

WORKERS WORLD



Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

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\$1

Zimbabwe defies West Africa's ZANU-PF wins in landslide

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Zimbabwe held national harmonized elections on July 31 that returned President Robert Mugabe to office for his seventh term since independence in 1980. The Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front party won more than two-thirds of the seats in the National Assembly, giving the party the capacity to form its own government.

ZANU-PF had worked in a coalition government with two factions of the Western-backed opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, MDC-T and MDC-M. The coalition government came out of the crisis surrounding the 2008 elections, in which a dispute developed over the results of the polls.

After five years of a regionally mediated Global Political Agreement, ZANU-PF is looking forward to forming its own revolutionary government without the constraints associated with portfolios held by the MDC parties. The party ran a campaign highlighting its legacy of the land redistribution program and its efforts aimed at transferring mining and manufacturing industry operations to Africans.

The July 31 elections represented the culmination of a four-year political process that drafted and approved a new constitution. All relevant parties in the country participated in the debates and negotiations surrounding the adoption of the constitution, which was approved through a national referendum as well as resolutions within both houses of the National Assembly.

Caesar Zvayi, deputy editor of the Zimbabwe Herald, stressed that the election results were consistent with political trends over the last 11 years. Zvayi wrote, "A look at voting trends since the 2002 presidential election shows that 1.2 million is consistent with Mr. [Morgan] Tsvangirai's level of support as he amassed 1,258,401 (42 percent) votes to President Mugabe's 1,685,212 (56.2 percent) in the 2002 poll; 1,195,562 (47.9 percent) to President Mugabe's 1,079,730 (43.2 percent) votes in 2008; with his tally this year also hovering around the 1.2 million votes mark." (Aug. 5)

Zvayi notes, "This year, President Mugabe garnered 2,110,434 (61.09 percent) of the vote, Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai 1,172,349 (33.94 percent), Welshman Ncube 92,637 (2.68 percent), Dumiso Dabengwa 25,416 (0.74 percent), Kisinoti Mukwazhe 9,931 (0.29 percent)."

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President Robert Mugabe

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PHOTO CREDIT: OCCUPY RIVERWEST

Protest at national guys' conference, Aug. 2-4, Milwaukee. See page 8.

INSPIRED BY TRAYVON MARTIN

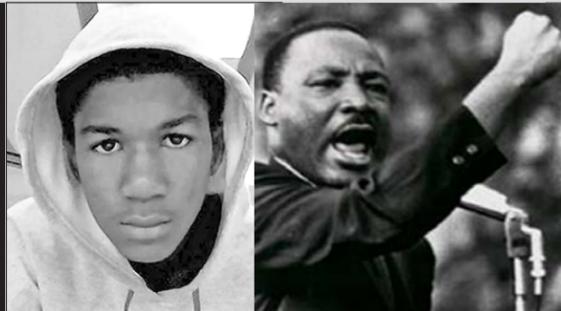
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Bikers roar for justice

Protest shuts down L.A. freeway

Dream Defenders continue occupation

After the Aug. 24 NATIONAL MARCH on Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom



Endorse A Call to Hold Local People's Power Assemblies All Across the U.S.

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LYNNE STEWART

A message to all of us

The following letter was issued on Aug. 1 by political prisoner Lynne Stewart, who is suffering from breast cancer and is engaged in a struggle to gain compassionate release.

Supporters in New York are encouraged to attend a rally on Thursday, Aug. 8, the day of Stewart's next court hearing, at 1 p.m. outside the New York City Federal Courthouse, 500 Pearl St. in Manhattan (at the Worth Street entrance). The hearing starts at 2:30 p.m. but it takes a long time to clear security, so please arrive early. Bring photo identification.

To All:

By now we will have filed papers which take us back into federal court in New York City to request that Judge [John G.] Koeltl overturn the barbaric decision by the Bureau of Prisons and allow me to leave this empty loveless prison and go home to people and places familiar and beloved. I certainly am sick enough — even my oncologist revised her prognosis down to 18 months now.

However, my spirit remains undaunted and when I compare myself to others far worse off than I am — the Guantánamo and Pelican Bay prisoners; Marie Mason; Aafia Siddiqui; Hugo “Yogi” Pinell; those under the death penalty, like Kevin Cooper; the remaining Angola 2; Ruchel Magee; and my fellow New Yorkers, Jalil [Muntaqim], Sekou [Odinga], Herman [Bell], Seth [Robert Seth Hayes], David [Gilbert], Abdul [Majid] — let me stop before I choke up here — I know we MUST win my fight and the struggle for all other political prisoners to be freed. And then we must struggle for all to be free in this country.

How much can we, the people, take? Their austerity is barbaric cruelty, with food stamps gone and public housing unavailable permanently. How long can the 1% continue to rule and the corporations call the shots? There is so much wrong, but we are not allowed to despair since we have been given sight in this land of the blind and hopeless and heartless.

So, that said, let's once again get out there as often as needs be — for all the causes, for all the humanity. For the future. Forward, ever forward!!

— Lynne



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Protest shows solidarity with prison hunger strike



Los Angeles

In solidarity with the prison hunger strikers now in their fourth week of refusing food, hundreds gathered at the Downtown Federal Building in Los Angeles on July 31 to demand an end to the state-sponsored torture going on in California’s prison system’s Security Housing Units (SHUs) and that prison and state officials meet all of the strikers’ demands regarding the right to basic mental and physical health care and food.

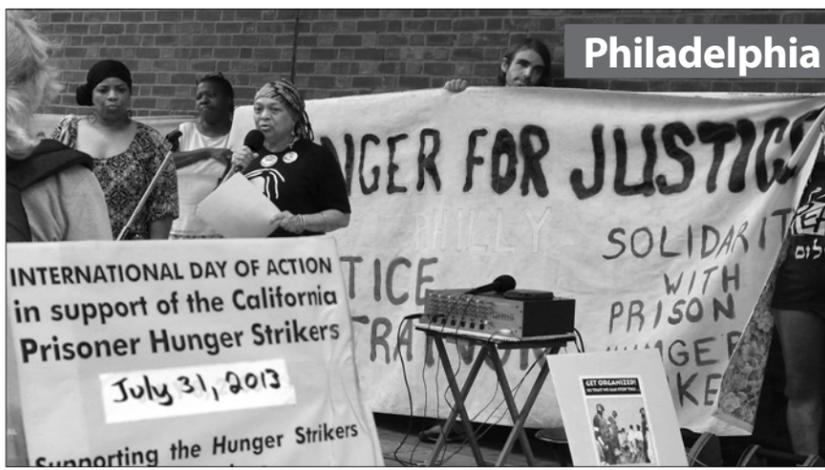
According to Amnesty International, conditions in the SHUs blatantly violate the U.N. Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by the U.S. Many of the protesters were also family members of the courageous striking inmates.

Among the activists attending the rally was actor Danny Glover, whom the Los Angeles Times quoted: “Malcolm X said, ‘We talk

about jail, we all in jail.’ We in jail because the power defines us! We have to create a system that works for us.” (July 31)

On July 22, prisoner Bill Sell died while participating in the hunger strike.

— Photo and story by John Parker



Philadelphia

Pam Africa speaks at a rally in front of the Philadelphia Federal Building on July 31, in solidarity with the California prisoners’ hunger strike.

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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.

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GEORGIA

Undocumented students protest policy

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

With the beginning of a new school year fast approaching, dozens of undocumented students, many wearing their high school graduation gowns, held a rally July 31 at the Georgia state Capitol to denounce policies adopted by the Board of Regents that deny them educational advancement.

In 2010 and 2011, Georgia passed a series of extreme anti-immigrant laws and regulations which signaled an escalating attack on undocumented workers and their families.

The unelected Board of Regents, which oversees the state's public colleges, universities and technical schools, responded

to intense right-wing political pressure by banning undocumented students from being accepted to the five top-tier schools — the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, the Medical College of Georgia, and Georgia College and State University — no matter how high their academic achievement.

Undocumented students can attend other public institutions but must pay out-of-state tuition, which can double or triple the cost of attending college. This makes higher education out of reach for even the most determined student. Federal and state aid, such as Georgia's HOPE scholarship, is also off limits to these youth.

At the rally, attorney Charles Kuck an-

nounced that he would be filing a lawsuit by 50 undocumented students challenging the ban on admission to the five named institutions. Under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program enacted by the Obama administration, young people who meet certain qualifications are protected from deportation and allowed some form of permission to be in the country legally. The 50 students who are party to this lawsuit meet the DACA requirements.

The emotional and inspiring speeches by several of the youth who told stories of discrimination and despair, family sacrifice and determination, and personal achievement and activism, brought chants of "Undocumented and unafraid!"

from the crowd.

With signs and banners declaring their demands, the group of youth, joined by families with small children, professors from Freedom University and other supporters, marched to the Board of Regents' office for a second rally. Freedom University provides instruction to students regardless of their immigration status.

Across the country, the bold, creative and heroic actions of undocumented youth to demand their human rights has galvanized immigrant communities and a broad section of the labor, civil rights and anti-war movements to publicly join the struggle. □

Black farmers demand justice

By Dolores Cox

In 1997, Timothy Pickford, an African-American farmer, along with 400 other Black farmers, filed a federal complaint against then-Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

The Pickford v. Glickman lawsuit alleged racial discrimination in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's allocation of farm loans, disaster payments and other assistance. The farmers claimed that the agency failed to process racial discrimination complaints and that the mistreatment of their loan applications caused economic damage.

The case covered a 16-year period from 1981 through 1996, during which 125,000 African-Americans farmed at some time or another and applied for farm credit or program benefits.

The USDA had discriminated against Black farmers since the 1930s, when the farm programs began. During the 1960s, in retaliation for Civil Rights activism and then in the 1980s and early 1990s, agency staff denied loans and agricultural assistance to Black farmers in violation of governmental policies and regulations.

In 1999, the farmers won their landmark class-action lawsuit. To date, \$1.1 billion has been paid out to 16,000 claimants in this historic civil rights settlement.

However, tens of thousands of Black farmers filed claims after the deadline. They were not initially awarded payments as they were considered "late filers." A 2008 Farm Bill provided \$100 million for additional claims, which was insufficient. In December 2010, Congress passed the Claims Resolution Act, which appropriated \$1.15 billion more to compensate them through the "Pigford II" settlement. In late 2011, a federal court approved a second round of payments for the late-filing farmers, and stated that funds would be dispersed after review.

John Zippert, Director of Program Operations of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund issued a July 18 press release on the claims. He reported that attorneys for the Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates stated that Black farmers in the Pigford II lawsuit should receive decision notices in August from judges who reviewed the claims.

Claimants will receive a letter informing them if there has been a favorable or unfavorable decision. Successful farmers will be given instructions on how to apply for their claims, while unsuccessful

claimants will be informed of the reason their claim was denied. Decisions are final and there will be no appeals.

The plaintiffs' attorneys said that terminations have been made on almost all of the 33,000 non-duplicate claims received, mostly from Southern farmers. Some claims are still being reviewed to check for duplicate or multiple claims on the same farmland. The claims of those seeking debt relief for USDA loans are also still under review to determine the amount of farm debt to be forgiven under the settlement.

Of the \$1.25 billion Congress approved to pay the claims, each farmer will receive the full damage award of \$62,500, minus \$12,500 paid to the Internal Revenue Service to cover federal income tax liabilities. Therefore, each claimant should receive \$50,000. Additionally, \$91 million has been approved for attorney fees.

Relatives filing on behalf of deceased farmers as the "legal representative(s) of the estate" will have to go through the probate process. They will be eligible to apply for and receive the payment made out to the estate, and distribute the claim award to other heirs after the payment of expenses and taxes due on the estate.

According to the Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates, judges approved about 55 percent of the claims reviewed in the Pigford II case, while 63 percent of the claims were successful in the original Pigford case, which was won in 1999.

It has been more than two-and-a-half years since President Barack Obama signed the second settlement into law. Claimants were told they would receive payments by the end of 2012.

"They need to go ahead and expedite these payments so that the farmers won't have to continue to wait," says John Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association, reports the Aug. 2 Shreveport Times. "Here it is planting season has come and gone and farmers still don't have their money. ...

"Enough of the excuses," Boyd stressed. "We have jumped every hurdle there is to jump."

It has been a long, arduous process for Black farmers since the filing of their initial lawsuits for compensation and redress for the painful legacy of USDA bias against them. Many of the initial claimants have died; many are elderly. Thousands have lost their farms due to racial discrimination.

