

WORKERS WORLD



Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

workers.org

May 2, 2013

Vol. 55, No. 17

\$1

Immigration 'reform' exposed Only struggle can win legalization!

By Teresa Gutierrez

As Washington reveals its long-awaited legislation on so-called "immigration reform," the issue of strategy and tactics for immigrant and worker rights becomes ever more important.

The struggle for the rights of the working class against the ruling class is a weighty topic, to say the least. What workers and oppressed people should fight for and what they can win under the capitalist system require a great deal of thoughtful, strategic analysis. The struggle for immigrant rights is no exception.

The new legislation appears to be the opposite of what the movement has been fighting for, not just in recent times, but historically.

The 844-page bill now before the Senate is called the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act. Referred to as S. 744, it is sponsored by a bipartisan group of eight senators and supposedly had the input of many established labor and immigrant rights groups. But it has also had a heavy hand from many corporations, including Coca-Cola, Google, Facebook and undoubtedly agribusinesses.

Its congressional authors include some of the most anti-immigrant politicians around, like Sen. John McCain (R) from Arizona, ground zero for racism and repression. And Sen. Charles Schumer (D) from New York, who has been exposed for receiving millions from the corrections industry. And Sen. Marc Rubio (R) from Florida, a Cuban-American conservative hostile to the Cuban Revolution.

This bill bodes ill for immigrant workers — and all workers.

Long, hard, winding path

Seven years ago, as a result of a heinous anti-immigrant bill sponsored by Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R) from Wisconsin, millions of immigrant workers, mostly undocumented, rose up to launch the current civil and workers' rights movement around immigrant rights.

It has had ebbs and flows, but this movement remains strong. In 2006, it helped revive May Day in this country.

Hundreds of millions of workers around the world have long marched in their interests on May 1, but here that had been replaced with the sleepy September Labor Day, which had few teeth. Labor Day has unfortunately reflected the views of a labor leadership that accommodated to the program of the Democratic Party instead of independently fighting for workers' rights. The attitude was, "Sorry, but this is all we can get."

Yet the workers in this country face one of the greatest economic and social crises of our times. The capitalist system, having reached a dead end, is raining hell on the people here and around the world. There is a full onslaught against the workers, unbridled war and misery at the very

ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY

Bill divides African, Asian families 7

same time that the ruling class, the 1%, have become obscenely richer.

A new report says that almost half the people of New York City are poor or near poor. (New York Times, April 21) Nearly half the city!

Yet Mayor Michael Bloomberg is the seventh-richest person in the country, with a net worth of \$27 billion. (Forbes, March 11)

Corporate 8 block path to legalization

The bipartisan group in Congress, referred to as the "Gang of 8," issued S. 744 on April 17. The bill, most of which was arrived at behind closed doors, is sweeping on immigration policy. But the one thing that workers and their advocates have marched for since 2006 — legalization — is not seriously addressed.

Workers came out of the shadows in great numbers, held the largest demonstrations ever in some cities, lobbied, sat in and purposefully got arrested in detention centers — all for the right to live and work in this country legally. It

Continued on page 6

BOSTON & TEXAS TRAGEDIES 3

A tale of two explosions EDITORIAL 10

How can workers fight back?

- 4 A critique of worker coops
- 4 Postal workers fight closings
- 5 Georgia sanitation workers strike
- 5 School workers affirm victory

Interview with MUMIA FILM DIRECTOR 2

Subscribe to Workers World

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

Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program. 212.627.2994

For information: workers.org/supporters/ workers.org

Name _____

Street _____

City / State / Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Workers World Newspaper 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011

We march to:
STOP POLICE TERROR!
JOBS NOT JAILS!
END POVERTY

for **WORKERS' & IMMIGRANT RIGHTS!**

STOP CLOSING SCHOOLS POST OFFICES & HOSPITALS

HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY MEDICARE & HEALTH CARE & much more

See full call & complete endorsers list on:
PeoplesPowerAssemblies.org

Reclaim Dr. King's dream during this historic year
2013 is the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 Jobs & Freedom March and the 45th Anniversary of the 1968 Poor Peoples Campaign

2013 Ignite a Fight FOR People's Rights...

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

AND MARCH

SAT **(MAY 11)** 10 AM

Gather at Biddle & N. Montford › Baltimore › MD 21213
MARCH TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Beginning on SAT › MAY 11 we will hold a **CIVIL RIGHTS WALK and MARCH FROM BALTIMORE TO WASHINGTON D.C.** Everyone will be able to participate. There will be support vehicles for all physical abilities.

See the marchers off on Saturday. Join us in College Park on Sunday a.m and walk with us into Washington D.C. Or greet marchers when they arrive in D.C., 3 p.m. at Freedom Plaza.

JOIN US IN D.C. SUNDAY FOR A PEOPLE'S POWER ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS RECLAIMING KING'S DREAM.

CALL BY: Baltimore Chapter, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Baltimore People's Power Assembly

For information go to www.PeoplesPowerAssemblies.org

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
410.500.2168
410.218.4835

6 Poor People's March gains support 7 N.C. students fight austerity 7

SYRIA 8

GUANTANAMO 8

VENEZUELA 9

GUATEMALA 9

Behind Newark cancellation of 'MUMIA: Long Distance Revolutionary'



WORKERS WORLD
this week...

In December 1981, award-winning journalist and political activist Mumia Abu-Jamal was accused of killing a Philadelphia police officer. While professing his innocence, Abu-Jamal was railroaded to Pennsylvania's death row until December 2011, when a global movement succeeded in winning his release into the general prison population. This movement won't stop until Abu-Jamal is released from prison.

On Feb. 1, 2013, the full-length documentary "Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary," directed by Stephen Vittoria of Street Legal Cinema and distributed by First Run Features, opened its first theater run in New York before sold-out audiences. The film tells about Abu-Jamal's life as a revolutionary activist and writer, covering his work with the Black Panther Party, support for the MOVE organization and his important contributions as the author of seven books. The movie has had successful runs in theaters in Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, Miami, New Orleans, Pittsburgh; Columbus, Ohio; Princeton, N.J.; and Alberta, Canada. It is scheduled to open in Philadelphia on May 3.

It was also set to open April 26 at the Cityplex-12 in the African-American community in Newark, N.J. On April 11, Vittoria was notified that the theater was cancelling the screening. Workers World reporter Betsey Piette spoke with Vittoria about the sudden cancellation.

Workers World: Can you give some background on this screening and how it came to be cancelled?

Stephen Vittoria: The film was set to open April 26 for a week, with discussion of adding another week if we performed well, and we fully expected to. The screening was enthusiastically booked a month before by the Cityplex-12 marketing and promotions manager, who opened up their entire marketing network of media, community organizations, schools and their email base of some 5,000 people for us to promote the film.

They were even setting up a press screening for north Jersey media. That's almost unheard of for a theater to do. They were setting up feature stories in several newspapers, various blogs and radio stations — a full-fledged marketing assault. They saw this as a real opportunity to play to the people of Newark, a primarily African-American audience expected to respond very well to the film.

No reason was given for the cancellation in the notice we received April 11. I immediately contacted Boraie Development, co-owners of the theater along with Shaquille O'Neal [retired National Basketball Association player]. They would not return my calls.

I then called Mayor Cory Booker, who was a major player behind the Cityplex-12 opening in downtown Newark. His office promised a statement, and then we got nothing but silence from them. I wasn't questioning Booker about the theater making a business decision to cancel. I wanted his response about the people of Newark once again being held under the thumb of the corporate and wealthy elite who are keeping them from a film the people are clamoring to see.

WW: Do you believe this was a simple "business decision"?

SV: No. As a documentary, our film was doing very well. We have had sold-out shows in major cities, including New York where we were number three on the charts, and Los Angeles where we were number one. Considering

that only four of every 99 documentaries produced even make it to a theater, this has been a successful run.

In a city like Newark the film stood an even better chance because the vast majority of the audience would be African American and Latino/a. I interviewed Mumia about the cancellation and he responded, "What is happening is really a double tragedy because these communities are prevented from seeing a story which is really about their own lives and their struggles and the struggles of their fathers and mothers."

Ultimately Mumia's story is Newark's story. Normally the Cityplex-12 would be showing violent, exploitative films to their audiences. If there was a film that could have made a difference to their audiences, this was the one. This may be the reason they didn't want [the African-American and Latino/a audience] to see it.

WW: What more have you learned to explain the cancellation?

SV: Several days after we received the notice, community activist Larry Hamm of People's Organization for Progress spoke with the theater manager, who told him it was a "simple, cold business decision." They never told us this or gave this excuse to our distribution company. They can't say the film won't make money when it has sold out in other cities.

The marketing manager, who worked freelance for Cityplex-12, told us it was a decision made by the theater's ownership, including Shaquille O'Neal, whose personal manager and confidant is an ex-cop. The marketing manager was summarily fired by the theater because he told the truth. He won't corroborate this, but it is my very strong opinion this went down for political reasons associated with Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police.

This is not going unchallenged. A number of groups in Newark, including POP, will be holding a press conference on April 26 in front of the theater. They plan to do some rolling protests around the theater to try to get the theater to reinstate the film.

Newark is actually my hometown. I was born there, and it was my home base for some 30 years. I'm not surprised by the politics behind this. When I interviewed Mumia, he described this as "the politics of quietude — they don't want the natives to be restless."

Mumia said, "When you look at the conditions of Newark, of Philadelphia, of Oakland, the natives have a lot to be restless about. Thirty schools are closing in Philadelphia; 50 in Chicago. If people don't know their history of resistance, then they can't see the possibility of participating in those kinds of struggles.

"That's the story of 'Long Distance Revolutionary' and they don't want that story told. That they don't want people to see the movie is kind of a sign of our success. What they fear most is our reaching people, moving people and telling them a story about a life of resistance to the empire."

WW: What impact might the Newark cancellation have on Philadelphia's May 3 run?

SV: Frankly, I hope it has no impact. I think Philadelphia will be a very successful run. A lot of people dedicated to justice there will want to come out; [they're] eager to see Mumia's amazing story.

For tickets and film information for Philadelphia, visit Mumia-themovie.com.

★ In the U.S.

- Immigration 'reform' exposed 1
- Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary 2
- Boston: This is what a police state looks like 3
- Capitalist terrorism hits Texas town 3
- A critical look at the 'Cleveland model' 4
- Chrysler worker gets warm welcome back 4
- Five arrested at Oregon mail facility 4
- Sanitation workers walk out 5
- Youth shout down Klan & Nazis 5
- School workers march to keep benefits 5
- Parents campaign for School Bus Bill of Rights 5
- Momentum grows for May 11 Poor People's March 6
- May Day in Raleigh, N.C. 7
- New bill hurts African and Asian families 7
- Protest says 'No drones!' 10

★ Around the world

- Washington promotes war on Syria 8
- Guantanamo hunger strike spreads 8
- Nicolás Maduro seeks to deepen revolution 9
- Groups demand U.S. recognize Venezuela gov't 9
- Right-wing pressure halts Guatemala genocide trial 9
- Detroit youth rally for Korea 10

★ Editorial

- A tale of two cities' explosions 10

★ Noticias en Español

- ¡Legalización! 12
- Venezuela 12

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 55, No. 17 • May 2, 2013
Closing date: April 23, 2013
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, 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 Martinez, Carlos Vargas
Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2013 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

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 & old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed, undocumented & students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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

Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

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

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

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

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org
312.229.0161

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

Denver
denver@workers.org

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

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

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

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

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

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

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

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

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619.692.0355
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

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

BOSTON

This is what a police state looks like

By Steve Gillis
Boston

Using war jargon associated with Iraq and Afghanistan, authorities have repeatedly described the blasts that killed three people and injured 176 at the crowded Boston Marathon on “Patriots Day,” April 15, as “IED bombings,” for improvised explosive devices. Many of the injured suffered horrific amputations and shrapnel wounds.

Since then, a common sentiment shared among people here has been, “This must be what it looks like every day in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Over the next four days, people in the greater Boston area experienced a police state operation that many also described as a preview of martial law.

Media: false reports & glorifying military

Thousands of heavily armed and mechanized National Guard troops, military police, FBI SWAT teams and federal agents of every stripe — from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to the Drug Enforcement Administration — mobilized to assist the Boston police lockdown of the downtown area. At the same time, the media began a nearly uninterrupted 24/7 coverage of the “manhunt.”

