

Military terror sweeps Egypt Counterrevolution follows coup

BULLETIN Aug. 20 - Since this article was written, the military regime in Egypt has arrested Mohamed Badie, spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. Elected President Mohamed Morsi, deposed by a military coup, remains in detention. A court has announced the imminent release of Hosni Mubarak, whose 30-year military dictatorship ended in 2011 after mass demonstrations.

By Fred Goldstein

August 17 - The current campaign of massacres and repression launched by the Egyptian military constitutes a new and bloody chapter in the decades-long war by the generals against the Muslim Brotherhood. But it is more than that.

The Egyptian military has used the campaign against the Brotherhood as a pretext to launch a thoroughgoing counterrevolution aimed at taking Egypt back to where it was before February 2011 and the great victory of the masses in their momentous 18-day uprising that toppled the Mubarak dictatorship.

By declaring a month-long state of emergency, appointing 19 generals as provincial governors, suspending every democratic right, and giving the police and the military carte blanche to kill on sight, the high command is trying to intimidate the entire population into submission. They want to go back to the days when Mubarak ruled under a state of emergency that lasted for 30 years.

This latest wave of violent repression is, of course, a blow aimed to destroy the Brotherhood first and foremost. But it is also a message from the rich, ruling-class generals aimed at terrorizing and intimidating all of progressive Egyptian society, especially the restless and increasingly combative working class.

The coup of July 3 laid the ground for this assault. The coup followed the massive demonstration on June 30 that called for the resignation of President Mohamed Morsi of the Freedom and Justice Party, affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. A petition had been circulated that gathered millions of signatures calling for new elections. But the mass demonstration was co-opted by Defense Minister Abdel Fatah el-Sisi.

The demonstration was composed of both progressive secular forces and right-wing pro-Mubarak forces. Grievances against the Morsi presidency, both justified and unjustified, brought about confusion, causing many to swing behind the military. Instead of elections, however, they got a brutal military

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All unite to fight racism

Key to the class struggle

WW STATEMENT



Baltimore rally for justice

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Reality has demolished the myth that classes and class struggle don't exist in the United States. Never true, lately it's obvious that the very rich have waged a one-sided class war against the poor and indeed against all of us have to sell our labor to live.

The particular history of U.S. capitalism includes the genocide of the Indigenous population; theft of their land and much of Mexico; the superexploitation of enslaved people kidnapped from the African continent and more recently of immigrant labor from the global "South." This class war relies on racism to cheapen labor costs and divide the working class – all to satisfy the profit-greedy, multimillionaire and billionaire class.

Recently, poor and working people – employed and unemployed – have been fighting back, defending themselves against this relentless attack.

To survive, the workers must breathe fire into their

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'A science-fiction fantasy, LGBTQ love story for the 99%'

By Sara Flounders

Troubled children often create imaginary friends and secret worlds to cope with impossible realities. But what if imaginary friends became real and secret worlds could be visited? "Beyond the Horse's Eye: A Fantasy Out of Time" by Janet Rose is built around a fascinating concept: Empathy for all living things can be channeled into a powerful energy force. (Jersey City, N.J.: Word Space Publications, 2013) This exciting read is wise and full of intuition about pain, survival, rehabilitation and change.

Science fiction is a very political medium in which hopes can be projected onto another galaxy or another dimension. With analogies and fantasy, it enables readers to envision the world they want and perhaps to formulate how to get there.

Rose's book revisits the 1960s, a decade rich with ferment in the United States — with opposition to the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, the fight for women's rights, and the lesbian and gay struggle. In that period, the author writes, species beyond humans join forces with young earthlings. With "empath power," they cooperate to change history. Worlds, energy forms and loves — lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, queer and straight — collide with unexpected results.

Empathy channeled = 'empath power!'

The writer vividly describes empath power, which holds enormous power to connect us in much deeper ways and to transform the future. Many of us already believe empathic energy has great potential. The ability to tune in to and feel the pain and joy of others is the basis of human solidarity. It underlies the determination to stand up for the most oppressed and marginalized and to link together common interests in genuine, non-exploitive ways.

In Rose's novel, empath power is channeled to move across galaxies, time and species. For those of us living in this still primitive era of human consciousness, fighting for change means understanding the power of human solidarity. It is a great fantasy to think about how empathy can be channeled into an energy force in the future.

Capitalist society ruthlessly trims our innate ability to feel the needs and the pain of others. Socializing a

child involves teaching fear, caution and suspicion about whom to talk to, love, ignore, what thoughts to allow, what identity, what gender expression and more.

Although humans are an intelligent, socially cooperative species, most of our brain capacity and abilities at this primitive era of development are not yet used or encouraged. We take for granted modern communication developments. Had people even speculated 500 years ago that it was possible to talk directly to anyone outside of hearing range, they would have been burned at the stake.

We are enormously confident that humans of a future, more equitable and sharing world will have unimaginable communication capabilities, along with abilities to use technology in new, creative and liberating ways.

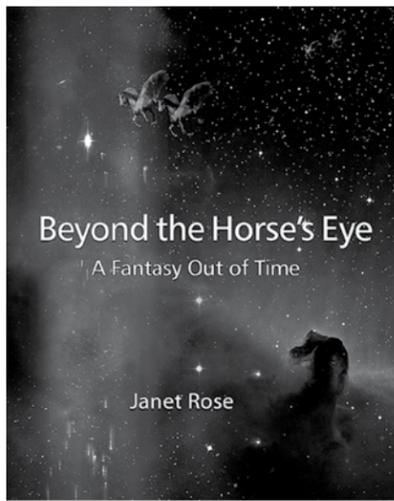
The author describes many species in a densely populated universe; some we can almost recognize. Those with animal companions become aware of levels of consciousness and forms of communication most people are not yet tuned into and languages we haven't yet learned. With analogies, Rose shows confidence that humans will eventually possess skills, intuitions and capacities not yet imagined.

Rose's story inspires. She poses the question: How do we get to a new world? It's through political struggle by those able to step beyond their own pain. People find themselves and each other in the ferment of struggles for change.

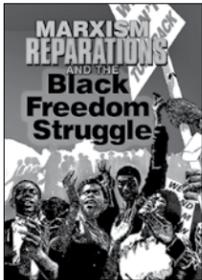
The book's heroes are young revolutionaries whose fierce determination and confidence in their own power flare up during the 1960s. Then, raw revolutionary energy pulsed with potential and collective determination. Big breakthroughs were suddenly possible by linking with others. Collective energy surged through millions who were determined to push back old forms of oppression, racism, segregation, patriarchy and homophobia — and to challenge new attempts to dominate us.

If you believe in the power of human solidarity, in "empath power" in this era, and that another world is possible — and needed — read and savor this wonderful novel.

By self-publishing, Rose has refused to be defined by what is commercially viable in an "un-free" book market. To read excerpts and learn more about this fascinating novel, see WordSpacePublications.com. "Beyond the Horse's Eye: A Fantasy Out of Time" is available in paperback and Kindle formats at amazon.com and in print at barnesandnoble.com. □



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Workers' solidarity with immigrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

While many powerful economic and political issues are currently driving immigration policy in this country, an outstanding one is racism.

In 2004, Harvard historian Samuel Huntington wrote a racist call to arms against immigrants in the magazine *Foreign Policy*. He wrote that Latino/a immigration “threatens to divide the United States into two peoples, two cultures, and two languages. Unlike past immigrant groups, Mexicans and other Latinos have not assimilated into mainstream U.S. culture. ... The United States ignores this challenge at its peril.” (March 1)

The challenge was not ignored.

Since 2005, there has been a vigorous, ugly and racist campaign against immigrant workers, especially the undocumented. Driven by the current economic crisis, which has reduced the bosses' demand for cheap and vulnerable labor, this campaign is meant to drive immigrants further underground, exploiting them even more, and incarcerating and deporting the rest.

It is also meant to divide the working class in this country.

Just as the exoneration of Trayvon Martin's killer, George Zimmerman, was meant by the powers that be to incite division and send a message that the lives of youth of color mean nothing in this society, immigration policy is also meant to incite divisions as well as to dehumanize and criminalize workers of color.

The current anti-immigrant campaign is meant to pit one sector of the working class against another. Workers are supposed to blame each other for unemployment and fight each other instead of the real enemy: the multinational corporations, the billionaires and the government that does their bidding.

This onslaught took hold in ground zero for racism, the state of Arizona. As we commemorate the historic March on Washington 50 years ago, it is important to recall that Arizona racists did everything in their power to prevent making the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a holiday. They did not prevail, but Arizona was one of the last states to adopt the holiday.

No militarization of the border!

SB 774, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modern-



May Day, New York City, 2013.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

ization Act — which was passed by the Senate in June and is awaiting passage in the House of Representatives — is counter to what immigrants and their advocates have been struggling for since 2006.

Many in the immigrant rights movement have pointed out that U.S. foreign policy is the principal force driving migration. Whether it is trade policies with Mexico such as the North American Free Trade Agreement or the U.S.-orchestrated kidnapping of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti, most migrants come to the U.S. because of unbearable conditions at home created mainly by neocolonial U.S. policies.

The current immigration law about to be passed by Congress completely ignores this.

Instead, it will spend more money for militarization of the border, more repression, more racism and the violent expulsion of workers whose only crime is survival. Only a small percentage of the more than 11 million undocumented stand a chance of becoming legalized.

Almost 2 million workers have been deported from the U.S. since the 2008 election. That would be as if the entire city of Dallas disappeared in one stroke.

An unprecedented 409,849 deportations occurred in 2012 alone.

Behind these deportations are the powerful interests of the racist, warmongering, ruling elite. Powerful lobbyists for military contracts and for racist, anti-poor private contractors like the

Corrections Corporation of America are behind this enforcement-first immigration policy.

The alternative — legalization of the more than 11 million undocumented in the U.S. — would not only mean well-earned justice for immigrants but would raise the living conditions for all workers in this country.