For the Black farmers, justice is long past due. □

Fight vs. Detroit bankruptcy: 'Make the banks pay'

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Detroiters amassed outside the federal courthouse downtown at 9 a.m. on Aug. 2 to demand, according to a popular chant, "Hands off our pensions! Make the banks pay!" The protest was called by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs and the newly formed Stop Theft of Our Pensions Committee. Inside, a city of Detroit bankruptcy-related hearing was set for 10 a.m.

Retired city workers by the dozens, along with community members and other workers and activists, were there. So were union firefighters, active and retired members of other unions, and even a few retired Detroit cops. Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara said he was on the picket line "because you [protesters] are right." Solidarity was high among the demonstrators, several of whom echoed that Detroit is a "test case" for what the rich will try to impose on other cities across the country.

"Not a dollar, not a dime! We already did our time!" and "Who owes us? The banks owe us!" were among the angry chants initiated by retired workers. The outrage was palpable at the prospect of retirees losing their incomes so that banks could get paid the alleged debt that the banks fraudulently rigged up in the first place.

Inside, federal Bankruptcy Court Judge Steven Rhodes heard arguments on the city's request to set up a retiree committee of its own choosing as well as on the state constitutionality of reducing



Detroit protest outside bankruptcy court, Aug. 2.

pensions in the bankruptcy process. The city's eligibility to file Chapter 9 bankruptcy is being challenged, given that the city's and Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr's stated intent is to go after workers' pensions. Rhodes set a court date for late October.

Moratorium NOW! demands cancellation of Detroit's debt to the banks; reparations or restitution by the banks to Detroit to help repair the destruction caused by the banks' mass foreclosures and evictions; and hands off city services, workers' wages and retirees' pensions.

To get involved in this struggle, contact the coalition by calling 313.680.5508 or visiting Moratorium-MI.org and Detroit-debtmoratorium.org. The coalition meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at 5920 Second Ave. in Detroit. The Stop Theft of Our Pensions Committee meets at 6 p.m. at the same location. □

Fast-food workers: 'Raise up Milwaukee!'

Special to Workers World

Workers from 65 low-wage, billion-dollar businesses in Milwaukee walked off the job on August 1 demanding a union and a raise in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Later that day, roughly 250 people gathered outside a shopping and fast-food complex on Miller Park Way, a major intersection near the Milwaukee Brewer's baseball stadium that is swamped with fast-food restaurants. The one-day strike was organized by Raise Up MKE.

"The fight today is for union rights, but



PHOTO: WISCONSIN JOBS NOW

Continued on page 9

Who's pushing post office privatization?

By Joe Piette

Postal and community activists struggling to save the U.S. Postal Service from privatization need to know who they are fighting against.

The Postal Service was established in 1775. It needed government administration as it was so important for communication.

Even in today's age of Internet communication, 20 percent of the U.S. population lack Internet access and depend on the post office for bills, bank statements and letters. (Gallup World, Aug. 4) The Postal Service is still essential for the \$1.3-trillion mailing industry.

The campaign to privatize and de-unionize the USPS threatens the livelihood of every affected worker and neighborhood. Hardest hit will be communities of color that suffer depression-level unemployment.

While the post office clearly provides a vital service, can it withstand attacks from privatizers set on eliminating universal delivery in their search for profits?

Who are the privatizers?

The USPS has 522,144 workers and 31,272 retail stores. Its 2012 revenue was \$65 billion. Mandated to deliver mail at affordable prices to over 150 million U.S. addresses, it holds a statutory monopoly on the delivery of first-class mail.

Under congressional control, the USPS is prohibited from lobbying Congress or contributing to political campaigns.

Corporate executives consistently resist workers' demands for even nickel wage increases yet spend millions to influence politicians. The penny-pinching owners of capital and exploiters of workers demand favorable results from their "investments" in politicians. With \$3.31 billion spent on congressional lobbying and \$6 billion contributed to election campaigns in 2012 alone, the U.S. holds the title of the most corrupt political system in the world. (Center for Responsive Politics – OpenSecrets.org)

United Parcel Service has 322,100 employees and 5,722 retail locations. Its 2012 revenue was \$54 billion. It delivers only when and where it can make a profit. UPS pays the USPS to deliver 100 million to 300 million parcels annually to less profitable locations, according to the industry watchdog group, Courier Express and Postal Observer. Clearly it has a stake in eliminating its main U.S. competitor — the Postal Service. In 2012, UPS spent \$5 million lobbying Congress and another \$3.1 million on candidates.

FedEx employs 300,000 workers worldwide and logged \$45 billion in revenue in 2012. It also delivers when and where it is profitable and uses the USPS for 30.4 percent of its ground mail delivery. The USPS pays \$1.4 billion annually to move letters and parcels via FedEx air cargo planes. FedEx spent almost \$12 million in 2012 lobbying and another \$2.5 million in campaign contributions.

Pitney Bowes has 27,000 workers worldwide. Its 2012 revenue was \$5

billion. It paid for a "White Paper" in 2013 that recommends the privatization of postal trucking, retail and mail processing. Operating 36 processing plants — the largest U.S. pre-sorted mail network — PB would vastly increase its profits if those recommendations bore fruit. PB contributed half a million dollars to campaigns and spent another \$1.25 million lobbying Congress. (savethepostoffice.com, March 15)

These aren't the only companies that would benefit from postal privatization.

Boston Consulting

Boston Consulting Group, the world's largest management consulting firm, plays a major role preparing companies for deregulation and privatization. BCG was behind the dismantling of public school systems and the establishment of charter schools in Chicago, Philadelphia and New Orleans. It is involved in the restructuring of postal institutions globally, including in Switzerland, Canada, Norway and England, whose government just announced its intent to privatize Royal Mail.

BCG, Accenture and McKinley & Company produced a 2010 study entitled "Ensuring a Viable Postal Service for America — an Action Plan for the Future." The study recommended increased use of part-time workers, as in the Netherlands and Germany, where 40 percent of postal workers work part time. The privatized Dutch post office, PostNL, fired older letter carriers and replaced them with workers paid per item or part time, many earning less than minimum wage. (ernstseconomyforyou.blogspot.com, March 28)

Both UPS and FedEx belong to the powerful American Legislative Exchange Council or ALEC, an ultra-conservative organization of the well-to-do, the corporations and the politicians that promotes right-wing legislation on local, state and federal levels. (Sourcewatch.org)

Two of the richest men in the U.S. — Charles and David Koch — with combined assets of \$40 billion, are ALEC's largest funders. They also fund the Cato Institute, Citizens for a Sound Economy, Freedom Works, the Heritage Foundation, the Tea Party and other right-wing organizations.

ALEC bills undermine environmental regulations, deny climate change, support school privatization, undercut health care reform and limit the political influence of unions. They mandate laws to disenfranchise voters and increase incarceration rates to benefit the private-prison industry. In over 20 states, ALEC helped pass "stand your ground" legislation, which right-wingers used to justify George Zimmerman's racist killing of Trayvon Martin.

For years, ALEC worked to influence Congress to pass the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, requiring the USPS to pay \$5.5 billion annually for pension health care benefits 75 years in advance. No other agency carries that burden. In 2006, before the PAEA, the USPS profit was \$0.9 billion.

Under pressure of this substantial

red ink, postal management in the last year closed 30 percent of its processing and distribution plants; reduced hours up to 75 percent in half of the post offices; put 10 percent of buildings up for sale; subcontracted trucking and mail handling; cut thousands of mail routes; and eliminated 60,000 living-wage postal jobs. These cuts all slow down the mail system.

Tea Party House Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), the richest man in Congress with a net worth of \$448 million, heads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. (KSBW.com, Dec. 27, 2011)

Issa is the congressional pitbull most insistent on passing postal privatization. Issa's HR2748 bill would end Saturday delivery, replace door-to-door delivery for 40 million homes with neighborhood cluster boxes and eliminate 100,000 postal jobs.

The use of cluster boxes not only inconveniences mail recipients but would de-skill jobs that require stamina and a good memory, allowing the USPS to follow the anti-labor example of the Netherlands in hiring part-time, low-paid workers.

The Koch brothers contributed \$107,000 to 13 Republican members of the HOGRC — \$12,500 just to Issa, who sent staff members to a Koch brothers' think tank. (Press Enterprise, Feb. 27, 2011)

Issa appointed staffers to the HOGRC who are linked to lobbying firms that accepted \$1.2 million from Pitney Bowes and \$240,000 from FedEx. (opensecrets.org)

On Aug. 2, Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), chair of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, and Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) released Senate postal reform bill S1486. American Postal Workers Union President Cliff Guffey said: "This bill is fatally flawed. It betrays the working men and women of the USPS; it slashes service to the American people; and it fails to protect the USPS from the impending financial disaster Congress set in motion in 2006 with the passage of the PAEA." (APWU Web News, Aug. 2)

Over the last two years, Carper accepted contributions from UPS (\$59,000) and FedEx (\$72,500). (opensecrets.org)

Bankers' role

Barclay's, UBS, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs were recently selected by the British Parliament to lead a banking syndicate overseeing privatization of the Royal Mail, valued at \$4.8 billion. Goldman Sachs also supported privatization campaigns in Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and Austria.

Not coincidentally, Issa hired former Goldman Sachs vice president, Peter Haller, to serve on the HOGRC. Bank of America was Issa's fifth highest campaign contributor at \$21,850 (2012). Carper received \$56,740 from Bank of America.

These millionaires and billionaires may look powerful, and they're certainly rich, but postal workers can still win against them if they're united with the great global working class. □

On the picket line
by Sue Davis

Palermo's Pizza reinstates eight of 100 fired strikers

The 13-month battle at Palermo's Pizza for union representation — to end oppressive working conditions and low pay, and to protest the firing of 89 immigrant workers who didn't have documentation — ended July 30. While this struggle began at the company's Milwaukee headquarters, it soon grew into a national boycott after more than 100 workers were fired in June 2012 in retaliation for union organizing. Finally, eight months after the National Labor Relations Board ruled that Palermo broke the law by firing the workers, Palermo agreed to reinstate eight workers and give them tens of thousands of dollars in back pay.

"This agreement confirms that Palermo used threats, intimidation, surveillance, discrimination and retaliation to deny the freedom to choose a union voice," said Raul de la Torre, an organizing committee member of the Palermo Workers Union, which worked closely with the Steelworkers Union.

Meanwhile, USW District 2 Director Mike Bolton pointed out: "It took much too long to get even this small bit of justice. ... [The eight rehires] will be going back to jobs where union busters have created such an atmosphere of fear and intimidation that a democratic election is not possible. [Palermo's knows] that 75 percent of employees already expressed support for a union when they signed a petition for union representation over a year ago, [but most of them] will never get to vote because they were fired for speaking out." (Voces de la Frontera, July 30)

Farmworkers: Raise safety standards for pesticide use

On July 15-16, representatives of 1 to 2 million U.S. farmworkers lobbied Congress to call for stronger protections against hazardous pesticides. Earth Justice reports that an estimated 5.1 billion pounds of pesticides are used annually, with an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 farmworkers suffering acute pesticide poisoning each year. The workers, mostly Spanish-speaking immigrants, are calling for strengthened regulations in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's weak and outdated Worker Protection Standard, established more than 20 years ago.

Research shows that children of farmworkers are especially vulnerable to exposure, even at very low levels, from aerial drift that poisons schools and playgrounds and from the clothes and shoes their parents wear home. Long-term exposure increases the risk of such chronic health problems as cancer, neurological impairment, Parkinson's disease and birth defects.

To sign a United Farm Workers petition supporting a stronger WPS, go to action.ufw.org/fieldtofork.

D.C. Labor Roundup

Nurses win rollback of health care cost hikes

After fighting for more than a year against Med-Star Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center's reductions and changes in nurses' health care benefits, which drastically increased new deductibles and co-pays, the 1,850 registered nurses won a federal ruling the week of July 8 that rolled back the unlawful cuts and hikes. The members of National Nurses United sued to stop the tripling of out-of-pocket amounts they were forced to pay.

The July 17 AFL-CIO report on the nurses' win noted that "more and more health care employers are seeking to exploit the recession and rollbacks of employee standards in other industries to push huge cuts for health care workers despite the hospitals once again making record profits." (blog.aflcio.org, July 17)

District Coalition for Better Transit

Facing threatened privatization of D.C. metro buses, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 and transit advocates and riders teamed up to create the

Continued on page 7

Latest official figures show capitalism in a stall

'Drop' in joblessness hides increase in misery

By Fred Goldstein

The government reported on Aug. 2 that the official unemployment rate dropped from 7.6 percent to 7.4 percent in July. The economic spin masters are also hailing the "greater than expected" economic growth of the gross domestic product (all goods and services produced).