TV newscasters breathlessly glorified a “courageous civilian” for allegedly tackling a “fleeing Saudi national” whose hands were “suspiciously burned” at the bombing scene. Boston police set up an armed guard at his hospital room and federal SWAT teams raided an apartment building in Revere known to house hundreds of international students, displaying bags of “seized evidence” to the cameras.

A CNN reporter repeatedly shared his scoop with the world, straight from

“sources at the highest level of law enforcement,” that authorities were focusing on a “dark skinned, Black male seen with a package in surveillance video” at the scene shortly before the blasts.

The next two days, as armories, parks, fields and parking lots throughout the city became stages of military drilling and awesome weaponry, the media urged the public to share their photos with authorities and to scrutinize their neighbors. “Terrorism experts,” mostly retired military and CIA officers, theorized from studios of every network affiliate about “radical Islamist ideology,” “domestic and international terror organizations” and the “vulnerabilities of a free society to attack.”

A SWAT team dramatically arrived on camera in an armored personnel carrier, black-suited soldiers hanging off the sides, to raid a home in New Bedford. They never said why.

On April 15, President Barack Obama had declared, “Anytime bombs are used to target innocent civilians, it is an act of terror.” He seemed to have forgotten about the drones. Then, on April 18, he arrived for a memorial service at Boston’s largest cathedral. The public was invited, but few besides “dignitaries” made it past the barricades. Obama received thunderous applause throughout the service, carried live, especially for the passage near the end when he said: “Yes, we will find you. And, yes, you will face justice. ... But more than that, our fidelity to our way of life — to our free and open society — will only grow stronger.”

Shortly after Air Force One took off, surveillance photos of two “WANTED” suspects flashed on the TV, illuminated billboards, jammed Twitter and social media accounts, and blazoned across web and print headlines.

2 million under occupation

On April 19, the nearly 2 million residents of Boston, Cambridge, Belmont, Waverly, Brookline and Newton awoke to a state of unprecedented military occupation and command. Government robo-calls to cell and home phones, starting before 6 a.m., announced that the entire greater Boston area was on lockdown and ordered everyone to “shelter in place,” later explained as “stay inside wherever you are.”

The military shut down all public transportation in the region, including commuter rail and taxis, and blocked off roads and highways throughout the city. Police stopped unaware motorists and pedestrians and ordered them off the street. All businesses were ordered closed, including grocery stores, medical facilities, government and social service agencies, schools and universities, and all but a few defiant family-owned restaurants complied. All cultural venues were shuttered and cancelled, from the Boston Red Sox, the Big Apple Circus, the Museum of Fine Arts, concerts, churches to every youth event during this week of school vacation.

Most people spent the next 20 hours watching breathless reporters cover the action of thousands of police and military, who had overnight completely taken over the approximately 200-square-mile area.

Hundreds of agents clad in black or camouflage, their rifles loaded and supported by armored personnel carriers, Humvees and bomb units with German shepherds, ordered pajama-clad families, often barefoot, out of their homes during block-by-block, house-to-house searches.

In one early morning live telecast from Cambridge, a reporter lamented that it was unfortunate but necessary to film a weeping Muslim woman, clutching a baby to her chest, as male officers conducted a

public hands-on search of her body and put her and her baby in a black SUV.

Hapless pedestrians of many nationalities and ages were shown handcuffed or face down on the sidewalk at bristling gunpoint. Some people were publicly strip-searched, as reporters explained that the police — seen throughout the day frantically running and yelling — cannot be too careful. As dozens of helicopters hovered low in neighborhoods throughout the city, police “gang” units and shopping mall security guards had people of all nationalities up against walls, especially young people of color.

On the Boston Globe’s blog, people learned that “Police ‘Revel’ at Photo of Dead Bombing Suspect.” A gruesome picture, reminiscent of the Abu Ghraib torture snapshots, showed a naked, mutilated corpse. This photo was said to be of 26-year-old suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev on a morgue slab, reportedly taken by a cop and then posted on social media sites. It clearly showed bullet holes and a surgical laceration, but no blast trauma which would have indicated that he had blown himself up with a suicide belt strapped to his chest — which had been urgently reported throughout the day as an explanation for the police behavior.

The military evacuated and shut down the entire campus of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, an hour’s drive from Boston, where Tsarnaev’s younger brother, Dzhokhar, had just begun college. Following his capture, the media showed crowds of U.S. flag-waving, openly alcohol-drinking, mostly young white people celebrating with police on Boston Common.

In the aftermath, timelines of the suspects’ activities have deleted what once

Continued on page 10

Capitalist terrorism hits Texas town

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Immediately after the bombings at the Boston Marathon, before any political motivation was alleged, the word terrorism began to be used by the news media. It was said that no stone would be left unturned in the hunt for the perpetrators.

Then two days later, on April 17, an explosion at a fertilizer plant in a Texas town called West left 2,800 people feeling terrorized. At least 14 residents were killed and hundreds injured. Some are still in intensive care. Homes, schools and a nursing home were destroyed.

But no one was saying that those responsible for the explosion, which obliterated much of the small farming town, would be found at any cost.

It is known that the West Fertilizer Co. stockpiled huge amounts of potentially explosive material, but U.S. and Texas governmental agencies formed to regulate fertilizer plants have seen their budgets drastically cut. While the Pentagon budget spirals upward in the interest of U.S. imperialism, it had been nearly three decades since the West Fertilizer Co. was last inspected by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. As far back as 1985, it was fined for violating regulations on how to store ammonia.

The fine was \$30.

A day after the explosion in West, the Government Accountability Office released a new report documenting a wide-

spread lack of workplace inspections by state OSHA programs. After surveying 22 state-run programs, it found that the agencies had problems with hiring and retaining inspectors, in part due to low pay.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has already stated its opposition to efforts to strengthen workplace safety regulations.

The town of West is about 75 miles south of Dallas and 120 miles north of Austin. The town’s chamber of commerce touts it as “the Czech point of central Texas.”

Czech immigrants arrived there in the 1880s and the community still maintains strong ties to its Central European roots, with businesses named “Little Czech Bakery” and “The Czech Inn.”

West residents are now preparing to bury their dead and planning to clear the rubble and rebuild. Their middle and high school students are being transported to nearby Waco to attend school.

The owner of West Fertilizer Co., Donald R. Adair, 83, has not been arrested for failing to comply with the law. The plant, which is a warehouse for nitrogenous fertilizers sold to nearby farmers, has eight employees and reported annual sales of \$4 million in 2012.

Texas newspapers are reporting that the company opened in 1962, but never obtained any permits until 2006, after a nearby resident complained of a strong ammonia odor.

Neighbors of the plant had repeatedly called state authorities with complaints of leaks, the odor of ammonia and concerns

about a nearby nursing home and middle school. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality files show that complaints to the agency date back to 1987, when a couple called to say their child was being sickened by ammonia fumes.

In 1991, a police officer on patrol received a phone call about fumes and found ammonia leaking into the air at a rapid rate. He couldn’t reach anyone at the plant, so he decided to turn off the ammonia valve himself. He was severely burned and later filed a lawsuit against the company.

In June of 1992, a 6,000-gallon ammonia tank was constructed without a permit. In 1996, the Waco Regional Office of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission received numerous calls from residents concerning the smell of ammonia, but officials said they smelled nothing. The company suggested the odor was from a sewer line at the nursing home.

In August of 1997, a neighbor called five times to complain of strong ammonia odors. In 1999, more complaints were filed and state inspectors went out but said they didn’t smell anything. According to notes in state records, the owner said, “We do everything we can to prevent leaks and to be a good neighbor.”

In 2006, West Fertilizer was out of compliance with both state and federal requirements and the Environmental Protection Agency fined them \$2,300 for not filing a sufficient risk management

plan as required for all companies that store hazardous materials.

In its June 2011 risk management plan, the company reported it was storing 54,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia but downplayed the risks, saying, “The worst-case release scenario would be the release of the total contents of a storage tank released as a gas over 10 minutes.” In the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Timothy McVeigh used just 2,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate, which is made from anhydrous ammonia.

In 2012, the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued citations when tanks were found lacking the special placards emergency responders rely on to know exactly what is inside cargo containers. Other signs were illegible. Also, inspectors found large quantities of anhydrous ammonia stored in “unauthorized” tanks that failed to meet safety standards. The company was unable to produce a copy of its security plan.

In June of 2012, a \$10,100 fine was reduced after West Fertilizer took corrective measures.

In the coming days and weeks, these recent violations could prove relevant to the investigation into the causes of the explosion.

Whatever caused the fire that led to the explosion, the people of West will take years and perhaps a generation to recover from the physical and psychological scars left by the West Fertilizer Co. □

Beyond socialism?

A critical look at the 'Cleveland model'

By Martha Grevatt

Until recently, Glenville — an African-American neighborhood on Cleveland's economically depressed East Side — was best known for its 1968 rebellion against poverty and police brutality.

On July 23, 1967, a gun battle between members of the Republic of New Libya — who had purchased weapons for self-defense after repeated attacks by police — and white police left three officers, three RNL members and an African-American bystander dead. Mayor Carl B. Stokes temporarily removed all white officers from the neighborhood. With no evidence of who killed the officers, the state sentenced RNL leader Ahmed Evans to death. During his trial Evans was intransigent in maintaining the right to self-defense. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and he eventually died in the Ohio Penitentiary.

Today, Glenville still suffers, with 40 percent adult unemployment and an average household income of \$18,000 a year. Boarded-up houses are a common sight. Police brutality remains a burning issue for Cleveland's Black community — witness the recent murders of Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell in a hail of gunfire.

However, the neighborhood has acquired national fame as the site of the Evergreen worker cooperatives. There is widespread praise for Evergreen from liberal and progressive circles: author Naomi Klein; the labor-environmental coalition, Blue-Green Alliance; magazines like the Nation and Yes; and a new documentary on worker coops, "Shift Change."

Evergreen began in 2009 when it opened an environmentally sustainable

industrial laundry. Most of the several dozen "worker-owners" are residents of Glenville or surrounding neighborhoods; some have prison records or were long-term unemployed. Now Evergreen also runs a solar-panel installation company, Ohio Cooperative Solar, and a hydroponic greenhouse, Green City Growers. The consortium claims it will eventually create 500 jobs for low-income city residents.

In "The Cleveland Model," an article which appeared in the Nation magazine in March of 2010, the Democracy Collaborative's Ted Howard — on Evergreen's board of directors — and Gar Alperovitz and Thad Williamson claim that there is "a great deal of national buzz among activists and community-development specialists about 'the Cleveland model.'" Recently, in an April 12 commentary, Alperovitz even suggests that Evergreen is an example of "municipal socialism."

Champions of the Cleveland model portray a cooperative enterprise with jobs paying a "living" or "above average" wage, with the possibility of owning a substantial equity share after eight or nine years. On Evergreen's website and in the movie "Shift Change," workers express huge satisfaction in being "worker-owners," saying the experience has turned their lives around. The jobs are created when "anchor institutions" such as the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University engage Evergreen for laundry services and produce for their cafeterias.

However, as an example of socialism, the "Cleveland model" fails.

Average wages, no union protection

The wage of \$10.50 an hour, with 50

cents deducted to pay for a share in the business, may be almost 150 percent of the federal minimum wage, but it is barely above the national average of \$10.35 for laundry workers. The workers do not belong to a union. The CEO of Evergreen Laundry, Cecil Lee, "comes to Evergreen from Sodexo, a national management company known for providing services to the Healthcare industry, including laundry, food, and environmental services." (evergreencooperatives.com)

Sodexo is notoriously anti-union. In 2004, Cleveland Clinic fired its in-house laundry staff and gave them the option of working for Sodexo. Cleveland Sodexo workers rallied in 2010 to demand higher wages and an end to "present-day sweatshop" conditions. (newsnet5.com)

Unlike the residents of Glenville, most of Evergreen's directors and the CEOs of Ohio Cooperative Solar and Green City Growers are white. Isn't something wrong with this model?

One even has to wonder if the "cooperative" is truly worker-owned. After three years, there are reportedly around 50 workers with a \$3,000 stake in the company, which comes to \$150,000. Who owns the rest of the shares? Evergreen's website encourages investment in the Evergreen Cooperative Development Fund LLC, which provides "economic returns to Fund investors."

