

# Occupy Wall St. goes global

## Sun never sets on anti-empire day of action

By Kathy Durkin

October 15 was the Global Day of Action against Wall Street greed.

In international financial centers, big cities and small towns, protests swept through Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Australasia, Canada and the U.S. Demonstrators in the hundreds of thousands protested corporate avarice, growing poverty, joblessness and austerity cutbacks.

These protests were inspired by many events. The Occupy Wall Street movement, which began in New York and spread throughout the United States, was a major catalyst. That website asserts that actions took place in 1,500 cities globally.

This day of action was also inspired by the May 15 "Indignant" movement, which began with occupations throughout the Spanish state against austerity and high youth unemployment, and by the people's movements in Egypt, Tunisia, Greece, Italy and Britain. Tahrir Square was on the minds and placards of many activists on Oct. 15.

The theme promoted by OWS, "We are the 99 percent that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1 percent," was repeated everywhere. The 1 percent refers to the world's wealthiest people.

These actions were spurred by the deepening worldwide capitalist economic crisis.

Although differing in form and slogans, the coordinated actions denounced the world's bankers and their institutions and corporate owners for causing the crisis, for ruining economies and for their unmitigated greed. Demonstrators criticized them and their own governments for imposing austerity programs — laying off government workers and cutting vital social programs, thus relegating millions of people to impoverishment and joblessness.

Many deplored the trillions of dollars of government bailouts of banks, with nothing allotted to the masses of people, which has only increased economic inequities

*Continued on page 6*



NEW YORK

**DAYS OF RAGE AND VICTORY**

pages 5 thru 7

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

## As anger boils over Occupations sweep U.S.

By Deirdre Griswold

Just the very name — Occupy Wall Street! — has struck a chord with millions of people across the United States who are suffering from the often capricious devastation wreaked by the capitalist crisis, which has meant a job destroyed here, a family evicted there, until whole communities are left in tatters.

So when the call went out from Occupy Wall Street for a Day of Rage against the super-rich 1 percent on Oct. 15, it reverberated around the Internet, flew from phone to phone via texting, and drew hundreds of thousands of people out of their comfort zones and into the streets.

Below is a much condensed summary of the many reports that have come into Workers World from all over the country describing what happened that day, which also marked the 10th anniversary of the Afghanistan War. Separate articles appear in this issue on events in New York and Boston.

*Continued on page 7*



SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



BERLIN



MANILA, PHILIPPINES

**STOP FBI FRAMEUPS!**

3

**ALABAMA BOOMERANG**

A day without immigrants 4

## SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

Four weeks trial \$4  One year subscription \$25

[workers.org](http://workers.org)

Sign me up for the WW Supporter Program. For information: [workers.org/supporters/](http://workers.org/supporters/)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Workers World 55 W. 17th St. #5C, NY, NY 10011

212.627.2994

**WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**WORKERS WORLD**  
*this week...*

# From Greece to Occupy Wall St. A global youth rebellion

Taken from a talk by Ben Carroll, a Durham, N.C. WWP organizer, at the Oct. 8-9 Workers World Party National Conference in New York City. Go to [workers.org](http://workers.org) for the podcast.



WW PHOTO: RACHEL DUELL  
**Ben Carroll**

At the end of 2010, around 80 million young people across the globe were unemployed. Youth unemployment is around 40 percent throughout much of Europe, 50 percent in Egypt and Tunisia.

Here in the U.S., youth unemployment is around 20 percent overall, and an almost unfathomable 50 percent for Black youth. Of course, all the official statistics are deliberately manipulated lower and don't account for those who are underemployed, working part time, have given up looking for a job altogether, or are prison labor.

To a greater and greater extent, young people are faced largely with working a low-wage job with no benefits, joining the ranks of the unemployed, or getting locked up

in prison. A whole generation is being shut out of the work force altogether, and this shows the severity of the crisis that the capitalist system is in the throes of now.

The austerity measures and budget cuts being adopted by state and local governments around the country have put every social service on the chopping block, all of which were won through struggle. Education is being hit particularly hard, as schools are closed or privatized or charterized, teachers and education workers are laid off, the

school-to-prison pipeline grows, tuition at community colleges and universities is soaring through the roof, and the banks cannibalize the public treasury and force students to mortgage away our futures with student loans if we want to get an education.

And this is because education for the masses of young people, and particularly African-American and Latino/a youth, is regarded as unnecessary by the ruling class.

*Continued on 8*

# Undocumented, unafraid

Excerpts from a talk given by Monserrat Alvarez, a Raleigh FIST activist, at the Oct. 8-9 Workers World Party National Conference in New York City. Go to [workers.org](http://workers.org) to hear the podcast.



WW PHOTO: RACHEL DUELL  
**Monserrat Alvarez**

My name is Monserrat Alvarez and I'm a member of the Raleigh chapter of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together. I am Chicana and a proud daughter of undocumented immigrants. I grew up in a single-parent, working-class home. Growing up I remember my mother working in a factory, as a farmworker, housekeeper, cook, any employment she was able to acquire under her legal status. At the age of nine, after moving to North Carolina, I began to understand the significance of her legal status in this country.

I began organizing around immigration because of my mother, hoping that someday she would be able to live in peace in a country she helped build with her hard labor. At the age of 12 I had a lot to learn about organizing and more importantly the reasons for all the problems.

Who created NAFTA? Who is pushing for these immigration laws? Why do they label my people as "illegal aliens" when we were here before colonialism? The answer is simple: It's part of the system, the capitalist imperialist system that continues to exploit my communities. I began to see a broader picture of the movement. I began to see my struggle in his struggle, in her struggle, in our struggle.

North Carolina continues to fight against segregation, hatred and ignorance. Our education system is under attack, our jobs are under attack, our public services are under attack, our communities are under attack. We have reached the breaking point. [Law] 287(g) and Secure Communities continue to feed into the prison-industrial complex, separating families and deporting innocent people.

The Secure Student Act will lower the enrollment of migrant students in the school system, requiring them to present specific identification in order to enroll in the public school system, allowing their legal status to be questioned. Budget cuts are raising tuition in public uni-

versities leading to high student debts, cutting programs such as Women's Studies, the laying off of teachers and staff, and seeking private funds from political machines that are pushing their conservative agendas.

Lack of access to higher education for undocumented students has left a generation of students without hope for a future, reaching a breaking point but now stepping out of the shadows and shouting, "Undocumented and unafraid!" Capitalists like Art Pope, who have ties to the Koch brothers, are injecting thousands of dollars into campaigns for GOP

candidates in order to control the House and Senate. Their agenda has reached our school board where they put in Tea Party puppets who are trying to resegregate our school systems by dismantling the policies that attempt to close the gap between working-class and upper-class students. Now that they are in control of the legislature they are pushing for laws like E-verify, which will require employers to verify the legal status of their employees. This will only raise the poverty levels and fear among undocumented immigrants. They are pushing for bills like the Defense of Marriage Act, trying to constitutionally define marriage in order to remove benefits to same-sex partnerships.

We are all in the same struggle though many people are failing to see this. Imperialism is responsible for puppet democracies in other countries, and capitalism is responsible for inflation, a consequence of free trade, all causing the large amount of migration. Capitalism continues to profit off prisons while lobbying for stricter immigration laws and exploiting workers and students.

Capitalists use their endless amount of money in order to control policies that increase their profits on the backs of the working class. It is time to unify our movements and realize that our common enemies are the capitalist imperialists and the governments that serve them. The lines that have separated us, like racism and sexism, are growing closer and closer. Now it is our duty to educate and guide the people away from capitalism to socialism and into a system for the true liberation of all people. □

**★ In the U.S.**

Occupations sweep U.S. .... 1  
A global youth rebellion ..... 2  
Undocumented, unafraid ..... 2  
Political organizers targeted by FBI stir NYC audience ..... 3  
Free Tarek Mehanna! ..... 3  
Prison hunger strikers end protest ..... 3  
Anti-immigrant law creates crisis ..... 4  
Defend workers' rights, build People's Assembly ..... 4  
'La Colmenita' supports Cuban 5 ..... 4  
Day of Rage spurred by anger at U.S. aggression ..... 5  
Big antiwar turnout rocks Boston's business district ..... 5  
March honors Dr. King's fight for jobs ..... 5  
OWS gets mayor to back off, expands struggle ..... 6  
Why unions support OWS movement ..... 7

**★ Around the world**

Sun never sets on anti-empire day of action ..... 1  
U.S. deploys Special Forces to Central Africa ..... 8  
U.S. whips up war fever against Iran ..... 9  
Libyans still resisting U.S.-NATO war ..... 9  
Billionaire mayor says 'living wage' is Red ..... 10

**★ Editorials**

'Free trade' imperialism ..... 10

**★ Noticias En Español**

El 'complot Irán' ..... 12  
OWS y lucha de inmigrantes ..... 12

Workers World  
55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: (212) 627-2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

Vol. 53, No. 42 • Oct. 27, 2011  
Closing date: Oct. 18, 2011

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editor: Lal Roohk

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson

West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger, Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno

Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martínez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2011 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [www.workers.org/email.php](http://www.workers.org/email.php).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

## JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed & students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

**National Office**  
55 W. 17 St.  
New York, NY 10011  
212-627-2994  
[wwp@workers.org](http://wwp@workers.org)

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 5565  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
404-627-0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](http://atlanta@workers.org)

**Baltimore**  
c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443-909-8964  
[baltimore@workers.org](http://baltimore@workers.org)

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617-522-6626  
Fax 617-983-3836  
[boston@workers.org](http://boston@workers.org)

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
367 Delaware Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-883-2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](http://buffalo@workers.org)

**Chicago**  
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138  
Chicago, IL 60606  
[chicago@workers.org](http://chicago@workers.org)

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216-738-0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](http://cleveland@workers.org)

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](http://denver@workers.org)

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-459-0777  
[detroit@workers.org](http://detroit@workers.org)

**Durham, N.C.**  
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408  
Durham, NC 27701  
[durham@workers.org](http://durham@workers.org)

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713-503-2633  
[houston@workers.org](http://houston@workers.org)

**Los Angeles**  
1905 Rodeo Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
[la@workers.org](http://la@workers.org)  
323-515-5870

**Milwaukee**  
[milwaukee@workers.org](http://milwaukee@workers.org)

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610-931-2615  
[phila@workers.org](http://phila@workers.org)

**Pittsburgh**  
[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)  
**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585-436-6458  
[rochester@workers.org](http://rochester@workers.org)

**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
619-692-0355  
[sandiego@workers.org](http://sandiego@workers.org)

**San Francisco**  
2940 16th St., #207  
San Francisco  
CA 94103  
415-738-4739  
[sf@workers.org](http://sf@workers.org)

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
[tucson@workers.org](http://tucson@workers.org)  
**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, DC 20037  
[dc@workers.org](http://dc@workers.org)

# Political organizers targeted by FBI stir NYC audience

By Brenda Sandburg  
New York

Activists under attack by the U.S. government for their antiwar and international solidarity work drew a large crowd of supporters at a forum here on Oct. 15. Many of those present had been participating in Occupy Wall Street and let the speakers know they are not alone in standing up to government repression.