The anemic GDP growth in the second quarter of 1.7 percent annually looks good only when compared to the bourgeois economists' earlier fearful predictions of less than 1 percent growth. And it towers over the worse economic growth in the first quarter, which was barely 1 percent. This pathetic growth rate shows the continued inability of the capitalist system to mount a robust expansion four years into the so-called recovery. And this growth at a snail's pace leaves tens of millions of workers without jobs or forced to take poverty-level, low-wage, oppressive jobs.

The actual jobs numbers give the lie to the positive spin on a decline in official unemployment. Officially, 162,000 jobs were created in July, just slightly above the monthly 150,000 needed to provide jobs to the incoming generation of workers.

More importantly, of the jobs created, 40 percent were in the low-paying retail, hotel and temporary job industries. These jobs involve the worst kind of exploitation of African Americans, Latinos/as, immigrant workers and poor whites. Construction, on the other hand, took a hit and lost a net of 6,000 jobs, mostly because the austerity program of the bankers put government construction on hold.

President Barack Obama recently made a trip to an Amazon facility in Chattanooga, Tenn., to call for "a better deal for the middle class." He, along with the entire capitalist establishment, has misnamed the working class the "middle class" in order to erase any sense of class identity among the proletariat. And his talk was just a repetition of the appeal for investment in infrastructure and environment, which he has never really fought for.

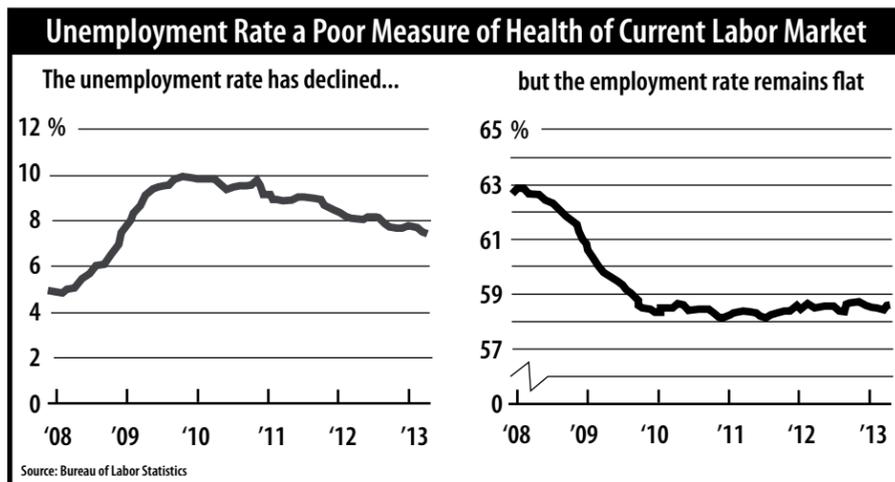
He went to Amazon because he was able to announce that the company was creating 5,000 jobs. But the speech backfired when it was revealed that the jobs paid \$11 an hour and were largely exhausting work in stock warehouses. "In our viewpoint these are great jobs," said Amazon spokesperson Kelly Cheeseman as she tried to defend poverty wages for low-end jobs. (Wall Street Journal, Aug. 1)

The grim facts in July tell a different story. In the overall economy, total hours and average hours worked both fell; wage growth declined. The official number of workers out of work for six months or more increased. The number of workers on forced part-time increased by 19,000. The total now on forced part-time is estimated at 8.2 million after four years of "recovery," as compared with only 4.4 million in 2007 before the downturn.

Employment levels stuck at historic lows

The most important number of all, which is hardly mentioned in the capitalist press, is the actual employment rate, that is, the percentage of working-age adults who have a job. This number was 63.3 percent in the beginning of 2007. It dropped to 58.3 percent by 2009 and has not budged above 58.7 percent since the "recovery" began. That means out of every 100 working-age people, 41 have no job. (Ezra Klein, Washington Post, Aug. 1; see graph from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)

This means that millions have dropped



out and are no longer included in the labor force. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the "potential labor force" is 159.2 million, but the official size of the labor force is 155.8 million. Thus there are officially 3.4 million "missing workers." (Heidi Shierholz, Economic Policy Institute, Aug. 2)

That 3.4 million is in addition to the 6.6 million the Labor Department reports as in the workforce but not actively seeking work. In July, another 37,000 dropped out. As a share of the population, the labor force is at a three-decade low.

These totals do not include the 2.3 million prisoners, disproportionately Black and Latino/a, many of whom work at slave wages.

Forbes can't understand jobless recovery

The Aug. 4 online issue of Forbes Magazine pondered the dilemma that the capitalist system faces and the crisis that it brings upon the workers.

Forbes cited Brian Hamilton, the chairperson of a financial firm. In a worried tone, Hamilton observed that the "recovery" is 48 months old. The economy is likely to face a downturn soon. And the unemployment rate is still well over 7 percent and won't go down appreciably.

Hamilton noted, "We are on the back end of the expansion." He added that with unemployment "above 7 percent in a positive part of the economic cycle, it's disconcerting to think that it's likely to increase when the economy begins to contract."

"It's very odd that we have economic growth without ... very strong employment growth," he added.

Marx explained crisis and the way out

But to Marxists, who understand the capitalist system, the jobless recovery — where capitalism expands somewhat but the workers remain in crisis — is anything but odd.

Capitalism is in the age of automation. Karl Marx showed that as capitalism grows it makes the means of production, distribution and services larger and more productive. Capitalist competition drives this process toward greater and greater productivity in order to amass more and more and more profits. This leads to greater and greater exploitation of the working class, which is the source of all profits and all wealth.

Each capitalist tries to reduce its own labor force, lower the wages of the existing work force and speed up everyone. As each capitalist grouping, such as Amazon, GM, Walmart, McDonald's, GE and so on, uses more and more automation to reduce its own labor force, thus putting more and more skills into software and machines, the result is a vast low-wage work force and the relentless growth of what Marx called "the reserve army of unemployed."

This inevitably involves attacks on unions, export of jobs to low-wage areas of the world to super-exploit workers in poor countries, importation of vulnerable undocumented workers, wage theft, violation of labor laws, and so on.

Marx showed that the more productive industry becomes, the harder it is for the capitalists to expand production. When they do, the enormous amount of com-

modities produced piles up quickly and the low-wage working class cannot buy them.

Overproduction mounts. Thus there is no profit in producing. Capitalism hits a wall. If the bosses push ahead with production, the whole economy will quickly come crashing down. But when they hold on to their trillions of dollars in cash and use it for speculation instead of investment, millions of workers remain unemployed. Either way, the system brings about a crisis for the workers and the oppressed.

All this flows from a process described by Marx 150 years ago. But Marx did not just describe the evils of capitalism. He also showed how the intensified exploitation and the growth of mass unemployment would eventually cause workers to rebel, organize and overthrow the capitalist profit system once and for all.

Goldstein is the author of "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End." The latter has been translated into Spanish as "El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida." To order books, see Amazon.com

Transit workers, community join in solidarity as strike looms



PHOTO: GINO PEPI

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Aug. 4 — Gov. Jerry Brown intervened at the 11th hour and called for an investigation into the Bay Area Rapid Transit agency's negotiations with the BART workers, narrowly averting a strike which would have started on the morning of Aug. 5. According to today's San Francisco Chronicle, this means there can be no strike for the next seven days.

More than 1,000 workers and community members rallied and marched in downtown Oakland on Aug. 1 to show support for the BART workers, whose 30-day, state-brokered temporary work agreement expires at midnight tonight. The workers had walked out for four-and-a-half days beginning July 1 when their contract expired.

BART management has launched an aggressive media campaign, trying to turn the public against the 2,600 workers. The workers haven't had a raise since they took major concessions in 2009, saving the transportation agency \$100 million. BART officials claim they would have to raise fares by 18 percent over three years to pay for workers' raises and to maintain their current level of benefits. However, BART is seeing record ridership, averaging 400,000 riders on weekdays, and has projected a \$125 million-a-year surplus for the next 10 years. (SF Chronicle, July 30)

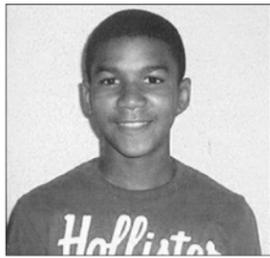
The Aug. 1 rally was called by Amalgamated Transit Union Locals 1555

and 192, Service Employees Local 1021, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3993, and International Longshore Warehouse Union Local 10. It was endorsed by both the San Francisco and the Alameda Central Labor Councils.

Speakers included Danny Glover, a Screen Actors Guild member who has a long history of being a champion of labor and anti-racist and anti-war struggles; Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local 10 past secretary-treasurer and co-chair of the Million Workers March; Jeralynn Blueford, mother of Alan Blueford, who was killed by Oakland police last year; Chris Finn, recording secretary of ATU 1555; and Robbie Donohoe, member of IBEW and Fight for \$15 organizer.

Enthusiastic marchers headed to the BART headquarters, where they militantly converged against the large plate-glass entryway. They shouted slogans against the notorious Thomas Hock, who BART executives paid \$399,000 to bring in as their chief negotiator. A Veolia Transportation vice president, Hock has a record of provoking transit strikes in cities across the country.

According to the rally's press release, organizers hoped the event would "help turn the tide on the austerity assault that has led not only to attacks on labor, jobs, and pay, but also to essential public programs like public education, Medicare, Social Security, housing, and transit needed by all of us whether we are employed, unemployed, or underemployed." □



To honor Trayvon Martin Heroic youth hold sit-in for third week

By Scott Williams

Aug. 5 – “The World is Ours” reads the shirt of Phillip Agnew and his other Dream Defenders, who have been holding down and controlling the Florida state Capitol for the past 20 days. Twenty days of demonstrations in the Capitol, workshops in the governor’s office, and serious talk about revolution and social justice. Twenty days of sleeping on a marble floor, eating peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and playing the card game UNO until late at night – all to pressure Florida Gov. Rick Scott to call to session the absent Florida Legislature to pass the Trayvon Martin Civil Rights Act. The Dream Defenders started their occupation on July 16.

The act, or Trayvon’s Law, addresses the racist environment which led to George Zimmerman killing Trayvon Martin and walking free. It includes wiping off the books the dubious “stand your ground” laws, as well as dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline and ending the rampant racial profiling of people of color.

Rather than waiting on the governor

or the necessary 96 Florida legislators to call the session to discuss the act, on July 30 the Dream Defenders called forth “The People’s Session.” Through impassioned speeches, they declared three major initiatives. The first is to commemorate February 5, Martin’s birthday, as Trayvon Martin Day in honor of his life and to denounce the racist, unequal society which led to his death.

Also passed was the pardoning of Marissa Alexander, who stood her ground against an abusive partner, yet, as a Black woman, did not benefit from the “stand your ground” laws. Rather, Alexander is imprisoned with a 20-year sentence. The last resolution of The People’s Session was to call for the creation of Take Over Tuesdays, to mark Tuesdays at the Florida Capitol as a major day of resistance. The People’s Session ended with the chant, “The House is ours!”

The Rev. Jesse Jackson was one of the many people present at The People’s Session. He stayed the night with the Dream Defenders, waking up at the customary 5:45 a.m., along with everyone else. This comes less than one week after musician

and activist Harry Belafonte visited the Defenders.

Justice-loving people from across the U.S. are organizing Freedom Rides to join the Capitol occupation in Tallahassee, Fla. Coming from the Florida cities of Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville and Tampa; Atlanta; Washington, D.C.; Raleigh, N.C.; New York City; Philadelphia; and beyond, people have been riding buses down to Florida to support the Dream Defenders and their allies.

On the third day of the occupation, the Defenders met with Gov. Rick Scott. This was the only hour in which Scott has been in his office since the takeover began. Since then, around 40 legislators in Florida have called the session. On Aug. 2, the Florida speaker of the House, Republican Will Weatherford, said that they would hold hearings on “stand your ground” in the fall session.

“It’s a critical first step,” said Dream Defenders Executive Director Phillip



July 26 protest at Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla.

Agnew. Yet the takeover of the Capitol has not stopped. The movement goes far beyond just “stand your ground,” and far beyond just fighting racism. Rather, it is fighting for the future of all young people through one slogan: “The World is Ours.” (Tampa Bay Times, Aug. 2)

The author stayed at the Florida Capitol from July 25 to July 27 as part of a Freedom Ride group from Philadelphia.