Reminiscent of ESOPs

The Evergreen setup bares some resemblance to an older model known as an Employee Stock Ownership Program — ESOP. About 10 million workers in the U.S. are under these schemes. Typically, a distressed company convinces workers — with the consent of the union if they are organized — to take wage and benefit concessions in exchange for stock ownership. However, the stock is not given directly to the workers but is held in trust in an account.

While Evergreen did not emerge from the wreckage of a previously existing, now bankrupt company, there are similarities to an ESOP in that the workers' "equity" — part of which they pay for out of pocket and part of which is dependent on the company's profitability — is held in trust. One of Evergreen's major partners is the Ohio Employee Ownership Council, which promotes ESOPs.

Writing on ESOPs in his seminal 1986 work, "High Tech, Low Pay," Sam Marcy explained that they "are attempts to tie

the workers securely to the chariot wheels of class collaboration."

Evergreen's long-term viability is dependent on the largesse of capital. An initial \$750,000 investment came from the Cleveland Foundation, a 100-year-old institution founded by Cleveland Trust bank president, Frederick Goff. This grant leveraged \$5,000,000 in financing from PNC bank. When PNC bought Cleveland-based National City Bank, it laid off 5,800 workers — most of them in Cleveland.

The laundry's major customers, non-unionized Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, have hurt Cleveland neighborhoods. Over the years, the Clinic's expansion has displaced homeowners and small businesses. In an internal study, UH found that fewer than 15 percent of its workers live in the city. Both enterprises have bought up neighborhood health facilities, and then closed them to eliminate competition.

What would happen if the workers assert their interests in a way counter to the so-called corporate community? What if they organize a union and demand a raise in pay?

The philanthropists could cut the purse strings. The "Cleveland model" could go down the path of the Cleveland Now! program. Cleveland Now! was initiated by Mayor Stokes a month after many rebellions that followed Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968. Funds were drawn from corporate donors to support economic development, neighborhood clinics, community centers and African-American cultural programs.

But by 1970, Cleveland Now! had lost most of its funding. Carl Stokes' second term was his last.

The title of Alperovitz's recent article is "The Question of Socialism (and Beyond!) Is About to Open Up in These United States." That conversation does, indeed, need to happen in a mass way.

Under socialism, however, the workers actually own the means of production — lock, stock and barrel. They don't buy a piece of it from corporate philanthropists, the ones who became wealthy in the first place by exploiting and pauperizing the very working class to whom they offer crumbs of charity.

Socialists looking for a model would do better by rejecting "the chariot wheels of class collaboration" and instead draw inspiration from the revolutionary courage of fighters like Ahmed Evans. □

Fired for speaking out

Chrysler worker gets warm welcome back

By Martha Grevatt
Detroit

The mood at the Chrysler stamping plant in Warren, Mich., is generally dour these days. Most workers are unhappy about recently imposed, mandatory 10-hour shifts and Saturday work without overtime pay.

They are noticeably tired, especially those on the "C crew," who work two days on evening shift (4 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.) and two days on day shift (5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). On March 11, the company imposed this schedule on most of the workers — unfortunately with the acquiescence of the International leadership of the United Auto Workers.

The frowns turned to smiles, however, when workers learned that their fired co-worker, Alex Wassell, would be reinstated. Wassell was suspended on March 1 and the suspension was later converted to a discharge after he helped organize and lead a protest against the oppressive schedules. Management claimed he violated Code of Conduct 22: "engaging in, participating in, aiding or approving conduct constituting or appearing to constitute a conflict with the interest of the Company."

This charge was based on statements allegedly made to the Detroit News suggesting that the schedules would hurt morale, which might affect quality. When the News first covered the firing, Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson claimed that

Wassell had leaked quality documents from the Warren Truck Assembly Plant, which is next door to the Warren Stamping Plant. Later retracting this blatantly false statement, Tinson made a second false claim, saying that Wassell had made statements about production problems at the assembly plant. Subsequently, the company stated only that Wassell had violated Code of Conduct 22.

Not only at Warren Stamping, but at other Chrysler plants and at Ford and General Motors, workers were outraged over the firing.

At WSP over \$4,000 was collected to help Wassell with living expenses and, if necessary, the costs of legal action. Workers who had never met him helped with the fund drive and gave generously. "He fought for us," was how one worker explained the strong feelings of solidarity.

UAW Local 869 grieved the discharge and on April 17 the company gave Wassell his job back. He returned to work on the hated C Crew schedule, where his co-workers gave him a warm welcome.

Wassell is still fighting for back pay, having lost almost seven weeks' wages. Chrysler workers will be angry if the company refuses to make him whole. "Everybody at Jeep says that Alex should get his damn back pay," a Toledo worker told this writer. "Right now!"

Martha Grevatt is a 25-year Chrysler worker and a member of UAW Local 869.

OREGON

Five arrested at mail facility

Forty people protested the scheduled June closing of the Salem, Ore., mail plant on April 17. When five "occupiers" stepped inside the plant, unfurling banners reading "No closures! No cuts" and "Save Salem's mail," they were arrested for trespassing.

The crowd outside cheered the five as they were led away in handcuffs.

"This closure is unnecessary, unfair and unwise," declared Jamie Partridge, a retired letter carrier and one of the five arrestees. "About a hundred good-paying, family-supporting jobs will be lost. Mail for the mid-Willamette valley will be delayed. We're trying to prevent this attack on our communities."

Other arrestees represented communities hardest hit by a delay of the mail: the

elderly, people of color, rural and small business people. If the mail-sorting plant does close, Salem-to-Salem mail will be trucked 39 miles to Portland to be sorted. One-half of the public presently pays bills by mail, and many lack access to reliable internet service.

The protesters, organized by Communities and Postal Workers United, a national grassroots network, claim that a 2006 Congressional mandate, which forces the U.S. Postal Service to prefund retiree health benefits 75 years in advance, has created a phony financial crisis. Not only would the postal service have been profitable without the mandate, says CPWU, but the USPS has also overpaid tens of billions into two pension funds.

— From a CPWU release

Sanitation workers walk out

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

An important labor strike is happening in McDonough, Ga., just south of Atlanta. Workers at Republic Services/Allied Waste are members of Teamsters Local 728 who won their election in 2011. They began an unfair labor practices strike on April 15, caused in part by the illegal firing of a union supporter.

Republic Services is a waste management company with contracts in numerous cities and counties across the U.S. It made \$572 million in profits last year. Its single largest stockholder is Bill Gates, who owns some 25 percent of its shares.

Republic has negotiated contracts in other locations, including Atlanta, that provide higher wages, holiday pay for Martin Luther King Day and other benefits that it refuses to give the McDonough workers.

A big issue for these garbage workers who drive big trucks and pick up tons of

waste matter every day is safety. They charge that the equipment is faulty and that repairs are not made despite their filing repeated reports. A day's work can stretch to 14 hours or more. They say the company is cheating them by not paying for the time it takes to bring the truck back to the yard when their route is done.

The company's insulting response to the demand for a paid holiday on MLK day was to hold a barbecue for the employees that day.

This past Jan. 21, many McDonough Republic workers marched with other area sanitation workers at the front of the annual King Day event in Atlanta. Of special significance was the presence of Memphis sanitation workers, whose struggle for a union and respect on the job brought Dr. King to that city 50 years ago. He was assassinated there on April 4, 1968.

Republic workers are walking the picket line in other places, too. Outside Youngstown, Ohio, workers have taken on the company's anti-worker stance.



PHOTO: BEN SPEIGHT

Republic workers' picket signs echo Memphis sanitation strike of 1968.

That strike began March 27, and sympathy walkouts spread to at least five other Ohio locations. Job actions at Republic facilities in California and Tennessee also occurred in this same time period.

"I'm on strike because this giant waste corporation thinks it can get away with breaking the law to intimidate us and bully us, and cheat us out of pay for time that we worked," said Renard Henley, a residential driver in McDonough. "We organized and chose to be represented by the Teamsters in 2011, but the company refuses to bargain in good faith with us for a fair contract. I've been talking with other workers on the Facebook page, and we have been following the Youngstown strike closely. We have all had enough of the company's greed." (teamsters.org, April 15)

Following an interview with Republic

strikers on "The Labor Forum," a show on Atlanta's progressive community radio station WRFG 89.3 FM, a temp worker who had been placed by his agency at Republic for a month called in. He said that when he saw the picket line on April 15, he refused to take the job. He knew them to be hard workers and he supported their efforts to be treated fairly. "I wouldn't be able to look myself in the mirror if I didn't stand with them," he said.

Similarly, a customer brought her garbage bags to the door of the Republic offices and told them to do right by the workers.

The McDonough Republic workers have maintained a 24-hour picket line with high spirits and strong solidarity from other Teamsters and union activists. For additional information, contact Teamsters Local 728. □

Youth shout down Klan & Nazis

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

A few dozen Nazis and Ku Klux Klan members, in full racist regalia, stood on the steps of the Georgia Capitol here spewing their vile white supremacist filth on April 20.

Across the street, 150 or more anti-racists drowned out their hate speech with a cacophony of drums, whistles and chants.

Numerous police agencies, including the Capitol Police, provided protection for the racist rally, lining the Capitol sidewalk with barricades and then parking police cars in front of the counterprotesters.

However, none of this was a deterrent to the fury and disgust felt by the largely youthful crowd, which was adamant in its rejection of racism and bigotry.

When the Nazis and the Klan went to retrieve their vehicles a block away, they were followed from the Capitol to a

parking deck. The drumming and chanting continued at the exit until the police stopped traffic and made a way for the racists to escape.

While the police weren't disturbed by the obscenely racist and profane speech of the Nazis and KKK, they dragged a 21-year-old woman from the progressive crowd, slammed her into a car and arrested her because of a commonly used obscenity on her sign. The arresting officers called her homophobic names. The courageous woman is a member of Just Us, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and asexual youth group.

Many in the crowd had never witnessed the sight of hooded KKK members and black-shirted Nazis giving the fascist salute, protected by dozens of police. It was a lesson in class politics that these same police harassed, monitored and kept surveillance on those calling for equality, justice and unity. □

Parents campaign for SCHOOL BUS BILL OF RIGHTS

By Sara Catalinotto
New York

A "Rally to Save Busing" was well received by lunch hour crowds in downtown Brooklyn on April 19. The citywide group Parents to Improve School Transportation (PIST NYC) chose the site where the Department of Education — controlled by billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg — has its contracts office.

Flyers for the event charged authorities with disregarding the needs of school bus riders before, during and since the strike by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181 this winter. Some 8,800 drivers and attendants struck for a month when contract bids went out without an Employee Protection Provision that would maintain seniority hiring.

At the rally, busing advocates gave out copies of their School Bus Bill of Rights proposal, along with copies of an April 12 New York Daily News column by Juan Gonzalez that exposed how the city's own

lawyers are now arguing in court that EPP is not illegal. This implies that the mayor knowingly lied when he insisted that the union wanted something illegal in the school bus bids.

While some parents took to the microphone, others gathered contact information from interested passersby and shop owners or spoke to reporters. The event was also recorded for the upcoming film "1181: A Documentary."

Brooklyn's P368 Parent Association President Celia Green, mother of four current or former bus riders, denounced the school system's failure to conduct mandated bus evacuation drills. Her schools suffered extremely low attendance during the strike that Bloomberg provoked.

Bronx PIST leader Milagros Cancel, whose three sons depend on busing for their education, spoke in Spanish about the need to organize against violations of the civil rights of students with disabilities, including violations of their right to adequate transportation.

School workers march to keep benefits

Georgia school workers marched in Atlanta on April 20 along with their union, student and community allies to claim victory after regaining their unemployment benefits. Labor Commissioner Mark Butler had illegally taken the benefits away from the workers in 2012.

The chanting, singing crowd of school bus drivers from metro Atlanta, Columbus and Savannah; college cafeteria workers; and others served notice that they are ready to continue the fight for their rightful benefits, despite whatever underhanded measures the Labor Department

and Georgia Assembly try in the future. A large number of students from area campuses, as well as United Students Against Sweatshops members from across the country, swelled the ranks.

The march ended at the U.S. Department of Labor headquarters in Atlanta, where the crowd affirmed that they would organize to keep and advance workers' rights.