Longtime activist Carlos Montes, who is facing possible federal grand jury charges for his support of the people of Palestine and Colombia, described how a Los Angeles County SWAT team broke down his door at 5 a.m. one morning in May. They arrested him for owning legally registered guns, supposedly in violation of a 40-year-old conviction for demonstrating at a college for Chicano studies. "It was a pretext to attack my solidarity activity," Montes said.

He said that when he was put into a police car, an FBI agent asked him about the Freedom Socialist Road Organization. In September 2010 the police raided the homes of members of the FSRO and other groups that had organized anti-war marches during the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.



Tracy Molm, of the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, was among those whose homes were raided by the FBI that September. They arrested her and held her in custody in her pajamas for several hours while taking her computer and political documents. The activists were subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury and have refused to do so.

"This case is about trying to stop people from speaking out and manipulating the law to do so," Molm said. "But they aren't going to stop us from speaking out against war and repression."

Diana Crowder, of the Victor Toro Defense Committee, talked about Toro's case. The Chilean revolutionary, who has lived in the U.S. for more than 30 years, was stopped on an Amtrak train in Buffalo in 2007 and detained for not having proper immigration documents. In March, a judge rejected the prosecutors' claim that Toro was a terrorist for being one of the founders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in Chile, but denied Toro asylum because he hadn't applied for it within one year of being in the country. He faces deportation at any time.

Crowder said Toro was imprisoned and tortured under the U.S.-backed Pinochet regime, and when he was released, the Chilean government issued a death certificate for him. With such a certificate, "If someone kills you, no one has to investigate because you are already a dead man," she said.



Top right, Victor Toro in Bronx, N.Y. garden market.

PHOTO: LA PEÑA

Left, Teresa Gutierrez with Carlos Montes.

WW PHOTO: G.DUNKEL

Cyrus McGoldrick, civil rights manager at the New York Council on American Islamic Relations, described how the government uses the New York Police Department to target

members of the Muslim community and fabricate charges against them. For example, he noted that cab drivers are being pulled over and asked if they pray. Having a beard and not smoking are listed in an NYPD document as suspicious behavior for a Muslim. McGoldrick cited an Associated Press report in August that the NYPD had formed a demographics unit tasked with mapping the city's Muslim communities.

The government is also entrapping people, as they did with the Newburgh Four. The FBI induced the young men to discuss blowing up Bronx synagogues and to fantasize shooting down a military plane. No crime took place, but the police arrested them as terrorists.

"Law enforcement is creating crimes rather than investigating them," McGoldrick said. "Manufactured headlines justify wars abroad."

Jen Waller, of the New York Committee to Stop FBI Repression, opened the meeting, which was chaired by Teresa Gutierrez, of the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights. The event was organized by the New York Committee and endorsed by the May 1st Coalition, BAY-AN USA, and Desis Rising Up and Moving — DRUM — an organization of South Asian immigrant workers. □

## Another case of political persecution

# Free Tarek Mehanna!

By Frank Neisser  
Boston

Dr. Tarek Mehanna is a 28-year-old Muslim, an Egyptian-American and a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He has been held in solitary confinement 23 hours a day since his arrest in 2009.

Mehanna's trial begins with jury selection on Oct. 24 at the Moakley Federal Court House in Boston. The Free Tarek Mahanna Support Committee is calling on supporters to pack the court on Oct. 27 at 9:00 a.m. Supporters can get information on the defense campaign at [www.freetarek.com](http://www.freetarek.com)

Mehanna's supporters say he is a respected leader in his community who has done nothing other than be critical of the foreign policy of the United States, particularly as it impacts Muslim countries and the Muslim community. Because of his stature in the Muslim community, he was repeatedly pursued by the FBI to be an informant on others in the community.

When he steadfastly refused, he was arrested in 2008 and charged with making "false statements to the FBI." Arrested again in 2009, the charge was "material support for terrorism," with no new information about any actions on Mehanna's part.

The sum total of actions Mehanna is charged with involve having conversations, translating books, traveling to the Middle East and posting to websites. Yet he faces life in prison if convicted. He has been denied bail twice, even though the FBI released him to the community after his first arrest and presented no information as to why or how he had since become so much more dangerous.

The entire case follows the alarming pattern of persecution of Muslims that



Dr. Tarek Mehanna

has emerged since 9/11: the use of secret evidence; inflammatory accusations fed to the press by government prosecutors in advance of trial; manipulation of informants and cooperating witnesses through threats and rewards; and the use of "material support of terrorism" charges to criminalize dissent.

Mehanna's case has garnered wide community support. Supporters have packed each and every hearing on the case over the last two years. On Sept. 24 at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, the case was featured in a program presented by the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms. Mehanna's brother Tamer explained the case.

Supporters are urged to call 617-748-3159 or fax 617-748-3694, the office of U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, to express outrage at this fraudulent prosecution and to demand that all charges be dropped.

Similar cases involving the FBI's pattern of preemptive prosecution and Cointelpro-style entrapment, lying and brutal mistreatment, including "special administrative measures" and Communication Management Units, were presented by Project SALAM and family members of the victims. □

## After promise of SHU review

# Prison hunger strikers end protest

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, Calif.

The prisoner hunger strikers at California's Pelican Bay State Prison called off their protest action on Oct. 13. Two days later, prisoners at Calipatria State Prison decided to "temporarily" end their hunger strike.

Prisoner strike leaders at Pelican Bay cited a recent memorandum from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation promising a thorough review of every Security Housing Unit placement due to "gang validation."

According to Carole Strickman, an attorney with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco and a member of the outside team of mediators who have been with the striking prisoners, "This is something the prisoners have been asking for, and it is the first significant step we've seen from the CDCR to address the hunger strikers' demands. But as you know, the proof is in the pudding. We'll see if the CDCR keeps its word regarding this new process."

Strickman was one of two attorneys who was banned by the CDCR from going into PBSP during this last hunger strike, which lasted more than three weeks.

Prisoners at both Pelican Bay and Calipatria were subject to harsh retaliation for their participation in the recent hunger

strike. PBSP hunger strikers were denied access to the recreation yard and any visits by friends or family members. Reports from Calipatria indicate that prisoners were being denied water and vitamins. According to the prisoner hunger strike solidarity blog, men at Calipatria were collapsing in their cells, and the infirmary was so full that they were being transferred to another prison for urgent medical care.

As of Oct. 16, it is not known whether prisoners at Corcoran State Prison and other California prisons have called off their hunger strike. Prisoner leaders have asked everyone to keep up the pressure. Prisoners' rights advocates and family members are being urged to contact Gov. Jerry Brown at the State Capitol in Sacramento to demand that all the demands of the hunger strikers be met.

The demands of the hunger strike include an end to long-term Security Housing Unit placement and changes in the gang validation process that would eliminate a "snitch or die policy," which now guarantees that prisoners languish for years in 6 by 10 foot isolation chambers, 23 hours a day, 7 days a week. Prisoners are also demanding greater access to prison visits, food and mail.

For more information about how to support the struggle for justice and prisoners' rights in California, go to [prisoner-hungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com](http://prisoner-hungerstrikesolidarity.wordpress.com). □

## ALABAMA

# Anti-immigrant law creates crisis

By Teresa Gutierrez

In another example of why the capitalist state can never really quell resistance, the multimillion-dollar poultry industry in Alabama was dealt a heavy financial blow in early October.

Immigrant workers, primarily Latino/a, completely shut down or scaled back operations in at least half a dozen chicken processing plants in Albertville, Ala. The work stoppages took place in the northeastern part of Alabama, the center of the state's \$2.7 billion chicken industry.

Not only was the poultry industry hurt, but parents refused to send their children to school that day, and stores and movie theatres also closed. At one elementary school, a principal reported that the number absent, normally 20 to 30 students, rose to 160 as part of the protest.

Alabama recently passed one of the worst anti-immigrant pieces of legislation in the U.S., described as "Arizona legislation on steroids" by even the corporate press. The plant shutdowns and miniboycott were in response to this legislation.

In late September, Alabama legislators had signed into law provisions allowing police to ask for immigration papers during routine traffic stops. The law also onerously required schools to learn the immigration status of students when they register. Furthermore, the law makes most contracts with immigrants unenforceable, jeopardizing housing, health care and other services for immigrants.

Just a few days after the legislation was passed, a mass exodus took place. Drove of Latino/as headed out of the state in fear. The first Monday after the vote more than 2,000 children did not attend school, as their parents feared the worst. The mass exodus of primarily Latino/a immigrants began just hours after a federal judge in Birmingham upheld most provisions of the law.

The Southern Poverty Law Center reported on Oct. 14 that a federal court blocked two major provisions of the law "while the constitutionality of the law is under determination." Their report reads: "The U.S. Court of Appeals ... injunction

suspends the provision that chills children's access to school by requiring school officials to verify the immigration status of children and their parents" as well as the provision that "criminalizes failure to register with the federal government and carry one's 'papers' at all times."

The statement continues: "We are pleased that the court blocked these damaging elements of the law. But portions of the law that remain in place will continue to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Alabama. In just two weeks that the law has been in effect, families have been fleeing the state, children have been pulled out of schools, and businesses have been put in jeopardy. This law sadly revisits Alabama's painful racial past and tramples the rights of all its residents."

## Solidarity is answer to jobs crisis

The crisis in Alabama — like that in Georgia, Arizona and elsewhere — cannot be separated from the current economic crisis gripping workers around the world. The anti-immigrant attack is meant to terrorize a sector of the working class

that the bosses and government believe is most vulnerable.

Republican legislators and Tea Party types said in interviews after the mass exodus from Alabama that, while it was sad that people were fearful, this law would help provide jobs for workers born in this country.

This is merely a demagogic and racist attempt to divide the working class. All signs demonstrate that the capitalist unemployment crisis is here to stay and no amount of deportations or fear mongering will provide jobs.

The only solution to the jobs crisis is a mighty struggle, like that launched by the occupation of Wall Street, where workers born here join with workers born elsewhere to demand jobs for all, without regard to documentation.

The recent righteous shutdown of poultry plants in Alabama was a great example of the mighty force that the workers and oppressed have at their fingertips. This force of workers in struggle needs only to grow and multiply by the thousands. □

## Bronx Labor-Community Forum makes plans to Defend workers' rights, build People's Assembly

By Dee Knight  
Bronx, N.Y.

A score of enthusiastic union members and community organizers belonging to the Labor-Community Forum met here in the South Bronx on Oct. 13 at the Church of the Resurrection to prepare for an ambitious series of mobilizing activities.

On the agenda were a rally and press conference by workers at Woodlawn Cemetery; a march against poverty and violence through the South Bronx on Oct. 29; a People's Assembly at Hostos College on Nov. 5; a rally at Woodlawn Cemetery on Nov. 12; and a march for jobs in the Bronx on Nov. 17, following a citywide jobs march in downtown Manhattan planned for Nov. 15.



Supporters with Woodlawn Cemetery workers.

PHOTO: LES CASEY

The group pledged to "take the lead" in a campaign to save 17 Bronx post-offices threatened with closing. These include four South Bronx post offices in the

immediate organizing area of the South Bronx Community Congress, the parent group of the Labor-Community Forum.

The group will also reach out to residents in Co-op City in the northeast Bronx — a largely African-American community of 55,000 mainly retired union people — where both post offices are to be closed. Hearings are scheduled for Nov. 1 and 2.

Maxi Rivera, former steward of the Amalgamated Postal Workers Union at the main Bronx post office at 149th Street and Grand Concourse, proposed a steward-led mobilization for marches through the communities to generate support to stop the post office closings.