Dream Defenders at Florida’s Capitol

‘A life-changing experience’

WW reporters Imani Henry and Scott Williams on July 27 asked several Dream Defenders occupying the Florida state Capitol in Tallahassee why they had decided to be there. Below are their answers.

Mustafa Sullivan is an Alliance for Educational Justice campaign organizer.

Sullivan: This past weekend joining the Dream Defenders was an honor, a lesson, and a life-changing experience. Many of the youth leaders, adult organizers, and community members from the Bronx, D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore and Florida pledge to continue the fight for Trayvon’s Law until the fight is won. [To support the Dream Defenders’ struggle for Trayvon’s Law, see DreamDefenders.org.]

Melanie Andrade, 21, from Kissimmee, Fla., president of the Dream Defenders at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, had slept in the Capitol for several nights since July 16.

WW: What is it like for young people in Kissimmee?

Andrade: I’m a first-generation American. My parents came from Cape Verde in Africa. Florida is a place, like New York, where many immigrants live. Lots of different people live there.

My parents started working in Disney, lots of people move to Kissimmee because of the jobs at Disney. During 10th grade I moved to a small city in Polk County, which is the “heart of Florida.” There is a lot more tension living in a rural area for a young person of color.

The rest of Florida is not like Miami or Orlando. Tallahassee is pretty segregated, too. Lots of people in rural Florida live in trailers and there are lots of undocumented people. Also lots of orange groves and workers coming in to work there.

The police are often Black or Latino in Kissimmee. I wasn’t that scared of the police [while growing up] but as years went by, I saw it become gentrified. Now there is a million gas stations and new stores, yet always with a big influx of immigrants.

You know the police and what they will do to us based on what they look like. You know if they are from Polk County [more racist] versus Ocala [Kissimmee]. I go outside in Polk County and every time I get stopped. They always patrol the community, asking for my ID.

They didn’t believe me once when I was at my house on my front lawn. I told them my ID was inside the house and they told me I needed to have it on me at all times! They don’t ask white kids these things. I was safer in Kissimmee in a more diverse neighborhood.

WW: What is your economic situation?

Andrade: I’ve worked at McDonalds for five years and now I make \$7.40 [an hour]. I started at \$6.35. I have never been making enough to live. I never get breaks. If I didn’t work through high school I wouldn’t have the money to pay for my graduation stuff or to pay for taking the SAT [the pre-entry exam to get into college].

WW: What about Trayvon’s case and the war on youth resonates and speaks to you directly?

Andrade: I lived in a gated community and my brother was arrested there. I have had the neighborhood watch see my brother and call the cops on him. The cops picked him up for drug paraphernalia. He’s not going to learn his lesson in jail, he will just get more mad.

This incident happened just after Trayvon’s. It hit me and made me connect to criminalization. People talk about Trayvon’s character but they don’t know anything about him. Yet people judge his character.

I put things on Facebook about justice for Trayvon and people talk about how bad Trayvon was, yet they don’t understand our culture. They portray him as a “thug.” That’s the same with my brother, who is one of the smartest people I know. Connecting Trayvon’s case with my brother’s is what turned me towards activism.

I met the Dream Defenders at a bowl-

ing alley during a party. Phillip [Agnew, the executive director of Dream Defenders] took the mic away from the DJ and made an announcement about a meeting that was happening then about Trayvon’s murder. He said, “Who is coming with me to this meeting?” I was the only one that raised my hand.

When I went to the meeting they were talking about going to the Sanford jail that my bro was in. In that county there is no juvenile detention, rather boys are in there with men. Dream Defenders were gonna go down there and have an action at the jail where my brother is staying. I worked at a McDonalds at the time and got my shifts covered and went to the jail.

WW: What moments have been powerful for you sitting in the Capitol this weekend?

Andrade: When I meet new people and hear them expressing the same things I express. When I see people who look like me who are intellectual, who are organizing. Like when I saw the Occupy movement, people who are talking about capitalism, it didn’t hit home with us. It’s been the best part talking to people like me and hearing I can do it.

Travis Mariani, 23, is from Sistas and Brothas United, Bronx, New York.

WW: What is it like for young people in the Bronx?

Mariani: It is a catch-22. You need years of experience to get a job but no one will give you a job so you can get some experience. With the cops I have been picked up for trespassing in my own building. Now that that the Bronx Pride Community Center has closed, it is harder to find activities and events for LGBT youth in the area.

WW: Why did you get on the bus this weekend?

Mariani: It’s more than just Trayvon Martin. It is a national issue. Racial profiling, the school-to-prison pipeline. That we are demeaned by older people that don’t expect us to be up on the issues.



Melanie Andrade



Travis Mariani

This is why I came.

WW: What has been a highlight for you?

Mariani: Being around people much younger than me. Teenagers in high school like Trayvon. I love the chants. That we are together as young people in the Capitol, together on this issue. That we are family. □

Black bikers roar for justice

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

The powerful roar of 800 motorcycle engines pierced the air as a rally of Atlanta’s Black biker clubs took over the street in front of the Georgia Capitol on July 28 demanding justice for Trayvon Martin and all victims of racist violence.

The featured speaker was Lucia McBath, mother of Jordan Davis – another Black Florida youth killed by a white assailant allegedly upset about loud music coming from the teenager’s car. Initiated by the NAACP, the rally also heard from local civil rights leaders, clergy and elected officials.

Clad in their club regalia, bikers revved their engines to signal support and approval of calls for a boycott of Florida and federal prosecution of George Zimmerman.

On July 27, the Cobb [County] United for Change Coalition also held a march and rally in Marietta, Ga., denouncing the verdict. Across the state, organizations continue to hold meetings and other events to analyze and discuss what steps to take to counter white supremacist attitudes that lead to the death and mass incarceration of Black and Brown youth. □

Stop the racist war at home

Aug. 28 Trayvon Martin justice assemblies

By Monica Moorehead

A national call for Justice for Trayvon Martin assemblies in U.S. cities on Aug. 28, initiated by the People's Power Assembly Movement, could not have come at a more crucial juncture.

The devastating “not-guilty” verdict that came down on July 13 in the Sanford, Fla., trial of wannabe cop, George Zimmerman, in the Feb. 26, 2012, fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, was not only a blatant travesty of justice for this young African American. It was another wake-up call about the heinous racist war on people of color, especially the youth.

The verdict was also a grim reminder that, especially with growing unemployment, Black, Brown and Indigenous young people's lives are viewed as totally expendable by the powers-that-be and their legal and extralegal apparatus like the police, the courts, the prisons and vigilantes like Zimmerman.

Countless Trayvon Martins exist in every city and town and in every region, no matter the place or the age.

Take these two recent examples: In the Bronx, N.Y., in the early morning of Aug. 4, a Black 14-year-old, Shaaliver Douse, was shot to death by a New York Police Department rookie. The New York Daily News described the youth as a “thug,” for allegedly having a gun while chasing

someone. Regardless of whether these killed youth had guns or not – Trayvon Martin was unarmed – they are demonized by the media. This criminalization helps give the police the green light to kill youth with impunity. The mentality of the police is to shoot to kill first, not to disarm, and ask questions later.

The second example is another police killing that took place in Durham, N.C., on July 27. José Adán Cruz Ocampo, a 33-year-old immigrant from Honduras, was shot in front of his home after he called the police there following a stabbing.

According to an investigation released Aug. 2 by a North Carolina Central University law clinic, as Ocampo reached into his back pocket to hand over a knife to the police, with the blade pointed to himself, the police yelled in English for him to drop the knife. As a witness attempted to translate into Spanish for Ocampo what the police were saying, the police opened fire, hitting him in the head, not the chest as the Durham police version claimed.

Ocampo had been forced to leave his spouse and young daughter behind in Honduras to look for work in the U.S.

Generalizing Trayvon Martin

The case of Trayvon Martin, which is politically front and center for most of the U.S. movement, cannot be isolated. The

two previous examples are living proof. While “Justice for Trayvon Martin, jail Zimmerman” will always be a legitimate demand, the Aug. 28 assemblies must be generalized to include the following demands: Jobs and education, not mass incarceration; End racial profiling of all forms; Stop racist police terror, including stop-and-frisk; Immigrant rights now, stop deportations; and A living wage and union rights for low-wage and all workers!

Since the Aug. 28 call was first released on July 25, hundreds of organizations and individuals representing diverse political struggles and views have endorsed, including the Baltimore People's Power Assembly; the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, St. Petersburg, Fla.; the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, New York; Haiti Liberté, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Occupy Wall Street (occu-evolve), New York City; the Muslim American Society Immigrant Justice Center, Raleigh, N.C.; Casa Las Américas de Puerto Rico, Carolina, Puerto Rico;

School Of The Americas Watch – Los Angeles; the Community Organizing Center, Columbus, Ohio; and the International Action Center, to name a few.

Many organizers will be attending the massive Aug. 24 rally in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom led by Dr. Martin Luther King. Connecting this historic anniversary with the current crisis, the Aug. 28 call reads: “We must turn our anger over the lynching of Trayvon Martin into a new nationwide struggle to stop the war against Black and Brown youth.”

The Aug. 28 assemblies will include marches, rallies, speakouts, vigils and other kinds of protests at police precincts, federal buildings and other important venues to help give voice to those who are victimized by U.S. racist policies and to help unite and strengthen all of the struggles for social justice. Go to peoplepowerassemblies.org to endorse Aug. 28 and to list your local events. Join us at facebook.com/PeoplesPowerAssemblies.

To protest verdict:

We shut down LA freeway

By Jefferson
Los Angeles

On July 14, the day after a Florida court exonerated George Zimmerman, killer of Trayvon Martin, the Los Angeles Coalition for Community Control Over the Police and the International Action Center organized a rally to be held at the corner of Crenshaw and Martin Luther King boulevards in South Central Los Angeles. More than 1,000 people attended, speaking out against the verdict and other racist injustices. With the crowd overflowing into the streets, it was decided to march. The following is one participant's recounting of the day's events.

We started July 14 at the corner of Crenshaw and Martin Luther King Jr. boulevards. The rally, which was scheduled to be held only on this corner, had a sudden change of plans when a few of the protesters decided to challenge the rule of the police. They walked to the middle of Crenshaw Boulevard, and the rest of the crowd followed.

Heading south on Crenshaw towards Leimert Park, the march proceeded for about a mile and, after a U-turn, headed back north. Many, like me, thought that the march would end where it started. But some of the organizers decided to continue marching to Hollywood – about eight miles – to join another demonstration for justice for Trayvon Martin.

When the march reached Exposition Boulevard, police officers made it stop and said that they would not allow it to proceed beyond that point. The crowd was not intimidated and, after a brief struggle, continued the march.

As the march approached one of the busiest freeways in the state, the I-10, some of the protesters had the idea to go to the on-ramp and shut it down. I immediately agreed with the idea and, along with my companion, a young Vietnamese woman who was participating in a civil disobedience for the first time, started to tell the other people to go down and stop the flow of cars on the freeway. Almost everyone went. Drivers, in large numbers, honked and raised their fists in sup-

port of the demonstration. The “security guards of the elite” – aka, the police officers – were caught by surprise. Everyone noticed their looks of astonishment and anger.

With the arrival of more police troops, the protesters were surrounded and not allowed to proceed, even to leave the freeway via the other ramp. The police threatened to arrest everyone if they did not leave, but would not let anyone leave.

The people, determined to continue marching and not get arrested, climbed the hill on the side of the highway through a rough terrain and, reaching the top, helped each other to climb over the freeway wall. Bikers used their bicycles as ladders. Mothers with babies and young children were given priority.

As the police intimidation and repression escalated, many marchers became nervous and panic almost took control. The situation was alleviated when some of the demonstrators teamed up and knocked down two gates that were hindering the people's passage.

After leaving the freeway, the march, this time much smaller, continued through the neighborhood until it again reached Crenshaw Boulevard. But at the corner of Venice Boulevard, the police did not let it continue. The cops were getting more and more aggressive and escalating threats. The march headed back to the starting point with the police following behind. Later, it was reported that the police shot rubber bullets at and arrested some demonstrators.

The closure of the I-10 freeway was a brave act that, in my opinion, describes what the people want: to shut down not only the freeways, which are scenes of injustice, racism and police brutality, but also the whole corrupt and unjust capitalist system and the institutions that allow crimes against the working class to continue and go unpunished. The killer of Trayvon Martin is free. Racism is the norm in the U.S. injustice system. This has to stop!