As the union adage explains, “An injury to one is an injury to all.” Conversely, a rising tide lifts all boats.

Racism and immigrants

Right-wing forces like the Tea Party and prominent Republicans have made immigration a hot button issue. Despite their liberal posturing, powerful Democrats like Sen. Chuck Schumer from New York are not that far behind. In fact, immigrant rights activists in April targeted Schumer's office, charging he gets financial backing from CCA and other companies that profit from the prison-industrial complex. (politics365.com)

Since 2005, racist, inflammatory rhetoric and anti-worker, anti-poor legislation have swept the country.

All kinds of atrocities have occurred. Many immigrant women have had their children taken from them and put up for adoption by U.S. families, never to see them again. In 2011, “at least 5,100 children currently living in foster care [were] prevented from uniting with their detained or deported parents.” (arc.org/shatteredfamilies)

Several immigrants have died in detention centers after their health crises were ignored.

Recently, Rep. Steven King of Iowa, a member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, told an interviewer, “For every [immigrant] who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there that weigh 130 pounds and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert.” (huffingtonpost.com, July 23)

Immigrants weren't intimidated by this atrocious statement. They protested, saying, “I don't have calves the size of cantaloupes, King!”

Other atrocities are hidden from the public. More than 13,000 unaccompanied Mexican minors were deported in 2012. Immigrant advocates report that it is not uncommon at deportation court hearings for a toddler or a 6-year-old to appear in front of a judge without a lawyer. In 2012, immigration agents apprehended 6,548 accompanied minors and 24,481 unaccompanied children. (alternet.org, July 29)

In unity there is strength

The capitalist class in this country has created extreme conditions for workers today, with persistent unemployment, homelessness, inadequate education and health care. How can the richest country in the world with billions of dollars at its disposal not provide basic needs for the people?

The political agenda is driven by a capitalist system that requires ever more profits for the rich, and the hell with the rest of us.

Class peace for the 1% depends on the age-old tools of fear and bigotry. Imagine if all the families and friends of the incarcerated united with all those who have experienced massive deportations. What a powerful tool that would be.

The day is coming when the people of this country — of all nationalities, no matter whether they were born in Brooklyn or Manila, Somalia or San Francisco, Manhattan or Mexico City — will unite to fight for the interests of the working class. □

Struggle continues

Brooklyn hospitals stay open—Victory!

By G. Dunkel

Responding to the pressure of a fairly militant coalition of unions — the New York State Nurses Association and SEIU1199 United Healthcare Workers — community groups, religious leaders and local politicians, a judge ruled Aug. 16 that medical services at Long Island College Hospital have to be maintained.

Under the guise of saving money — another name for reducing medical care for poor and working people — the state and city of New York have been closing, or trying to close, community hospitals in New York City for the past five years. The looming effects of the Affordable Care Act, not yet fully implemented nor fully understood, have intensified their desire to cut care to the bone.

In 2010, St. Vincent's Hospital in Green-

wich Village was closed, which impacted a few hundred thousand people in lower Manhattan. Emergency rooms in other Manhattan hospitals saw a surge in patients and nearly 20,000 people signed a petition demanding St. Vincent's stay open.

NYSNA and a coalition of community groups have scheduled a protest called “Hospitals Not Condos” at the site of St. Vincent's on Aug. 19 to protest turning hospitals, like LICH, into very high-priced condominiums.

The judge's order requires the State University of New



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Brooklyn hospital workers at Aug. 19 protest in Manhattan against St. Vincent's Hospital being turned into ultra-high priced condos.

Continued on page 5

On the 5th Anniversary of the Federal \$700 Billion Bank Bailout ...

A CALL for an INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Dozens of community and progressive activists representing various organizations and struggles, including city of Detroit workers and retirees faced with the loss of their pensions, met Aug. 14 at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Detroit to plot their next move in the class war intensifying in this city. A new formation, the Coalition for an International People's Assembly Against the Banks and Against Austerity, was launched, with the goal of hosting a major convergence against the banks in Detroit on Oct. 5-6.

The call to action for this struggle event describes Detroit as "the epicenter for the financial and social war being waged by the banks on the working class." The discussion at the Aug. 14 gathering reflected a sense of urgency and the need for united action to stop the onslaught facing Detroiters.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court has put on a fast track the eligibility determination of the city's bankruptcy petition, which was filed by state-appointed Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, who has usurped the elected powers of the mayor and city council. Orr is charged with paying off the debt service to the banks at whatever cost to the residents, workers and retirees, as well as city assets such as Belle Isle Park and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

AGAINST THE BANKS AND AGAINST AUSTERITY

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The coalition's initial statement outlines the backdrop of this crisis:

"The fraudulent mortgage lending practices of [the] banks, carried out through subprime and predatory loans, placed 73 percent of Detroit's homeowners in mortgage crisis, resulting in over 100,000 foreclosures in the last decade. Some 237,000 residents have been driven out of the city. Public education has been gutted.

"After destroying Detroit's tax base, the banks subjected the city itself to predatory lending, including interest rate swaps resulting in banks collecting interest payments 1,200 percent higher than the actual bond rate. The exorbitant debt the banks imposed on the city was the pretext for Michigan's governor staging a coup, removing all power from Detroit's African-American elected officials and imposing an unelected 'emergency manager' (EM) whose primary job is to guarantee debt service payment to the banks.

"Now the governor and [EM] have taken the City into the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. Their target is City workers' constitutionally protected pensions, and other immensely valuable City assets. In contrast, bankers are considered 'secured creditors,' to be paid first."

Detroit a test case for further attacks

Even the New York Times of Aug. 16 got it right, with a top editorial headlined, "No Banker Left Behind: The Detroit bank-

ruptcy case provides another example of how Wall Street wins."

The coalition explains further: "The EM-imposed austerity plan in Detroit is designed to establish a precedent for attacking public workers' pensions nationwide. Cities and states across the country facing similar debt crises because of the criminal lending practices of the banks are in line for the same treatment as Detroit. These same banks, by imposing over \$1 trillion in student loan debt, have declared war on youth, who will be burdened with student debt for the rest of their lives. These austerity programs are being imposed across the globe, in Greece, Spain and Portugal; from Latin America to Asia and Africa.

"These patterns of financial destruction have happened for years in communities of color across the U.S., and now entire cities are being threatened. Chicago, Baltimore, Los Angeles and Philadelphia are now targeted. ... Events in Detroit exemplify historical racism across the U.S., and are underscored by the outrageous verdict in the Trayvon Martin murder, Supreme Court rulings against the Voting Rights Act and affirmative action, and the deportation of over 1 million undocumented immigrants in the past five years."

The coalition's initial demands in-

clude: Cancel the debt to the banks which is strangling our schools, cities, states and countries. Guarantee workers' jobs and pensions and services for the community; no union busting. End undemocratic, racist emergency management of our cities and schools. A jobs program funded by the banks to put the unemployed to work rebuilding our cities; the banks owe our communities billions of dollars for the destruction they have caused. Moratorium on all foreclosures and evictions; housing is a right. Repudiate student loan debt; education must be free and available to all; increase funding for public education. Stop racism and attacks on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities and people with disabilities. The federal government must bail out the people, not the banks.

Detroit, once a large, thriving center of the union and Black Liberation movements, needs "the solidarity of the world's working class to beat back the current onslaught," say organizers. Everyone is invited to Detroit for the International People's Assembly Against the Banks and Against Austerity on Oct. 5-6. To endorse or get involved, call 313.744.7912 or email moratorium@moratorium-mi.org; for more information, visit DetroitDebtMoratorium.org or moratorium-mi.org. □

The coming war

Philadelphia schools end teacher seniority

By Betsey Piette and Scott Williams
Philadelphia

With less than 24 hours notice to the public, on Aug. 15 the Philadelphia School Reform Commission held a special "emergency" meeting for the purpose of approving a request by School Superintendent William R. Hite Jr. to suspend parts of the state school code.

Despite a chorus of boos and shouts of "shame on you" from 500 teachers, students and parents, the five-member, appointed board unanimously approved Hite's requests that let him call back laid-off workers selectively instead of by seniority.

The SRC, much like Detroit's Emergency Manager, has launched a full-speed attack on public education and union jobs under the pretense of austerity. Their action came less than a week after Hite announced that public schools might not be able to open as scheduled on Sept. 9 due to the District employing zero school safety workers, office staff or counselors, who were among the 4,000 workers laid off by the District in June. The SRC made their move less than 24 hours after over 100 school workers, students and community supporters ended a 12-hour hunger strike on the steps of the School District headquarters to highlight the need for adequate funding.

The morning of the SRC meeting, the mayor of Philadelphia, Michael "1%" Nutter, offered \$50 million from sales tax

revenue that was to go to city workers' pensions, to rehire 1,000 staff members in order for the school year to start on time.

In addition to eliminating seniority, the SRC suspended parts of the school code that automatically give raises to teachers for years of service and protect existing work hours for employees with whom the district has not reached "an acceptable collective bargaining agreement."

The SRC also suspended provisions of their code pertaining to charter schools. One change that the SRC claims would give them more oversight to deny renewal to underperforming charter schools lets a single SRC member or even a non-SRC hearing officer oversee hearings on suspensions or revocations of contracts. Given that several SRC members have direct association with groups advocating for charter schools, this rule would give them carte blanche to renew licenses to unaccountable charter schools.

Other code suspensions involved lifting an SRC-imposed limit on charter school enrollment and on per-student payments, effectively inviting the for-profit charters to enroll even more students at the same time draining district funds intended for public schools.

Sylvia Simms, the supposed parents' representative on the SRC, who is in fact on the payroll of Comcast, explained Aug. 15 why she supported the SRC's actions: "Too many people talk about the adults. Too many people worry more about the adults than the students they're supposed

to serve. So I vote yes in support of Dr. Hite." (<http://tinyurl.com/18w59fe>)

Such shortsighted arguments barely hide her intentions to destroy quality public education for young people in Philadelphia.