Charlie Twist, a letter carrier and assistant steward for the National Association

*Continued on page 8*

## 'La Colmenita' supports Cuban 5 in U.S. tour

By Cheryl LaBash  
Washington, D.C.

"Now, what else can we do?" to free the Cuban Five, asked the young performers of the National Children's Theater of Cuba — La Colmenita. This question closed the first performance of their U.S. tour, held Oct. 15 at American University's Kay Chapel in Washington. Roaring applause answered them from an audience often in tears.

In a new piece entitled "Abracadabra," 22 children between six and 15 years of age brought characters like Tom Sawyer, the Little Prince, Peter Pan, Mafalda and Pippi Longstocking into a narrative about the five Cubans, who are incarcerated in the United States for warning their country against terrorist actions planned in Miami. These characters unite to free Cuba's five heroes in an imaginative and moving performance that follows students as they learn about the lives of the five men through letters and family home movies.

The cast members were either very small children or not even born yet when the ordeal of the Cuban Five began with their arrest on Sept. 12, 1998. Imagine



FREE THE CUBAN FIVE.

PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

their surprise, joy and tears when they received a phone call from Gerardo Hernández from prison in Victorville, Calif., and could hear his voice and speak with him.

Hernández is currently serving an exceptionally punitive sentence of two life terms plus 15 years. His case is still under habeas corpus appeal. To punish him even more, the U.S. government contin-

ues to refuse any visa for his spouse, Adriana Pérez, to visit him.

After the performance at Kay Chapel, René González, who was freed from prison on Oct. 7 but is still forced to remain in the U.S., called to speak with each of the children.

On Oct. 16 at a backyard barbecue, the cast sang happy birthday by phone to An-

tonio Guerrero, imprisoned in Florence, Colo.

La Colmenita — the little beehive — was founded in 1990. The delegation touring the U.S. is from the first of the Colmenita groups. Today 21 Colmenitas exist throughout Cuba, each composed of 40 to 80 children of all ages and abilities who participate in theatre, dance, visual arts or music after the school day is over. Altogether, an estimated 14,000 Cuban children are enrolled.

The United Nations Children's Fund has designated the group performing here as a "Goodwill Ambassador." The theatre company will give a private performance at U.N. headquarters on Oct. 24, just before the General Assembly carries out its annual vote that for years has overwhelmingly condemned the embargo imposed on Cuba by the U.S.

A delegation from La Colmenita visited congressional representatives on Oct. 15 and spent the day at a Maryland school on Oct. 17. To see more photos, Google search for "cubadebate colmenita."

The tour dates, venues and online ticket information are available at [www.lacolmenitacuba.com](http://www.lacolmenitacuba.com). □

# Day of Rage spurred by anger at U.S. aggression

By Sara Flounders  
New York

It was called as a global Day of Rage that also focused on the 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. This convergence of events on Oct. 15 put tens of thousands of people in motion here in New York and in other cities across the country, reinforcing their anger at imperialist wars.

The connection between the 1 percent who profit from government bailouts and those profiting from endless wars could not be clearer.

On Oct. 14, the corporate media carried new threats against Iran and wild charges of an Iranian assassination plot in Washington, D.C., as front-page news, along with President Barack Obama's announcement about sending U.S. Special Forces into central Africa. Opposition to these latest war threats was reflected in signs reading "Occupy Wall Street, NOT Iran" and "U.S. Troops out of Africa."

Other signs raised opposition to the U.S. wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya and the drone attacks on Pakistan, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, along with demands for "Jobs, NOT Wars" and to "Stop Attacks on Muslims and Immigrant Workers," "End U.S. Aid to Israel"



OWS and UNAC march to Times Square to theme of 'Wall Street = War Street.'

PHOTOS: ALAN ROTH

and "Free Palestine."

The New York demonstration was called by the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC). It gathered at Wall Street and Broadway, the center of New York's financial district and three blocks from Zuccotti Park's month-long encampment. Hundreds packed the narrow street as police pushed against the front ranks, trying to clear the street and sidewalks.

Those carrying a banner reading "Wall Street = War Street" led the march. Aya, Jen, Caleb and other youth on drums and banners swept north and encircled Zuccotti Park with anti-war signs and

banners while horns blared. Hundreds of youth at Zuccotti Park joined in the march, which gathered even more forces as it moved uptown on Broadway.

Police lines tried to prevent the antiwar group from marching through a street fair on Broadway between Canal and Houston streets. But the drummers and banners, along with militant Filipina youth from BAYAN USA carrying many flags, helped hold the growing protest together. Cheers and applause from those packing the street fair confirmed the deep support for Occupy Wall Street.

Marches and actions converged as

several demonstrations against banks, a commemoration at the African burial ground and several union contingents all came together, many thousands strong, at Washington Square Park. Demonstrators then reformed into different contingents and headed separately to Times Square.

Tens of thousands gathered at Times Square and blocked streets in all directions. The many hundreds of anti-war signs carried in the march earlier in the day continued to be carried by youth into militant confrontations with police later that evening. □

## Big antiwar turnout rocks Boston's business district

By Gerry Scoppettuolo & Frank Neisser  
Boston

Occupy Boston and the United National Antiwar Committee rocked the city's business district as 5,000 protesters marched on Oct. 15 with cries of "Whose streets? Our streets!" A contingent from Steelworkers Local 8751 representing Boston school bus drivers led the march from a union sound truck festooned with placards declaring "Wall Street = War Street." The truck was ringed by a steadfast security contingent from Vets for Peace/Smedley Butler Brigade.

Many vets had been arrested when Boston riot police attacked the Occupy Boston site at 2 a.m. on Oct. 10. The march tapped into the rising tide of anger and energy of Occupy Boston..

Melida Arrendondo, of Military Families Speak Out, opened the demonstration with a moving tribute to her son who was killed in Iraq.

Miya X, from Women Fight Back, ignited the crowd by demanding an end to the joblessness and oppression being visited upon Boston's communities of color, particularly youth of color. African-American City Councilor Charles Yancey called for an end to all the wars and to bring the troops and war dollars back to the communities where they are needed.

Frank Neisser, of the International Action Center, urged the crowd to be on the alert and resist phony Pentagon-fabricated lies accusing Iran of plotting to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to Washington, calling it "a typical noncredible pretext to whip up a new war hysteria."

Marilyn Levin, national co-coordinator of UNAC, spoke of the wars at home and abroad and the attack on Muslims and civil liberties. She called on protesters to confront NATO and the G-20 when they meet in Chicago in May.

Tamer Mehanna raised the case of his brother, Tarek Mehanna, who has been in solitary confinement for two years for

refusing to collaborate with the FBI and lie about members of his Muslim community. Divest from Israel activist John Roberts urged protesters to get involved in the divestment movement.

The march stopped at the Hyatt Hotel to demand the rehiring of fired immigrant workers and then proceeded to a Verizon store to support International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Communication Workers fighting for a new contract. Steve Kirschbaum, Executive Board member of USW 8751, rallied the crowd at both sites with chants of "Union! Union!"

Other stops included an Army recruiting station and the same Bank of America where 24 were arrested in a direct action on Sept. 24, the first day of Occupy Boston. Safia Albaiti, of the International Socialist Organization, led chants and urged youth to resist all of Washington's wars.

Pat Scanlon, from Vets for Peace, urged the crowd to join his group on Nov. 11 for an antiwar contingent at the city's Veterans Day March and told how Vets for Peace member Rachel MacNeil was the first person to be arrested by Boston police when they brutally cleared Occupy Boston's extended campsite and arrested more than 100 people. "We are vets!" Scanlon said. "They picked her up by the neck and dragged her away brutally!" MacNeil also addressed the crowd.

At the Occupy Boston site Alberto Barretto, from the Puerto Rican Diaspora Organizing Committee, said, "Puerto Rico has been occupied by U.S. imperialism since 1898. We have 25 percent unemployment! Capitalism is not good for your health. Occupy Boston is about class struggle!" □



Occupy Boston youth join union members and veterans to denounce U.S. wars.

WWW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

## March honors Dr. King's fight for jobs

By Andre' Powell  
Washington, D.C.

Thousands rallied and marched in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 15 to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. one day prior to the dedication of his memorial statue on the National Mall. His is the only monument to a nonpresident and is the first to be erected of an African American.

The marchers came in busloads from as far away as Washington state, Detroit, Atlanta, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. The strong union representation included the Washington Teachers Union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employ-

ees Union, the Transport Workers union, the Communications Workers union, the United Auto Workers, the American Federation of Teachers and the Service Employees union.

Speaker after speaker raised the call for jobs, citing the high unemployment figures. A Latino hospital worker from SEIU 1199 in the Bronx invoked the names of Malcolm X, Troy Davis, Huey Newton, Angela Davis, Rosa Parks, Albizu Campos and Lolita Lebrón as he spoke from the stage of the ages-long struggle against oppression and injustice. Rally organizer the Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King III addressed the gathering and then led all in a march to the King statue. □

## In first major confrontation

# OWS gets mayor to back off, expands struggle

By John Catalinotto  
New York

The first confrontation between the Occupation Wall Street demonstrators and billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the New York cops ended in victory for OWS in the early morning hours of Friday, Oct. 14.

A wave of euphoria swept the 2,000 people filling Zuccotti Park when word came shortly before 7 a.m. that the park's owners had withdrawn their request that the square be cleaned — the pretext for pushing out the protesters.

The truth was that public support for the OWS protest had flooded the mayor's office starting the day before. Phone calls

and emails came in from the general population; City Council members defended OWS; and organized labor protested any planned repression.

By Thursday evening, unemployed people, anti-war organizations, and community and Marxist groups had all been spreading the message to gather at Zuccotti Park to help prevent the removal. The AFL-CIO sent an unprecedented email to its mailing list with this message in the subject line: "Go to Wall Street, NOW."

### OWS stands strong

What this massive public support showed was that the attempt to isolate the protesters had failed. But would those in this new movement be willing to stand

their ground in the park as the police moved in for arrests?

Between 5 and 6:30 a.m. on Friday morning, said Larry Holmes, the number of people in the park tripled. "The mood grew more determined even as the organizers had legal advisers warn the crowd that anyone who stayed would face a high probability of being arrested.

"One guy next to me was saying, 'I can't stay. I have to go to work.' Then when they asked people to raise their hands if they would risk arrest, he raised his, saying, 'F—k it! I'm staying.' They had crossed a line."

Holmes of the Bail Out the People Movement and others quoted here were speaking at a discussion of the OWS

events held that night at the Solidarity Center in Manhattan.

Confronted with massive public support and the determination of the demonstrators, the mayor and his advisers decided — for the moment — to back off. OWS had won its first important victory.

Demonstrators holding the brooms and mops they had used to preemptively clean Zuccotti Park during the night then took off to march to Wall Street, which was the place they really wanted to clean up.

### OWS 'stole my heart'

Jen Waller, an activist and singer in her early 20s who had been staying and sleeping at Zuccotti Park most of the prior two weeks,

*Continued on page 11*

# Occupy Wall Street goes global

*Continued from page 1*

and escalated the global gap between rich and poor.

A number of protests went to the heart of the matter and aimed their fire at the capitalist system. A few even went further than that and promoted pro-socialist ideas.