The unheard masses were united for a cause and the message was clear: Shut down this system! The revolution will be the voice of the masses! □

San Diego

WWW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN



The July 13 “not guilty” verdict for George Zimmerman in the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., generated a massive outpouring of anger and disgust all over the U.S., especially on the day after the verdict. One such protest was held in San Diego, Calif., on July 14, where at least 1,000 people attended a rally organized by the Committee Against Police Brutality. The response to this racist verdict is forging unity among many struggles for social justice. For instance, Gloria Verdieu, pictured here, represented the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition and the International Action Center at the San Diego rally.

Report by Monica Moorehead

On the picketline

Continued from page 4

District Coalition for Better Transit. On July 17, it hosted a kick-off community-labor forum on privatization. Transit workers and community activists discussed the risks of private companies running bus lines currently operated by Metrobus.

With a goal of keeping public transit affordable, reliable, safe and publicly accountable, the coalition plans to build a strong fightback in the interests of riders and transit workers. (Union City, online weekly newsletter of Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO, July 15)

D.C. Council passes strong protections against wage theft

D.C. workers won a major victory the week of June 24 when the D.C. Council passed the Wage Theft Prevention Act as part of this year's budget. The act includes unprecedented protections against wage theft, including damages up to triple the unpaid wages when businesses steal from employees.

Employment Justice Center Deputy Director Ari Weisbard told Union City, “Without sufficient damages for wage theft violations, there is nothing to deter unscrupulous employers from stealing their workers' wages.” This win was hard-fought by the DC Wage Theft Coalition, which includes workers, unions and nonprofit organizations like the EJC, DC Jobs with Justice and the Restaurant Opportunities Center-DC. (July 1) □

Ambiguity, inaccuracy & the 'mentally ill'

Edward Yudelovich

Some people in the community of people with disabilities — including this reporter — who have an emotional, psychiatric or mental disability are now using the term “so-called mentally ill.”

This reporter was misdiagnosed with schizophrenia in 1975 and was improperly medicated for six years. Finally another psychiatrist corrected the misdiagnosis and gradually weaned me off the extremely addictive medications that had caused serious side effects, including drowsiness, disorientation, uncontrollable shaking, inability to sleep and unusual sensitivity to heat.

Ambiguous guidelines for psychiatric diagnosis

According to a June 26 Wall Street Journal article entitled “‘Unspecified Mental Disorder’? That’s Crazy” by physician, psychologist and author Dr. Leonard Sax, “The American Psychiatric Association released a revision of its diagnostic bible in May, the first major rewrite in two decades. ‘The Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,’ or DSM-5, is the official guidebook for diagnosing every conceivable psychiatric ailment.”

First published in 1952, the book once branded LGBTQ people as having “sex-

ual orientation disturbance” until the LGBTQ liberation struggle forced it to remove this bigoted diagnosis in its third edition in 1980.

“In previous editions,” wrote Sax, “you the patient had to meet certain specified criteria in order to be diagnosed for any particular condition. For instance, if I were going to diagnose you as having schizophrenia, then you had to have specific symptoms, such as delusions or hallucinations. If you didn’t have those symptoms, then I couldn’t make the diagnosis of schizophrenia.”

“Not anymore. Last month, DSM-5 introduced a new diagnosis, ‘Unspecified Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder.’ The only required criterion is that you have some distress from unspecified symptoms, but you ‘do not meet the full criteria for any of the disorders in the schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders diagnostic class.’”

This diagnosis is in one short paragraph at the bottom of page 122 of the DSM-5.

There is also a new “Unspecified Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.” The piece de resistance of this glorification of ambiguity is on page 708, where you can find the new “one size fits all” mental health diagnosis of “Unspecified Mental Disorder” for people who “do not meet

the full criteria for any mental disorder.”

“As recently as 1994,” wrote Sax, “it was rare for any child or adolescent in the U.S. under 20 years of age to be diagnosed as bipolar.” But, by 2003, “There was a 40-fold increase in the diagnosis of bipolar disorder among American children and teenagers,” without any change in official diagnostic criteria.

“Most of the new diagnoses were for children under 15 years of age. This phenomenon is peculiar to North America.” During roughly the same time period, the proportion of children under 15 diagnosed with bipolar disorder decreased in Germany.

“In the U.K. and in continental Europe, bipolar disorder is still recognized as a condition that cannot be reliably diagnosed in childhood. Kids have mood swings. Mood swings in an 8-year-old do not signify bipolar disorder; mood swings are a normal part of being an 8-year-old. Unless you happen to live in the U.S., in which case your child is more likely than ever to be put on powerful antipsychotic medications.”

Psychotherapist Gary Greenberg in “The Book of Woe: The Making of the DSM and the Unmaking of Psychiatry,” recounts how Joseph Biederman, a child psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, decided in the late 1990s that some children he’d been asked to treat for particularly severe attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder were in fact suffering from bipolar disorder or BD.

BD is a serious, probably genetic, lifelong condition that had previously been thought to emerge in early adulthood. It is often treated with powerful mood-stabilizing drugs with significant side effects.

Although no substantive studies supported the existence of pediatric BD and his child patients did not display one of

the key symptoms — manic episodes — Biederman used his considerable prestige to advance his theory.

The 2000s saw a boom in pediatric diagnoses of BD and the prescription, to young children, of medication that carried risks of cataracts, diabetes, obesity and a movement disorder called tardive dyskinesia.

In 2006, a scathing front-page exposé in The New York Times revealed that Biederman had received \$1.6 million from drug companies in exchange for promoting his diagnosis and solicited even more to fund research that he promised would “support the safety and effectiveness” of their drugs.

This reporter recognizes that people with and without disabilities have been helped by the treatment of psychiatrists and other mental health professionals, but that the capitalist system, which puts profits before people, encourages and promotes abuse of patients and discourages nurturing, scientifically sound patient care. Witness the current public health epidemic of hospital closings in New York, including four targeted for shutdown in Brooklyn alone.

For years health insurance companies have consistently paid a much lower percentage of patient medical costs for psychiatric care than for other medical treatments, making quality psychiatric care more of a privilege than a right and much more affordable for the 1% than the 99%. Its cost is beyond the economic means of many workers and oppressed people, particularly people of color.

This article is based on part of a July 20 talk by this writer, who is a member of Workers World Party’s Caucus of People with Disabilities.

Next: Gun control, self defense and the so-called mentally ill.

MILWAUKEE

Protesters at governors’ conference

Special to Workers World

Protesters from across Wisconsin and beyond confronted the National Governors Association conference held at the Frontier Airlines Center in downtown Milwaukee Aug. 2-4. Undeterred by a massive city, state and national police presence, protests of various forms took place on all three days.

As governors such as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker discussed with their Wall Street bosses how to continue plundering the working class and oppressed, a diverse range of protesters outside the conference demanded an end to racist austerity, union busting, attacks on women’s reproductive rights, imperialist war, police terror and more.

The protests were organized by Occupy Milwaukee and endorsed by numerous progressive organizations. Members from various unions in the Wisconsin AFL-CIO joined in the protests on Aug. 3.

“Wall Street and their political servants, like those at this governor’s conference, have declared an all-out state of war on us, the working class and our communities, and we must respond in kind,” said Babette Grunow, of Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement, at a protest outside the convention center Aug. 3.

Raising the pitched class battles of the 1930s, Grunow said: “We’re continuing to think, discuss and implement our next offensive steps. We propose that we begin building People’s Assemblies created and run by us, as working people, with the most oppressed in this society taking leadership roles. If the city councils and legislatures are

not going to provide us our basic human rights such as living-wage jobs, safe and affordable housing, free public education, food stamps, children’s programs and our other immediate needs, then they need to go. Dissolve the general assemblies and convene people’s assemblies! Make the racist banks pay for the crises they’ve created! Hands off the people’s pensions! Cancel the people’s debts!”

While NGA attendees dined on gourmet food and high-priced beverages at the Milwaukee Art Museum on the last night of the conference, Aug. 4, the Overpass Light Brigade confronted the gathering of the 1% with their illuminated people’s messages.

For more coverage of the protests, visit wibailoutpeople.org and occupyriverwest.com. □



Angela Walker from Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 at Aug. 2 protest in Milwaukee.

PHOTO: OCCUPY RIVERWEST

NYC COMMUNITIES ORGANIZE

Housing for people, not profit

On the evening of July 24, a New York City Housing Authority hearing on NYCHA’s Draft Annual Plan was packed with more than 1,000 tenants and supporters. They were responding to a call from the Good Old Lower East Side to oppose developers’ schemes proposed in the DAP. According to the GOLES leaflet, besides cuts to Section 8 housing subsidies and closing senior centers, the DAP contains more attempts “to build luxury housing” from the Lower East Side to Harlem in Manhattan. Other grievances against the plan include wasteful payments to city agencies such as the New York Police Department and lack of a disaster preparedness or recovery plan. Most NYC housing projects are built precariously close to the East and Hudson rivers and were hard hit by Hurricane Sandy.

Johnnie Stevens, of Chelsea Coalition on Housing, told Workers World, “This morning’s New York Times admits that half a million people are on the waiting list for public housing, while all the city projects combined can only house about 773,000.” Stevens reflected that in order to be heard by NYCHA, “which is more sympathetic to for-profit landlords than to tenants, homeless families, community center staff or the building maintenance workers, who are represented by Teamsters Local 237,” all concerned must continue to have a united, militant presence at events in defense of public housing. □

Elders demand transit justice

On July 24, a busload of mostly African-American elders from Co-op City in the Bronx attended a morning rally outside the Metropolitan Transit Authority hearing on service and fares. Their designated speaker explained that they have been fighting to restore bus service and make it more regular, as residents typically need to get to medical appointments twice a week.

The seniors, other community activists and hundreds of members of Transport Workers Union Local 100 were greeted by dozens of elected officials and candidates for office in several neighborhoods where understaffed subway booths, broken elevators and service cuts endanger both safety and the local economy. Environmental activists and grassroots groups like Holding Up Great Sisters and Parents to Improve School Transportation also spoke and networked at the event.

Meanwhile, several transit workers and advocates lined up to testify at the hearings inside. The crowd outside chanted, “Release the funds! Restore our services!” in reference to cuts and layoffs made in 2010 that could now be reversed using the millions of dollars that New York state has recently awarded the MTA.

To sign petitions and learn more about making transit more accessible for all, visit www.transitforward.org.

A brief history of 'marriage'

Same-sex marriage in prehistoric societies

By Bob McCubbin

Although the truly nightmarish conditions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people that existed prior to the Stonewall Rebellion and the modern movement for equal rights and liberation have abated somewhat, the struggle is far from over. Equal rights under bourgeois law are being won through the unrelenting pressure of out-and-proud activists and the refusal of LGBTQ people in general to any longer maintain the centuries' long tradition of secrecy and silence.

But being out, especially if you are a transgender person of color, can still mean sudden death or, if you defend yourself like CeCe McDonald, arrest and imprisonment. Full liberation will not be possible until there is a fundamental social transformation — specifically, an end to the rule of capitalism, the decadent, global economic system whose continued existence rests on the perpetuation of racism, sexism, homophobia/homohatred and all the other weapons it uses to divide and undermine the potential political power of workers and oppressed people.

Important scholarly inroads in anthropological and queer studies literature have been and continue to be made concerning the existence of homosexuality and alternate gender expression among the many cultures and historical periods of the world's peoples, but it still requires determined digging to find anthropological documentation for prehistoric same-sex marriage. What we're looking for at this point in our "Brief History" series are nontransitory same-sex relationships occurring in foraging and hunting groups.

Transgenderal same-sex 'marriage'

In "Queer Science," author Simon LeVay writes: "Homosexual relationships fall into a number of different patterns. Among these patterns, three seem to recur widely in different cultures: I will refer to them as transgenderal, age disparate, and companionate relationships. Transgenderal homosexual relationships are those in which one of the two individuals is markedly cross-gendered, while the other is more or less conventional for his or her own sex. In many traditional Native American cultures, for example, there were individuals, known to anthropologists as berdaches (male) or amazons (female), who cross-dressed and took on some of the social roles and attributes of the other sex. (They are sometimes referred to as 'two-spirit people.') Berdaches and amazons often married more conventional individuals of the same sex as themselves." (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1996, p. 58)

Midnight Sun is an Anishnawbe Indian lesbian feminist. She has a degree in anthropology/women's studies and, at the time that her essay, "Sex/Gender Systems in Native North America," was published in "Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology," she was in training to become a carpenter. Of the three North American tribes she discusses in this essay, only the section on the Mojave people includes material on their homosexual marriage customs. Fortunately, however, she covers Mojave same-sex marriage among women as well as among men. These marriages fall under LeVay's transgenderal category.