Although Superintendent Hite and SRC Chair Pedro Ramos claimed that the rule suspensions are a "temporary" measure needed to get through the current crisis, most of the revisions provide for continuation into future school years.

'This is war'

"The only reason the District is pursuing these suspensions is to destroy collective bargaining and eliminate the PFT [the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers]," said Evette Jones, the community engagement coordinator, in an email blast to mobilize for the Aug. 15 SRC meeting. Even with the short notice, hundreds of opponents of the SRC actions filled the hearing room beyond capacity while hundreds more were barred from coming in. Several dozen protesters successfully broke through police barricades to get inside.

Teachers who spoke out against the SRC rule change also voiced concern that the elimination of job protection via seniority will have a chilling impact on teachers active in fighting back against the SRC dictates.

Middle school teacher Gail Kantor called the code suspension "an insult to me, my colleagues and the students

of this city," noting that she and other teachers often pay for supplies and other children's needs out of their own pockets.

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers President Jerry Jordan called the SRC vote an "attempt to decimate this union and to violate everything we have worked for over the years. They want to go back to a system of patronage where they could hire people based on race or whoever the ward leaders wanted to give jobs." Jordan laid the blame for the crisis on SRC mismanagement of school finances and vowed that the union would fight back including taking legal action.

Manufactured crisis to destroy public education, unions

The PFT has been in negotiations with the District over their contract, which is set to expire Aug. 31. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett has tied the release of \$45 million in additional funding for the District to a demand that the teachers' union accept \$130 million in concessions that would reduce wages and benefits by up to 13 percent and extend the workday by an hour. At the same time, the state has cut education funding this year by over \$1 billion, including a cut of over \$300 million to Philadelphia schools.

Meanwhile, PFT members are the lowest paid teachers in the 6 million person Philadelphia area. In effect, the SRC vote imposed non-negotiated contract provisions on the teachers. The PFT has re-

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On the Picket Line

By Sue Davis

Global youth jobless crisis

A report released May 8 by the International Labor Organization stated that 73.4 million young workers worldwide are estimated to be jobless this year. Millions of others are underemployed in mostly temporary or part-time jobs. The numbers, likely to increase through 2018, will have a long-term impact for decades to come. In 2012, the highest youth unemployment was 28.3 percent in the Middle East and 23.7 percent in North Africa. The report, "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013: A Generation at Risk," urged countries to adopt "aggressive policies for improving job growth" and investment in education and training, while ensuring international labor standards and rights. (blog.afcio.org, May 9) Similar recommendations were made in the April 4 report, "Stuck: Young America's Persistent Jobs Crisis," issued by Démos, a U.S. public policy organization. The report stated: "Without policy targeted to the needs of young adults" — especially youth of color and those without a college education — "we risk a generation marked by the insecurities of the Great Recession for the rest of their working lives." It recommended a youth jobs corps similar to that in the 1930s, raising the federal minimum wage, strengthening the voice of youth in the workplace, and access to low-cost community college education and vocational training. (demos.com, April 4) These ideas sound good on paper, but how will they be implemented with capitalism stuck at a dead end? The only solution is revolution.

UMWA ratifies deal with Patriot Coal

Members of 13 locals of the Mine Workers union in West Virginia and Kentucky voted overwhelmingly to ratify a settlement with Patriot Coal on Aug. 16. The settlement provides significant improvements in terms and conditions for union jobs and retiree health care over what a bankruptcy judge ordered last May. While UMWA International President Cecil E. Roberts praised the settlement, he noted that Patriot still does not have enough resources to provide lifetime health care benefits to 23,000 retirees, dependents and surviving spouses, which Peabody Energy and Arch Coal agreed to when they set up Patriot five years ago. The UMWA has maintained since then that Patriot was set up to fail, so it could claim bankruptcy, which it did in 2012, in order to shed the cost of these benefits. "We fully intend to hold Peabody and Arch accountable," stated Roberts. "This settlement has not solved the problem. It has only bought us time to seek a more permanent solution." (umwa.org, Aug. 16) UMWA's determination to continue the fight for justice was affirmed three days earlier when more than 2,000 UMWA members and retirees, supporters from other unions, and community and faith-based activists rallied outside Peabody's headquarters in St. Louis. Among those arrested in a civil disobedience action was Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers: "We're here because we understand that this fight is about the oldest fight in America: that if you work hard, then America's corporations can't turn their backs on workers." (blog.afcio.org, Aug. 13) Stay tuned.

Continued from page 4

fused to accept these concessions, which would drive compensation back to 1967 levels. Yet their hands are legally tied by a 2001 Pennsylvania law which limits their ability to strike and allows for the SRC to impose nonwage and benefit working conditions.

On Aug. 22, thousands of teachers, parents, students and community members will march on the SRC to demand full, fair funding for Philadelphia schools. Marchers will start at the tax-dodging Comcast headquarters, also the headquarters of NBC Universal. Then, marchers will descend on the City Hall and to the SRC's next meeting.

This march will be important in setting the stage for a broader struggle, including the possibility of a strike or boycott at the beginning of the school year. □



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We all deserve better.
WE DESERVE R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

Brooklyn hospitals stay open - Victory!

Continued from page 3

York, whose Downstate Medical Center runs LICH, to immediately put into effect:

- ▶ Full restoration of staffing and services which were available as of July 19, including an active Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, inpatient medical beds, as well as laboratory, radiology, social work and pharmacy services.
- ▶ Starting inpatient surgeries by treating physicians to the extent such surgeries were permitted on July 19.
- ▶ Removal of armed guards from LICH, other than those deemed necessary for safety; this is important since these guards have harassed patients and staff.
- ▶ Issuance of a formal "retraction

letter" telling patients that LICH clinics are not slated for closure unless and until the court deems otherwise.

According to a nurse who used to work at LICH, laid-off workers are being recalled. There will also be a monitor to make sure SUNY follows the court order.

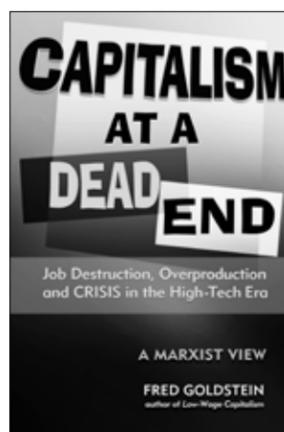
LICH is very near the Brooklyn waterfront and developers and other speculators are salivating over a chance to dismember it and convert its remains into high-priced housing and offices.

The next target in this campaign of closing hospitals is the Interfaith Medical Center, which services the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of central Brooklyn, particularly low-income patients suffering from substance abuse. IMC is currently in bankruptcy court.

Bedford-Stuyvesant, according to the 2010 Census, is about 50 percent people of color and 50 percent white. The community residents are not particularly well-off, with a median income around \$50,000.

"SUNY tried to padlock this hospital four weeks ago. We've watched it violate court orders in broad daylight. Now, the court is putting all that to an end. These steps will ensure this community will have continuity of care for the immediate future," said Public Advocate Bill de Blasio at a Aug. 16 press conference announcing the decision about LICH. "This is a huge step forward." (advocate.nyc.gov/LICH-order)

But the nurses at the conference underlined that this is not a final victory. The struggle must continue. □



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Real voices behind the 1963 March on Washington

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

August 28 is the 50th anniversary of that fateful 1963 day in Washington, D.C., when 300,000 people marched and rallied demanding jobs and freedom. Although the corporate media often reference this monumental historic event, the circumstances leading up to the march have largely been lost in people's public perception in the United States.

Typically, they present a 10-second clip of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final "I Have a Dream" speech. Other talks addressed the demands of the movement that had grown out of decades of the African-American people's struggle for equality and self-determination. King himself noted that the U.S. government had given African Americans a bad check that had been sent back marked "insufficient funds."

A historic legacy of mass mobilization

Some 22 years prior to the 1963 march, A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin had planned a "March on Washington" demanding the end of segregation in the rapidly developing war industry. Randolph, a Socialist Party organizer, labor tactician and newspaper editor, called for 10,000 to come to Washington on July 1, 1941.

On June 25, 1941, six days before the march, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, which established the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Organizers then called off the march.

It wasn't until May 17, 1957, that Randolph and Rustin organized the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom, supported by the newly formed Southern Christian Leadership Conference headed by Dr. King. At the Lincoln Memorial gathering, featured speakers included New York Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins and Dr. King. Gospel recording artist and Civil Rights Movement supporter Mahalia Jackson performed.

This rally was designed to support the

Civil Rights Act of 1957, which empowered the Justice Department to pursue cases involving the suppression of the voting rights of African Americans. Some 25,000 at the event heard Dr. King deliver one of his first national speeches, this one entitled "Give Us the Ballot."

After 1960, the Civil Rights Movement would take on a more mass character when the student sit-ins began in the South and the people of Fayette County, Tenn., tested the 1957 Civil Rights Act and began to register to vote, provoking their evictions by white landowners. The student sit-ins and boycotts led to the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

The events of the spring and summer of 1963 were critical in the introduction by President John F. Kennedy of yet another Civil Rights bill in June of that year.

In Detroit on June 23, hundreds of thousands marched and rallied in the "Great Walk to Freedom," where an early version of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech was first recorded and publicized by Motown Records.

Other key speakers at the Aug. 28 March on Washington included SNCC Chairperson John Lewis, whose speech was considered so militant that the lead organizers requested he revise it. His original draft states: "We march today for jobs and freedom, but we have nothing to be proud of, for hundreds and thousands of our brothers are not here. They have no money for their transportation, for they are receiving starvation wages or no wages at all.



Rosa Parks



August 28, 1963, Washington, D.C.

"In good conscience, we cannot support wholeheartedly the administration's civil rights bill, for it is too little and too late. There's not one thing in the bill that will protect our people from police brutality."