For more information on this struggle, see Atlanta Jobs with Justice at atlantajwj.org.

— Dianne Mathiowetz



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Other protesters included grandparents, a retired teacher with the Movement of Rank and File Educators (MORE) Caucus of the United Federation of Teachers, and a 10-year-old mini-wagon rider.

Joining them was a Brooklyn school bus driver with over 20 years' experience whose company gave her job to a strike-breaker. She is one of 76 workers who are still locked out two months after the strike ended.

ATU Local 1181 has taken up the lockouts with the National Labor Relations Board and has another NLRB case against the school bus contractors' recent unilateral imposition of lowered wages, benefits and hours. Drivers and attendants had their spring break checks withheld; begin-

ning April 15, paychecks were expected to be 7.5 percent lower than before.

As Manhattan mom Madeline Sinor said on News 12 TV, "They are cutting, to the bone, the wages of trained, excellent workers who are so important." The union is pressing for good faith negotiations. DOE has not commented on these developments, although it is the ultimate contractor.

The message of the rally was that school bus families plan to fight to prevent such a vital service for students from being downgraded to a part-time, high-turnover, poverty-level job. For more information, contact pistnyc@gmail.com or 347-504-3310.

Catalinotto is a co-founder of PIST.

Momentum grows for May 11 Poor People's March

By LeiLani Dowell

A march to uphold the legacy of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, by protesting for jobs, racial and economic justice, and against war, is picking up important support. From May 11 to 13, participants from across the country will converge for a 41-mile Poor People's March from Baltimore to Washington, D.C.

Members of both the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions and the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO have unanimously voted to support the May action.

The growing list of labor endorsers includes the Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart); the Food and Commercial Workers Minority Coalition; the Executive Board of International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10, located in California's Bay Area; the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751; the New York Chapter of the National Writers Union, United Auto Workers Local 1981; and the American Federation of

School Administrators Local 25.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1963 Jobs and Freedom March and the 45th anniversary of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign. The latter was being organized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he was assassinated in 1968. Yet in 2013, poor and working people face similar issues of poverty, unemployment, racist repression and war — issues foisted upon them by the capitalist economic system.

Demanding people's power and justice

The organizers of the 2013 action believe that the time is ripe to resuscitate King's mass movement to demand people's power and justice.

The march will demand an end to the attempts to close schools, post offices and hospitals across the country, as well as an end to the government's attacks on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Coming on the heels of national marches on May Day, the People's Power March will augment demands made on May 1 for worker and immigrant rights. Par-

ticipants will march to a Walmart superstore in support of the giant corporation's workers.

The Poor People's March will also make special demands against the wave of police brutality and police killings across the country. In Baltimore alone, 16 people have been killed by cops since a year ago January, with not a single officer indicted for these crimes.

The action will begin at the site in Baltimore where Anthony Anderson Sr. was killed by police on Sept. 21, 2012. Baltimore parents, friends and family members of slain loved ones will be joined by others from across the U.S., including the family of Alan Blueford in Oakland, Calif., to demand an end to racist police terror. In addition, the march demands an end to the wholesale incarceration of people of color from coast to coast.

The Rude Mechanical Band from the Occupy movement will be participating in the walk, along with students from local and national campuses. Event organizers urge participation of all poor and working people, and are providing accommoda-

tions for anyone who cannot walk the entire 41 miles.

The final leg of the march will take place on Mother's Day, May 12, which is also the actual date that Coretta Scott King led the kickoff of the Poor People's Campaign in 1968. Women, including women from OUR Walmart and the mothers of victims of police killings, will lead this final stretch of the march on Washington.

The march will be followed by a People's Power Assembly in Washington, D.C., on May 13, where community members and activists will convene to discuss and plan the next steps in reclaiming Dr. King's dream.

The May 11-12 events, agreed on at a National People's Power Assembly held in Baltimore last December, are being organized by the Baltimore chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Baltimore People's Power Assembly. The national body of the SCLC initiated the original Poor People's Campaign in 1967.

For more information, visit PeoplesPowerAssemblies.org.

Immigration 'reform' exposed

Only struggle can win legalization!

Continued from page 1

did not matter what placard they carried or what flag they waved, legalization was what spurred on the movement.

That is not what S. 744 is about. The bill will make legalization so expensive, so time consuming that the vast majority of the over 11 million undocumented will not benefit.

Instead, it continues to reflect the interests of the ruling class and is meant to control wages and workers. Instead of Congress working to provide education for young workers already here so they can get good-paying jobs, the bill wants instead to bring in skilled workers from abroad. This will result in a massive "brain drain" from countries under the thumb of imperialism.

The message from S. 744 to young workers is: "McDonald's is your only path."

The only answer is to organize and fight back, not only in this country but with cross-border solidarity.

Criticism from immigrant groups

Although the Gang of 8, as well as Washington and the established labor leadership, say that all the immigrant rights groups and all "labor" are behind the proposed bill, that is not correct.

The response from many important grassroots groups, like Derechos Humanos in Arizona, has been critical. The National Day Labor Organizing Network, based in California, has issued important talking points on the bill. The Dignity Campaign from the Bay Area has established a counter-bill that raises abolishing U.S. foreign policies that are the source of so much forced migration.

In New York, the May 1st Coalition, the Migrant Power Alliance, Families for Freedom, DRUM and others have opposed the bill, and some have already held actions in front of Sen. Schumer's office.

Here are some criticisms of the bill:

- The United African Organization points out that it eliminates the "diversity program," which issues 55,000 visas to immigrants from underrepresented nations in the U.S. In the past, Africans comprised around 30 to 50 percent of those who received these visas.
- Derechos Humanos says, "The most significant part of this proposed legislation ... is the dramatic escalation of a 'war zone' environment, particularly along the border regions, which comes at an obscene expense (an additional \$5.5 billion to the \$18 billion spent last year)."

- Immigration Equality points out that S. 744 omits the Uniting American Families Act, which recognizes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer families. The National Center for Transgender Equality writes that of the more than 11 million undocumented, more than 260,000 are LGBTQ and more than 20,000 are transgender.

Two of the most ominous and controversial parts of the bill are around the guestworker and skilled visa programs, which primarily affect farm workers and workers in the high-tech industry.

The Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations says, "The Guest Worker Program would place farm workers in a vulnerable position." Rosalinda Guillen, from a Washington state farm worker group, worries that once undocumented agricultural laborers gain legal status, they would face competition from guest workers.

Journalist David Bacon writes: "Even more direct labor supply schemes will be part of the Senators' bill. Currently the three main official guest worker visa programs, H1B, H2A and H2B, allow employers to recruit about 250,000 workers [per year]. ... The AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced agreement on yet another such program, called the W visa. It would allow employers to recruit workers to fill labor shortages documented by a new Federal commissioner." (Truthout, April 17)

According to Bacon, "Making a deal on a new guest worker program is a means to win over Republicans. ... Communications Workers of America President Larry Cohen warned, 'CWA will monitor any proposed changes to visa programs like the H-1B visa, which are sought after by business but have cost U.S. technicians and other workers tens of thousands of jobs.'" At a time of such high unemployment, how can S. 744 be justified?

Legalization can be won through struggle

The immigrant and workers' rights movement is at a turning point.

It can go along with Washington and the mainstream view and accept S.744

quietly, although assuredly with great sadness and disappointment. Or it can launch the next phase of the movement.

The undocumented have earned legalization a hundred times over. Exploitation and racism should be illegal, not workers. Every single worker in the world is entitled to a living wage, adequate health-care and education. That is neither a pipe dream nor ultra-left sloganeering. That is a reality that Washington and Wall Street owe the workers who made them so rich.

The massive problems and attacks demand a massive, militant fightback. Shouldn't the next phase of the struggle be one where each community, each nationality, each organization, each union local, each neighborhood, each region in the country is not working on its own, but is uniting in a massive movement to build the kind of national response to S. 744 that is desperately needed?

Isn't it time to link the struggle against mass deportations to the struggle against mass incarcerations? To link the struggle for education, healthcare, jobs and against war to the struggle for legalization?

Isn't it time to go on the offensive in the finest traditions of the labor and progressive movements when sit-ins, occupations and strikes were the order of the day? These struggles, which were not far-fetched or ultra-left, won real concessions from the bosses, the bankers and the politicians.

It will require political education and deepening roots among the working class. But it can be done.

It does not matter what Congress is doing. What matters is who is in the streets fighting, occupying and striking for our rights.

This can be a righteous road to victory for all workers.

Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, John Brown, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Lolita Lebron and all those in the 19th century who fought and died in the struggle that led to May Day may have been told it couldn't be done. They proved it could be done. So can we.

For more responses to the bill, visit www.may1.info.

MAY DAY

NEW YORK CITY

- ▶ Pro-worker Immigration Policy
- ▶ Immediate Legalization for the Undocumented
- ▶ Stop Mass Incarcerations & Deportations!
- ▶ Union Jobs, Education ▶ Healthcare for All
- ▶ No to the Cutbacks!

WED MAY 1

12 Noon Union Square Rally
4pm City-wide Unity Rally

2013 PRIMERO de MAYO

- ▶ Política Migratoria Pro-trabajadores
- ▶ Legalización para todos los indocumentados ahora!
- ▶ Alto a las encarcelamientos masivo y a las deportaciones!
- ▶ Trabajos de sindicatos, educación, seguro médico para todos
- ▶ No a los recortes de presupuesto!

MIERCOLES

Primero de MAYO

Union Square a las 12 del medio día
4pm Asamblea de Unidad con varias coaliciones

212.633.6646
www.may1.info



May Day in Raleigh, N.C.

March to confront austerity, attacks on working class

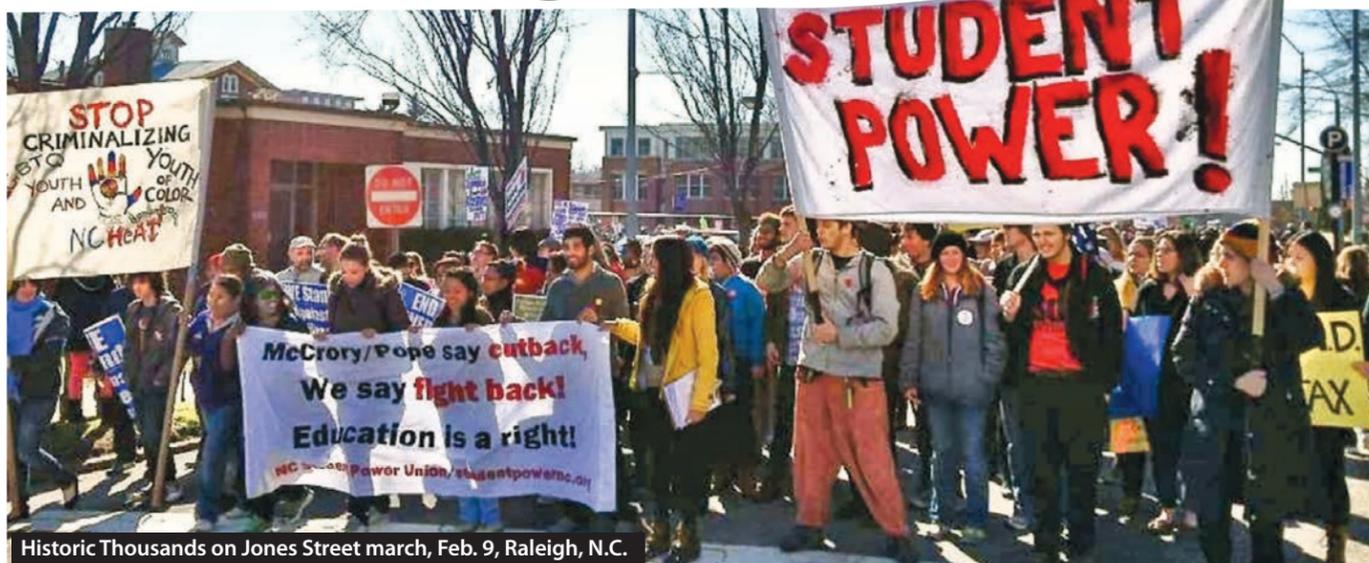
By Zaina Alsous
Durham, N.C.