Because the larger purpose of Sun's essay is to show the relationship between sex/gender systems and the mode of production or subsistence patterns in three

tribal groupings, she includes basic social and economic information: "The Mojave are a southwestern American tribe. ... In the late seventeenth century they numbered three thousand and subsisted on small-scale agriculture, supplemented by gathering, hunting and fishing. ... This subsistence strategy, combined with Mojave kinship, marriage, and residence patterns, allowed for relatively egalitarian male-female relations." (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988, p. 36)

The tribe included "homosexual and lesbian cross-dressers termed 'alyha' (male) and 'hwame' (female). Not all homosexual or lesbian behavior entailed assumption of the 'alyha' or 'hwame' roles, however. Those who were involved in marital or sexual relationships with 'alyha' or 'hwame,' for example, retained the gender identity associated with their biological sex. In other words, Mojave cross-gender categories were distinct from their categories of man and woman.

"Alyhas' and 'hwames' not only adopted the characteristics of the other gender — they fictively conformed to the biological sex characteristics of their assumed genders. For instance, it was reported that when an 'alyha' found a potential husband, he imitated menstruation by scratching his legs until they bled. ... 'Hwames' found wives at dances and through visiting. ... The Mojave believed that intercourse with a pregnant woman could change the paternity of a child, so if a 'hwame' seduced a pregnant woman, 'he' was entitled to claim paternity and take care of the infant. ... The fact that cross-gender individuals were often shamans or married to shamans or chiefs suggests not only cultural acceptance, but an association with status and prestige, as well. This may be due to their value in production, because they could combine elements of both masculine and feminine economic spheres." (pp. 38-39)

The Mojave report, while informative, involves a culture where agricultural production was already part of the economic basis. For a more thoroughly foraging and hunting culture, we turn to a passage written in the latter part of the 16th century in Walter Williams' remarkable book, "The Spirit and the Flesh." Portuguese explorer Pedro de Magalhães de Gandavo's encounter with the Tupinamba Indians of northeastern Brazil resulted in the following report: "There are some Indian women who ... have no commerce with men in any manner. ... They give up all the duties of women and imitate men, and follow men's pursuits as if they were not women. They wear the hair cut in the same way as the men, and go to war with bows and arrows and pursue game, always in company with men; each has a woman to serve her, to whom she says she is married, and they treat each other and speak with each other as man and wife." (Boston: Beacon Press, 1988, p. 233)

Age-disparate same-sex 'marriage'

David Greenberg's "The Construction of Homosexuality" offers some examples of what might be called age-disparate same-sex marriages in a summary distilled from a number of anthropological studies of New Guinea foraging, hunting and early agricultural societies: "Transgenerational homosexual relations have been studied most thoroughly in New Guinea and parts of island Melanesia. ... After leaving his mother's hut at age twelve or thirteen to take up residence in the men's house, a Marind-Anim boy en-

ters into a homosexual relationship with his mother's brother, who belongs to a different lineage from his own. The relationship endures for roughly seven years. ...

"An Etoro boy's career in homosexuality starts around age ten, when he acquires an older partner, ideally his sister's husband or fiancé. ... The relationship continues until the boy develops a full beard in his early to mid-twenties. At this point, the now-mature young man becomes the older partner of another prepubescent boy, ordinarily his wife's or fiancé's younger brother." (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988, pp. 27-28) While these sexual bondings are less than lifelong, they do suggest, at a minimum, serial homosexual monogamy, paralleling the descriptions of heterosexual pairing marriages among foraging and hunting peoples.

We find reference to age-disparate same-sex marriage among women in an essay by John Mburu, titled "Awakenings: Dreams and Delusions of an Incipient Lesbian and Gay Movement in Kenya." In this work, which appears in the book "Different Rainbows," Mburu writes, "The Nandi of Kenya and Lovedu of South Africa had traditions of woman-woman marriage, widespread throughout Africa. The practice involved a widowed elderly woman taking a younger wife, who helped with household chores and bore children as a surrogate for the older woman. While a controversy exists as to whether these relationships were sexual, among the Azande, women formed lesbian relationships amongst themselves that were kept secret from their husbands. ... Similar relationships were also fairly common among the Nupe and Hausa of West Africa." (London: Millivres Ltd., 2000, p. 181)

Mburu doesn't address the mode of production of the tribal groupings he names, but material in "Boy-Wives and Female Husbands: Studies in African Homosexualities" suggests that at the time they were observed, these groups were already experiencing the beginnings of economic inequality based on farming. (Stephen Murray and Will Roscoe, eds. New York: Palgrave, 1998)

Companionate same-sex 'marriage'

In the groundbreaking work, "Gay American History," Jonathan Katz includes passages from the writing of Joseph François Lafitau chronicling his experiences as a Jesuit missionary in French Canada between 1711 and 1717. Although veiled in euphemism and obscurantism, his words suggest the existence of LeVay's "companionate relationships" among Native American men, at least some of whom belonged to foraging and hunting groups. "The ... special friendships among young men, which are instituted in almost the same manner from one end of America to the other, are one of the most interesting sides of their customs. ... These bonds of friendship ... admit of no suspicion of apparent vice, albeit there is, or may be, real vice. They are highly ancient in their origin, highly marked in the constancy of their practice, consecrated, if I dare say as much, in the union they create, whose bonds are as close as those of blood and nature. ... The parents are the first to encourage them and to respect their rights." (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1976, p. 289)

While there may, indeed, be examples of companionate relationships qualifying as "same-sex marriages" among foraging and hunting women, our very cursory

search found no clear examples. Given the tendency of many anthropological reports to focus mainly on males and often ignore, minimize or distort the roles of women, this shouldn't be surprising.

But several other factors are involved. Female members of foraging and hunting groups are not likely to share with male investigators information on their sexual activities or relationships. In fact, after initial, unpleasant contact with Christian missionaries or other representatives of patriarchal society, neither women nor men of foraging and hunting societies are likely to speak openly about matters which they already know these outsiders disapprove of or view with disdain. Finally, though, we can be sure that the matrilineal clan form of social organization provided ample opportunities for long-term, companionate relationships between women.

While the word "marriage" may or may not be used to characterize transgenderal, age disparate and companionate homosexual relationships among foraging and hunting peoples, the reports we've reviewed make it clear that such relationships existed as a part of early human societies, were much more than promiscuous, transient "couplings," and, most importantly, benefited from the general acceptance and benign approval of their heterosexually oriented kin. We need to learn from our ancestors!

The following installments in this series will describe a fundamental transformation in human social relations paralleling the adoption of agricultural production, a transformation that included disastrous implications for women, homosexual relations, gender nonconformity and the institution of "marriage."

Milwaukee

Fast-food workers

Continued from page 3

also for human rights and social rights," the Rev. William Briscoe, president of the faith-based coalition, Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied For Hope, said at the Miller Parkway rally.

Right before the police started escorting a few of the protesters away for not moving, Milwaukee state legislator, Mandela Barnes, climbed on a truck bed and said, "We had to have the back of the strikers because what they did was a brave thing today." The protesters booed the police action and started to march around, singing union songs, drumming, and shouting, "What's injustice? Poverty wages! What do we want? \$15 and a union!"

Representatives of the Milwaukee teachers union, the Service Employees union, the Steel Workers' union, union nurses, Wisconsin Jobs Now, Voces de la Frontera, the WI Bail Out the People Movement and other labor-community organizations were there in solidarity with the workers.

"It's beautiful and we need more of it," said Angela Walker, legislative and political director for the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998.

For more information and to sign a petition to support the low-wage workers, visit <http://bit.ly/StrikeMKE>.

WORKERS WORLD
 editorial

Free Manning! Jail Bush!

To clarify the injustice in the verdict finding Pfc. B. Manning guilty of 20 of the charges against this anti-war hero, contrast it with the record of real war criminal George W. Bush. To keep it simple, examine their role regarding only the U.S. war against Iraq.

Bush was president of the United States during the buildup to the invasion of Iraq and the first five years of the U.S./British-led occupation. The Bush administration repeated a series of lies it used as pretexts for the invasion and occupation. These included charges that Iraq had a role in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, that Iraq was in collusion with al Qaida terrorists, and that Iraq had so-called weapons of mass destruction and was going to use them against the U.S.

Not a word was true.

As commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, Bush was responsible for the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, the deaths of upwards of 1.5 million Iraqis, the displacement of another 4 million to 6 million Iraqis, and sowing sectarian discord when the occupation forces were unable to defeat the Iraqi resistance head on. This discord still

continues in Iraq.

To his crimes against Iraqis, add the deaths and horrible wounding of tens of thousands of U.S. youth and the waste of some trillions of dollars paid for war materiel by U.S. workers in taxes.

It's true Bush is so unpopular that he has stayed out of the limelight. Still, he was recently rewarded with a presidential library.

Manning, a young working-class soldier who witnessed the U.S. crimes in Iraq and others in Afghanistan, acted in a completely different way. Manning made a bold attempt to stop the crimes that Bush and others committed by releasing an enormous amount of secreted information that exposed U.S. crimes to the people of the world — and first and foremost to the people of the United States.

Some of this information exposed a bit of the truth about the brutal U.S. war on Iraq — the video of a helicopter execution of Iraqi civilians is one dramatic example. For telling these truths to the world's people, Manning now faces up to 136 years in prison.

Bush is a war criminal. Manning is a working-class hero.

Free Manning! Jail Bush! □

Russia grants Snowden asylum

By Chris Fry

Despite U.S. threats to retaliate, the Russian Federation government on Aug. 1 granted whistle-blower Edward Snowden temporary sanctuary. Snowden left Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow, where he has spent the last 39 days, to move into an apartment. He has already been offered employment at VKontakte, a Russian social network website. (New York Times, Aug. 1)

Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia have offered Snowden permanent asylum, but the U.S. has threatened to block air traffic carrying Snowden to those countries — a clear act of air piracy. Washington already forced its European allies to block Bolivian President Evo Morales' aircraft leaving from a conference in Moscow when the U.S. suspected Snowden might be on board.

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said, "Russia has stabbed us in the back, and each day Mr. Snowden is allowed to roam free is another twist of the knife." Schumer recommended that the Obama administration move "out of Russia the summit of G20 leaders planned for St. Petersburg." (Reuters.com, Aug. 1)

Right-wing Sen. John McCain called the Russian government's decision "a

disgrace and a deliberate effort to embarrass the United States." He called on the Obama administration to expand NATO and accelerate the European "missile-defense program" (Reuters.com, Aug. 1), even though Washington has always insisted that this program is only to defend against a potential Iranian missile attack, not the Russian missile program.

Obama administration spokesperson Jay Carney threatened that the U.S. would pull out of a planned September meeting between President Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin. And in a move seemingly beyond coincidence, the U.S. government declared a global "terrorist alert," supposedly based on National Security Agency gathered information.

With no extradition treaty between the U.S. and Russia, Russia is under no legal obligation whatsoever to turn Snowden over. And this week, a U.S. military court convicted whistle-blower B. Manning of weighty charges for exposing military atrocities and State Department corrupt backing of "friendly" dictatorships. Snowden would likely receive similar harsh treatment.

Attorney General Eric Holder promised that Snowden would not be tortured or killed. Based on Manning's experience of torture at Quantico military base, this pledge carries little weight.

Why has Russia's decision to refuse Washington's demand to turn over Snowden to face espionage charges left the Obama administration and both right-wing and "liberal" politicians frothing at the mouth?

The NSA is a key arm of the U.S. military. Edward Snowden has exposed powerful NSA computer programs like PRISM and XKeyscore, which are used not only to monitor phone calls, email and Internet chats in the U.S. and abroad, but also to spy on any number of foreign countries, such as Russia and China, as well as any number of U.S. "allied" governments and foreign corporations.

The U.S. government has arrogantly demanded that the very same governments that were targets of illegal U.S. spying turn over Snowden for harsh punishment for exposing these spy programs. Of course, there is no lack of hypocrisy — the U.S. government has refused the Venezuelan request for extradition of Luis Posada Carriles, a CIA operative who planned the bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people.

The decision by the Russian Federation is re-enforced by popular support. Some 43 percent versus 29 percent of Russians polled favored their government's decision to grant Snowden asylum. This comes after a recent U.S. poll here that shows that 52 percent of those polled consider Snowden to be a whistle-blower. A majority of those polled here have also said that neither Russia nor any other country should be punished for granting Snowden asylum.