Bayard Rustin, often recognized as the actual organizer of the March on Washington, read the demands of the gathering, including that effective Civil Rights legislation be passed immediately with no compromises, encompassing full voting rights, the withholding of federal funds to any local and state government that refuses to obey federal civil rights laws, the signing of an executive order ending housing discrimination, full employment, an increase in the minimum wage and other issues.

Women, civil rights and the March on Washington

Women played a leading role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Rosa Parks' arrest on Dec. 1, 1955, for violating the segregation laws of Alabama set off the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Ella Baker, a longtime organizer in the Civil Rights struggle was the first executive director of SCLC and would later encourage the youth to form their organization, SNCC, in order to ensure the militancy of their anti-segregation campaigns.



Ella Baker

By 1963, women were playing leading roles in Cambridge, Md.; Somerville, Tenn.; and within the ranks of SNCC. Yet at the actual March on Washington, only one woman spoke to the crowd, although Mahalia Jackson, Marian Anderson, Joan Baez and others performed.

The only woman who spoke during the rally was film star and stage performer Josephine Baker, who flew in from her adopted home of France to participate. Baker told the crowd, "I have walked into the palaces of kings and queens and into the houses of presidents, and much more. But I could not walk into a hotel in America and get a cup of coffee, and that made me mad. And when I get mad, you know that I open my big mouth. And then look out, 'cause when Josephine opens her mouth, they hear it all over the world."

The full dimensions of the March on Washington need further exposure to the masses within the U.S. Even today in 2013, there is a need for a march for jobs and freedom.

Historic NAACP leader Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois died on the same day that the March on Washington took place. His death was announced at the rally as well as an acknowledgment of his shift to the left in his latter decades.

Du Bois spanned the political spectrum from Civil Rights and Pan-Africanism to world communism. All of these currents and their glorious histories have much to inform us about the struggle that we need to wage in the years to come. □

Key to the class struggle **All Unite to Fight Racism**

Continued from page 1

defensive struggles and develop maximum unity to win. Battling racism must be put on the front burner. It is also vital to combat attacks on women's rights and all forms of discrimination, from that against lesbian/gay/bi/trans/queer people to that of workers with various abilities.

Putting first and foremost the need for unity of all the different struggles, we invite those reading this statement to join those who have begun to fight back.

Two of the most recent insidious assaults expose the illusion related to the historic election of an African-American president that the U.S. is a "post-racial society." First, the Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act, which, combined with state laws imposing obstacles to voting and allowing gerrymandering of election districts, has virtually dismantled the democratic right to vote in many states. Second, allowing the killer of young Trayvon Martin to escape punishment has extended the already free hand given to killer cops and vigilantes against young people of color.

This decision freeing George Zimmer-

man aroused a mass response across the country, including that by the Dream Defenders in Tallahassee, Fla. — those courageous and determined youths of color who occupied the State Capitol for more than a month. It's a sign of the potential of this movement that a federal court ruled that New York City's racist stop-and-frisk actions were illegal profiling. Challenges to voting rights restrictions (and many other undemocratic laws) in North Carolina aroused thousands to join "Moral Mondays" demonstrations, risking and taking arrests.

Reaction to these racist crimes has turned the 50th anniversary Civil Rights gathering in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 24 from a commemorative event to an impulse to renew the movement and defend what's left of the rights won in the 1960s and 1970s. With the "Redeem the Dream" theme, unions and Civil Rights organizations can open a new round of struggle that will bring tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people to the capital.

On Aug. 28, the actual day of the 1963 march, the People's Power Assembly movement — inspired by the splendid ex-

ample of mobilizations based in Baltimore — has called for demonstrations and protests in cities around the U.S. to win justice for Trayvon Martin and for the other mostly youths of color like Ramarley Graham, Shaaliver Douse, Kimani Gray, Shantel Davis, Alan Blueford, Oscar Grant, Darius Simmons and countless others.

Fighting for a living wage

Workers in low-wage, non-union jobs have also opened up organizing drives sprinkled with one-day job actions. Fast-food workers at McDonald's, Wendy's and other chains held one-day strikes in the spring and summer. The demands for a \$15 minimum wage have begun to attract support around the country. They target Walmart, with its 1.3 million workers in the U.S. alone, mostly in low-paid jobs, with work schedules set at the whim of the bosses. These deplorable conditions add even greater importance to the upcoming Workers' Assembly being hosted by the Baltimore Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Baltimore People's Power Assembly on Sept. 1.

The struggles against racism and for a

living wage have impacted the AFL-CIO, whose leadership, desperate to stem the loss of union members, now speaks of organizing workers in low-wage jobs and seeks participation from community groups at the confederation's Sept. 8-11 convention in Los Angeles. This opening to the workers most in need cannot be ignored.

Added to these struggles are those of 700,000 postal workers who are defending their jobs and the services of the U.S. Post Office for rural and urban people alike.

Then there is Detroit, whose recent bankruptcy places it at the epicenter of the confrontation between the financial capitalists — the bankers — and the workers and Black and Brown populations of U.S. inner cities. The pretext of a need for austerity puts the pensions owed Detroit's working class at risk and with it those of millions of public and private sector workers around the country. The Coalition for an International People's Assembly Against the Banks and Against Austerity has called for a national and international action on Oct. 5-6 in Detroit to stop the banks' grab at workers' pensions and the racist and undemocratic takeover of

Moral Monday movement slams restrictions on voting rights

By Ben Carroll
Durham, N.C.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law on Aug. 12 a sweeping anti-voting rights bill that attacks the basic democratic rights of people of color, youth and other members of the working class.

As voter ID bills sponsored by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) make their way through many state legislatures, the recently signed bill in N.C. has earned the distinction as the most severe voter suppression law yet passed in the U.S.

Among the bill's key provisions are a shortened early voting period, and elimination of Sunday voting and same-day registration. In a blow to young voters, it does away with preregistration of 16- and 17-year-olds and invalidates school IDs as a valid form of identification. The law abolishes public financing of elections and increases the amount that individuals and corporations can contribute to elections. Additionally, it empowers vigilante poll observers to challenge other voters' eligibility. There are other reactionary provisions as well.

Many of the provisions of the bill attack measures, such as Sunday voting, same-day registration and the early voting period, which have been utilized overwhelmingly by Black, low-income and elderly voters.

This right-wing legislation comes on the

heels of the U.S. Supreme Court's Shelby decision, which gutted key provisions of the Voting Rights Act, a landmark bill passed in 1965 as a result of the Civil Rights struggle. Following that decision, Conservative state Sen. Tom Apodaca stated how relieved he was to no longer have the "headache" of the Voting Rights Act to deal with, reported a N.C. NAACP press release in the June 27 Carolina Mercury.

At an Aug. 13 press conference covered by WRAL-TV, announcing a legal challenge to the bill, the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the N.C. NAACP, called it "a vulgar misuse of political power designed to manipulate and rig elections. McCrory and the North Carolina Legislature are on the wrong side of history. ... This anti-voting rights bill tramples on the blood of our martyrs, desecrates the graves of freedom fighters and in the 21st century lines up with the extreme racially driven philosophy of interposition and nullification, promoted by past political figures like George Wallace and Strom Thurmond," emphasized Barber.

"Our rights are being taken away from us, and we should not stand idle," said Rosanell Johnson Eaton at the press conference. Eaton, 92, a long-time Civil Rights activist and resident of Franklin County, is the main plaintiff in the NAACP and Advancement Project's lawsuit challenging the N.C. voter suppression bill.

Barber explained further attacks in the state: "After denying Medicaid to 500,000 North Carolinians, unemployment [compensation] to 170,000 North Carolinians, earned income tax credits to 900,000 Black, white, and Latino North Carolinians, changing the tax code of North Carolina to favor the wealthy, attacking public education, attacking public school teachers, attacking women's rights, attacking labor rights ... now this group of extremists wants to manipulate and cheat their way into and hold on to political power. ... It seems as though ... this legislature and the governor view the Supreme Court Shelby decision in the same way the radical racists in the South in the 1800s viewed the removal of the federal troops in 1877."

Moral Mondays ignite fightback across North Carolina

The end of the legislative session in late July has not slowed the efforts to expand and deepen the Moral Monday and Forward Together movement that has spearheaded the opposition to the right-wing Legislature and its anti-people agenda. On the contrary, Moral Mondays have spread across the state — from the mountains to the coast and all points in between.

More than 10,000 people attended a Moral Monday demonstration on Aug. 5 in Asheville, N.C., in the western region of the state. Moral Monday protests will also

take place in Charlotte; Manteo, a coastal city; and in Burnsville, a small mountain town, on Aug. 19.

The N.C. NAACP and the Forward Together movement will mark the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington on Aug. 28 with 13 simultaneous demonstrations across the state, organized under the banner of "Taking the Dream Home."

These developments are breathing life into a new period of struggle in North Carolina. The Moral Monday and Forward Together movement, which began with just a few dozen people at the end of April, has grown by thousands and shows no signs of slowing the struggle anytime soon.

The ongoing efforts to bring the fightback that was opened up in Raleigh, the state capital, back to communities across the state is a very important next step for the movement. These efforts are being met with enthusiasm in every part of North Carolina.

Continuing to build and spread the spirit of resistance throughout the state will be a crucial element in rolling back these attacks on basic democratic rights and other anti-people policies promoted by the right-wing Legislature and governor. Ultimately, this fightback will help chart out a path to turn back the tide on the right-wing takeover here and elsewhere across the country. □

WW COMMENTARY

'BLACK AUGUST' A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

By Lamont Lilly

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on Aug. 28, 1963, galvanized hundreds of thousands in the streets of Washington, D.C. A. Philip Randolph helped to establish the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in Harlem, N.Y., on Aug. 25, 1925. The Haitian Revolution first broke the chains of French colonialism in August 1791. August marks the Nat Turner slave rebellion of 1831 and the Watts uprising of 1965. The Philadelphia Police Department first raided the MOVE organization on Aug. 8, 1978, giving way to the unjustly imprisoned MOVE 9. August also bears the births of Fred Hampton, Marcus Garvey and Mutulu Shakur.

elected city governments.