With extreme right-wing ideologues in the Legislature and governor's seat, backed by a well-funded conservative political machine, the working class in North Carolina faces unprecedented attacks and swiftly degrading material conditions. In the face of this social crisis, workers, youth and students are mobilizing for a mass May Day march and rally in Raleigh, the state capital.

The North Carolina Student Power Union, a grassroots statewide organization and movement, has been hard at work since its February conference fighting attacks on public education and public services. Its current campaign raises opposition to the regressive budget drawn up by state budget director, Art Pope, a wealthy CEO and conservative oligarch who seeks to divest nearly \$200 million from the North Carolina public university system.

If passed, the budget would also lay off thousands of workers, including teachers' assistants and campus workers. It would force nearly 8,500 students off of need-based financial aid, making access to higher education out of reach for many.

These attacks on public higher education are emblematic of a broader redistribution strategy that seeks to privatize and defund public services while increasing the accumulated wealth of the ruling class. Perhaps the most telling component of the budget is a repeal of the estate tax, which applies only to estates worth more than \$5 million. Though only the 23 wealthiest estates in North Carolina are



Historic Thousands on Jones Street march, Feb. 9, Raleigh, N.C.

PHOTO: NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT POWER UNION

subject to the tax, repealing it would cost the state more than \$50 million a year.

Other attacks by the North Carolina Legislature include a proposal to amend the state's constitution to include GS 95/98 — the state right-to-work (for less) law — a clear attack on workers' rights and unions. Another proposed constitutional amendment would enshrine the state's Jim Crow-era ban on collective bargaining for public sector workers.

After the Legislature refused federal-funded Medicaid expansion for an estimated 500,000 poor residents, Gov. Pat McCrory recently revealed a plan to privatize Medicaid by selling off part of the state's Medicaid program to out-of-state, for-profit companies.

In addition, right-wing lawmakers are also pushing to eliminate the corporate and personal income tax at a cost of billions to the state, while simultaneously

raising the sales tax, which disproportionately hurts low-income families.

Targeting Black and Brown people

These legislative attacks are also deeply racialized. Lawmakers proposed closing one or two campuses, which would undoubtedly target historically Black colleges and universities and working-class campuses.

The white supremacist majority is currently pushing forth racist voter repressive legislation to impose electoral barriers on communities of color, youth, women and the poor.

Right-wing lawmakers have also introduced an Arizona-style immigration bill that would allow law enforcement officers to check the legal status of anyone they stop and detain them for up to 24 hours. This will encourage racial profiling and increased police repression of immigrant communities.

Those in power are waging war on working people in North Carolina. They seek to implement a dangerous vision where public higher education is dismantled, public services are privatized, and Jim-Crow era white hegemony is reclaimed.

A May Day demonstration could not be occurring at a more critical moment in the state political climate. The NCSPU is organizing a statewide youth and student contingent to join the broader May Day worker and immigrant march and rally at the state Legislature.

Now more than ever, working-class struggles in North Carolina must be united in raising voices of opposition to this right-wing agenda. North Carolina serves as a key stronghold in the U.S. South with a rich organizing and civil rights legacy.

If we don't want the futures of our youth to be stolen, mass resistance is the only option. □

Immigrant groups say

New bill hurts African and Asian families

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Tens of thousands of immigrant rights activists rallied on April 10 across the United States demanding that the federal government develop a comprehensive program to allow approximately 11 million undocumented people remain inside the country, with an option aimed at legalization.

Instead, the 844-page Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, introduced April 17, places strong emphasis on preventing people from crossing the southern border from Mexico.

Although the Obama administration has deported more people than any other administration, estimated to be some 1.5 million, the proposed legislation provides for even tougher border security and enforcement measures. It calls for the Department of Homeland Security to develop, finance and institute a revamped border security plan.

It also requires the building of a security fence in five years to achieve "100 percent border awareness" and at least 90 percent apprehension rates in so-called high-risk sectors of the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

No one will be eligible for amnesty. In fact this bill, if passed, will strike down

the de facto amnesty in existence under current U.S. law. Undocumented immigrants under the proposed law will be completely ineligible for any federal benefits, including health care.

Repeal of diversity programs

This proposed act of Congress also eliminates Family Reunification Visas

and the Diversity Visa Program that have provided avenues for legal immigration for many years.

The elimination of family reunification visas for siblings and married adult children will have an especially negative impact on people from Asia and Africa. Tuyet Le, the executive director of the Asian American Institute, says: "I think

we rely on our family network for social support." (wbez.org, April 17) This is in light of the fact that nearly 50 percent of people waiting for these visas from Asian countries are seeking admission through the family reunification program.

Over the last few years, Africans from the continent have made up 30 to 50

Continued on page 8

May Day comes out of the workers' struggle for the eight-hour day in the late 19th century.

The heroic Haymarket rebellion in Chicago inspired International Workers Day, which is now celebrated on almost every continent. In many countries, May Day is a workers' holiday — celebrated with marches, rallies and even strikes. But you won't hear about it in the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN and other mainstream media. You will hear about it in Workers World.

Today, the 1% — greedy Wall Street bosses, bankers and their servants, the Democrats and Republicans — are trying to take away the eight-hour day. They also are attacking Social Security, Medicare, public education and housing, reproductive justice and more, here and worldwide.

What do we need? People's Power! When do we need it? NOW!

Read and support Workers World newspaper — the paper that tells working-class truth and is in the streets to build the struggle:

- 🔥 against police terror & mass incarceration targeting people of color — Black, Latino/a, Indigenous, Arab, Muslim, Asian, & the undocumented;
- 🔥 to save & expand our schools, hospitals, post offices, libraries, public services
- 🔥 for a federal program to create jobs or income for all, with a vitally-needed pay increase for low-wage workers;
- 🔥 to oppose imperialist wars & occupations;
- 🔥 to save the environment & block destructive capitalist ventures like fracking;
- 🔥 to support the People's Power Assembly movement;
- 🔥 to fight for a socialist future to meet people's needs.

**SUPPORT WW —
a paper for
CLASS TRUTH**

about May Day

We're looking forward to the challenges ahead. But we need your help. We moved our office in the beginning of the year and are still recovering from the strain on our resources.

Contribute to Workers World because you care about the struggle to end capitalism. Give because you want to help build a workers' world.

You can become a member of the Supporter Program by contributing a lump sum of \$75, \$100, \$300 or more. Or send a monthly donation starting with as little as \$6, \$10 or \$25.

Send your check made out to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl., NY, NY 10011. Include your address, email and phone number and let us know if we can include you in our 2013 Supporter Program.

Entire region threatened as

Washington promotes war on Syria

By David Sole

The U.S. government is increasing its leading role in the war to topple the government of Syria. At the April 20 meeting of the 11 member “Friends of Syria” held in Istanbul, Turkey, Secretary of State John Kerry announced a doubling of U.S. aid to the Syrian rebels. An additional \$123 million in “nonlethal” aid will be provided the imperialist-backed military forces.

The U.S. diplomat also exposed Washington’s guiding hand in the entire war when he reported that “all aid from the ... Friends of Syria would now be channeled through the Turkey-based Free Syrian Army group.” (bbc.com, April 21)

Direct U.S. military intervention has grown with the deployment of “200 intelligence, logistic and operations specialists from the U.S. Army 1st Armored Division” to the northern Jordan border with Syria. (bbc.com, April 17)

The European imperialists, led by England and France, have “reached a preliminary agreement on [April 17] that would ease an embargo on oil exports from Syria ... part of an effort to enable opposition-held areas with petroleum resources to develop an economic base.” (New York Times, April 18)

Recruitment is being carried out across Europe for mercenaries to fight against the Syrian government. A report by the Center for the Study of Radicalization in London estimated that up to 600 Europeans have gone to fight in Syria in the past two years. This is in addition to thousands of others from other parts of the world. (New York Times, April 17)

The threat of direct U.S. and European military intervention also looms behind the continuing accusations that the Syrian armed forces are using chemical weapons. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon received letters from both the British and French imperialist governments making broad charges.

Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad, on the other hand, has asked the U.N. to look into charges that the Western-backed rebels have unleashed chemical weapons on several occasions.

The U.S. and European governments also cite the worsening condition of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from the fighting as a reason for further Western intervention. However, it is precisely the imperialist intervention that has escalated the situation inside Syria to this disastrous level.

The imperialists are increasingly frus-

trated with the failure of their puppet forces inside Syria to succeed in toppling the government politically or militarily. In the recent Syrian government military offensive, rebels have been pushed back in several key areas. A long blockade of roads to northern military bases was smashed.

Truckloads of supplies and loyal troops resupplied two bases in Idlib province starting on April 14. Rebel casualties may have reached 50 in this important battle. Fierce fighting in the east, west and south are also reported.

Iran is one of Syria’s strongest supporters and because its government takes positions independent of imperialism, it is another target of United States hostility. The U.S.-backed Israeli regime has made further threats against Iran, as could be seen in an April 19 New York Times article: “Israeli defense and military officials issued explicit warnings ... that Israel was prepared to carry out a lone military strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities.”

During his trip to Israel on April 21, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel underlined these reckless threats by saying that all options were still on the table, including a military strike against Iran, even as he publicly cautioned that such an act would be premature. With Israel receiving

over \$3 billion a year in U.S. aid — and for decades — no action of this magnitude can be imagined without U.S. approval, and now Hagel has made the U.S. role clear.

Confirming the U.S. dominant role over Israel’s military actions is a huge armaments deal now in its final stages. The U.S. Defense Department is to provide Israel — and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — the two countries that have given most direct military aid to the Syrian counterrevolutionaries — with advanced jets, missiles and other hardware in the amount of \$10 billion.

This latest deal follows the sale of \$29 billion worth of F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia in 2010. Given the U.S. go-ahead, these weapons of mass destruction threaten both Syria and Iran.

President Bashar al-Assad of Syria took stock of the developing situation in an address to his nation on the anniversary of the 1946 end of the French occupation of his country. He refused to surrender, encouraging the Syrian people to continue the war for independence. The president denounced the colonial Western powers who “have never accepted the idea of other nations having their independence. They want those nations to submit to them.” (weekllystandard.com, April 18) □

Despite brutal attack by guards

Guantánamo hunger strike spreads

By Gene Clancy

In a paroxysm of vicious brutality, the U.S. government and military have brutally attacked prisoners at the U.S. concentration camp at Guantánamo Bay in an attempt to end their hunger strike.

The military admits that over half the prison population is on hunger strike. The real figure could be many more.

Army Lt. Col. Samuel House said that 16 of the 84 prisoners on strike are being force-fed and five have been hospitalized.

One week after a violent raid by the guards on prisoners in which “sub-lethal” force was used, the hunger strike was

steadily growing. On April 16, the number of strikers was 45. Three days later, 63 more prisoners had joined the struggle. (ABC News, April 21)

Prisoners have been on a hunger strike since early February to protest inhuman conditions and their indefinite confinement. Most have not even been formally charged, yet they have been held for years.

Forced feeding of prisoners on a hunger strike is a violation of international law. According to the Declaration of Tokyo, adopted in October 1975 during the 29th General Assembly of the World Medical Association, forced feeding is

considered torture and thus “contrary to the laws of humanity.” According to the declaration, “Where a prisoner refuses nourishment and is considered by the physician as capable of forming an unimpaired and rational judgment concerning the consequences of such a voluntary refusal of nourishment, he or she shall not be fed forcibly.” (American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, October 2007)

The military admits the purpose of the raid, in which a number of prisoners were injured, was to specifically deny them their right to protest.

“That is why we broke up the communal and put them in single-cell operations,” said a “cultural advisor” and spokesperson for the military. “They wanted to die out of hunger and thirst behind covered cameras.” (New York Times, April 19)

Whether or not that was the real reason for the raid, the fact remains that the prisoners at Guantánamo are being abused. Refusing to take food is a long established form of protest. It has been used by such varied groups as women seeking the vote, nationalist movements such as those led by Gandhi in India and the Irish Republican Army, and the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. Most recently, Dick Gregory has begun a hunger strike on behalf of imprisoned attorney Lynne Stewart, who has been unjustly imprisoned for defending the civil and legal rights of her Muslim client.

On April 12, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, condemned the use of forced feeding of the prisoners at Guantánamo.