Despite the U.S.'s gigantic military apparatus and its immense economic and political power, the events around Snowden show a dramatic erosion of the ability of the U.S. to get its way. □

Capitalism at a Dead End Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to www.LowWageCapitalism.com Available at Amazon and other bookstores.

Zimbabwe defies West

Continued from page 1

Africans monitor Zimbabwe elections

Tsvangirai, the leader of the MDC-T and former prime minister under the coalition government, cried foul even prior to the official announcement of the vote tallies. The Western-backed opposition figure has challenged President Mugabe unsuccessfully three times since 2002, claiming that his party had a program to revive the economy and improve relations with the West.

Tsvangirai blamed his loss in the elections on vote rigging by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, which had appointees from all major parties in the country. The MDC-T, along with the other political parties, approved the constitution, the electoral process and the terms of the new political dispensation.

The MDC-T leader was following the lead of his imperialist backers, who have failed to recognize the results of the elections. This failure by the United States, Britain, some European Union states and Australia to accept the ZANU-PF victory is contradictory, since many leading publications and think tanks based in those countries had predicted a resounding defeat of the opposition for several months.

According to another article in the Aug. 5 Zimbabwe Herald, "Southern African Development Community (SADC) facilitator Comrade Jacob Zuma, Kenyan President Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta and the Chinese government have congratulated President Mugabe and ZANU-PF on their landslide victory in the just-ended harmonized elections and urged all parties to accept the result. Comrade Zuma said the result should be respected as observers said it was an expression of the will of the people."

The Herald notes, "The United Nations (UN), AU [African Union], SADC [Southern African Development Community], the Common Market for Eastern and

Southern Africa (COMESA) and other observer groups from Africa have endorsed the elections while the United States, Britain and its dominion Australia — who were not invited to observe — have joined MDC-T in condemning the election." Zimbabwe refused to allow the Western states to send observers for the elections, saying that Africa could provide adequate monitoring to ensure a credible poll.

The chairperson of the regional SADC Peace and Security Council, President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, sent a letter of congratulations to Mugabe. Kikwete's party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, and ZANU-PF have enjoyed decades of fraternal relations extending back to the days of the armed struggle against the white settler-colonial rule of Ian Smith.

This letter read in part: "I have received with great pleasure, the news of your re-election for another term to lead the people of Zimbabwe. On behalf of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency for this resounding victory."

Kikwete stated: "Indeed your re-election is a clear testimony of the confidence and trust the people of Zimbabwe bestowed upon you. Under your able leadership, Zimbabwe has recorded tremendous socio-economic developments, despite some challenges. Thus we look forward for greater progress and prosperity for the people of Zimbabwe as well as your continued invaluable contribution to our region and the continent through SADC and the AU."

Will imperialist states escalate attacks?

Since the leading imperialist states, the U.S. and Britain, have refused so far to accept their defeat in Zimbabwe, will they continue or escalate hostility toward the Southern African state? Indications

are that efforts to undermine the independence and sovereignty of Zimbabwe will continue.

The rejection of the election reports from the AU, SADC, COMESA and even the U.N. represents the height of arrogance and racism on the part of these Western governments. By refusing to acknowledge the continental acceptance of the results, the imperialists are seeking a rationale for renewed interference in the internal affairs of not only Zimbabwe but indeed Africa as a whole.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said, "In light of substantial electoral irregularities reported by domestic and regional observers, the United States does not believe that the results announced today represent a credible expression of the will of the Zimbabwean people." (The Independent, Aug. 4) Such a statement, which blatantly ignores the work of African governments through their regional organizations, illustrates clearly the Obama administration's total disregard for the political judgment and will of the entire African continent.

In an editorial published Aug. 5, the Zimbabwe Herald responds to the State Department comment: "We wonder which Zimbabweans Kerry was referring to, when the very same people made their choices known to the world on July 31. Not to be outdone, Germany had the temerity to remark that the election 'casts a big shadow on the political and economic future of Zimbabwe.'"

Anti-imperialist forces inside the Western states must accept and salute the people of Zimbabwe for their political decision to return ZANU-PF, the party of national liberation, to office with an overwhelming victory. The struggle of the people of Zimbabwe backed up by the African continent should serve as an inspiration to all who are fighting against the hegemony of imperialism throughout the world. □

After military's fascist crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood

Imperialists struggle to restore 'stability' in Egypt

By Fred Goldstein

Aug. 5 — U.S. and European diplomats, along with emissaries from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, have descended on Cairo to consult with Egyptian generals and Muslim Brotherhood leaders in an attempt to find a path to political and social stability after the brutal military coup d'état of July 3.

The Supreme Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces (SCAF) overthrew the elected government of Mohamed Morsi and the Freedom and Justice Party, arrested the leaders and carried out two massacres of Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators. More than 100 were killed, more than 400 were wounded and thousands were injured in the attacks.

Morsi and other Muslim Brotherhood leaders are being held in detention. The regime is threatening to charge them with murder. Arrest warrants are out for 600 Brotherhood leaders. (See the important series of articles by Joyce Chediak in *Workers World*, July 25, Aug. 1, and Aug. 8, which thoroughly document the unfolding of the coup.)

At present, thousands of Brotherhood and Morsi supporters are sitting-in to demand Morsi's reinstatement and to denounce the coup. The defense minister and coup leader, Gen. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, threatened to attack the sit-in and pro-Morsi demonstrators.

Washington fears backlash

Washington and other imperialist capitals in Europe issued warnings about further violence, not because these most violent rulers have suddenly taken to pacifism but because they fear that the Egyptian military's attempt to destroy the Brotherhood could backfire and stoke the flames of rebellion.

The secular liberals and social democrats have entered an opportunist alliance with the military, but Washington fears that a rebellion against severe repression will break it up. The U.S. would prefer to have a civilian façade and allow the military to rule from the background. But the Egyptian military will turn on the liberals and social democrats in a moment if they should pose any threat.

A reliable and stable Egypt, which guards the interests of imperialism, is the key to the U.S. ruling class' policy of domination in the Middle East. And the real foundation of Washington and the Pentagon's grip on Egypt is the Egyptian military.

The Pentagon generals and the Egyptian military consult with each other on a first-name basis when they discuss strategy or how to shape the annual \$1.3 billion in U.S. military aid.

Many of the generals are educated and trained in the U.S. Coup leader General Sisi went to the U.S. War College in Carlisle, Pa., in 2006 and was highly regarded as a next-generation leader by the U.S. military. Egyptian Army Chief of Staff Sedki Sobhi went to Carlisle in 2004.

Every two years the Pentagon and the Egyptian military carry out joint military exercises called "Bright Star."

While the U.S. ruling class and the Pentagon can temporarily maneuver with the Muslim Brotherhood leadership for practical reasons, the Brotherhood never was and never can be a reliable base for Washington in the long run, even when the Brotherhood leaders try to collaborate with imperialism, as Morsi did. The majority of the Brotherhood's base is

poor and oppressed masses prone to rebel against imperialism.

When Sisi threatened a violent crackdown on the Brotherhood sit-in, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns rushed to Cairo to quiet things down. Burns and European Union delegates, along with the Gulf state representatives, have visited Brotherhood leaders in detention to try to get them to reconcile themselves to the coup and move toward a rapprochement with the coalition created by the military. So far the Brotherhood has refused.

John McCain and Lindsey Graham, two senators close to the Pentagon, are now on their way to Cairo to negotiate with the Egyptian high command and the new military-appointed government leaders in an attempt to move on and construct the façade of a democratic regime that Washington can publicly embrace.

Collapse of progressive forces

On July 26 General Sisi delivered a vicious, demagogic call for a mass demonstration against "terrorism" and called upon the people to be ready to fight. This was a direct call for a mobilization against the Brotherhood with strong undertones of violence.

There have been numerous articles in the Egyptian press, television programs and speeches comparing the Brotherhood to the Nazis and Morsi to Adolf Hitler, with claims that the president would eventually transform the state into a totalitarian Islamic dictatorship.

A campaign orchestrated by the military high command equating the Brotherhood with fascism was joined by the liberals and the majority of left forces.

This represented a complete political collapse of the progressive movement in Egypt by many of the very forces that had struggled for the overthrow of the ousted former president, Hosni Mubarak. These forces succumbed to a frenzied atmosphere whipped up by the former Mubarak loyalists in the military, the courts, the police and the state bureaucracy.

This collapse was led by imperialist liberals such as Mohamed ElBaradei, a former imperialist arms control official, who is now vice president. The support for the coup was bolstered by mass organizations, among them Tamarrod, which initiated a mass petition calling for the ouster of Morsi and for new elections. This was the spark that the military and Mubarak forces seized upon to make themselves the heroes of a massive June 30 demonstration, which was a prelude to the coup.

To be sure there were grievances, many of them justified, that the secular and social democratic (left) forces had against Morsi and the Brotherhood. And Morsi did carry out many reactionary acts which should be condemned. But the idea of having the murderous, plundering torturers in the military — whose attack dogs in the Interior Ministry and the po-

lice had oppressed the people for decades — carry out the will of the people is misguided. It is a show of organizational and political weakness and, above all, a lack of ideological clarity about the imperialist-dominated society of Egypt.

Furthermore, to chime in with the anti-Brotherhood witch-hunt is self-defeating. In fact, the progressive forces passed up a golden opportunity to forge unity with the Islamic masses who were under attack.

Class appeal to Islamic masses and soldiers needed

It is a mistake to open up escalated attacks on the Brotherhood at the moment that it is under fascist assault by the military. The urgent need of the struggle is to build unity from below on a class basis.

To defend against the fascist attacks and appeal for unity based on a working class program — jobs, food, fuel, land, expropriation of the rich capitalists, etc. — is a way of overcoming the division, which only serves the Egyptian ruling class and the imperialists. It is also a way to weaken the hold that Morsi and the conservative religious forces within the Brotherhood have upon the masses.

In the same way, the progressive forces fell into the trap of lumping the entire military into one basket. In fact, the military in Egypt is a complete reflection of capitalist class society. The strategic goal of the progressive forces and the left should be to undermine the military machine by appealing to the soldiers.

The soldiers are poor. They are conscripts. The military high command, on the other hand, owns 40 percent of the Egyptian economy. It is corrupt and lives in the lap of luxury, while the soldiers struggle to make ends meet. And this rich high command calls upon poor, working-class and rural Muslims who belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. But the interests of the soldiers and Muslim masses are in harmony from a class point of view.

Now that the horror of the violent repression following the coup has become apparent, some groups are denouncing the coup, but putting an equal sign between the Brotherhood and the military. This is a false equality. The leadership of the Brotherhood, despite its desire to collaborate with imperialism on Israel, Gaza, Syria, etc., is not a pillar of the imperialist-capitalist establishment of Egypt and never will be. A victory by the predatory military regime over the Brotherhood is a victory for capitalism and imperialism. This should tell everyone which side to be on in the present conflict.

This may seem like an uphill battle, but in the long run there is no other way out of the crisis that besets Egypt. Strong political organization, ideological clarity and a working-class program are the real answer.

Egypt, Marx and the Paris Commune

And, of course, the analogy to Hitler is objectively erroneous. Hitler had the military, the police, the courts, the state bureaucracy and the biggest capitalists behind him before he carried out his takeover.

In Morsi's case, the exact opposite is true. Morsi never had any real power. He was purely an officeholder surrounded by the old Mubarak military, state and corporate forces. He was sabotaged at every turn. Before he took office the lower house of parliament, with a majority of Brotherhood delegates, was dissolved by the Mubarak-appointed Supreme Court.

The Egyptian crisis points up the historical problem of trying to carry out a bourgeois democratic revolution in an oppressed country ruled by an authoritarian capitalist regime with a "deep state" and strong ties to imperialism.

Under these circumstances, the democratic revolution has strategic problems similar to those of the socialist revolution. The case of Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood demonstrates an axiom of Marxism, based upon Marx's analysis of the Paris Commune of 1871, when the proletariat held power for more than 60 days.

The great step forward taken by the communards — the members and supporters of the Commune — was that they did not try to take over the old state of the French ruling class and attempt to make it work for the revolution. Instead they broke it up and constructed their own armed state. This lesson has held up over time.

The Morsi regime took office and found itself paralyzed by the old state. It did not have even a revolutionary or mildly progressive program, but merely tried to get a share of the prerogatives of the entrenched military, state and capitalist ruling-class forces. The military feared the Brotherhood because it was the best-organized force in Egyptian society after the military itself.