Combining these class struggles with others to save the schools and the fight for jobs — and always being aware of the need to stop imperialist wars and for international solidarity of all the oppressed — is not just simple addition. It requires the attention of all those who want to devote their lives to a united class struggle. Join these actions as they happen, discuss the next steps and political analysis, then come to the national conference of Workers World Party scheduled for New York City on the weekend of Nov. 16-17. □

"Black August" is a month-long celebration that marks the remembrance of the lives of freedom fighters who gave their all for Black liberation, freedom, radical resistance and mass consciousness. The official origin of Black August was in honor of the fallen soldiers who valiantly fought to liberate Black Panther leader George Lester Jackson from the modern day slave trade we now call the U.S. penal system.

Black freedom fighters — James McClain, William Christmas, Ruchell Magee, Khatari Gaulden and 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson — the brother of George Jackson — led a courthouse rebellion on Aug. 7, 1970, in a brave display of all-out resistance and armed struggle. Unfortunately, lives were lost as they typically are in any war for liberation. Magee, who is currently still incarcerated, was the only survivor. And though our heralded comrade, George Jackson, was not freed, the efforts of Jonathan and others would inspire decades of continued resistance and revolutionary solidarity.

George Jackson had just completed his book "Soledad Brother," a philosophical revolutionary classic. Jackson, however, was assassinated by San Quentin

prison guards one year later on Aug. 21, 1971. His second book, "Blood in My Eye," was published posthumously by Black Classic Press. Jackson's legacy of resistance has inspired millions worldwide, while his literary works continue to teach even in his physical absence. This is the background in which Black August was first formed. It was deep within the belly of the California penal system that it was first embraced and formally established as a month of reverence, as a time of revolutionary celebration.

The heroic Attica prison rebellion which began on Sept. 9, 1971, and was eventually drowned in blood by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's stormtroopers (the state police), with the deaths of over 40 unarmed prisoners, was sparked by Jackson's assassination.

Inmates today have continued to protest and press forward all over the United States. Hunger strikes over the past year have roused hundreds of thousands in states such as California, Georgia and North Carolina. Letter writing campaigns have served as vital lines of inspiration and direct communication. Human



Jonathan Jackson & Angela Davis

rights activists such as political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal have served as critical catalysts, tirelessly working to empower the voices of those who continue to be oppressed by the public and private prison industry.

Today, in the spirit of continued resistance we honor the deaths of Mark Clark, Fred Hampton and Geronimo Pratt. We honor the sacrifices and life work of political prisoners Eddie Conway, Sundiata Acoli

and our freedom fighters in exile like Assata Shakur. We honor the countless victims of Cointelpro's callous attacks upon the people. We duly recognize the destructive ills of capitalism and its disastrous effects upon the oppressed worldwide. In the age of the prison-industrial complex, school to prison pipeline and widespread police brutality, the struggle for justice and liberation is alive now more than ever.

In the 34th year of Black August, may we all take heed to the spirited words of our brother and mentor, George Lester Jackson: "Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are dying who could be saved." ("Soledad Brother")

Lamont Lilly is a contributing editor with the Triangle Free Press, human rights delegate with Witness for Peace and organizer with Workers World Party.



George Jackson

Military terror sweeps Egypt

Counterrevolution follows coup

Continued from page 1

coup.

This coup was planned by the military long in advance, with the aim of regaining its iron grip on all facets of Egyptian politics. It is revenge for their having to surrender Mubarak for trial under the pressure of the united masses. It is revenge for having to make concessions to the bourgeois democratic process.

The Brotherhood won the first democratic election in Egyptian history. It was the germ of bourgeois democracy forced upon the “deep state” of the generals, the courts and the Mubarak apparatus. The Brotherhood, after decades of being outlawed, defeated the candidate of the military, Ahmed Shafik. The generals were on the verge of cancelling the results of the election and taking over right then. But they thought better of it.

It was the first time the military had lost control of the electoral process, after decades of single-candidate “referendums” and rigged elections in which Mubarak was always “chosen” by an overwhelming majority.

Thus the coup of July 3, the state of emergency and the massacres.

Bloody events of Aug. 14

At 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 14, the Egyptian military opened up a new and bloody chapter in that country’s history by carrying out a massacre of thousands of unarmed civilians who had just finished their prayers at the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Tens of thousands of people from the Muslim Brotherhood and their supporters had been camped out for 42 days, protesting the July 3 seizure of power by the Egyptian military. The military regime suspended the constitution, ordered the arrest of elected President Mohamed Morsi and hundreds of Brotherhood leaders, and proceeded to appoint a new government filled with supporters of the Mubarak dictatorship.

Army tanks, armored vehicles, bulldozers, army special forces units, police and thugs dressed in civilian clothes descended upon the two encampments of protesters on either side of Cairo University. The military placed snipers on roofs and used helicopter gunships.

N.Y. Times:

Generals undercut U.S. interests

On Aug. 18, one day after the accompanying article was written by Fred Goldstein on the coup and counterrevolution in Egypt for Workers World, the New York Times published a lengthy article confirming the conflicting aims of the Egyptian military and U.S. imperialist diplomats (“How American Hopes for a Deal in Egypt Were Undercut”). Washington was trying to stop the bloodshed only in order to protect its imperialist interests, which it perceived as restoring stability. Here are some excerpts from the Times’ article.

“All of the efforts of the United States government, all the cajoling, the veiled threats, the high-level envoys from Washington and the 17 personal phone calls by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, failed to forestall the worst political bloodletting in modern Egyptian history. The generals in Cairo felt free to ignore the Americans first on the prisoner release and then on the statement [blaming the Islamists for

The coup was planned by the military long in advance, with the aim of regaining its iron grip on all facets of Egyptian politics. It is revenge for having to surrender Mubarak for trial under the pressure of the united masses.

There was no attempt to avoid or reduce casualties. There were no announcements over loudspeakers. There were no water cannons. Only lethal force was used.

The attackers opened fire without warning with live ammunition, shooting to kill, bulldozing the encampments in a six-hour campaign at Nahda Square and a 12-hour campaign to gain control of Rabaa Al-Adawiyya mosque. People were shot who took refuge in buildings. Others were shot at point-blank range in the head or chest. Some were shot while attempting to escape on bridges. The police told people they would be granted safe passage if they left, but when they did, they were brutally beaten and arrested. (Esam Al-Amin, Counterpunch, Aug. 16.)

When the military finally gained control of the two sites, they burned down field hospitals, media centers, tents and other installations erected during the encampments.

The official death toll for the day was over 600, but eyewitnesses from around the country put the toll in the thousands, with thousands more wounded, injured and arrested. Since the initial massacres on Aug. 14, hundreds more have been killed and wounded around the country in military, police and vigilante attacks.

Without a shred of evidence, the military accused the Brotherhood of being “terrorists,” of being enemies of Egypt and of stockpiling arms to carry out violence. The official media carried on a vile campaign of slander in preparation for this attack.

U.S. supplies the weapons

It is essential to emphasize that virtually every tank, every armored personnel carrier, every helicopter and every bullet was supplied to the Egyptian military by the Pentagon. Every death is ultimately the responsibility of Washington, which has enabled the military to rule in Cairo for over three decades.

It is the \$1.3 billion a year in military

supplies that has kept this corrupt military grouping in power. The money is in return for guarding the interests of the oil companies and the U.S. Navy in the Suez Canal. It is for honoring the 1979 peace treaty with Israel and the Egyptian pledge to safeguard the U.S.-backed Zionist state.

U.S. aid to Egypt also serves to safeguard the bourgeois-feudal oil monarchies in Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states. The Egyptian military is the bedrock of U.S. imperialist power in the region.

Washington claims that it has no power to influence the Egyptian military in the present crisis. Nothing could be further from the truth. The \$1.3 billion in aid constitutes massive leverage.

Furthermore, by agreement, U.S. military aid is actually a grant, which the Egyptian military must use to “purchase” U.S. weapons. The Pentagon and the Treasury simply hand the funds over to the military industry. Thus Washington has total control over the military supply line, weapons, ammunition, spare parts, etc. Washington could choke off all of this overnight if they really wanted to do so.

However, Washington’s dilemma from the beginning of the coup has been that the U.S. long-term interests in the region conflict with the immediate domestic counterrevolutionary aims of the Egyptian military.

To be sure, the U.S. ruling class would be glad to be rid of the Brotherhood, even though Morsi collaborated with Washington to keep the treaty with Israel; backed the counterrevolution in Syria; refused to open up passage to Gaza; and even continued to destroy tunnels to Gaza, among other things. However, because of its ideology and its mass base among the poor, the Brotherhood was an unreliable prop for the U.S. in Egypt.

But when the July 3 coup took place, Washington feared that the generals would undermine their own rule and social and political stability in the country

by moving to squash the democratically elected government. Once the coup succeeded and negotiations for a compromise to reverse it failed, however, Washington accepted it.

Secretary of State John Kerry tried to sanitize the military takeover as a step “to restore democracy.” The U.S. wanted to move on to construct a democratic façade that would include the Brotherhood at a token level, along with social democrats and liberals such as the pro-imperialist pawn Mohamed ElBaradei, while leaving the military and the old state firmly in place.

But the generals had more pressing, immediate goals: to fully restore their absolute authority and to gain a decisive victory in their decades-long conflict with the Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood has an 80-year history, a militantly anti-secular religious ideology, a following among broad sections of the poor and oppressed, and strong discipline, and it is the most organized force in Egyptian society outside the military. Thus, the Brotherhood, even with its conservative ideology and reactionary, patriarchal social outlook, has long been regarded as a dangerous threat by the secular generals who have defended the Zionists in Israel and faithfully served Western imperialism since 1979.