### Banks denounced throughout Europe

The International Monetary Fund, the European Union and European Central Bank came under attack, especially in countries where they have required harsh austerity measures in return for bailouts or loans, as in Portugal, Spain, Greece and Ireland.

Some 50,000 marched in Lisbon, Portugal, carrying anti-IMF and anti-E.U. signs, just days after the right-wing government announced a tougher austerity budget. Thousands circled the National Assembly building as hundreds of youth broke through a police line to run inside and occupy it.

Hundreds of thousands marched in 80 cities in Spain, including in Barcelona and in Madrid's Puerta del Sol where the May 15 movement began. "Euthanasia for the banks" was a popular slogan.

In Athens, site of nearly two years of class battles against IMF/E.U.-imposed layoffs and cutbacks, 4,000 marched. Banners read, "Greece is not for sale."

Italian youth, unemployed and retirees denounced the IMF and their center-right government's huge austerity cutbacks and criticized the European Central Bank for pumping funds into the commercial banks. The 200,000-strong protest in Rome attacked economic policies impoverishing workers and their families and assailed the 28 percent youth jobless rate.

Many marched with red flags and banners. A popular slogan was "People of Europe: Rise Up!"

Thousands denounced bankers as "the real looters" in a London demonstration named "Occupy the London Stock Exchange."

Some 40,000 people marched in 50 German cities. In Berlin, 6,000 came out, some with banners calling for the end of capitalism. Some 5,000 protested in Frankfurt outside the ECB.

In Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, marchers carried pictures of revolutionary hero Che Guevara and communist-inspired red flags, which read, "Death to capitalism, freedom to the people."

Red flags and banners flew in Stockholm, Sweden. Some read, "We refuse to pay for capitalism's crisis."

As the Paris demonstration took place, finance ministers and bankers from the Group of 20 were meeting there to discuss the "debt" crisis and which 50 banks would be funded — a focus of the G-20 conference in Cannes, France, Nov. 3-4.

Protests were also held in Dublin, Amsterdam, Zurich and Brussels.

### Beginning of global anti-capitalist movement

Thousands marched in Latin America, deploring financial inequality and unemployment and calling for social justice. Large demonstrations took place in Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile.

In South Africa, anti-bank protests were held outside the Johannesburg Securities Exchange and in Cape Town. The economies of many African nations have been ravaged by the IMF and the World Bank.

Demonstrations in Asia varied in themes, with some aimed at U.S. imperialism, as in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Manila, the Philippines. There, a protest organized by BAYAN, Gabriela and others called for the United States to end its wars



Halifax, Nova Scotia

and remove its troops from the country.

"I want to tear down capitalism," said Derrick Benig at a protest in the financial center of Hong Kong. His co-demonstrator, Lee Chun Wing, remarked, "Wealth is created by the workers and so should be shared with the workers as well." (Bloomberg, Oct. 15)

The demonstration in Taiwan took place in the Taipei World Financial Center. Some socialists there assailed capitalism and sang the revolutionary anthem "The International."

Tokyo marchers cried out against the dangers of nuclear power and called for jobs. Protests occurred in Mumbai, India, and Seoul, south Korea, among other Asian cities.

In Australasia, 3,000 came out in Auckland, New Zealand, while 2,000 protesters, including members of Indigenous groups, leftist organizations and labor unions, rallied outside the central Reserve Bank of Australia in Sydney. Others marched in Melbourne.

Canadian activists came out in 15 cities, including Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa. In Toronto signs read, "Arrest the 1 percent." A recurrent theme there was solidarity with Indigenous peoples worldwide.

These protests are surely the beginnings of a new movement, which will only grow as the global capitalist crisis worsens and unemployment and economic inequality increase. It is inevitable.

Youth worldwide were in the forefront of the protests set in motion by OWS. Young people make up 81 million of the globally jobless 205 million, while tuition costs have skyrocketed. There are few

jobs for youth, with many relegated to low-wage work. Many have no future.

The capitalist system can't incorporate new workers into the international workforce. Coupled with increasing austerity cutbacks imposed by the IMF, E.U., the ECB and their own governments, the future looks grim, with more people impoverished, including immigrant workers, Indigenous populations and other oppressed groups.

Yet resistance is growing and will continue to develop as working-class communities, youth and students face new hardships. The material conditions faced by millions are raising people's consciousness, spurring them to action, as shown on Oct. 15. There is growing, collective realization that struggle is essential — the only way to answer the crisis. Moreover, it must be a united struggle, inclusive of the most oppressed workers and their demands.

Young people and others are working to push the Oct. 15 successes further. While the Internet and other high-tech communication, including global social networking, vastly helped with organizing, the Occupied Wall Street's website notes, "The rapid spread of the protests is a grass-roots response to the inequalities perpetuated by global financial system and transnational banks. More actions are coming."

People the world over know the system isn't working. Whether the word "capitalism" is mentioned or not, these developments have the potential to be the beginning of a global anti-capitalist movement. That's moving in the right direction — toward a movement that fights for socialism, which is the only way out of the crisis. □



Lisbon, Portugal

# Why unions support OWS movement

By G. Dunkel  
New York

Almost every major national labor union — except in the construction trades — and the AFL-CIO have endorsed Occupy Wall Street. But more important is that in major cities they have offered significant organizational, financial and political support to this movement.

New York City, where OWS was started more than a month ago, is not only the financial capital of the world's dominant economic power, but is also the U.S. city with the largest percentage of unionized workers. From the response of union members, it is clear that this call has broad support.

The biggest outpouring of union support was on Oct. 5, when more than 30,000 people — transit and communication workers, teachers and professors

and their students, health care workers and community organizations — marched from Foley Square, just north of City Hall, to Zuccotti Park/Liberty Square.

New York State United Teachers (NY-SUT) even brought two buses from Albany, a more than three-hour drive. Delegations from the Communication Workers union, which is engaged in a bitter contract struggle with hugely profitable Verizon, marched with OWS in New York City and San Francisco. Verizon has amassed more than \$20 billion in profits over the past five years.

The CWA suspended its two-week strike against Verizon's landline and FIOS operations in the middle of August, when the company agreed to go back to the bargaining table. Since then, a bit of progress has been made, but the company is still insisting on major cuts in benefits, and

retirement and medical care so it can make even greater profits.

The night of Oct. 13-14 showed the depth of the union movement's support for OWS. The city was threatening to use the excuse that it needed to protect public health and safety by "cleaning" Zuccotti Park. This "cleaning" would have meant the eviction of the protesters.

As soon as the news broke, the AFL-CIO issued a call, along with many other unions and

*Continued on page 10*



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

## As anger boils over Occupations sweep U.S.



Birmingham, Ala.

PHOTO: DUSTIN GOETZ



Detroit

WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

### RALEIGH, N.C.: Protesters hold Capitol square, defy police

People from all across North Carolina converged on the Capitol grounds of Raleigh to take a stand against wealth inequality and the "dictatorship of the banks," as one demonstrator's sign read. For four hours, people took turns taking the microphone and speaking out about the issues affecting their lives, from foreclosures to inadequate mental health care. More than 1,000 people marched down an adjacent street, which holds the skyscraper offices of Bank of America, Wells Fargo and other banks, chanting "Make the banks pay!" and "How do you solve a deficit? End the wars & tax the rich!"

At 3 p.m., demonstrators defied the police by occupying the square after the protest permit expired. They held the square for four more hours in the face of intense police intimidation. The square was finally cleared when dozens of city cops staged a mass arrest of the occupiers. Those not arrested rallied at the jailhouse and then returned to the square to continue the occupation on the sidewalk just beyond the police barricades. [Andy Koch]



Syracuse, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

### WISCONSIN: Milwaukee, Green Bay, Appleton march on Chase banks

At least 2,000 marched on Chase and M&I banks in Milwaukee. Some 200 protested Chase in Appleton, and there were also marches against Chase in New Berlin and Green Bay. Chase is the biggest bank in the U.S. and one of the most profitable. It is responsible for foreclosing on millions of homeowners and refuses to enact a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.

In Green Bay, mostly youth/students first demonstrated at City Hall. One of the leaders was from the Oneida Nation. There were lots of media. "Bail out

the people, not the banks" was a popular chant, followed by a people's speak-out where folks testified to the crimes the banks have done to them. A few of the youth wanted to talk about socialism. Green Bay is the third-largest metro area in Wisconsin with about 100,000, mostly white but with some Black people and a good number of Hmong and Latinos/as, mostly due to meat packing and agricultural industries.



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

The political slogans went way beyond "Recall Walker."

At many of the Occupy events in Wisconsin people demanded a federal jobs program based on the Works Progress

*Continued on page 11*



Green Bay, Wis.



Milwaukee



Pittsburgh

PHOTO: KELLY VALDEZ

WW PHOTOS: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

# U.S. deploys Special Forces, military 'advisers' to Central Africa

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

Another U.S. military intervention is underway, this time in Central Africa. The Obama administration announced on Oct. 14 that the Pentagon is deploying 100 military advisers and Special Forces troops to four countries: Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The White House claims this mission's purpose is to capture or kill Joseph Kony, the leader of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, which has been carrying out a war against the Ugandan government for more than two decades. Members of the LRA have also set up camps in the eastern region of the DRC and possibly South Sudan, which recently gained independence from the central government of Sudan based in Khartoum.

This announcement follows the Pentagon intervention in the North African state of Libya earlier this year. In February, the U.S. and other imperialist states supported a rebellion and eventual civil war against the government of Moammar Gadhafi.

After the initial failure of the National Transitional Council opposition "rebels" to take control of Libya, the U.S. and other NATO powers began a naval blockade and aerial bombing campaign against this oil-producing state. More than 20,000 sorties and approximately 9,500 air strikes have been carried out against Libya's 6 million people.

NTC forces entered Tripoli in late August and proclaimed victory, although re-

sistance remains fierce against the NATO-led rebels in several areas of the western, central and southern areas of the country, including the capital. This time the U.S. is using the atrocities committed by the LRA as a pretext for military intervention.

## What's at stake in Central Africa

Corporate media reports have failed to reveal the U.S. ruling class' extensive strategic interests in Central Africa. In Uganda, where these military units will be based, the government of President Yoweri Museveni has been a longtime ally of successive U.S. administrations.

Oil has recently been discovered in Uganda, and there are already internal investigations into allegations of corruption involving government officials and transnational corporations seeking to exploit the vast petroleum resources. Uganda has been the recipient of military assistance and political support from the U.S. for many years.

In providing political cover for this intervention, the corporate media have claimed that there are no strategic interests in Uganda that would provide an economic incentive for intervention. An article published in the Oct. 17 National Post reports: "Whenever critics of American foreign policy denounce the Iraq war or even the Afghan campaign, there typically is a casual insinuation that these are colonial or quasi-colonial undertakings aimed at stripping the local nation of its resources."

This same article falsely claims that "most [U.S.] interventions, including those in Haiti and Kosovo, involve parts of the

world that have little strategic or mercantile value. Uganda is a perfect example."

