strations are called for this week.

No justice for Ronald Johnson

The masses action’s impact can be seen and not only in the backpedaling of the politicians, who are clearly on the de-
fensive. Pressure on them mounts as the culture of rampant police terror and cov-

er-up is exposed. This week, again after months of refusal by the authorities to release a dash-cam video that would ex-

pose another murder by the police, they agreed to release the video at the requests of attor-

neys for Ronald Johnson’s family.

Johnson, 25, was 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 af-

ter the shooting of her son. This release is clearly a result of the mass actions that are unraveling the power of the police to

CHICAGO

All out for Mumia on Dec. 18

By Betsy Piette

U.S. Federal Court Judge Robert Mari-
anni 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

halt all processing until the final stages of treat-

ment. Prison officials decided to

refuse to give Abu-Jamal a new di-

vision. Despite the diagnosis, prison officials

refused to give Abu-Jamal a new di-

vention. Prison officials decided to

refuse to give Abu-Jamal a new di-

ventor who could review his records and

would be too late to save Mumia.

At the Dec. 18 hearing, attorney Boyle

will be able to cross examine DOC wit-

esses, including prison administrators and doctors about why they are deny-

ing medically indicated treatment to Mumia.

The DOC has also been ordered to

turn over medical records. Mumia will also testify via video hookup, the first in de-

cades where he will be able to testify by 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 ad-

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Racist party ahead in France as govt 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 described as a “far right,” it has also been described as a “nationalist” party and as being influenced by far-right movements in Europe. The FN’s policy of “national sovereignty” is shared by many other far-right parties across Europe, including the British National Front, the National Front, the Parti Socialiste, and the Parti Communiste Français (PCF). The FN has been described as “radical” and “anti-immigrant.”

The FN’s reactions to events were widely reported by its rivals in the Socialists Party and the Republican Party of France. The FN’s policy of “national sovereignty” is shared by many other far-right parties across Europe, including the British National Front, the National Front, the Parti Socialiste, and the Parti Communiste Français (PCF). The FN has been described as “radical” and “anti-immigrant.”

In Madrid, 5,000 anti-war marchers, chanting “No to war!” and “Not in our name!” protested against the war in Syria. The protest was organized by the left-wing group “Chavista Vive.”

French police have carried out more than 2,000 searches — about three a day — in the weeks since the Nov. 13 massacre in Paris. The French government has been accused of using the trial for an altercation with their manager as a way to punish the management. But this is the only demonstration that has been allowed. The French government has been accused of using the trial for an altercation with their manager as a way to punish the management. But this is the only demonstration that has been allowed.

There are three main effects of this state of emergency: that the government can seize power to declare a state of emergency; that the government can declare martial law; and that the government can declare a state of emergency.

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

The government has taken some measures to prevent 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. The government has taken measures to prevent 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.

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 its ability to mobilize the masses of people of aid and the intervention of the international right wing, both of current and former presidents, as well as for the corporate media. In the next days, many far-right parties, including the PCF spokesperson and parliamentary group, will proclaim the vote as a “change,” stating that if they win this situation and the economy will improve. Many of these parties are supported by the political leaders, such as the global decline in oil prices and the economic crisis in the country. But this is the only demonstration that has been allowed.

Several other factors play a role, such as the use of subsidized products across the border with Colombia.
Behind the San Bernardino shootings
By Deirdre Griswold

The Dec. 3 mass shooting in San Bernadino, Calif., which claimed the lives of 14 people and injured 21 others, occurred less than a week after a mass shooting Nov. 27 at the Colorado Springs, Colo., Planned Parenthood facil-
ity. There, it was a “lone gunman” (white) who killed three people and wounded nine others. In San Bernardino, however, the official police narrative and shattered shooters expressed sympathy with the group known as the Islamic State group (often called ISIS or I.S.). Why did this deadliest of all mass shootings 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 de-
plored the event and laid out measures the U.S. government would take in re-
sponse. While he didn’t echo the extreme right-wing rivals, and instead cautioned against a policy that in Europe in the era of fascism and World War II, two imperialist countries used in Southwest Asia and North Africa — where a majority practice Islam — has created a level of desperation for the people living there.

Economic crisis exacerbates terrorism
The rising tensions in this area, which are now spilling over into Europe and the U.S., cannot be separated from the ravaging of the capitalist world economy. While the profits of a tiny group of billion-

aries soar into the stratosphere, the majority suffer from the crisis and keep multiplying.

A key sign of capitalist crisis is over-
production: a glut on the market caused by bourgeois competition. The poor can afford to buy. As far back as April 24 the Wall Street Journal wrote, “The glob-

al economy is awash as never before in commodities like corn, cotton and iron ore, but also with capital and labor.” The sit-
uation has only deteriorated since then.

Workers World Party national confer-
ence in November, “The world commod-
ity markets are crashing. Machine parts, energy, building materials and textiles are selling for less money. This is. They were eager to hear a working-class view of both sides — to be nearing a suc-
cessful implementation. The meeting was held at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice on Nov. 21. It featured Ramiro Fúnez, national secretary of the United Socialist Workers Party in Haiti. In his remarks, Fúnez exposed how the U.S. military, under the guise of US-led Coalition forces, had destroyed the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and that the people of Haiti were still living within the belly of the beast.