The same anti-secular ideology drove the Brotherhood, in the earlier anti-imperialist period beginning in 1952, to try to overthrow the most progressive bourgeois nationalist government in Egyptian history — that of Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser and the Free Officers, who ousted the British-backed feudal monarchy of King Farouk. That failed.

Washington fears losing its investment

This coup, followed by the massacres, has put Washington in a difficult position politically and diplomatically; it now has a major ally that is openly murdering Muslims while defending Israel. Furthermore, Washington fears that the lawless, all-out offensive against the unarmed masses will provoke further resistance from the Brotherhood, expose the true character of the murderous military, and discredit and weaken the very ally which the Pentagon has spent tens of billions to create.

To be sure, the U.S. ruling class has nothing against massacres so long as they serve imperialist interests. The CIA engineered one of the greatest massacres in history in Indonesia in 1965-66 in which up to a million communists and progressives were murdered. The CIA plotted with Augusto Pinochet and the Chilean generals in 1973 to overthrow the social-democratic government of Salvador Allende in a coup that resulted in a fascist dictatorship and thousands of “disappeared.”

However, the Egyptian generals know how important their collaboration is to the U.S. oil companies, the Pentagon and the White House. They know that the delay of the delivery of F-16 jets and calling off the “Bright Star” joint military exercises with the U.S. are just atmospheric gestures with no substantial meaning. They are going forward with the counterrevolution confident that Washington needs them and will never cut them off permanently.

Washington’s immediate concern is instability in Egypt and the region. The Egyptian generals’ immediate goals are to exterminate the Brotherhood and to fully restore the old regime. And to do so the generals have defied Washington.

The Egyptian high command is not

“In a series of phone calls, Mr. Hagel pressed General Sisi for a transition back to civilian rule. They talked nearly every other day, usually for an hour or an hour and a half, lengthened by the use of interpreters. But General Sisi complained that the Obama administration did not fully appreciate that the Islamists posed a threat to Egypt and its army. ...

“Mr. McCain and Mr. Graham arrived in Cairo amid increasing tensions. They went first to see Ambassador Anne W. Patterson. ‘You could see it on her face, that nobody’s listening,’ Mr. Graham said. ...

“The Americans and Europeans were furious, feeling deceived and manipulated. ‘They were used to justify the violence,’ Mr. [Amr] Darrag [an advisor to President Morsi who participated in negotiations] said in an interview. ‘They were just brought in so that the coup government could claim that the negotiations failed, and, in fact, there were no negotiations.’ □

Continued on page 9

Caracas conference honors Chávez, fights to free Cuban 5

By Cheryl LaBash
Caracas, Venezuela

The 7th Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba was held in Caracas, Venezuela, from July 24 to July 27, with more than 300 delegates from 35 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The Movement of Venezuela-Cuba Mutual Solidarity and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People organized the plenaries, discussions, cultural events and the final march to Cuartel de la Montaña 4F — the hilltop military garrison where revolutionary leader Comandante Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías led the first rebellion, on Feb. 4, 1992, for Venezuela's anti-imperialist transformation. The site is now his burial place, and includes a museum depicting his life and contributions.

The conference coincided with and commemorated the 230th birthdate of Simón Bolívar, whose struggle for Latin American unification and liberation was continued by Chávez, and the 60th anniversary of the July 26, 1953, audacious attack on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel Céspedes barracks leading to the triumph of the Cuban socialist revolution on Jan. 1, 1959.

Although the conference title was Solidarity with Cuba, it celebrated the many advances made through Cuba's solidarity with the world and also Venezuela's impact, through the leadership of Chávez, in realizing the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean projected by Bolívar.

Adopting program of solidarity and fightback

A plenary at the Colegio Universitario "Francisco Miranda" in central Caracas on July 27 concluded debate and adopted the amendments to its Caracas Declaration and Action Plan.

Conference topics included the 2014-2015 Plan of Action; the struggle against the U.S. blockade of Cuba; solidarity and continental integration; prioritizing as-



PHOTO: VERÓNICA CANINO

Marching to Cuartel de la Montaña 4F, July 27.

sistance to the next "5 Days for the Cuban 5" to demand their freedom, along with the Puerto Rican political prisoners; the struggle against terrorism; the legacy of Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías; and the intensified use of social and alternative media.

One of the most important and initial components of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas is abolishing illiteracy, a fundamental basis for independence. Cuba's 1961 literacy campaign began its development of human capacity that has enabled Cuba to aid many other countries. Among many Cuban speakers, Leonela Relis developed the multimedia literacy program, Yo Sí Puedo (I can do it), now used in 88 countries, from a broadcast radio literacy campaign she began while teaching in Haiti in the late 1990s.

Noted Argentine author Stella Calloni — known for her writing on the bloody U.S. "Operation Condor" intervention in Latin America — stressed the danger of

U.S. bases to Latin American and Caribbean independence and spoke out against the imperialist-backed war against the government of Syria.

Other internationally recognized authors present were Stephen Kimber, who wrote the new book, "What Lies Across The Water, The True Story of the Cuban 5," as well as Arnold August and Salim Lamrani.

The conference noted the welcome return of former Cuban 5 prisoner René González to his homeland and family. René's mother, Irma Schwerert, and Aili Labañino — daughter of imprisoned Ramón Labañino — represented the Cuban 5 families, with Camilo Rojo, whose father died in the 1976 Cubana 455 terror-bombing out of Barbados.

It was a short walk to the statue of Cuban hero José Martí, where international delegates, white-jacketed Cuban doctors, young militants from Venezuela's consejos comunales (community councils) and others assembled. Hundreds marched,

chanting, filling the winding streets up and up the mountain. Residents of the "23 de Enero" (Jan. 23) neighborhood waived greetings, leaning out of their high-rise apartment building windows. Banners read, "Jail Posada Carriles, free the Cuban 5." Venezuela recently renewed its demand that the U.S. extradite the admitted, convicted and wanted terrorist, Posada, who lives free in Miami.

Revolutionary chants hailed socialism, the legacy of Comandante Hugo Chávez, Cuba, Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro, and recently elected Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. After singing Venezuela's stirring anthem, "Gloria al bravo pueblo," the international delegates had one remaining act before them — to march to Chávez's hilltop tomb on the eve of what would have been his 59th birthday.

The writer was a delegate at the conference as a co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, an International Action Center organizer and a WW contributing editor. □

Egypt

Continued from page 8

just a servant of a ruling class. They are an armed and significant portion of the Egyptian ruling class itself. They own 40 percent of the economy and live in secluded luxury with total control over the secret military budget. They feel threatened by the Brotherhood. They feel threatened by any move toward genuine bourgeois democracy. And it is clear that they are willing to wade through rivers of blood to protect their predatory capitalist interests.

The massacres and the full-blown turn toward military/police rule in Egypt should awaken the progressive, anti-imperialist and democratic masses everywhere to separate themselves from the demagoguery of the Egyptian military and overcome all divisions to build a united front against military rule; for full democratic rights, including the economic rights of the workers and the farmers; and the end to U.S. aid to the Egyptian military.

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

A special appeal

Join solidarity delegation to Honduras

The International Action Center along with Honduras USA Resistencia and other national solidarity organizations, including the Honduras Solidarity Network, are organizing a delegation to Honduras in solidarity with the resistance movement. The delegation will be eyewitnesses for the historic presidential election that is scheduled to take place on Nov. 24. The presidential candidate is Xiomara Castro Zelaya, a leader of the resistance, and the vice-presidential candidate is Juan Barahona, a union and also a resistance leader.

The delegation will be hosted by the Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular, a coalition of worker, peasant, Indigenous, LGBTQ, women's, Garifuna, Afro-Honduran and student organizations.

The IAC delegation will be in Honduras for four to seven days. The cost

of the trip (including airfare, hotels, transfers, food and incidentals) will be approximately \$1,200. Hundreds of activists are already making plans to travel to Honduras representing dozens of organizations. Report backs will be held following the trip in dozens of cities to help build the U.S. solidarity movement with Honduras.

Since 2009, when a U.S.-supported coup ousted legally elected President Mel Zelaya, a wave of repression has swept the country. But despite this, the people's movement is strong, vibrant and fighting back, demanding the rights of workers and all sectors of society. With the growing repression in Honduras, solidarity inside the U.S. is critical.

Members of the delegation must have a valid passport. Holders of a U.S.



passport do not require an entry visa. Citizens of other countries should check online to the particular requirements.

Those interested in traveling to Honduras as a member of the IAC delegation or to donate to the trip, contact either Teresa Gutierrez at 212-633-6646, Michael Kramer at ambar35@comcast.net or Lucy Pagoada at 917-396-0204. For more information, visit www.iacenter.org. □

Stop the massacre in Egypt!

Aug. 14 — Workers World condemns the latest massacre of Muslim Brotherhood supporters demonstrating in Cairo. It was ordered by the U.S.-trained Egyptian generals who had earlier carried out the military coup that ousted elected President Mohamed Morsi.

This bloody slaughter, along with the appointment of 17 Army and two police generals as governors of the 27 Egyptian governorates, plus the coup regime's declaration of a one-month "state of emergency," should wipe out any remaining doubts about the ousting of Morsi. It was an outright military coup. His democratic right to govern based on an election has far more legitimacy than any general's diktat.

The generals' action was directed not only against the government, which had lost some popular support, but also against the Egyptian workers and farmers. It is aimed at restoring the dictatorial regime overthrown in 2011. The last "state of emergency" lasted three decades. During that entire time the Egyptian army and state, under dictator Hosni Mubarak, served as a bastion of U.S. imperialist domination of the region.

There is already evidence that some of those individuals and organizations who had argued that the military was acting on behalf of the mass dissatisfaction with the Morsi government are now revising their opinion.