Maurer further criticized the U.S. over its procedures at Guantánamo, including improper reviews of prisoners’ cases and delays in repatriating those who were no longer considered a “security risk.”

“The issue of Guantánamo is political-ly blocked in this country,” said Maurer,

who then urged President Barack Obama to have his administration “put all their energy” into resolving the issue. (Press TV, April 12) But the administration has done nothing.

On April 11, rights activists staged wide-scale protests in more than 26 cities and 19 states across the U.S. to mark the Day of Action to Close Guantánamo and End Indefinite Detention. (Press TV, April 12)

Washington has shown little regard for international law, or even its own laws. The concentration camp at Guantánamo was chosen precisely because it was located on territory that the Bush administration believed was beyond the jurisdiction of the courts. Although a struggle by progressives around the world later forced the government to concede some legal rights to the detainees, the military and CIA have sought to limit them. Before 2008, the camp administration refused to admit even the existence of the infamous maximum-security Camp 7 inside Guantánamo, which was run by the CIA. (China Daily, Feb. 7, 2008) The press is still denied access to this facility, the site of numerous incidents of “waterboarding” and other tortures.

Moreover, this notorious concentration camp is located illegally on Cuban property. Following the terms of a 1903 treaty imposed on Cuba, the U.S. every year proffers a check for “renting” the land where the U.S. naval base is located. Every year since the revolution, the Cuban government has refused to accept it.

Opponents of the Cuban revolution claim there is no “freedom” in Cuba. But they say nothing about the one prison inside Cuban territory run by the U.S., where dozens are held illegally, with no charges, where high rates of suicide and death are the norm, torture is practiced and even a peaceful hunger strike is punished with brutal force. □

Immigrant groups say

Bill hurts Africans & Asians

Continued from page 7

percent of people entering the country through the Diversity Visa Program. Alie Kabba, executive director of the United African Organization, pointed out, “This program was one of the only few options that Africans have to come to the U.S. as immigrants. The elimination of the diversity program is reversing the clock in terms of African migration to the U.S. and it also undermines one of the seminal achievements of the Civil Rights Movement, which was the democratization of the U.S. immigration system to ensure that there was indeed a diverse stream of immigrants coming to the U.S.”

In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act was passed by Congress at the height of the mass struggles of African-American people and their allies in the South and throughout the U.S. The

act was very significant because it broke down the strict quota policies in effect since the 1920s that largely excluded Asians and Africans from entering the country and gave preference to Northern and Western Europeans.

The Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights also raised concerns about the proposed bill. Executive Director Jerry Clarito stressed that the immigration system “should not be just using immigrants as a tool for economic development.” He pointed out that the new legislation redirects the thrust of immigration law from a family-based orientation to the imperatives of U.S. industry. “The immigration system should be really fair and humane. It’s not about just skills,” Clarito said. “Otherwise, we are creating an elitist form of immigration.”

All unattributed quotes are from *wbez.org*, April 17.

Venezuela's new president Nicolás Maduro seeks to deepen revolution

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

A wonderful civilian-military parade capped the inauguration of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela on April 19. Maduro took the oath of office in the National Assembly as constitutional president for the period 2013 to 2019.

Some 61 international delegations were present, including many heads of state, not only from Latin America and the Caribbean but from as far away as Iran and the Sahrawi Republic. Among them was Riad Malki, chancellor of Palestine, who two days earlier was in the country for the founding of the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Palestinian People.

April 19 was a very significant day: the 203rd anniversary of the proclamation of Venezuela's independence.

The dynamic, colorful and diverse parade also honored the life of Supreme Commander Hugo Chávez. Its participants reflected the current situation in Venezuela: the armed forces together with the people, who since the election have been acting together to defend the Bolivarian Revolution from a rightist coup attempt by the pro-imperialist oligarchy, which backed the losing candidate, Henrique Capriles.

Leading the march were popular contingents and delegations from the different social "missions," led by Indigenous peoples. They were followed by various divisions of the Bolivarian Armed Forces, including a contingent of women. During the ceremony, the armed forces handed over command to President Maduro.

The parade ended with a display of the latest weaponry purchased by Venezuela for its defense. It was a powerful message, not only to the opposition but to U.S. imperialism: Venezuela depends not only on its armed forces for defense, but also on its people.

Gov't in the streets, a revolution in the Revolution

During his inauguration speech, President Maduro outlined his political agenda: government in the streets, a revolution within the revolution, socialist efficiency. If the imperialists were looking for conciliatory words, they instead found a speech that called for deepening the revolution on the path to socialism, with neither illusion nor bourgeois aspiration.

"My roots are in the working class [and are] rebellious. I also come from the neighborhoods," said Maduro. He traced plans to end the corruption that has seeped into some levels of government, to totally eradicate poverty, to improve the economy and perfect all "missions" — the many state-sponsored programs dealing with education, health, housing and nutrition. He also addressed ending the sabotage of the electrical system by bringing it under National Security.

"The Revolution of Socialist Efficiency," he said, would combat bureaucracy, fight corruption and apathy.

"Forward to the Great Revolution of the People's Power for the construction of the socialist way of life. ... We are convinced that only socialism can overcome inequalities.

"Only with the people can we do it. In socialism, in equality, fellowship, it is possible to live in humanity, to live well. That is why I call for the revolution of the revolution. We will go forward energetically, to do whatever needs to be done and to correct what needs to be corrected."

Two days later he named his new cabinet, which will have as its priority an

assessment of the entire system at the neighborhood and street level. Its task is to establish direct communication with the people in order to put into motion the Homeland Plan, which was designed by Chávez as his "testament" to deepen the revolution.

Building people's power

In subsequent articles we will examine in greater detail the cabinet and its functions. Chávez laid out its functions in his famous "Golpe de Timón" (Change of Course) speech at an important Council of Ministers' meeting on the new cycle of the Bolivarian Revolution last Oct. 20.

During that meeting, Chávez urged his cabinet to conduct a profound self-criticism to correct errors so as to take on the difficult task of building socialism in a country where the oligarchy is present and exploits the broad freedoms they have to try to undermine people's power.

Chávez set the standard of performance expected from the cabinet. He strongly emphasized the lack of development of communes, which President Maduro will now address as a fundamental aspect of his program.

Communes, as Venezuelan law decrees, are "a local entity where citizens in the exercise of the Peoples' Power, exercise full sovereignty and develop active participation through forms of self-government for the building of a communal state under the framework of a democratic and social state of law and justice." (www.me.gov.ve)

The Bolivarian Revolution faces many challenges, including attempts at destabilization internally by the oligarchy and externally by U.S. imperialism. However, it seems that the new president's call to the people in the streets, encouraging collective leadership and the active and organized participation of the people in deepening the revolution on the road toward socialism, is going in the right direction.

Meanwhile, it remains to the Venezuelan revolutionaries to draw from recent events the lessons that sharpen the process of transition to socialism, a task bequeathed by Chávez and seconded by the majority of the people. Revolutionaries worldwide, especially in the U.S., which is the source of the major global terrorist threat, will have to defend this process that is crucial for us all. □

Groups demand U.S. recognize Venezuela gov't

By Cheryl LaBash

U.S.-based organizations swiftly denounced U.S. intervention against the election of President Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela and mobilized. Weekend actions in New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and San Francisco demanded that the U.S. recognize the new Maduro government and end its subversion and destabilization of the Bolivarian Revolution. Violent attacks on health clinics and Cuban doctors working in Venezuela and murders of Maduro supporters were also condemned.

Supporting Maduro's inauguration on April 19, defenders of Venezuelan sovereignty in New York City chanted outside the Venezuelan Consulate, "Chavez, presente! Maduro presidente!" The combined forces of the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian

Supporters of President Maduro at Venezuelan Consulate in New York.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO



Circle, International Action Center, HondurasUSAResistencia, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, July 26 Coalition, Casa de las Americas, FMLN, La Peña del Bronx, May 1st Coalition, Fuerza de la Revolucion, People's Power Assembly, Alianza Paiz de Ecuador, People's Power Movement, International Concerned Friends & Family of Mumia,

ProLibertad and the Popular Education Project to Free the Cuban 5 outnumbered the right wing 30-to-1. They were able to push back the rightists who had been harassing Bolivarian representatives.

Also on April 19, the International Action Center issued a bilingual online petition.

Continued on page 10

GUATEMALA

Right-wing pressure halts genocide trial

By Chris Fry

Shock and outrage erupted in a courtroom in Guatemala City on April 18 as a recused "appeals" judge suspended the genocide trial of Efraín Ríos Montt. The former general had come to power through a military coup in 1982. He and his head of intelligence, Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez, were finally charged with mass murders that took place during the dictatorship and went on trial a year ago.

However, Judge Carol Patricia Flores has now vacated all the proceedings since the beginning of the trial. In the courtroom, relatives of Ríos Montt's victims wept and shouted that Flores was "a sold-out judge." (*Guardian*, April 19)

Ríos Montt was accused of overseeing the deaths of 1,771 Indigenous Mayan Ixil during his bloody 17-month rule. The

general was one of the worst of a long line of U.S.-supported Guatemalan dictators who have killed up to 200,000 Guatemalans since the early 1960s, mostly Indigenous people, in order to suppress a guerrilla struggle there.

However, dozens of heroic witnesses came forward to testify about the terrible atrocities committed by the CIA-directed Guatemalan military during the Ríos Montt regime.

"I saw them kill an old woman and officers cut off her head," said Julio Velasco Raymundo, 40, who witnessed one massacre as a child. "Those officers played with the old woman's head like it was a soccer ball." (*Huffington Post*, April 5)

Just two weeks earlier Hugo Reyes, a soldier who had been a mechanic in the military during the Ríos Montt regime, testified that the current Guatemalan

president, Otto Pérez Molina, then a major, had ordered soldiers to burn and pillage villages. "The soldiers, on orders from Major 'Tito Arias,' better known as Otto Pérez Molina, coordinated the burning and looting, in order to later execute people," Reyes told the court by video link.

Investigative journalist Allan Nairn was set to testify at the trial about Gen. Pérez Molina's participation in massacres while he was on the CIA payroll. Nairn states that it was intimidation from Molina and the Guatemalan oligarchy and military, as well as their U.S. big-business masters, that no doubt forced the suspension of the Ríos Montt trial.

The trial suspension has caused an international hue and cry. "This is a blow to the numerous victims of the atrocities committed during Guatemala's civil war, who have been waiting for more than

30 years for justice to be done," Martin Nesirky, spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, said on April 19. (un.org/sg/spokesperson)

Despite this attack on justice, the brave people of Guatemala are not backing down. On April 20, the three judges who had been conducting the Ríos Montt trial announced that it would continue despite Judge Flores' ruling. They and the trial prosecutors have appealed to the country's Constitutional Court to reverse the Flores ruling. This prompted a thunderous ovation from the crowd in the courtroom, with shouts of "Justice! Justice!" (*LA Times*, April 19)

The many atrocities described at the Ríos Montt trial can also be laid at the doorstep of the U.S. government, corporations, the Pentagon and, of course, the CIA. They too should face people's justice for their crimes around the world. □

WORKERS WORLD
 editorial

A tale of two cities' explosions

In one week, not one but two U.S. cities were rocked by deadly explosions.

On April 15, bombs at the Boston Marathon killed three people and injured 260. An area with over one million people was put in a 24-hour lockdown by a combined force of over 9,000 police, FBI and Department of Homeland Security officers.

Workers went without pay or services. Homes were raided without warrants. Media racism was rampant. In the end, one alleged bomber was killed and another, taken into custody, was denied basic Miranda rights to remain silent or have an attorney present.

Just two days later, an explosion at the Adair Grain and West Fertilizer Co. obliterated the small town of West in east central Texas, population 2,800. At least 14 people were killed, over 200 injured and 150 buildings, including schools and a hospital, damaged or destroyed.

This nonunion plant was last inspected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 15 years ago. In 2006, the EPA leveled a \$2,300 fine — mere pin money — for serious safety violations. In 2012, the company reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services that it was storing 540,000 pounds of highly explosive ammonium nitrate — 1,350 times the threshold amount for regulation under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Act — yet no inspections were done by the agency responsible, the Department of Homeland Security.

Needless to say, DHS did not raid the home of the plant's owner, Donald Adair, or even attempt to arrest him, despite the fact that his factory stored chemical fertilizer equivalent to 100 times the amount used in the Oklahoma City bomb attack on April 19, 1995.