Varjabedian explained how the U.S. military decided to attack Haiti, saying that the people of Haiti were not willing to work under the conditions imposed by the U.S. military. She also said that the people of Haiti were fighting back against the U.S. military and that the war in Haiti was a war against the people of Haiti.

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. in-
tervention in Syria. Varjabedian explained how the U.S. military decided to attack Haiti, saying that the people of Haiti were not willing to work under the conditions imposed by the U.S. military. She also said that the people of Haiti were fighting back against the U.S. military and that the war in Haiti was a war against the people of Haiti.

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Imperialist wars breed racism, violence

Workers World Party candidates Monica Lesman and Tashfeen Malik, running in the 2016 national election for president and vice president, issued the following statement on Dec. 4 regarding attacks and 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.

Every kind, running up the military armament of their dis- abilities. The attack left 14 dead and even more wounded.

Both these reactions will only make things worse for the multinational work- ing class here, especially people of color and immigrants. It is also funding the struggle against poverty wages.

The FBI claims there were two shoot- ers, the young Muslim married couple, although early reports spoke of three.

The attack left 14 dead and even more wounded.

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 an end to racism, health workers of a radical dential candidate Trump, enraged bigots of every stripe gathered like an ominous cloud. The white supremacist, misogynis- tic and heterosexist character of this event was readily apparent. “We can’t all be on welfare” and “Benghazi matters” were two of the cries of the selling bumper and bumper-stickers reading “Trump that bitch to the eager, almost exclusively white crowd, whose whole sense of rea- son was fogged by fury. The crowd moved through a Secret Service checkpoint into the arena, filling it with a sea of hate.

This conversation was delightfully, I mean, a Black pastor, in which we were egged 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 U.S. national anthem, Trump came onto the stage. He started by boasting of his successes.

Trump rallied crowds with hateful diatribe

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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, to discuss the theme “Chi- na-Africa: Connecting Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping empha- sized before the FO- CAC Summit that Beijing has become Africa’s principal cooperation partner in several significant areas. By the conclu- sion of 2014, the volume of Chinese in- vestment in Africa reached $30 billion in more than 3,000 Africa-based enter- prises. During 2014, bilateral trade reached $22.9 trillion. (Xinhua, Dec. 5.)

Xi announced that China was offering $60 billion in funding, including $5 bil- lion of grant assistance and $10 billion in preferential loans, $15 billion in preferential loans and export credits on more favorable terms, $5 billion in new facilities for the China-Africa Development Fund and the Special Loan for the Development of African SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises). China also announced a new China-Africa capacity cooperation fund, with initial capital funding of $1 billion.

AU Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said that Presi- dent Xi Jinping’s speech was great in the sense that it identified areas where Africa is interested in and which are in our agen- cy. A state-of-the-art AU headquarters 2013 AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethi- opia. A-state-of-the-art AU headquarters in Addis Ababa was recently constructed by the Chinese.

Dlamini-Zuma also said, “We are go- ing to cooperate with China whether in modernizing agriculture, infrastructure, energy, training of the young people and cultural cooperation. They also enable us to implement the three network projects, which include highways, rail- ways and aviation.”

During President Xi’s Africa tour to both South Africa and neighboring Zim- babwe earlier that week, some 26 agree- ments were signed between the two nations and the construction and strengthening of infra- structural development, which will result in what Xi called “win-win cooperation.”

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 lat- est 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 de- scribed as the second FOCAC Summit, was treated as a major event in both geo- political and regional development meetings, as well as the two days of deliberations, placed the summit in the context of the world economic crisis, which has impact- ed both China and the African continent.

Before the summit, Xi Jinping visited Zimbabwe, led by President Robert Mug- ahe, who is the current AU rotating chair. Xi signed additional agreements with Zimbabwe, which is still under sanctions by the United States and other imperialist powers. Zimbabwe’s state media gave lead coverage to the visit of President Xi and his large delegation.

The Zimbabwe Herald on Dec. 2 re- ported: “Landmark deals worth $4 bil- lion signed between Zimbabwe and Chi- na...” (Xinhua, Dec. 5.)

The two nations signed 12 investment agree- ments covering different sectors of the economy. The deals include financing for the expansion of the Hwange Power Sta- tion, construction of a new parliament building, the opening to the world of a mini hydro, assembly of a national fiber-optic telecommunication project and violations of wildlife monitoring equipment.”

Western banks suppressed development

Zimbabwe is still overwhelmed with Western imperial capital and the colo- nialism, Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re- leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re- leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re- leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re- leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re- leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re-leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re-leases represent a new form of “colo- nialism,” Kenya’s President Uhuru Keny-atta rejected this, saying that both re- leases represent a new 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Por Cheryl LaBash

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la continuación de la normalización de las

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Shakur.

Por John Catalinotto

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- Assata Shakur , 4 de julio 1973

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Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

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