On the contrary, far from being a "mission to fight human suffering," as the National Post claims, there is already word of a potential \$10 billion U.S. investment through the Tullow Oil Corp. An ad-hoc parliamentary committee and the Anti-corruption Court in Uganda are investigating three cabinet members for allegedly taking bribes from Tullow. Business Week reports, "Tullow Oil allegedly paid bribes to the tune of US\$100 million to officials to influence decisions." (Oct. 17)

And then there are strategic interests. The Ugandan government has worked on behalf of U.S. military interests in East and Central Africa for many years. In 1998, the Clinton administration waged a proxy war against the Laurent Kabila government in the Democratic Republic of Congo by financing and coordinating the military invasion of the country, along with Rwanda.

This invasion, which compelled the Southern African Development Community states of Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia to intervene in defense of the DRC, resulted in the deaths of a great number of people throughout the region until a ceasefire was reached in 2003.

Since 2003, the situation in eastern DRC has been tense and unstable. While greater cooperation exists today among

the various countries in Central, East and Southern Africa, the vast reservoir of strategic minerals in the eastern DRC remains a source of conflict between rebel groups and the central government based in Kinshasa. Meanwhile, the imperialist powers in Europe and North America are looking for ways to play one side against the other to get the lion's share of the resources.

The DRC is the world's largest producer of cobalt. It is also a major producer of copper and industrial diamonds and contains 70 percent of the world's supply of coltan — used in the manufacture of cell phones, DVD systems and computers — and 30 percent of international diamond reserves.

South Sudan became an independent state in July after a two-decade civil war with the government in Khartoum. Sudan is one of the emerging oil-rich states producing 500,000 barrels per day. The oil concessions in Sudan were largely in partnership with the People's Republic of China and other Asian and Middle Eastern states.

Since the secession of South Sudan, where 80 percent of the country's untapped oil deposits exist, the region is open to greater penetration by Western-based oil firms in the United States and Europe. The U.S. was a major proponent of splitting off South Sudan from the central government, as well as supporting the secessionist rebel movements in the western region of Darfur. □

## From Greece to Occupy Wall St.

# A global youth rebellion

*Continued from page 2*

An international fightback is beginning to bubble up that in many cases is being led or initiated by young people, and while each has a different political character, all are set against the backdrop of the global capitalist crisis.

In many ways, it began in Tunisia and Egypt with the uprisings there that toppled the U.S.-backed dictatorships in those countries and took aim at mass unemployment there.

In Spain, demonstrations were held against austerity and mass unemployment, which stands at 20 percent generally and 45 percent for young people. Young people there began referring to themselves as "los indignados" — the generation without a future.

They have continued to hold assemblies that have been fighting against home foreclosures, defending people's homes when there are attempted evictions or moving people back into their homes after they have been foreclosed.

In Greece, where the attacks on the workers and the austerity are perhaps the most severe and the fightback the most developed at this stage, young people have played a pivotal role in mobilizing and supporting the general strikes which have been called in response to the attacks.

The student section of the All Workers Militant Front, the union associated with the Greek Communist Party, has led walkouts of high schools and universities to support the strikes.

In August, Britain was rocked by an uprising against state repression, rac-

ism, high unemployment and austerity that was led by young people, particularly Black and immigrant youth.

In Chile, students have been on strike for several months, shutting down the university system there to demand free education, and have united with copper workers who have been on strike.

In the U.S. the struggle has grown from Wisconsin earlier this year, where young people played a pivotal role in building and maintaining the occupation of the state Capitol against the attacks on collective bargaining and other cuts, to all the young people throughout the country who took to the streets to stop the murder of Troy Davis, and now Occupy Wall Street.

Occupy Wall Street erupted, sweeping the country like wildfire, and has channeled hopelessness and desperation into political action that is developing an anti-capitalist character. It is opening space to revolutionary ideas and is breaking through the isolation and alienation of our generation.

The struggle is a great teacher, and we must be there to summarize the lessons and advance an anti-capitalist program and help to develop revolutionary class consciousness and solidarity.

This is a tremendously important and exciting development that, while still in its early stages, is building rapidly, developing anti-capitalist and class consciousness among a broad section of society and putting thousands upon thousands of people across the country in motion against the banks and the big capitalists. □

## Bronx Labor-Community Forum

# Defend workers' rights, build People's Assembly

*Continued from page 4*

of Letter Carriers, who works at a postal station in the northwest Bronx, reported on decisions to mobilize for a national action of postal workers, made unanimously at Council of Presidents meetings of both NALC and APWU earlier this month. The group plans to help the unions mobilize communities for this national action.

A key aspect of the Bronx effort to stop the postal closings will be outreach to the large immigrant communities in numerous Bronx neighborhoods. These communities will be badly impacted if their post offices close, since they depend on the postal service to send packages home. The composition of the postal workforce will help, since it is a mix of African-American, Latino/a, Asian and white. Activities are planned to forge ties between the communities and union members.

In addition to Woodlawn Cemetery workers and postal union activists, the meeting included parent association leaders from Bronx School District 12; an organizer for the New York Civic Participation Project, which is affiliated with Service Employees Local 32BJ; the Bronx Latino coordinator of Local 32BJ; a leader of Parents to Improve School Transportation; a representative of the New York Central Labor Council; and others.

### Woodlawn Cemetery struggle

Alex Coss and Todd Brown, leaders of Teamsters Local 808 at Woodlawn Cemetery, gave background on a campaign to expose a conspiracy by cemetery management to isolate, threaten and violently intimidate them while systematically laying off union supporters in the work force. They announced a demonstration at the

cemetery's main gate on Nov. 12.

Two days after the Labor-Community Forum, the cemetery workers' leaders announced at a press conference that a tape recording existed in which the president of the cemetery called for a violent campaign against them. They also showed injuries they sustained from this conspiracy.

Rick Coss, a Local 808 union steward, told Workers World that the Woodlawn management "is an extension of Wall Street — and the struggle of the Woodlawn workers is part of the Occupy Wall Street movement."

Ed Figueroa, Bronx Latino coordinator for SEIU Local 32BJ, said the conspiracy against the Woodlawn workers is part of the general attack on all workers across the country, waged on the orders of the banks and Wall Street investors. "An injury to one is an injury to all," he said, "and we're committed to joining the Woodlawn workers in a determined counterattack."

### People's Assembly on Nov. 5

The plan for a People's Assembly in the Bronx on Nov. 5 focused on making it a launching pad for broadening and deepening all these battles. Building a genuine movement for people's assemblies could provide a means for poor and oppressed people's voices to be heard in the growing movement to "Occupy Everything" — including the post offices. Plans were made to reach out to other community groups to get them involved: school parents' associations, tenants groups and unionists. Immediate attention will be focused on the Oct. 29 march against poverty and violence in the South Bronx.

For more information, contact Labor-CommunityForum@gmail.com.

# U.S. whips up war fever against Iran

By Gene Clancy

In a desperate attempt to cover up its absolute inability to solve the economic and political crisis that has engulfed the world, the U.S. ruling class and the U.S. government have resorted to a tried-and-true method of diverting mass sentiment: war frenzy.

On Oct. 12, Washington recklessly accused the Iranian government of sponsoring a terrorist plot in the United States. It was the same day that Iran announced the opening of its first nuclear power plant. The plant is designed for peaceful purposes and had official public U.S. and international support.

The following day, however, the U.S. military announced that militants “armed and trained by Iran” had fired on U.S. forces in Iraq. (New York Times, Oct. 13) The Pentagon gave no evidence of Iran’s connection to the act, but made clear its intention to create a climate of hostility towards Iran.

As part of the campaign, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent warnings to U.S. travelers all around the world to be on “high alert” against possible “terror attacks.”

Meanwhile, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta was advising Congress that even the proposed very small cuts in war spending suggested by the so-called “super committee” looking for ways to reduce the deficit were unacceptable.

The Obama administration also began

pressuring a forthcoming International Atomic Energy Agency assessment to come up with “evidence” that Iran is pursuing a clandestine effort to produce a nuclear-tipped missile. This is according to Washington’s representative with this organization, which is based in Vienna, Austria. (Global Security Newswire, Oct. 14)

There can be only one conclusion from these carefully coordinated developments: The U.S. is preparing for an all-out campaign against Iran that can end in a war of U.S. aggression.

The U.S. corporate media responded predictably, duplicating the government’s claims. An Oct. 11 Wall Street Journal editorial called the plot “a sobering wake-up call” in America’s “war on terror” and pushed for a more aggressive policy toward Iran.

President Barack Obama “underscored that the United States believes this plot to be a flagrant violation of U.S. and international law, and reiterated [his] commitment to meet our responsibilities to ensure the security of diplomats serving in our country.” (New York Times, Oct. 13)

Ali Akbar Javanfekr, a spokesperson for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, had this to say about the so-called plot:

“I think the U.S. government is busy fabricating a new scenario, and history has shown both the U.S. government and the CIA have a lot of experience in fabricating these scenarios and this is just the latest one,” he said. “I think their goal is to

reach the American public. They want to take the public’s mind off the serious domestic problems they’re facing these days and scare them with fabricated problems outside the country.” (CNN, Oct. 11)

The U.S. and its allies have been targeting Iran since the 1979 revolution there. Iran is a large country — a population of 78 million — with important oil resources. It occupies an important geopolitical position in the Middle East. Since 1979, it has opposed both U.S. imperialism and Israeli expansion in the region.

## U.S. practices entrapment

Reporter Gareth Porter subjected the legal document released by the government to a point-by-point analysis. His conclusion was that the entire affair “was mainly the result of a Federal Bureau of Investigation sting operation.” (Asia Times Online, Oct. 14)

“Although the document, called an amended criminal complaint, implicates Iranian-American Mansour Arabsiar and his cousin Ali Gholam Shakuri, an officer in the Iranian Quds force, in a plan to assassinate Saudi Arabian ambassador Adel al-Jubeir, it also suggests that the idea ‘originated with and was strongly pushed by a single undercover DEA [Department of Drug Enforcement] informant, at the direction of the FBI.’”

The entrapment and conviction of suspects entirely on the testimony of FBI informants who served as agents provocateur has been a favorite tactic of the U.S.

government in its “war on terror.”

A May 2011 study by New York University’s School of Law Center for Human Rights and Global Justice headlined, “Targeted and Entrapped: Manufacturing the ‘Homegrown Threat’ in the United States,” explained how, post-9/11, entrapment by FBI plants led to prosecutions of more than 200 individuals on bogus terrorism-related charges. Washington highlights them as proof of foiling plots — plots that, in fact, never existed.

The phony plots included blowing up Chicago’s Sears Tower; destroying New York landmarks; targeting U.S. soldiers at Fort Dix, N.J. and U.S. Marines at Quantico, Va.; downing National Guard aircraft with Stinger missiles; and destroying a Pakistan ambassador’s aircraft with a surface-to-air missile.

Not a shred of hard evidence was presented, just the word of FBI informants well paid to entrap and lie, and then getting the corporate media to repeat those lies without ever questioning the validity of any charges. Scores of people, mainly Muslims, have been arrested, mistreated, convicted and sentenced to long prison terms.

Statements by antiwar groups in the U.S. are pointing out how now that people are “rising up in righteous anger against the Wall Street banks and the U.S. government,” they must not be diverted into thinking “that their enemy is somewhere else, rather than right here at home.” (ia-center.org) □

# Libyans still resisting U.S.-NATO war

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Another barrage of corporate media reports surfaced Oct. 17 that the NATO-led National Transitional Council rebels had taken “most” of the city of Bani Walid. The battle for this area has been raging for over a month. Troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi had forced the retreat of opposition units on several occasions.