Police operations against the suspects in the Boston bombing received 24/7 coverage by every national corporate media outlet. This coverage continues even since the militarized lockdown was lifted. The overriding theme is that increased policing is "here to stay — get used to it."

Meanwhile, the deaths and destruction in Texas have barely been mentioned — it was "just another accident."

Was it coincidental that emergency management personnel in the Boston area were using the Marathon to rehearse a complex scenario, including a 24-hour crisis situation like the one that actually

unfolded? Were the "shelter-in-place" order, described as "unprecedented," and the police siege of an entire community part of this plan?

It turns out that Boston is one of four U.S. cities where similar 24-hour crisis situations have been played out through citywide disaster simulations funded by billions of dollars from Homeland Security. Over the last 24 months, two massive, 24-hour worst-case scenario simulations, eerily comparable to the situation in Watertown, Mass., were carried out in Boston under the security consulting Cytel Group's Urban Shield program. Over the same period, the DHS has reportedly purchased 7,000 fully automated assault weapons; 2,700 armored personnel carriers; and massive rounds of ammunition — enough to conduct full-scale war for 20 plus years.

However, only 40 of the department's 240,000 people on staff are assigned to inspect the 4,000 factories, like the one in Texas, that store dangerous chemicals. And with 8 million workplaces in the U.S. and just 2,200 workers, OSHA's annual budget of \$5.5 million only covers inspecting each plant once every 129 years. Sequestration has further cut funding for 33 full-time OSHA staff and will reduce 10 regional offices to seven.

No national disaster preparedness plan exists to protect workers' safety.

On average, over 4,500 workers are killed in industrial accidents and nearly 4 million are injured every year in the United States. The AFL-CIO's annual Workers Memorial Day on April 28 will raise consciousness on this slaughter. Yet not one capitalist media outlet has suggested that a serious change is needed in the government's oversight policies to protect workers.

Long-term neglect of worker safety, massive speed-ups and superexploitation of workers are sure to fuel unrest among the working class and oppressed, who also face record levels of unemployment, underemployment and poverty. The capitalists know that the crisis wrought by their system is deepening and that they must prepare for the inevitable.

The government's crisis management is not geared to protect workers. Rather, it is receiving so much funding in order to shelter corporations from the justifiable outrage of workers and oppressed when they inevitably rise up. □

Groups demand U.S. recognize Venezuela gov't

Continued from page 9

tion to the Obama administration and the media demanding recognition of President Maduro and opposing the right-wing coup threat. Sign on at iacenter.org.

An e-letter to Secretary of State John Kerry signed by 47 U.S. and international organizations also demanded that the U.S. recognize the Venezuelan elections. Kerry had just reiterated U.S. imperialism's 1823 Monroe Doctrine view of Latin America as the "backyard of the United States," negating its sovereignty. School of the Americas Watch also initiated an online petition to Kerry.

On April 18, the United Electrical Workers' union faxed a letter to Ker-

ry. The UE's international director was among 130 people from the U.S. who monitored the April 14 election. She also observed the October election of now-deceased President Hugo Chávez.

The letter, signed by the three-officer union leadership, stated: "The U.S.' call for a full recount fails to recognize the integrity of the Venezuelan electoral system and only serves to promote conflict and to further undermine the credibility of the United States. Given the sordid history of the United States in undermining democracy in Latin America, the wisest course would be to follow the lead of Latin American governments that are demonstrating broad regional support for Venezuela's democratic institutions." □

NEW YORK

Protest says 'No drones!'



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

By Alex Renner
New York

On April 20, protesters in New York marched through the streets in opposition to the ways in which the U.S. imperialist agenda affects all working people. Key slogans were "No drones in NYC!" and "Healthcare not warfare!"

The day's protest began with a rally at Union Square where speakers captured public attention, voicing their outrage at the city's handover of public land to private interests and closing hospitals for the purpose of weapons' development.

On Dec. 19, 2011, billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that Cornell University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, in a joint venture, had won a bid for the development of a campus dedicated to engineering and technology research on Roosevelt Island's southern end. This location currently houses the Goldwater specialty hospital, which has served city residents suffering from chronic illnesses since 1939.

Taxpayers will "donate" \$300 million in land and \$100 million in cash for the development of this research campus — that is, to the imperialist war machine.

Technion is one of the world's leading developers of drone technology. Technion faculty members have also published reports promoting the illegal displacement of Palestinians for the development of Israeli settler communities.

At the rally, speakers told of how U.S. imperialism touches the lives of working people on a global scale, with the military wielding its fist in subjugating peoples and exploiting resources in pursuit of profits. People on the street expressed solidarity with the Guantanamo inmates now on hunger strike.

Activists voiced outrage at the U.S.'s aggressive posture toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and criticized U.S. hostility toward new Chavista President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela.

Activists highlighted how oppression in the U.S. is maintained today with an increasingly militarized police force, whose modus operandi is to racially profile and harass people of color under the draconian stop-and-frisk policy.

The march, called by the International Action Center and the United National Anti-war Coalition, was supported by a diverse group of organizations. □

DETROIT

Youth rally for Korea



WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE

Red Youth in Detroit called a rally in solidarity with the Korean people on April 20. They said that in light of the recent escalation of tensions on the peninsula, their message to the imperialists was "U.S. hands off Korea!" They explained that the U.S. alone is responsible for the crisis developing in the region, and the first step for any lasting peace is for Washington to stop its aggressive posturing and preparation for a destructive war.

— Report by Thomas Michalak

BOSTON

What a police state looks like

Continued from page 3

was reported so definitely: that their apparent flight on April 19 and subsequent police chase, shortly after the President's departure, began with their robbery at gunpoint of a 7-Eleven store in Central Square, Cambridge. Every media had reported that surveillance photos at the cash register proved it. As of April 22, it turns out that they had stopped for gas and candy bars and no robbery occurred there that night.

It also turns out — though you can no longer find it in media accounts — that authorities had photos of the alleged sus-

pects well before President Obama landed the morning of April 18. According to live reports during the "manhunt," the FBI tactically decided not to publicize the photos and initiate the Boston military lockdown until after the president's speech.

The lead Boston Globe editorial on April 20 concluded: "The odds of more terror attacks are greater than the odds of losing our essential freedoms. This week has shown that we should tighten our security and loosen our concerns about minor limitations on our freedom of movement."

Despite the blitz of pressure to accept this, many Bostonians disagree. □

MUNDO OBRERO

Reforma inmigratoria al descubierto!

Solo luchando habrá legalización

Continúa de página 12

este país. No importaba lo que el cartel que llevaban dijera o la bandera que agitaban, la legalización era lo que motivó el movimiento.

Eso no es lo que el S. 744 es. El proyecto de ley hará que la legalización sea tan cara y que el proceso dure tanto tiempo, que la gran mayoría de los/as más de 11 millones de indocumentados/as no se beneficiará.

En cambio, sigue reflejando los intereses de la clase dominante y tiene la intención de controlar los salarios y los/as trabajadores/as. En lugar de que el Congreso trabaje para proporcionar educación a los/as jóvenes trabajadores/as que ya están aquí, para que puedan obtener empleos bien remunerados, el proyecto de ley quiere traer a trabajadores/as calificados/as del exterior. Esto dará lugar a una masiva "fuga de cerebros" de los países bajo la bota del imperialismo.

El mensaje de la S.744 a los/as jóvenes trabajadores/as es: "McDonalds es el único camino".

La única respuesta es la de organizar y luchar, no sólo en este país sino con la solidaridad transfronteriza.

Oposición de los grupos de inmigrantes

A pesar de que la Ganga de los 8, así como Washington y el liderazgo sindical establecido digan que todos los grupos de derechos de los inmigrantes y todo el sector "sindical" están detrás del proyecto de ley, no es cierto.

La respuesta de muchos grupos de base importantes, como Derechos Humanos en Arizona, ha sido de crítica. La Red Nacional de Organización de Jornaleros con sede en California, ha emitido importantes puntos de debate sobre el proyecto de ley. La Campaña de la Dignidad del Área de la Bahía ha establecido un contraproyecto de ley que plantea la abolición de la política exterior de Estados Unidos que origina tanta migración forzada.

En Nueva York, la Coalición 1º de Mayo, la Alianza del Poder Migrante, Familias por la Libertad, Drum y otras se han opuesto al proyecto de ley y algunas ya han llevado a cabo acciones frente a la oficina del senador Schumer.

Estas son algunas de las críticas al proyecto de ley:

- La Organización Africana Unida señala que elimina el "programa de diversidad" que emite 55.000 visas a inmigrantes de países sub representados en los EE.UU. En el pasado, los/as africanos/as componían entre el 30 y el 50 por ciento de quienes recibían estas visas.
- Derechos Humanos dice: "La parte más importante de este proyecto de ley ... es la dramática escalada de un entorno de 'zona de guerra', sobre todo a lo largo de las regiones fronterizas, que viene a un costo obscuro (unos 5,5 mil millones dólares adicionales a los \$18 mil millones gastados el año pasado)".
- Inmigración Igualitaria señala que la S. 744 omite la Ley Uniendo Familias Americanas, que reconoce a las familias LGBT. El Centro Nacional para la Igualdad Transgénero escribe que de los más de 11 millones de indocumentados/as, más de 260.000 son LGBT y más de 20.000 son transgénero.

Dos de las partes más siniestras y controvertidas del proyecto de ley son sobre los programas de trabajadores/as huéspedes y de visas cualificados, que afectan sobre todo a los/as trabajadores/as agrícolas y a los/as trabajadores/as de la industria de alta tecnología.

El Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB) dice que "el Programa de Trabajadores Huéspedes pondría a los /as trabajadores/as agrícolas en una posición vulnerable". A Rosalinda Guillén, de un grupo de trabajadores/as agrícolas del estado de Washington, le preocupa que una vez los/as trabajadores/as agrícolas indocumentados/as obtengan una personería jurídica, se en-

frentarán a una competencia con los/as trabajadores/as huéspedes.

El periodista David Bacon escribe: "Incluso más maquinaciones sobre el abastecimiento directo de mano de obra serán parte del proyecto de ley del Senado. Actualmente, los tres principales programas oficiales de visa para trabajadores/as huéspedes, H1B, H2A y H2B, permiten a los empleadores contratar a cerca de 250.000 trabajadores/as [por año]. ... La AFL-CIO y la Cámara de Comercio de EE.UU. anunció un acuerdo sobre otro programa de este tipo, llamado la visa W. Esto permitiría a los empleadores contratar trabajadores/as para cubrir la escasez de mano de obra documentada por un nuevo comisionado federal". (Truthout, 17 de abril)

Según Bacon, "Hacer una oferta sobre un nuevo programa de trabajadores temporales es un medio para ganarse a los republicanos ... el presidente Larry Cohen de Trabajadores de Comunicaciones de América advirtió, 'CWA supervisará los cambios propuestos a los programas de visa como la visa H-1B, que son buscados por las empresas, pero han costado decenas de miles de puestos de trabajo a técnicos y otros trabajadores estadounidenses'".

En un momento de tan alto desempleo, ¿cómo puede justificarse la S. 744?

Legalización se puede ganar mediante lucha

El movimiento pro derechos de inmigrantes y trabajadores/as se encuentra en un punto crucial.

Puede estar de acuerdo con Washington y la opinión dominante y aceptar la S.744 calladamente, aunque seguramente con una gran tristeza y decepción. O podría iniciar la siguiente fase del movimiento.

Los/as indocumentados/as se han ganado la legalización ya cientos de veces. La explotación y el racismo deben ser ilegales, no los/as trabajadores/as. Todo/a trabajador/a del mundo tiene derecho a un salario digno y a salud y educación

adecuadas. Esto no es ni un sueño ni una consigna ultraizquierda. Esto es una realidad que Washington y Wall Street deben a los/as trabajadores/as que les hicieron tan ricos.

Los problemas y ataques masivos exigen una lucha militante masiva. ¿No debería ser la siguiente fase de la lucha una en la que cada comunidad, cada nacionalidad, cada organización, cada seccional de los sindicatos, cada barrio, cada región del país, no opere por sí sola, sino que se une en un movimiento masivo para construir el tipo de respuesta nacional a la S. 744 que se necesita desesperadamente?