In its early history the Egyptian Army was seen as a patriotic, nationalist force defending Egyptian interests. However, as WW analyst Joyce Chediak said in a recent talk published in Workers World, "For the past four decades the officer corps has been armed and trained by the Pentagon — at a cost of \$1.3 billion a year. The interest of the officers is diametrically opposed to the interests of the rank-and-file soldiers and the people as a whole."

As evidence of the close U.S. ties with the generals, Washington's criticism of the massacre and the state of emergency has been minimal. This is so even though its diplomats had been publicly attempting — and failing — to arrange an agreement that would avoid a showdown but leave the Muslim Brotherhood subordinate to the generals.

Whatever U.S. imperialism's temporary tactics, as WW contributing editor Fred Goldstein wrote in WW on Aug. 8, "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."

Egypt's workers and poor — whether they currently follow the Muslim Brotherhood, are in labor unions or are more oriented toward the secular organizations — all share a class interest of fighting against imperialism and capitalism in Egypt. Only if it is possible to forge unity in struggle based on class interests will it be possible to break up and push from power the repressive, pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist military.

The imperialist powers, and especially the U.S., have the main responsibility for the poverty of the Egyptian masses and the turmoil in Egypt. Revolutionary working-class organizations in the United States must do what is possible to get the U.S. out of North Africa and Western Asia. We must also explain to U.S. workers the need for solidarity with the Egyptian people and against spending tax money to aid the dictatorships and monarchies in the region or the Israeli settler state.

Stop the massacre in Egypt! End military rule! Free the elected government! U.S. and other imperialist powers out of the Middle East! □

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

By Edward Yudelovich

On Dec. 14 last year, 20-year-old Adam Lanza, labeled by the screaming U.S. media as "having a mental illness," fatally shot 20 children and six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Almost immediately, Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York took advantage of the frenetic climate after Sandy Hook, drafting the Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act in secret and moving it through the Legislature, according to the June 24 Chief Leader newspaper, "faster than a speeding bullet." He invoked a message of emergency, which allowed the Legislature to skip the normal three-day waiting period before a bill could be considered. So it was passed on Jan. 15 with no hearings, no public input and minimal debate.

The SAFE Act forbids the possession, except by actively employed law enforcement personnel, of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. The maximum number of rounds it says can be loaded into a magazine is seven. Standard weapons used by law-enforcement officers use magazines holding up to 15 rounds. On July 8, Gov. Cuomo signed the act, which also exempts police retirees from limits on magazine sizes.

In other words, cops and retired cops have free rein to use these semi-automatic weapons, from which everyone else is banned. What got less publicity was section S20 of the same law, which requires mental health professionals, including any physician, psychologist, registered nurse or licensed clinical social worker, who currently believes a person they are treating is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to self and others, to report such individuals to local law enforcement authorities.

Every year, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill organizes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City and in many other U.S. cities to stamp out the stigma of mental illness.

NAMI's April 2013 newsletter featured an article by a BBC writer that asks the

alarming question, "Will Gun Law Hurt the Mentally Ill?" The reporter interviewed a woman he described as someone who has battled mental illness since she was a teenager. She said: "If I had the fear that [my therapist] would go to the police, I would feel violated. Like big brother is watching me."

According to the same article, Professor Paul Appelbaum, director of law, ethics and psychiatry at Columbia University, has complained that the law provides no guidance to mental health professionals. So the requirements to assess if someone constitutes a threat are just as unclear as that for psychiatric diagnosis.

In fact, in July 2012 the American Psychiatric Association issued the following statement, approved by its Board of Trustees and Assembly: "During their careers most psychiatrists will assess the risk of violence to others. While psychiatrists can often identify circumstances associated with an increased likelihood of violent behavior, they cannot predict dangerousness with definitive accuracy. Over any given period some individuals assessed to be at low risk will act violently while others assessed to be at high risk will not."

On May 1, Wendy Brennan, executive director of NAMI-NYC Metro, testified at a forum at New York University's Langone Medical Center that the SAFE Act's duty-to-report provision "will not prevent violence and will not save lives but will inhibit some from seeking the vital mental health services and treatment they need. According to a 2006 American Journal of Psychiatry study, only 5% of violent crimes, defined by the FBI as murders, robberies, rapes and aggravated assaults, can be attributed to people with mental health problems. [Yet] there is a strong belief in this country that people with serious mental illness are dangerous and are responsible for a significant amount of the violence in this country."

Another 2006 survey indicated that the so-called mentally ill are 12 times more likely to be the victims of a crime than they are to be the perpetrators.

Continued on page 11

Fighting racism — justice 4 Trayvon Martin, full voting rights! WW needs you!

The legal lynching of Trayvon Martin, following the actual lynching, has triggered a huge backlash against this travesty of justice. Racism, which could not be raised in the courtroom, has emerged front and center. Now there's a spotlight on the nationwide war against Black and Brown youth by killer cops and armed vigilantes.

Workers World, since its founding in 1959, has a long, strong history of exposing racism in all its ugly forms. Since the 1970s, we have offered free subscriptions to prisoners, because we know that Black, Brown and Indigenous women and men are incarcerated by the prison-industrial complex at higher rates than their numbers in the population. And we have been demanding the freedom of political prisoners, like Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, and Lynne Stewart.

Given the attacks on voting rights that the recent Supreme Court decision has already been unleashed in North Carolina and Texas, WW is proud to be represented at the Aug. 24 march in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom. WW is also proud to cover the call for Justice for Trayvon Martin Assemblies to be

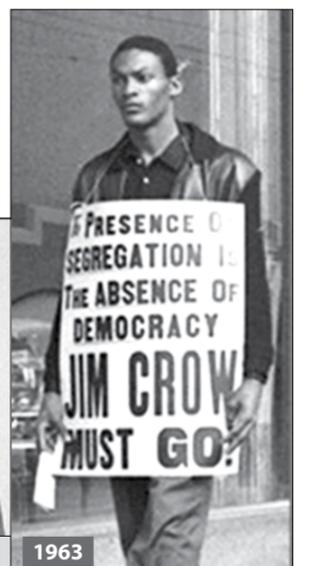


Free CeCe McDonald and Marissa Alexander. Justice for Trayvon.

held nationwide on Aug. 28 to demand the end to the racist war against youth of color.

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Gun control and right of the oppressed to self-defense

Lena Baker was an African-American mother of three children who worked as a maid to support her family in Jim Crow Georgia. In 1944 Baker started working for Ernest Knight, a white grist mill owner, who held her there for days at a time against her will.

One night they had an argument in which he threatened her with an iron bar. Trying to escape, she shot and killed him with his gun. She immediately reported the incident and said she had struggled in self-defense. An all-white male jury convicted her of murder by the end of the afternoon. Because African Americans had been disenfranchised in the South and could not vote, they were disqualified from jury service. On March 5, 1945, Baker was executed in Georgia's electric chair.

Members of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense started their community police patrol programs in the 1960s. They listened to police calls on a short-wave radio, rushed to the scene of the arrest with law books in hand, and informed the people being arrested of their constitutional rights. Panther members also carried loaded weapons, which were publicly displayed, exercising their constitutional right to bear arms. They were careful to stand no closer than 10 feet from an arrest so as not to be charged with interfering.

On May 2, 1967, the Panthers sent a group to Sacramento to protest the Mulford Bill, which would prohibit the public carrying of loaded firearms. The Panthers carried loaded rifles and shotguns, publicly displayed, and entered the State Capitol building to read aloud Executive Mandate Number 1, which was in opposition to the Mulford Bill. Unfortunately, the legislature responded by passing the bill, thus creating the Mulford Act, which was signed into law by Gov. Ronald Reagan.

Soon after this incident, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover declared the Black Panther Party to be the single greatest threat to the national security of the United States, and police departments across the country proceeded to murder Panther leaders like Fred Hampton in Chicago.

On July 31, 2010, Marissa Alexander, an African American who had given birth days before, fired what she described as a warning shot in the air during a fight with her abusive husband. Two children were inside their Jacksonville, Fla., home when she pulled the trigger, but no one was harmed. Alexander claimed self-defense under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, which supposedly allows citizens to defend themselves when attacked. But a judge rejected that argument. Alexander was convicted of aggravated assault by a six-person jury and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Guess who was in charge of Alexander's prosecution? The very same Florida State Attorney Angela B. Corey who sabotaged the George Zimmerman prosecution that denied Trayvon Martin justice.

Lena Baker, the Black Panthers, Marissa Alexander and Trayvon Martin all had the unconditional right to defend themselves and not be obstructed by U.S. gun control, which has never applied to racist cops or armed bigots like George Zimmerman who are free to hunt down and murder youth of color. They are the real fascists and terrorists of today's world.

This article is based on part 2 of a July 20 talk by this writer, who is a member of Workers World Party's Caucus of People with Disabilities.

Read the entire talk on workers.org.

SOUTH AFRICA

One year after Marikana tragedy

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

South Africans have commemorated the first anniversary of the Marikana massacre where 34 mineworkers were shot dead by provincial police in Rustenburg on Aug. 16, 2012. The miners had been on an unprotected wildcat strike that had been marked by violence between security forces and the workers, as well as clashes involving rival labor unions.

2012 was one of the most intense years of class struggle since the fall of apartheid and the ascendancy of the African National Congress to govern in 1994. Both "protected" and "unprotected" industrial actions spread throughout the mining industry and other sectors of the national economy.

The source of the conflict within the platinum, gold, iron ore and other extractive sectors stemmed from the capitalist-owned and -managed mining firms that increase exploitation of the workers to gain higher rates of profit. Despite the realization of democracy in 1994, the wealth of South Africa is still largely controlled by the mainly white ruling class that is allied with multinational corporations and financial institutions.

With the global capitalist system in the worst crisis since the 1930s Great Depression, the bosses seek even larger concessions from the workers. Last August, workers demanded substantial pay raises, better working conditions and increased investment in the infrastructure of the mining towns.