Instead of the Brotherhood being able to use the old state to advance its bourgeois interests, the Mubarak state paralyzed and then destroyed the democratically elected regime.

The entire imperialist-controlled capitalist system was stacked against the Brotherhood. It was not because Morsi was Islamic that the masses were suffering from poverty and unemployment. It was because of the bankrupt capitalist system, which is in a world economic crisis that the masses were and are still suffering from.

It was not because Morsi was Islamic that the International Monetary Fund demanded a reduction in subsidies and the U.S. bankers impeded any IMF loans to the economy. It was because of imperialism and its voracious appetite for super-profits.

The left and the progressive forces in Egypt urgently need a reorientation towards fighting for unity on a class basis, and towards reaching out to the Islamic proletariat and the masses in general, in order to move the revolution forward. The conditions that created the mass upsurge will not go away, and the Egyptian movement will surely get back on track and learn from this experience.

Fred Goldstein is author of the books "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End," which has been translated into Spanish as "El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida."

MUNDO OBRERO

Trabajadores/as de comida rápida

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trabajadores/as un salario digno.

Estos/as trabajadores/as de comida rápida están marcando el camino a seguir para todos/as los/as trabajadores/as.

as, empleados/as o desempleados/as, que han sido afectados/as por la crisis económica, el aumento en el costo de vida, la creciente desigualdad de ingresos y el descenso de su nivel de vida. Su victoria no solamente ayudaría a los/as 4 millones de empleados/as en esta industria sino que sería un beneficio para todos/as los/as trabajadores/as. □

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países unios!

Comunidad batalla contra bancarrota de Detroit y exige pensiones

Por Kris Hamel

¡"Esto es guerra"! fue el titular de un volante emitido por la 'Coalición ¡Moratoria Ahora! para Detener las Ejecuciones Hipotecarias, los Desalojos y Cierres de Utilidades' convocando a una manifestación el mediodía del 26 de julio en el Centro Municipal de Coleman A. Young — el Ayuntamiento. "La indignación nacional por la absolución de George Zimmerman quien mató al joven afroamericano Trayvon Martin, todavía está bullendo", comenzó el llamado, "cuando se ha producido una nueva injusticia racista a escala nacional: la acción antidemocrática del nombramiento de un 'administrador de emergencias' sumiendo a Detroit en la mayor bancarrota de una ciudad en la historia de EE.UU."

Orquestada inicialmente por el gobernador republicano de Michigan, Rick Snyder y presentada el 18 de julio en la corte federal de bancarrota por su esbirro designado, el gerente de emergencia Kevyn Orr, la bancarrota pretende eliminar las pensiones de los/as trabajadores/as jubilados/as con el fin de pagar el principal y el servicio de la deuda a los bancos y a otros acreedores. (Ver "Detroit bankruptcy: War on Pensions" en workers.org, el 24 de julio.)

Pero los/as residentes, trabajadores/as, jóvenes y jubilados/as de la ciudad de Detroit están comenzando a luchar contra esta declaración de guerra contra el pueblo a nombre de los bancos. Unas 150 personas llegaron a la línea de piquete a la hora del almuerzo. Gritando, ¡"manos fuera de nuestras pensiones! ¡Que los bancos paguen!" y otras demandas, los/as jubilados/as de la ciudad, jóvenes y miembros de la comunidad participaron en esta acción militante. Muchos/as jubilados/as llegaron porque habían recibido un volante emitido por el "Comité Alto al Robo de Nuestras Pensiones" de la Coalición ¡Moratoria Ahora!

La protesta recibió amplia cobertura de la prensa durante todo el día. A principios de semana, la bandera de la coalición, ¡"A cancelar la deuda de Detroit: empleos, pensiones, servicios de la ciudad — nos deben los bancos!" fue vista en los medios de comunicación alrededor de los Estados Unidos e internacionalmente cuando los/as activistas se reunieron en las afueras de la corte de bancarrota en el centro de Detroit.

El 22 de julio, a petición de Orr y Snyder, el juez federal de bancarrota Steven Rhodes detuvo las demandas que desafiaban la bancarrota de Detroit. Él dijo que la corte de bancarrota tendría jurisdicción exclusiva sobre todas las cuestiones relativas a la ciudad.

Rhodes eliminó la orden de la jueza del circuito de Michigan, Rosemarie Aquilina, quien había dictaminado anteriormente que la declaración de bancarrota era inconstitucional en la medida en que se enfocaba en las pensiones de los/as trabajadores/as de la ciudad que están garantizadas por la Constitución del Estado, y paralizó los procedimientos de bancarrota sobre esa base. Rhodes, sin embargo, no se pronunció sobre la cuestión constitucional.

El día después de la manifestación, el fiscal general republicano Bill Schuette anunció que intervendría en el caso de bancarrota y se uniría a quienes defienden que las pensiones públicas en Michigan no estén sujetas a ser cortadas por bancarrota. Mientras Schuette no es amigo de los/as trabajadores/as y no se puede confiar en que luchará agresivamente por esta posición, el hecho de que tomara una posición en contra de Snyder y de Orr refleja la fuerza de las movilizaciones y la necesidad de continuas demostraciones.

'Las manos sucias' de los bancos

Workers World/Mundo Obrero habló con el organizador Jerry Goldberg de la Coalición ¡Moratoria Ahora!, quien tam-

bién es abogado del pueblo y representa a propietarios/as de casas en contra de los bancos en casos de ejecuciones hipotecarias. "En casos de bancarrota, las deudas bancarias están sujetas a consideraciones equitativas, lo que significa lo que es justo y equitativo", dijo Goldberg. "Si los bancos son culpables de lo que se llama manos sucias, entonces sus deudas están sujetas a liquidación. Por ejemplo, en el caso reciente del Condado de Jefferson del estado de Alabama, JPMorgan Chase había sido declarado culpable de sobornar a funcionarios en relación con los bonos municipales, y por eso fue obligado a cancelar el 70 por ciento de la deuda del condado.

"Dos de los mayores tenedores de bonos de Detroit son los bancos UBS y Bank of America", continuó Goldberg. "Son los principales beneficiarios de los swaps de tasas de interés de Detroit en los certificados de compromisos por pensiones de la ciudad, lo que les produjo cientos de millones en ganancias en los pagos de intereses inflados".

El 24 de julio, dos ex vicepresidentes de UBS, Gary Heinz y Michael Welty, así como Peter Ghavami, ex jefe global de materias primas de UBS, fueron condenados a penas de cárcel por haber engañado a ciudades y poblados mediante el fraude en las ofertas para invertir las ganancias de los bonos municipales. (Reuters, 24 de julio)

Un artículo del New York Times del 12 de julio reportó: "Phillip D. Murphy, ex director de la sección del Bank of America de derivados municipales, fue acusado de conspirar para defraudar a los Estados Unidos, fraude electrónico y conspiración para crear entradas falsas en registros bancarios". El artículo señaló que "13 individuos de bancos como Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase y UBS se han declarado culpables en la investigación del Departamento de Justicia. Bank of America, JPMorgan, UBS, Wells Fargo y

General Electric han pagado más de \$700 millones en restitución y multas".

Cuando se le preguntó sobre la divulgación de estas actividades criminales de los grandes bancos, Goldberg dijo: "Estas se suman a las prácticas depredadoras y fraudulentas de dar préstamos hipotecarios de alto riesgo de todos los bancos principales que han resultado en más de 100.000 ejecuciones hipotecarias en Detroit desde el 2005 hasta la actualidad, y que es la principal causa de la crisis financiera de la ciudad.

"Al administrador de emergencia Orr le fue encomendado bajo la Ley Pública 436, investigar el fraude criminal que contribuyó a la crisis financiera de Detroit. Pero se ha negado a ir tras los bancos. Esto no es de extrañar teniendo en cuenta que su bufete Jones Day representa a la mayoría de los bancos más importantes y está ganando un montón de dinero en honorarios de abogado de bancarrota de Detroit, cobrando US\$ 1,3 millones en honorarios solo al comienzo de la bancarrota".

La Coalición ¡Moratoria Ahora! dice que debido al fraude criminal que los bancos han perpetrado contra el pueblo de Detroit y contra la propia ciudad, Detroit debe cancelar su deuda con los bancos. Los bancos le deben a Detroit miles de millones de dólares por la destrucción que le han causado. Mientras que la coalición pretende desafiar las manos sucias de los bancos en el proceso legal de la bancarrota, los/as activistas dicen que esta cuestión, así como el saqueo de las pensiones de los/as trabajadores/as jubilados/as, en última instancia se decidirá en las calles.

Para obtener más información, contacte a la Coalición ¡Moratoria Ahora! por teléfono al 313-680-5508 y visite sus lugares del web moratorium-mi.org y Detroitdebtorium.org. La Coalición se reúne todos los lunes a las 7 p.m. en el 5920 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. El Comité Alto al Robo de Nuestras Pensiones se reúne a las 6 p.m. en el mismo lugar. □

Trabajadores/as de comida rápida demandan mejores salarios

Por Kathy Durkin

29 de julio — ¡"No podemos sobrevivir con \$7.25" y ¿"Qué es escandaloso? ¡Salarios de miseria"! gritaban cientos de huelguistas de restaurantes de comida rápida y sus partidarios/as frente a un McDonald's en la plaza Union Square en la ciudad de Nueva York. Acciones similares tuvieron lugar en otros lugares de la Cd. de Nueva York, incluyendo en el centro de Manhattan y de Brooklyn, y en otras cinco ciudades de los Estados Unidos.

Estos/as valientes trabajadores/as, en su mayoría afroamericano/a y latino/a, insistían: "Merecemos un salario digno". Mientras exigían el derecho a organizarse en un sindicato, subrayaban que ¡"Nueva York es una ciudad sindical"! Su espíritu militante fue expresado en su consigna: ¡"Los/as trabajadores/as tenemos derechos! ¡Luchar! ¡Luchar! ¡Luchar!"

Las organizaciones Fast Food Forward (Comida Rápida Hacia Adelante), Comunidades de Nueva York por el Cambio, y el Sindicato de Empleados/as de Servicios, están ayudando en la campaña de la Cd. de N.Y. Entre los/as partidarios/as de la huelga de hoy en Union Square estaban los/as miembros de varios sindicatos como el Centro de Trabajadores/as de Lavandería, Ocupar Wall Street, Comunidad y Obreros/as Unidos/as por los Servicios y Empleos del Correo, organizaciones para los derechos de los/as inmigrantes y otros grupos de la clase trabajadora.

Organizadores/as de la Asamblea del Poder Popular acudieron en solidaridad con los/as trabajadores/as y distribuyeron un volante que enlaza la lucha de los/as trabajadores/as de salarios bajos al movimiento de "Justicia para Trayvon Martin".

Protestas semejantes en este "Día Nacional Coordinado de Huelgas de Traba-

jadores/as de Comida Rápida" tuvieron lugar en diversos restaurantes, incluyendo McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Wendy's, Domino's Pizza, Taco Bell y Subway, en Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Detroit, y Kansas City, Mo. Este fue el tercer conjunto de acciones coordinadas a nivel nacional planeado por los/as trabajadores/as de comida rápida.

Cada día de protestas organizadas trae más apoyo. Docenas de grupos comunitarios, sindicales y religiosos se han unido a esta campaña. Además de las organizaciones arriba mencionadas, entre otras, están involucradas Trabajos con Justicia y Acción Ahora.

El impulso está creciendo rápidamente en apoyo a estos/as trabajadores/as y su llamado por un salario mínimo de \$15 la hora. Este llamado está resonando más fuerte y más claro que nunca — y rápidamente se está convirtiendo

en una cuestión nacional. Las fuertes y persistentes demandas de estos/as trabajadores/as por mejores salarios y el derecho a organizarse en sindicatos, el derecho de beneficios de salud, y la garantía de respeto en sus sitios de trabajo están siendo oídas porque están luchando.

Los/as trabajadores/as en esta lucha son muy valientes. Están arriesgando los empleos que tan desesperadamente necesitan para pagar gastos esenciales como alquiler y comida para sus familias. Muchos/as tienen dos o tres trabajos para poder sobrevivir. Sin embargo, están enfrentándose resueltamente a las corporaciones más poderosas que recogen enormes ganancias de su trabajo. Sólo McDonald's tiene un valor de \$100 mil millones, sin embargo la empresa se niega a pagar a sus

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