¿No es hora de vincular la lucha contra las deportaciones en masa a la lucha contra la encarcelación en masa? ¿Para vincular la lucha por la educación, la salud, el empleo y contra la guerra con la lucha por la legalización?

¿No es hora de ir a la ofensiva en las mejores tradiciones del movimiento obrero y progresista, cuando las sentadas, las ocupaciones y las huelgas estaban a la orden del día? Estas luchas, que no eran descabelladas o de ultra-izquierda, ganaron concesiones reales de los patronos, los banqueros y los políticos.

Será necesaria la educación política y la profundización de las raíces entre la clase obrera. Pero se puede hacer.

No importa lo que esté haciendo el Congreso. Lo que importa es quién está en las calles luchando, ocupando y en huelga por nuestros derechos.

Este puede ser un camino recto hacia la victoria para todos/as los/as trabajadores/as.

Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, John Brown, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Lolita Lebrón, y todos/as los/as que en el siglo 19 lucharon y murieron en la lucha que llevó al Primero de Mayo pudieron haber escuchado que no se podía hacer. Ellos/as demostraron que sí se podía hacer. Así que nosotros/as también podemos.

Para ver más respuestas a la ley, visite www.may1.info □

El nuevo Presidente venezolano busca profundizar la Revolución

Continúa de página 12

estableciendo, ¡yo llamo a la Gran Revolución de la Democracia!

¡A la Gran Revolución del Poder Popular para la construcción del modo de vida socialista! ¡El modo de vida socialista! Es nuestro Proyecto. Nosotros estamos convencidos que solo en Socialismo es posible superar las desigualdades". Yo llamo a una Revolución del Poder Popular para que se haga la construcción del modo de vida socialista. ¡Solo con el pueblo se puede!

¡Sin el pueblo no se puede! Demostrar como en socialismo, en igualdad, en hermandad, es posible vivir en humanidad, vivir viviendo. ¡Por eso yo llamo a la revolución de la revolución! Vamos aquí con fuerza, a hacer todo lo que hay que hacer, para rectificar lo que haya que rectificar".

Dos días más tarde procedió a nombrar su nuevo gabinete que tendrá como prioridad una evaluación de todo el sistema a nivel de barrios, de calle. Con la tarea de establecer una comunicación directa

con el pueblo para poder poner a caminar el Plan de la Patria, el plan diseñado por Chávez, su "testamento" para la profundización de la revolución.

Construyendo el Poder Popular

En sucesivos artículos se entrará en más detalles del gabinete y sus funciones, dado que requiere un artículo extenso y amerita un análisis aparte. Sin embargo, basta decir que su funcionamiento ya venía dado por Chávez en el famoso "Golpe de Timón", el importante consejo de ministros/as del nuevo ciclo de la Revolución Bolivariana del pasado 20 de octubre luego de la victoria de Chávez en las elecciones presidenciales del 7 de octubre.

Durante esa reunión, Chávez urgió a su gabinete a una profunda autocrítica para corregir los errores y poder asumir la difícil tarea de construir el socialismo en un país donde la oligarquía está presente, disfrutando de amplias libertades que tratan de socavar el poder popular.

Temas como "El nuevo ciclo de la tran-

sición", "La democracia socialista del siglo XXI", "Autocrítica para rectificar", "El socialismo no se decreta", "Debemos injertar la propiedad social, el espíritu socialista", "El objetivo es el pueblo", "Mayor eficiencia para mejores resultados" y el "Reforzamiento del Sistema Nacional de Medios Públicos", dan una idea de las cruciales cuestiones discutidas. En él, se marcan las pautas de la actuación esperada del gabinete ministerial. Dentro de esa reunión, un punto que Chávez hizo gran hincapié fue la falta de desarrollo de las comunas, lo que ahora el presidente Maduro deberá tener como una arista fundamental.

Las Comunas, según la Ley Orgánica venezolana que las decreta, son una "entidad local donde los ciudadanos y ciudadanas en el ejercicio del Poder Popular, ejercen el pleno derecho de la soberanía y desarrollan la participación protagónica mediante formas de autogobierno para la edificación del estado comunal, en el marco del Estado democrático y social

de derecho y de justicia". (<http://www.me.gob.ve>)

Los retos de la Revolución Bolivariana son muchos, incluyendo los intentos de desestabilización internos de la oligarquía y externos del imperialismo estadounidense. Sin embargo, tal parece que los lineamientos del nuevo Presidente, al convocar al pueblo en la calle, estimular la dirección colectiva y la participación activa y organizada del pueblo en la profundización de la Revolución en camino hacia el socialismo, van en la dirección correcta.

Mientras tanto, queda a los y las revolucionarias de Venezuela utilizar los recientes eventos como lecciones que agudicen el proceso de transición al socialismo, tarea dejada por Chávez y secundada por gran parte del pueblo. Pero a los y las revolucionarias a nivel mundial, sobre todo en los EE.UU., de donde proviene la mayor amenaza terrorista a nivel global, nos toca defender ese proceso que es de crucial importancia para todos/as. □

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países unios!

Reforma inmigratoria al descubierto! Solo luchando habrá legalización

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

Mientras Washington revela su legislación tan esperada sobre la llamada "reforma migratoria", el tema de la estrategia y la táctica de la lucha por los derechos de los/as inmigrantes y de los/as trabajadores/as es cada vez más importante.

La lucha por los derechos de la clase obrera contra la clase dominante es un tema importantísimo. Por lo que los/as trabajadores/as y los/as oprimidos/as deben luchar, y lo que pueden ganar en el marco del sistema capitalista, requiere un gran análisis reflexivo y estratégico. La lucha por los derechos de los/as inmigrantes no es una excepción.

La nueva legislación parece ser lo contrario de lo que el movimiento ha estado luchando, no sólo en los últimos tiempos, sino históricamente.

El proyecto de ley de 844 páginas ahora ante el Senado se llama Ley de seguridad fronteriza, oportunidad económica y modernización inmigratoria. Conocida como la S. 744, está patrocinada por un grupo bipartidista de ocho senadores y supuestamente tenía la aportación de muchos grupos sindicales y de derechos

de inmigrantes. Pero también ha tenido la influencia de muchas empresas, entre ellas Coca-Cola, Google, Facebook, y, sin duda, de la agroindustria.

Sus autores congresistas incluyen algunos de los políticos más anti-inmigrantes, como el senador John McCain (R) de Arizona, zona cero para el racismo y la represión. Incluye al senador Charles Schumer (D) de Nueva York, quien ha sido expuesto por recibir millones de dólares de la industria de las prisiones. E incluye al senador Marc Rubio (R) de la Florida, un cubano-americano conservador y hostil a la Revolución Cubana.

Este proyecto de ley es un mal presagio para los/as trabajadores/as inmigrantes - y para todos/as los/as trabajadores/as.

El camino es largo, cruel y tortuoso

Hace siete años, como resultado de un abyecto proyecto de ley anti-inmigrante patrocinado por el congresista Jim Sensenbrenner de Wisconsin, millones de trabajadores/as inmigrantes, en su mayoría indocumentados/as, se levantaron para poner en marcha el actual movimiento por los derechos civiles y laborales alrededor de los derechos de los/as inmigrantes.

Ha tenido alzas y bajas, pero este movimiento sigue siendo fuerte. En 2006 ayudó a revivir el Primero de Mayo en este país.

Cientos de millones de trabajadores/as por todo el mundo se han manifestado siempre por sus intereses el 1º de Mayo, pero aquí había sido reemplazado por el indolente Día del Trabajo en septiembre, que carecía de fortaleza. El Día del Trabajo lamentablemente ha reflejado las opiniones de una dirigencia sindical que se acomodó al programa del Partido Demócrata en lugar de luchar de forma independiente por los derechos de los/as trabajadores/as. La actitud era: "Lo siento, pero esto es todo lo que podemos conseguir".

Sin embargo, los/as trabajadores/as de este país enfrentan una de las mayores crisis económicas y sociales de nuestro tiempo. El sistema capitalista, después de haber llegado a un callejón sin salida, está trayendo el infierno a la gente de aquí y de todo el mundo. Hay un ataque frontal contra la clase trabajadora, guerras desenfrenadas y miseria al mismo tiempo en que la clase dominante, el 1%, se ha hecho obscuramente rica.

Un nuevo reporte indica que casi la

mitad de la población de la ciudad de Nueva York es pobre o casi pobre. (New York Times, 21 de abril) ¡Cerca de la mitad de la ciudad!

Sin embargo, el alcalde Michael Bloomberg es la séptima persona más rica del país, con un patrimonio neto de \$27 mil millones. (Forbes, 11 de marzo)

Ganga de los 8 bloquea ruta a la legalización

El grupo bipartidista en el Congreso, conocido como la "Ganga de los 8", emitió la S. 744 el 17 de abril. El proyecto de ley, que fue trabajado mayormente a puertas cerradas, es extenso sobre política de inmigración. Pero la única cosa por la cual los/as trabajadores/as y sus defensores han marchado desde 2006 - la legalización - no se aborda seriamente.

Los/as trabajadores/as salieron de las sombras en gran número, celebraron las manifestaciones más grandes vistas en algunas ciudades, presionaron, se sentaron y fueron arrestados/as y llevados/as a centros de detención - todo por el derecho a vivir y trabajar legalmente en

Continúa página 11

El nuevo Presidente venezolano busca profundizar la Revolución

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Un bello desfile cívico-militar coronó los eventos del viernes 19 de abril en Venezuela. Ese día, Nicolás Maduro Moros tomó oficialmente el mando de la nación venezolana, juramentándose como Presidente Constitucional para el período 2013-2019 en la Asamblea Nacional con la asistencia de 61 delegaciones internacionales y la presencia de muchos presidentes, no sólo de América Latina y el Caribe, sino también de países tan lejanos como Irán y la República Saharaui, incluyendo al Canciller de Palestina quien se encontraba en el país para la instalación dos días antes del Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo Palestino.

El 19 era un día muy significativo por ser el 203 aniversario del Día de la Proclamación de la Independencia del país.



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, Fernando González Llort, Ramón Labañino Salazar, and René González Sehwert.



¡Chávez presente! ¡Maduro, presidente!

El dinámico, colorido y diverso desfile también homenajeó al Comandante Supremo, Hugo Chávez. Fue una representación de la realidad actual del país: las Fuerzas Armadas junto al pueblo, quienes en esos días actuaban conjuntamente para defender la Revolución Bolivariana de los intentos de golpe derechista del sector oligárquico y pro imperialista, representado por el candidato perdedor, Henrique Capriles.

Primero marchó en contingentes el pueblo y las delegaciones de las diferentes misiones, encabezado por los pueblos originarios. Le seguían las Fuerzas Armadas Bolivarianas con sus diferentes divisiones, incluyendo un contingente de mujeres. Durante el acto, las FFAA le entregaron su jefatura al presidente Maduro.

El desfile concluyó con la exhibición de

los últimos armamentos con tecnología de punta adquiridos por Venezuela para su defensa. Aparte de la gran belleza del evento, era un poderoso mensaje no sólo para la oposición, sino para el imperio: Venezuela cuenta con una defensa no sólo del estado a través de sus fuerzas armadas, sino también de su pueblo.

Gobierno en la calle, la revolución de la revolución

Durante su discurso de juramentación, el presidente Maduro delineó la que será la agenda política de su administración: el gobierno en la calle, una revolución dentro de la revolución, la eficiencia socialista. Si acaso los imperialistas esperaban palabras conciliadoras, se encontraron con un discurso que llama a la profundización de la revolución en el camino a

la transición al socialismo, sin ninguna ilusión ni aspiración burguesa.

"Vengo de raíz obrera, rebelde, vengo de barrios también", dijo Maduro. Trazó metas para terminar con la corrupción que se ha filtrado en algunos estamentos del gobierno, a la erradicación total de la pobreza, al mejoramiento de la economía y el perfeccionamiento de todas las Misiones. Para terminar con los sabotajes del sistema eléctrico, designó este sistema como uno de servicio de Seguridad Nacional.

"La Revolución de la Eficiencia Socialista, para cambiarlo todo...para combatir el burocratismo..., para combatir la corrupción...lo mal hecho...la indolencia.Y en estas prioridades que hemos ido

Continúa a página 11