Similar reports described the military situation in the coastal city of Sirte where NTC forces have suffered numerous casualties. NATO air operations against the civilian population in Bani Walid and Sirte have created a severe humanitarian crisis in both cities.

In cities and towns where the NATO-led forces are in apparent control, they have committed gross violations of civilians’ civil and human rights. Their security units have detained thousands of people, with allegations that these units have carried out beatings, torture and extra-judicial executions.

Even the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed grave concerns about the present situation in Libya. Regarding political prisoners, Mona Rishmawi, a senior official of UNHCR said, “It could be up to 7,000. At this stage, there is no police infrastructure, there are no prison authorities. Right now, the Justice Ministry is not fully functional.” (CNN, Oct. 17)

Finally, the U.S. State Department has been compelled to address charges that the NTC has deliberately targeted Black Libyans and Africans from other countries. State Department official Victoria Nuland told CNN that prisoners are “being detained apparently on their skin color on the assumption that they have supported Gaddafi. We [the U.S. government] urge the NTC to honor its stated commitment to the rule of law and respect for the universal human rights of all

people in Libya.”

The war against Libya has been financed, coordinated and politically supported by the imperialist states and their Mideast allies. This war has systematically violated the basic rights of millions of people inside Libya for more than eight months.

The U.N Support Mission to Libya, headed by Ian Martin, delivered a report to the Security Council on Oct. 17 where he noted that the Libyan situation is by no means settled. “The situation is far from stable. There are many security concerns. The fighting is still on. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law have been registered.” (mathaba.net, Oct. 17)

Martin continued, noting that an Oct. 9 report over RT.com stressed that “NATO exposed its hypocrisy toward protecting civilian lives, letting [NTC fighters] shell loyalist cities and assault them despite great losses among the civilian population. We know what this war was about. It was about regime change. NATO does not care about civilians.”

## Attempts to crush anti-NATO resistance

The NTC forces fired indiscriminately on Oct. 15 into Tripoli’s working-class districts, which remain loyal to the Gadhafi government. Reports said that many people hosted the Green Flag of the Jamahiriya and that there was widespread fighting, including sniper fire at the rebel units patrolling the city.

On the same day in Zuwara, mathaba.net reported that people rose up and attacked NTC units, burning their local offices and forcing many to flee the city. “Elsewhere across Libya, early morning hours were marked by demonstrations. Overnight on Oct. 15, loyalists attacked the Rixos Hotel, Military Camp 77 and Green Square. Bodies there provided evidence of a NATO/NTC massacre. Heavy fighting continued overnight through early morning.” (Oct. 17)

Interviews with a Black Libyan reveal

that NTC rebels and their NATO supporters inflicted a pattern of racist violence and displacement upon the Libyan population. “After weeks on the run, thousands of Black Libyans driven from their homes during the revolt against Moammar Gadhafi have resurfaced across the country, finding refuge in a squalid camp they hope is only temporary. Once residents of Gadhafi’s stronghold of Tawergha, the families now wander a dusty compound ringed with garbage and staffed by a handful of volunteers from the city of Benghazi struggling to prevent the spread of disease as numbers swell.” (Reuters, Oct. 17)

One woman who had lived in Tawergha told Reuters that the NTC rebels came “to kill Black people. We were scared to go outside, so we hid in different houses for seven weeks then came here.”

## U.S. military intervention escalates in Africa

The Pentagon-NATO war against the people of Libya is part of a broader strategy to increase imperialist political, economic and military control over the African continent. Since early October, the White House has announced the deployment of drones in Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

On Oct. 14, the Obama administration announced that 100 military advisors and

Special Forces commandos were being dispatched to four countries in Central Africa (see article this issue).

Mathaba.net reported on Oct. 17: “The United States of America has indicated interest in expanding military and defense co-operation with Nigeria in order to tackle the emerging security challenges in the country and the West African sub-region.” The article continued: “This was disclosed [Oct. 15] in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, by the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Africa, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, who said she was visiting the Defense Ministry because of the meeting President Barack Obama and President Goodluck Jonathan recently held on a number of issues, including security.”

These new interventions must be taken up by the anti-war movement inside the United States. With the ongoing anti-capitalist demonstrations across the U.S. and the world, the role of the Pentagon budget in the overall economic crisis must be highlighted.

The U.S. has a larger military budget than all other nations around the world combined. These resources have been taken from working people and the poor. They could be utilized to provide and guarantee jobs, housing, health care, education and public services to everyone. □

A PUBLIC MEMORIAL &  
CULTURAL TRIBUTE  
to Consuela Edmonia Lee

ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
132 Odell Clark Pl., formerly West 138th St., Harlem, NY  
located between 7th & Lenox Aves., aka Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.  
& Malcolm X Blvd. Take # 2, 3, B or C uptown trains to 135 St.

SAT ~ OCT 29 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
www.ConsuelaLee.com

## 'Free trade' imperialism

That the U.S. Senate took four years to endorse the "free trade" accords between U.S. imperialism and its vassals in Panama, Colombia and south Korea is no sign there was anything good about these agreements for working people in any of the countries.

A Free Trade Act sounds so harmless. It isn't. It is not an agreement between peoples to work for their mutual benefit. It's an agreement among the ruling classes in the countries signing the accord to better exploit the laboring masses, that is, the working class and the individual farmers. It enriches the 1 percent — or maybe the 1 percent of that richest 1 percent — who control areas of trade and finance at the expense of everyone else.

The biggest advantage from these agreements usually goes to the ruling class in the imperialist countries, who gain a commanding foothold in the "developing" countries that they never give up.

Some 163 years ago in the Communist Manifesto Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels called attention to the ability of the capitalist ruling class to use the "cheap prices of commodities" they produce with their developed technology as "the heavy artillery with which it batters down all Chinese walls" to penetrate any country.

In the current situation, U.S. agricultural technology — agribusiness — can produce many foodstuffs more cheaply than individual peasant farmers can. That's one reason the south Korean farmers' organizations have been fighting against the FTA. They know what happened in Mexico after the North American FTA went into effect in 1994. Within a few years the peasants growing corn in Mexico were undersold by U.S. corn and a million farmers were driven off the land.

Desperate to earn a living, many migrated north despite the dangers of the border, where the Senators who voted for NAFTA and for this new law could then insult them, persecute them and oppress them for daring to cross the border to stay alive.

Under the capitalist system — and especially during a capitalist crisis — these FTAs destroy jobs in both the imperialist and the oppressed countries. They drive workers and peasants to despair while a handful of people grow fabulously rich. They are everything that the occupiers of Wall Street are fighting against. And we join with the Occupy forces here as well as the movements in south Korea, Colombia and Panama that condemn this new round of FTAs.

Solidarity between the workers and farmers of all countries! Down with the FTAs! □

## Billionaire mayor says 'living wage' is Red

By Caleb Maupin  
New York

The billionaire mayor of this city, Michael Bloomberg, is still refusing to sign a "living wage bill" currently before the New York City Council, despite revisions that watered it down somewhat. This bill would require some businesses that receive city funds to pay not just the minimum wage, but either a "living wage" of \$10 per hour plus benefits or \$11.50 an hour without benefits.

The Census Bureau recently reported that one in every five city residents lives in poverty as a result of unemployment and low wages.

In stating his reason for opposing the bill, Bloomberg said: "The last time people tried to set rates, basically, was in the Soviet Union, and that didn't work out very well. I don't think we want to go in that direction." (New York Times, Oct. 5)

Bloomberg needs to learn history.

In the Soviet Union, where workers took power in a popular revolution in October 1917, things did work out well for a long time.

After the USSR launched its first Five Year Plan in 1928, the world looked on in amazement.

While the capitalist countries were plunging into a deep depression, the USSR went from being a country with no steel industry and barely any railroads, indoor plumbing or electricity, to a world economic power. The largest hydroelectric power plant in the world at the time, the Dnieper Dam, was constructed during this mass move to build an industrialized socialist economy.

The impoverished, agrarian countryside that had prevailed in Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and the numerous other nations that made up the Soviet Union were soon filled with mighty industrial centers.

With the banks, factories and 91 percent of all economic institutions in the people's hands, there was no need for anyone to be unemployed.

Thousands of jobless U.S. workers went to the Soviet Union in this period. Even though every citizen in the USSR was put to work at living wages, this wasn't enough. Workers from

all over the world were hired to go to the USSR and help out, in exchange for a living wage.

Illiteracy was abolished during this period of Soviet history and a national educational system constructed. Newly built universities allowed many former peasants to become engineers, artists, technicians and other kinds of skilled workers needed to build a socialist society. The country was on the road to realizing Lenin's statement that "Socialism is Soviet power plus electrification."

In 1941 German imperialism invaded the Soviet Union along an 1,800-mile front. They did terrible destruction to this struggling country, but at the heroic battle of Stalingrad, which lasted from August 1942 until February 1943, the people's resistance defeated the Nazis and turned the tide of World War II. It was troops carrying the hammer and sickle flag of the Soviet Union, not the red, white and blue, who liberated Berlin and the majority of Nazi concentration camps in Eastern Europe.

In the postwar period, the Soviet Union had to repeat its economic miracle, rebuilding what the Nazis had destroyed. It also aided other war-ravaged countries in Eastern Europe and Asia.

In 1946 the U.S. and Britain began the Cold War, which forced the USSR to devote much of its scientific and material resources to defense against the U.S. nuclear threat.

Nevertheless, the USSR was the first country in the world to launch a space satellite, called Sputnik.

Until the 1980s, the USSR provided aid to countries and liberation movements threatened by U.S. imperialism with the kind of "regime change" forced on those who disobey Wall Street's orders.

South Africans fighting the fascist apartheid regime and Angolans fighting Portuguese colonialism received Soviet weapons and training. Cuba, just 90 miles south of Florida, faced a U.S. blockade after its socialist revolution, but was able to survive with Soviet economic assistance. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which lost millions of people in

the war against invading U.S. troops from 1950 to 1953, got Soviet aid to help its socialist construction.

The Soviet Union built up a mass media apparatus to spread its message of socialism and anti-imperialism. This global megaphone publicized the horrors of Jim Crow segregation in the U.S. South to the peoples of the world, exposing the "democracy" the U.S. claimed to advocate.

China began its great revival with Soviet aid. Now one of the most powerful economies in the world, just 60 years ago it was dubbed "the sick man of Asia" because of its horrendous conditions of impoverishment.

Just where is this failure Bloomberg speaks of? Yes, the USSR collapsed, but only after Premier Mikhail Gorbachev and his allies turned toward imperialism and actively began dismantling the Soviet economy. The USSR did not collapse until it was more polluted with "market reforms" than ever before.

In the modern world, the poorest countries of this earth, where people are suffering from mass unemployment, starvation and extreme poverty, all share governments that believe in Bloomberg's "free market" nonsense and are backed up with Pentagon bombs.

Contrary to Bloomberg's rhetoric, the construction of socialism in the U.S. will not be as simple as passing this "living wage bill" he loathes. The mass movement now emerging in the Occupy Wall Street phenomenon must lead to an uprising of revolutionary youth, workers and oppressed peoples against the capitalist system itself. It will take the formation of a mass, Marxist-Leninist party that can coordinate revolutionary activity to eventually liberate the banks and factories for the people themselves and create a new, working-class government to replace Wall Street's cast of hired actors in Washington, D.C.