Challenges to working class

An alliance of the ANC, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party has served as the pillar of the post-apartheid society. Although this coalition of left and democratic forces led the anti-racist struggle and won state power for the representatives of the African majority and other oppressed nationalities, the masses yearn for full independence and control of the arable land and the means of industrial production.

The class struggle has sharpened in recent years in the mining sector and in agriculture, municipal services and manufacturing. The decline in the value of the South African rand, the fluctuation of prices for strategic minerals, and the fail-

ure to significantly improve the working conditions of miners and their families created a highly explosive social situation in the country.

An ANC statement recognizes that: "A year since Marikana happened, the African National Congress continues to mourn the lives of the striking miners, security guards and policemen who died during the most tragic unrest since the dawn [of the] democracy. Our thoughts are with the many families, friends and colleagues who lost loved ones and whose lives were altered forever on those fateful days." (anc.org.za, Aug. 16)

Still, in the Aug. 15 statement of the largest trade union federation in South Africa, COSATU noted, "There was an overwhelming concern that never again must we see such killings in our democratic South Africa. Tragically however, one year later, we cannot say that there have been no further deaths. Just days before the anniversary, [a] woman shop steward, comrade Nobongile Madolo, was murdered near the Lonmin mine." (cosatu.org.za)

Madolo was in the National Union of Mineworkers, which has been in a struggle with the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union over which union will represent workers in the North West Province around Rustenburg. At present at the Lonmin mines in Rustenburg AMCU is recognized as the majority union and is in conflict with NUM.

COSATU expressed its frustration that the government-mandated investigation into the violence in the North West mining industry has failed to address the fundamental issues leading up to developments in August 2012. A recent agreement signed by NUM and the mine owners to restructure the industry has not resulted in significant changes in working conditions.

With specific reference to the intransigence of the mine owners, COSATU says it "welcomed the Framework Agreement for a Sustainable Mining Industry, signed by organized labor (with the exception of the National Confederation of Trade Unions and AMCU), organized business and government on 3 July 2013."

The COSATU statement continues, "These however remain words on paper. No one has been arrested for any of the deaths before, during or since the Marikana massacre. A culture of impunity re-

mains throughout the area. Workers and communities live in constant fear. Our fundamental human right to move freely without fear of attack has been shattered."

The South African Communist Party also criticized the operations of the Farlam Commission, writing, "Instead of a well-focused commission of inquiry the proceedings have been turned into a lawyer-heavy, quasi-criminal court process, starring a bevy of highly paid advocates and their teams" and are not "making a serious contribution to establishing a common understanding of the tragedy." (sacp.org.za, Aug. 15)

To prevent further police violence and to improve the conditions of the miners, these issues must be approached from a revolutionary political perspective. The underlying causes of violence, state repression and poverty in the industry derive from the unequal distribution of the wealth of South Africa, wealth that is created by the working people themselves.

Consequently to address these contradictions the mines must be seized by the workers and the state in order to take control of any restructuring efforts. The operations of the mining industry must serve the interests of the workers and the people of South Africa in their determination to eradicate poverty, underdevelopment and economic exploitation.

Even after two decades since the demise of the racist-apartheid system, COSATU points out, "The mining industry is also characterized by remnants of apartheid. For decades employers exploited and promoted tribalism, racial segregation and discrimination, which are still to be found in many mines. Racism is institutionally entrenched through continued occupational segregation. While 83.7 percent of the total workforce in the industry is black, 84 percent of top management remains white!"

At present the mine owners in the platinum facilities are proposing large-scale layoffs similar to what has occurred in the gold-producing sector. In order to wage a struggle against the further impoverishment of the working class, union leaders must come together to hammer out a program of struggle aimed at ensuring that the mine ownership be transferred to the majority who provided the labor to run these operations for so many decades. □

Read entire article at workers.org □

MILWAUKEE

Anti-capitalist GarveyFest

By Tommy Cavanaugh
Milwaukee

The life and legacy of Marcus Garvey, along with many others instrumental to the Black liberation struggle, were honored in Milwaukee on Aug. 17 at the 25th annual GarveyFest.

The day-long celebration, hosted by Africans on the Move, fell on the 126th birthday of Marcus Garvey. It started with

a parade around the event grounds and included many cultural showcases. There were African dancers and drummers, spoken word and hip-hop artists, including the group Dead Prez. Co-sponsors of the event were the Africology Department at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, the League of Young Voters, the Omni Family Medical Clinic, Pursenality and the Pan-African Revolutionary Socialist Party.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Know the Enemy: It's Not the Man; It's the Plan," highlighting the capitalist system as the culprit behind the woes of all working and oppressed people around the world and the need to struggle against capitalism and national oppression.

Speakers described the role colonialism and imperialism have played in dividing up Africa and the exploitation of

its resources that continues today. The issue of gender oppression, particularly the multiple oppressions that women from oppressed communities face, and the need to have a united movement that doesn't continue the discrimination faced by different sections of our class, was also addressed.

Workers World Party was there to show continued support for the Black liberation struggle and all oppressed people in the fight against the heinously racist capitalist system. The WW table spread the word about the national call for Justice for Trayvon Martin Assemblies on Aug. 28 and the International People's Assembly in Detroit on Oct. 5-6 to fight back against the bankers and their austerity, which has brought particular destruction to the people of that majority Black city. □

AFRICA & IMPERIALISM

Articles by Abayomi Azikiwe from the pages of Workers World

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¡Alto la masacre en Egipto!

14 de agosto de 2013

Workers World/Mundo Obrero condena la reciente masacre de partidarios de la Hermandad Musulmana que se manifestaban en El Cairo. Fue ordenada por los generales egipcios entrenados por Estados Unidos quienes previamente habían llevado a cabo el golpe militar que derrocó al presidente electo Mohamed Morsi.

Esta sangrienta masacre, junto con el nombramiento de 17 generales del ejército y dos generales de la policía como gobernadores de 19 de las 27 provincias egipcias, además de la declaración de "estado de emergencia" por el régimen golpista, debe eliminar cualquier duda que quedara acerca de la destitución de Morsi. Fue un verdadero golpe de estado militar. Su derecho democrático a gobernar sobre la base de una elección tiene más legitimidad que la imposición de cualquier general.

La acción de los generales fue dirigida no sólo contra el gobierno, que había perdido algo de apoyo popular, sino también contra los/as trabajadores/as egipcios/as y los/as agricultores. Está dirigida a restaurar el régimen dictatorial derrocado en el 2011. El último "estado de emergencia" duró tres décadas. Durante todo ese tiempo, el ejército y el Estado egipcio bajo el dictador Hosni Mubarak, sirvieron como un bastión de dominación imperialista estadounidense en la región.

Ya hay evidencia de que algunas de las personas y organizaciones que habían argumentado que el ejército estaba actuando en nombre de la insatisfacción masiva con el gobierno Morsi están ahora revisando su opinión.

En sus primeros años, el ejército egipcio era visto como una fuerza nacionalista patriótica que defendía los intereses egipcios. Sin embargo, como dijera la analista de WW/MO, Joyce Chediak en una reciente charla publicada en este periódico: "En las últimas cuatro décadas, el cuerpo de oficiales ha sido armado y entrenado por el Pentágono - a un costo de 1,3 mil millones de dólares al año. El interés de los oficiales se opone diametralmente a los intereses de los soldados comunes y del pueblo en general".

Como prueba de la estrecha relación de Estados Unidos con los generales, está la crítica de Washington sobre la masacre y el estado de emergencia, la cual ha sido mínima. Esto es así a pesar de que sus diplomáticos habían tratado públicamente - pero fracasaron - en concertar un acuerdo que evitara un enfrentamiento, pero dejando a la Hermandad Musulmana subordinada a los generales.

Cualquiera que sean las tácticas temporales del imperialismo estadounidense, como escribió Fred Goldstein editor colaborador de Workers World/Mundo Obrero en la edición del 8 de agosto, "un Egipto estable y fiable que protege los intereses del imperialismo, es la clave para la política de la clase dominante estadounidense para su dominación del Medio Oriente. Y el fundamento real del control de Washington y el Pentágono sobre Egipto, es el ejército egipcio".

Los/as trabajadores/as y los/as pobres

de Egipto - ya sea que actualmente sigan a los Hermanos Musulmanes, estén en sindicatos o estén más orientados/as hacia las organizaciones seculares - todos/as comparten un interés de clase en la lucha contra el imperialismo y el capitalismo en Egipto. Sólo si es posible forjar la unidad en la lucha sobre la base de los intereses de clase, será posible romper y sacar del poder al ejército represivo, pro-capitalista y pro-imperialista.

Las potencias imperialistas, y especialmente Estados Unidos, son los principales responsables de la pobreza de las masas egipcias y la turbulencia en Egipto. Las organizaciones obreras revolucionarias en los Estados Unidos deben hacer todo lo posible para que EE.UU. salga del África del Norte y del Asia Occidental. También debemos explicar a los/as trabajadores/as estadounidenses la necesidad de la solidaridad con el pueblo egipcio y pronunciarnos contra el gasto del dinero de los impuestos para ayudar a las dictaduras y monarquías de la región o al estado de los colonos israelíes.

¡Alto a la masacre en Egipto! ¡Fin al gobierno militar! ¡Libertad para el gobierno electo! ¡EE.UU. y otras potencias imperialistas fuera del Oriente Medio! □



Nueva York, 20 de agosto. Manifestación contra la masacre en Egipto.

WWPHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Conferencia Nacional del Partido Mundo Obrero

Reserve la fecha: Ciudad de Nueva York
Sábado 16 y domingo 17 de noviembre

Plenarias y talleres para discutir el punto de vista pro-socialista y marxista sobre:

- La irreversible crisis económica capitalista
- Lucha contra el racismo y la opresión nacional
- Uniendo a todos/as los/as trabajadores/as - organizados/as y no organizados/as; indocumentados/as y documentados/as
- Oponer resistencia a las guerras y ocupaciones imperialistas

...Y mucho más