That's when the successful economic model of socialism will be created in the U.S. At that point, we will in fact see what Bloomberg fears the most: a world without billionaires (like him), a world that instead provides a decent life for all. □

## Why unions support Occupy Wall Street

Continued from page 7

progressive organizations, to show up and stand in solidarity with the protesters.

This was an act of unprecedented swiftness on the part of the AFL-CIO, jumping into a situation that it couldn't control and one that contained an element of confrontation against the power of the state. The AFL-CIO's call gave space to local New York unions that asked their members, if possible, to show up and stand with the protesters in Liberty Plaza — immediately.

The mobilization was successful and the city postponed the eviction.

Looking through the union endorsements excerpted in The Occupied Wall Street Journal (Oct. 8), and some posted online like those of the United Auto Workers and the Service Employees union, the broad political agreement between the unions and OWS becomes clearer. Both are opposed to the greed and political manipulations that the kleptocracy of

Wall Street bankers and hedge fund managers use to create economic booms — and the resulting busts.

These busts create huge losses for the workers that the unions represent — jobs, homes, medical care, education and public transportation are shredded. Wall Street's profits and power, however, were and are sustained and maintained with billions of dollars in government bailouts. "Banks got bailed out! We got sold out!" is a frequent chant on OWS marches.

Some currents in the OWS movement are moving in an anti-capitalist direction that many unions are not likely to share yet, but there still is general political agreement.

The UAW sent many members to the Oct. 5 march and had a contingent of 50 to 100 members in the Oct. 15 protest against banks called by the Labor Focus of the New York OWS. Their endorsement was not just a formality.

While the sharp struggle of the

CWA with Verizon clearly has influenced the union's support of OWS, the significance of the conflict between the state of New York and its public service unions has been muffled.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, has claimed that in order to keep the wealthy in New York state, he has to let expire a tax surcharge that otherwise would bring in \$5 billion next year. Given New York's constitutional mandate to balance the state budget, he decided to fill this gap with service cuts and take-back contracts imposed on state workers.

The largest state union is the Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. It is one of the endorsers of OWS. CSEA, under the threat of massive layoffs, agreed to a five-year contract that dictates three years of zero pay increases, and then two years of only 2 percent raises, plus 13 uncompensated furlough days and higher medical care costs paid by the



Announcing a Counter-G20 Summit

**PEOPLES ASSEMBLY**

Hostos Community College in the Bronx  
Savoy Manor, 149th Street & Walton Avenue

# 4, 5 or 2 trains to 149th St. & Grand Concourse

**SAT • NOV 5** 12 noon to 4 pm  
Registration 11:30 am

**FOR THE RIGHT TO JOBS**

• food • housing • education • health care

Workers Rights • Immigrant Rights –

Bail Out the People, Not the Banks!

Bail Out The People Movement [bailoutpeople.org](http://bailoutpeople.org)

## In first major confrontation

# OWS gets mayor to back off, expands struggle

*Continued from page 6*

described how this youthful movement that seemed to “spring out of nowhere” had won her over: “The more time I spent down there, the more it really stole my heart. And then I just couldn’t stay away.”

The youth of the United States “have been miseducated” politically and what problems this new movement sometimes expresses stem from its “not being really anti-imperialist” at this moment, said Waller. But, she added, “I honestly never thought that something like this would happen in my lifetime, much less right now when I’m here in the city. Every time I’m down in the park I feel that the vast majority of people there are committed to revolutionary change.”

The more experienced left, according to Waller, can help the development of this movement by bringing a clear political analysis — such as a sharp anti-war position or by explaining the role of the police in repressing communities of color — but leaving the “process” in the hands of the participants. “The organized left needs OWS and the young people in OWS need the left.”

Waller thought that proof of the movement going in the right direction came when OWS picked up slogans against the Afghanistan war and in solidarity with oppressed youth against police repression.

### Growing more progressive

Tony Murphy, an experienced orga-

nizer in his 40s, seconded Waller’s assessment, saying that the morning’s events were “a real people’s victory,” but that such a victory “means the enemy groups so they can come back later.”

What is Occupy Wall Street, Murphy asked. “OWS is rapidly changing, becoming more progressive all the time.” The official leadership doesn’t want to raise specific demands, “but the entire political space the demonstrations are occupying won’t let them stay in that place.” He described how during a march against police brutality the OWS leadership first insisted on a silent march, yet the marchers insisted on chanting and yelling at Police Plaza. The leaders first refused to endorse an anti-war march but then pub-

licized and supported it.

Whatever conservatism is present “is being overtaken by the economic crisis that is driving this phenomenon and making it spread to so many cities.” On Oct. 13, for example, OWS “joined forces with a group in Brooklyn that disrupted a foreclosure” on housing.

The movement, said Murphy, “is consolidating a new culture of resistance.” We should make our participation more consistent, assert our political perspective with, for example, word of the People’s Assembly on Nov. 5 in the Bronx, and “see if we can influence the people coming around or sitting on the sidelines asking, ‘Is this for me?’ Our answer is ‘Yes.’” □

## As anger boils over, occupations sweep U.S.

*Continued from page 7*

Administration of the 1930s and a federal moratorium on foreclosures. Occupy La-Crosse, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Madison, Appleton and Milwaukee are ongoing and plans are underway for future events. [Bryan G. Pfeifer]

### DETROIT 1,000 march, 200 camp out

More than 1,000 people gathered in downtown Detroit on Oct. 14, inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement sweeping the country and the world. They carried signs and banners attacking the banks and corporations, denouncing racism and demanding “Bring the troops home now.” Chanting and singing, the crowd marched to Grand Circus Park on Woodward Avenue, Detroit’s “Main Street.” A general assembly lasted several hours, with community and labor speakers as well as rank-and-file participation. Tents started springing up even before the march arrived. By the end of the weekend about 200 people were camping out.

Labor support was evident everywhere. There were United Auto Worker jackets, a contingent of Service Employees (SEIU) members, and a tent with Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO’s secretary-treasurer camping out. Community groups such as

Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Moratorium NOW! Coalition Against Foreclosures, Detroit Green Party and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice expressed solidarity in speeches and logistical support. Central United Methodist Church and a local business opened their doors to provide bathrooms and meeting space.

During the daytime the park filled with supporters and well-wishers, many bringing food, water and clothing for the hardy, mainly youthful campers. The second General Assembly voted to march on the state of Michigan building Oct. 20 to protest cuts to tens of thousands of welfare recipients and to march on Bank of America to protest foreclosures and evictions. [David Sole]

### PITTSBURGH

#### ‘Do not give up the fight!’

Around 3,000 people gathered at Freedom Corner in the Hill District and marched downtown to Mellon Green, which faces the towering Mellon building. Many intend to stay as long as they can. One speaker faced the building and spoke into a loudspeaker: “We are not below you, as we are today. We are above you. We are the 99 percent!” He told the cheering crowd, “Thank you for occupying Pittsburgh! Do not give up the fight!” [Kelly Valdez]

### ATLANTA March from ‘Troy Davis Park’ to homeless shelter

Hundreds of people, many of them Emory University students, took over the streets of downtown Atlanta and marched past big hotels and office buildings from the newly renamed “Troy Davis” Park to a homeless shelter on Peachtree Street that the city, the university and the Chamber of Commerce have been trying to shut down. They chanted, “Emory hates the poor, kicks the homeless out the door” and “Housing is a human right, close our shelter not without a fight.” They got much support from local residents. Police threats to shut down their encampment at the park have not materialized, and it has become a space for political discussion and cultural expression. [Dianne Mathiowetz]

### WEST VA., KENTUCKY No to Chase & mountain-top removal

People in Huntington, W.Va., have camped outside a Chase branch since Oct. 7. Chase Bank’s financial ties to mountain-top removal and its expansive pharmaceutical holdings are being confronted as detrimental to the region.

Sponsoring organizations of the occupation include Red and Black Ties, Paddle Creek Collective and Industrial Workers of the World. Members of the state AFL-CIO, SEIU Local 1199, Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union Local 21 and United Electrical Workers Local 170 have attended the occupation. There are also occupations in Charleston, Wheeling, Morgantown and Beckley, W.Va.; as well as in nearby Ashland, Ky. [Jeremy B.]

### PHILADELPHIA

#### Tent City grows from 20 to 300

Occupy Philly, opened Oct. 6 outside City Hall at the crossroads of Center City, is fast becoming a magnet for people struggling to survive this system.

Some are students from area high schools and colleges burdened by student loan debt, who know jobs won’t be there for them when they graduate. Some are elders worrying about the rapidly dwindling funds in their pension plans or how they can survive on meager Social Security checks. Some are workers from nearby offices, part-time cashiers in restaurants and coffee shops, teachers, public employees, drivers, health care workers. Many are homeless men and women whose nightly makeshift shelters dot nearby parks and plazas, including Dilworth Plaza where City Hall sits.

Occupy Philly started with 20 tents. Now there are more than 300. Signs call for jobs not war, demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and support the rights of undocumented workers. On Oct. 17, there will be a peoples’ speakout and march to the U.S. Department of Education that manages federal student loans, with a stop at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

Janitors from hotels and high-rise buildings, including the offices of the Stock Exchange, visited Occupy Philly to announce plans for a march on Oct. 17 and a potential strike this week. They are members of SEIU Local 32BJ, which has provided material support for the encampment. Many are immigrants as well.

In an historic first, Workers World Party’s Philadelphia branch held its first open-air political discussion group under a canopy at Occupy Philly. It addressed what capitalism is all about, how it has impacted people’s lives and why socialism offers a progressive alternative. [Betsey Piette]

### OCCUPY BUFFALO, ROCHESTER & SYRACUSE, N.Y.

A General Assembly capped a week of occupation in front of Buffalo City Hall. Several hundred people participated in

spite of high winds and heavy rain. [Ellie Dorritie]

Supporters of Occupy Rochester demonstrate every day at Bank of America. Across the street there are protests every day from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Liberty Pole. On Oct. 10, about 80 people participated, with significant labor support. On Oct. 12, about 100 people marched from the Liberty Pole to join a Civil Service Employees (CSEA) rally at the County Office Building to support county workers’ efforts to get a fair contract. On Oct. 15, nearly 100 people marched in solidarity with OWS and to denounce U.S. wars. They went to the Federal Building and then a Chase bank, where a number of demonstrators entered the lobby and filled it with chants before leaving. [Lydia Bayoneta]

In a cold, drizzling rain some 250 protesters marched from Occupy Syracuse through the downtown area on Oct. 15. That was more than three times the size of the demonstration the previous week. Members of the Communication Workers at Verizon took part with their banner; other marchers included members of the CSEA and the Teamsters, Veterans for Peace, students and teachers from Syracuse University, and activists from Syracuse Peace Council, Workers World Party, the Green Party and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. [Minnie Bruce Pratt]

### JERSEY CITY, N.J. ‘Occupy Journal Square’

The 24/7 Occupy Journal Square solidarity encampment in Jersey City is strong and unified going into its 12th day. It first came together on Oct. 6 through a Facebook page that called for a demonstration in front of a Goldman-Sachs office building on the Jersey City waterfront. When 40 protesters were met by more than 250 police from five different police forces, some of whom came in a patrol boat and helicopters, they became determined to turn the protest into a permanent presence.

A General Assembly a few days later decided that Journal Square — a transportation crossroads located in the heart of a diverse working class community — would be the site of the encampment. Supporters from the Jersey City Peace Movement and Veterans For Peace/Chapter 021 visited the office of Mayor Jerramiah Healy and later spoke before the City Council in a successful effort to have the police presence removed from the OJS site. At an Oct. 16 General Assembly, it was decided that the focus of OJS would move from logistical planning to targeted community outreach. [Michael Kramer] □

*Continued from page 10*

workers. CSEA-represented workers now living under the new contract are seeing smaller paychecks in return for a very weak no-layoff deal.

The second-largest state union, the Public Employees Federation, which is part of NYSUT, rejected a similar contract at the end of September. A day later, email layoff notices went out and the state started to tweak its contract in conjunction with PEF’s leadership. A tentative agreement on a slightly modified four-year contract was reached on Oct. 16 and must go out soon for a membership vote.

On an open blog at the Albany Times-Union, there appears to be a strong sentiment in PEF for another “no” vote, with many posts referring to OWS. The rejection in September was the first “no” vote in 34 years.

Hundreds of thousands of state workers have contracts that have already expired or soon will. What is fueling their anger and unease is that the state and city will use these draconian, concessionary contracts with CSEA and PEF as patterns.

The struggle continues, now with new allies as workers fight the bosses. □

## EDITORIAL

### El 'complot Irán'— ¿guerra psicológica para una nueva agresión estadounidense?

La campaña difamatoria de Washington contra Irán por un presunto intento de asesinato carece de pruebas y fracasa toda prueba de lógica. Muchas personas han planteado dudas acerca de su veracidad. Pero hay una pregunta aún más importante que preguntarse: ¿Por qué el gobierno de los EE.UU. está tan desesperado por usar un increíble pretexto para iniciar una campaña de sanciones y una posible guerra contra Irán?

Recordemos que el imperialismo estadounidense ha estado abiertamente persiguiendo y matando a sus supuestos enemigos por todo el mundo rompiendo así todas las leyes internacionales. Utiliza aviones sin pilotos para lanzar cohetes contra automóviles y casas. Mata personas inocentes junto a los que llama "terroristas".

Son éstas, y no las acusaciones ilógicas y sin fundamento contra Teherán los verdaderos crímenes contra el derecho internacional.

Además, el gobierno de EE.UU., con o sin sus aliados de la OTAN, ha desencadenado cuatro guerras en los últimos 13 años contra países soberanos: Yugoslavia, Afganistán, Irak y Libia. Sus tropas siguen ocupando los tres primeros. En cada caso, para cada país hubo una mentira. Una falsa "masacre". En Irak, fue el fantasma de las "armas de destrucción masiva". Esto va acompañado con la coordinada campaña de satanización de los líderes. Luego comienza la brutal campaña de bombardeo seguida de una invasión.

El Pentágono y/o la CIA también llevan a cabo ataques con aviones no pilotados contra objetivos en Pakistán, Yemen y Somalia. Matan a ciudadanos de esos países y en un caso reciente, incluso a un ciudadano estadounidense. Todo esto está supuestamente justificado por sólo las propias declaraciones del gobierno estadounidense en base a los informes de la misma CIA y de las organizaciones de inteligencia militar.

Las acusaciones de un complot inspirado por Irán del asesinato de un diplomático saudí — que Teherán niega enfáticamente — proceden de este mismo gobierno bribón de los EE.UU., que ataca militarmente e invade por todo el mundo y regularmente miente para justificar su agresión.

Así que repetimos: La verdadera pregunta es ¿por qué el gobierno de los EE.UU. está ahora emprendiendo una campaña contra Irán? ¿Por qué sucede esto poco después de que el gobierno iraní hiciera una movida conciliatoria liberando a dos ciudadanos estadounidenses quienes supuestamente eran sólo excursionistas?

¿Hay alguien en la clase dirigente estadounidense que quiere mantener viva la confrontación con Irán? ¿Será posible que el régimen de EE.UU. se esté preparando para otra guerra de agresión?

Para aquellos/as en los EE.UU. que luchan contra la guerra, así como los/as que ahora luchan por puestos de trabajo en las ocupaciones de Wall Street en las principales plazas de ciudades grandes o pequeñas estadounidenses, es importante ver estas acusaciones infundadas en contra de Irán por lo que realmente son: un intento de un gobierno totalmente desacreditado, EE.UU., para encontrar un nuevo chivo expiatorio. No hay ninguna razón por la que una acusación de este gobierno deba ser aceptada como si tuviera algún semblante de verdad.

Manténgase alerta. Esté preparado/a para la lucha contra una nueva agresión. Y permanezca en las calles contra Wall Street y Washington. □

**¡OCUPEMOS  
AL MUNDO—  
OCCUPY WALL STREET**  
YA COMENZÓ  
LA REVOLUCIÓN!

Anunciando  
una Cumbre en Contra del G20  
**ASAMBLEA POPULAR  
AL COLEGIO HOSTOS EN EL BRONX**  
Savoy Manor – La calle 149 y Avenida Walton  
**Sábado, 5 de NOVIEMBRE**  
De las 12 a las 4 de la tarde (inscripción 11:30 am)

**MOVIMIENTO RESCATE AL PUEBLO** [bailoutpeople.org](http://bailoutpeople.org)

### ¿Cómo pueden ayudar al movimiento 'Ocupar Wall Street' las lecciones de lucha de los/as inmigrantes?

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

Extracto de una charla dada por Teresa Gutiérrez miembro del Secretariado del Partido WW/Mundo Obrero durante la Conferencia Nacional del PWW/MO celebrada en la Ciudad de Nueva York el 8-9 de octubre.

Lo que me gustaría contribuir al debate es cómo las lecciones de la lucha de los derechos de inmigrantes pueden ayudar al [movimiento] Ocupar Wall Street.

Washington ha seguido fomentando un enfoque descentralizado de la política de inmigración al darle prioridad a los estados para que establezcan sus respectivos derechos. Esto ha abierto la puerta a legislaciones del Partido del Té como la de Alabama, descrita por la prensa burguesa como "la legislación de Arizona con esteroides".

La legislación racista en Alabama no es sólo un ataque en contra de los/as trabajadores/as inmigrantes. Es un ataque contra todos/as los/as trabajadores/as. Está diseñada para dividir a la clase trabajadora en un momento en que la solidaridad y la unidad son aún más necesarias.

La legislación de Alabama permite a la policía pedir documentos de inmigración durante paradas de tráfico de rutina. Requiere que los funcionarios de las escuelas públicas se enteren de la condición migratoria de los/as estudiantes cuando se matriculan. ¡El primer lunes después de que esta legislación fuera aprobada, más de 2.000 niños/as no asistieron a la escuela! Las cifras siguen siendo altas hoy mientras las familias asustadas desaparecen en la noche en otro éxodo humano masivo creado por la explotación y la represión capitalista.

Se están implementando políticas represivas como la "E-verify", las cuales son perjudiciales no sólo para los/as trabajadores/as indocumentados/as, sino para todos/as los/as trabajadores/as. "E-verify" es un sistema de identificación que es tan punitivo, tan lleno de errores que los opositores han señalado que crearía un "tsunami colosal en las oficinas del Seguro Social" porque todo el mundo se vería obligado a comprobar su ciudadanía.

A pesar de la abrumadora represión, el movimiento de inmigrantes no ha desaparecido. En la vanguardia están los "Dreamers" (soñadores). Aunque es un movimiento complejo, jóvenes inmigrantes, principalmente indocumentados/as, se niegan a permanecer en las



Las mujeres ocupan Wall Street. MO FOTO: G. DUNKEL

sombras y arriesgan no sólo encarcelamiento sino deportación al exigir la legalización.

Saludamos a estos/as jóvenes y rendimos homenaje a su valentía.

Una de las principales contribuciones que los/as inmigrantes han hecho al movimiento obrero es el renacimiento del Primero de Mayo en este país. Desde 2006, marchas del Primero de Mayo han tenido lugar en todo el país cada año. Han sido principalmente inmigrantes, principalmente latinos/as, pero cada año reflejan más los intereses de la clase obrera en su totalidad. Han movilizado a grandes sectores de sindicalistas, trabajadores/as negros/as, activistas contra la guerra y así sucesivamente.

Hay una lección del movimiento del Primero de Mayo para el movimiento que se está despertando hoy contra Wall Street. Los/as estudiantes y jóvenes que ahora ocupan Wall Street han encendido una llama. Es un fuego alimentado por el desempleo, la falta de viviendas, la falta de oportunidades educativas, por un odio saludable contra las empresas y por la obscenidad de las ganancias de Wall Street.

Los/as revolucionarios/as y comunistas están muy encantados/as con este acontecimiento, aún mientras reconocen sus límites. Aunque las contradicciones actuales del capitalismo están llevando miseria sin precedente a las masas del mundo y una devastación al medioambiente, estas condiciones no obstante han empezado a revelarse aquí para los/as trabajadores/as que estaban a oscuras.

No importa cuánto uno/a trabaje o cuánta educación tenga una persona, este sistema no se

preocupa nada de ningún/a trabajador/a.

Mientras que las luchas que han estallado en los centros imperialistas-capitalistas de Europa y Estados Unidos son importantes y decisivas, no debemos olvidarnos de las luchas que empezaron en los países de los/as más oprimidos/as.

Comenzaron no hace mucho cuando las mujeres se manifestaron en Nigeria contra las corporaciones de petróleo, cuando las masas venezolanas arrancaron al Presidente Chávez de las manos de la oligarquía imperialista, cuando los zapatistas irrumpieron en Chiapas contra el TLCAN, cuando las masas de las Filipinas tomaron caminos y puentes, cuando los/as bolivianos/as echaron a Bechtel de su patria, y muchas otras luchas.

Ciertamente una asamblea global de los pueblos en alguna forma ya ha tenido lugar; ciertamente incontables ocupaciones y tomas ya han ocurrido.

Esta clase de experiencias es lo que los/as trabajadores/as inmigrantes traen a este país, y las tenemos que usar para que podamos ir hacia adelante.

Quizás haya barreras de lenguaje, quizás haya inmigrantes que no hablan inglés, quizás no sean bilingües. Pero tampoco la mayoría de la gente en este país es bilingüe. Los/as inmigrantes son humildes — tal vez — sobre ser monolingüe, mientras que la mayoría de los/as "americanos" son arrogantes en el peor caso, o inconscientes en el mejor, sobre ser monolingüe.

Así que cuando surja la propuesta por parte del OWS sobre una huelga general de un día o el llamado a no trabajar, no comprar y no asistir a la escuela, nuestro partido trabajará fuertemente para construir la unidad. Trabajaremos fuertemente para asegurar que toda la gente oprimida sea bienvenida y representada y que pasen a tener liderato.

Trabajaremos fuertemente para desenmascarar al capitalismo a cada vuelta y mostrar que sí, uno de los mejores símbolos del sistema capitalista es verdaderamente Wall Street. Pero también es el Departamento de la Policía de Nueva York. También es la Corte Suprema. También es el New York Times. También es el ejército en la frontera EE.UU.-México.

La clase capitalista depende de la competencia para sobrevivir. Nuestra clase debe depender de la solidaridad y la unidad para sobrevivir. Esto es lo que este llamado a marchar a Ocupar Wall Street representa. □