

# WORKERS WORLD



Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

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\$1

## 100,000 in Haiti say: End occupation, remove gov't

By G. Dunkel

At least 100,000 Haitians came out to march on Sept. 30 in the capital, Port-au-Prince. They marched not just to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the first coup against Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first popularly elected president of Haiti, but to protest the current government and the United Nations occupation of their country.

The National Movement of Popular Opposition, the Patriotic Force for Respect for the Constitution, and the Patriotic Movement of the Democratic Opposition (MOPOD) called the demonstration. Most marchers were connected to Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas party through a variety of organizations and community groups.

More protest than commemoration, the march began at Saint John Bosco Church, where Aristide served when he was a priest. "Down with Martelly!" "Down with the U.N.'s Cholera" "End the U.N.'s occupation" were the demands. (Haïti-Liberté, Oct. 2)

Drawing 100,000 people to a protest march is not easy anywhere. In Haiti, where electricity for poor people is scarce and episodic; when tens of thousands are still living in tents, shacks or housing severely damaged by the 2010 earthquake; where phone service and the Internet are sparse, people rely on word of mouth and radio announcements.

The size of the march — minimized by most of the online Haitian press but confirmed by photos at flickr.com/photos/kimives/ — testifies to the growing anger over President Michel Martelly's corruption, both legal and illegal.

When Martelly travels outside the country, which he does often, he draws \$20,000 daily for his own use. Eighty percent of Haitians make less than \$2 a day. And each person in the large entourage he takes along gets a hefty per diem. His spouse and son are implicated in a number of questionable schemes, and the investigative judge looking at their case died suddenly.

Martelly was deeply involved in both coups against President Aristide; the nightclub he managed was a hangout for the anti-Aristide Macoute leadership. Though he is currently obligated to call elections, Martelly is maneuvering to postpone them until he can get Fanmi Lavalas and other progressive candidates off the ballot. For the Haitian ruling class, removing the opposition is the easiest way of ensuring their candidates win the vote.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton imposed Martelly as president in the 2010-2011 election. The U.N. force known as Minustah replaced the joint U.S.-French-Canadian military occupation in 2004 and has remained ever since. Minustah also introduced cholera into Haiti in 2010, leading to 675,745 cases and 8,265 deaths, according to the Haitian health ministry as of Sept. 9. All these issues anger the Haitian population.

The march swelled and grew more spirited as more contingents joined. As it was heading down Avenue Martin Luther King toward the main government buildings

### Enough is enough!

## SUPPORT BOSTON SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

As WW goes to press, the following edited statement was issued Oct. 8, the first day of a protest by the Boston school bus drivers. Go to workers.org for updates.

Stand with the 800+ mainly Haitian Boston school bus drivers and for the safety of Boston's school children against the union busting and greed of the Veolia corporation and the threats and intimidation of the Mayor and School Department.

This morning Boston awoke to the power of the Steelworkers Local 8751 workers, who said "enough is enough" in response to the union busting and racist plantation-style treatment they have received ever since the administration of Boston's School Bus contract was taken over by Veolia. This huge multi-billion dollar transnational corporation, headquartered

in France, is also cornering the world's water supply and operates "settlers only" bus transportation and a "settlers only" landfill in the West Bank.

The drivers are fighting to preserve the gains and union rights they have won over decades of militant, unwavering union struggle. The contract that Veolia has with the city says they must honor the existing contract with the union. Yet it took a major militant march and rally at the company's offices in June to get them to sign an agreement that they would honor the contract. This has only been followed by endless violations, leading to the union filing 15 counts of unfair labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board.

Our Boston school bus drivers carry the city's most precious cargo — our children. It is time for Veolia, the School Department and Mayor Menino to treat them with respect!

around the Champ-de-Mars, it ran into police barricades. Cops tried to disperse the crowd with tear gas. Haïti-Liberté reported that as the crowd dispersed, some groups set up barricades of burning tires, in particular blocking Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines, one of the main roads in Port-au-Prince.

MOPOD also called major demonstrations with the same demands in the provincial cities of Cap-Haïtien, Miragoâne and Les Cayes. (Oct. 1)

### Popular forum plans interim government

With Martelly's departure in the foreseeable future, about 100 delegates from nearly two dozen popular organizations from all over Haiti met in Port-au-Prince on Sept. 29. They set out to elaborate plans for an interim government to let Haiti conduct free, fair and sovereign elections.

The Dessalines Coordination (KOD, from its Creole name) proposed a detailed structure "... so that Washington, Paris and Ottawa don't simply impose another puppet on Haiti, as they have done so often over the past two decades."

The KOD plan, picking up on a Haitian Senate resolution, explicitly calls for Minustah to leave no later than May 2014. □

## SHUTDOWN = LOCKOUT

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Free 'em all  
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WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

# ANATOMY OF TWO SHOOTINGS

By Larry Hales

Marxist theory is a guide to understanding phenomena that develop. When looking at the shooting at the Sept. 20 Navy Yard, racism and national oppression are evident in the media's reporting of alleged shooter, Aaron Alexis.

The Navy Yard was at one time the largest naval ordnance manufacturing site in the world but is now headquarters to the Naval Sea Systems Command, which accounts for 20 percent of the U.S. Naval budget. There are other administrative offices, historical and ceremonial centers, and the headquarters for the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, Naval Reactors and the Marine Corps Institute. It also serves other military purposes.

As of late, the media have painted a picture of Aaron Alexis, the 34-year-old former Naval reservist who served as a civilian contractor, as someone who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. Reports of the shooting describe the alleged perpetrator as calmly going through the motions; they say that he didn't seem to be targeting anyone specifically, although he entered the building where he worked and started firing on the fourth floor where he worked.

Family members, friends and acquaintances describe Alexis as calm. Other reports mention that he had a quick temper, heard voices and suffered from insomnia. It's been said that he felt discriminated against, but any mention of that fact is quickly dismissed as part of his perceived mental illness, for which he was seeking counseling through the Veterans Administration.

It is a familiar refrain. Whenever an incident occurs like that at the Navy Yards, where there is no apparent motive, the alleged perpetrator's past is dredged up. A narrative is pieced together of a loner, someone who is misunderstood and appears to be at odds with the world around him. Or it's said that he or she is a ticking time bomb and every notable occurrence is a slight, part of a road map leading to mass murder.

It is terrifying. It creates an image of bogeymen, unpredictable people who will inevitably strike and commit a heinous mass killing. This is not to say that Alexis did not suffer from mental illness, but for this to be the constant fallback excuse with no analysis of social conditions gives rise to the fallacious assumption that someone who suffers from a mental illness is a danger.

It creates a stigma. What's more, nothing could be further from the truth. Someone who suffers from mental illness is more likely to be a victim of violence. The stigmatization could make it less likely for people to seek out help because of fear.

## Mental illness & violence

This is occurring in a climate where, says the National Institute of Mental Health, 26.2 percent of people over 18 suffer from some mental illness, yet barely a quarter of them are able to get any help. This was said by Dr. John Duby, chair of the Mental Health Leadership Workgroup at the American Academy of Pediatrics. (CBSDC, Sept. 18)

The percentage figure above represents a broad spec-

trum of illnesses and doesn't specify if they are long term or short term or how debilitating they are.

The low percentage of people who seek help is not merely a reflection of the stigma of mental illness, but of the lack of access to health care.

Returning to the violence question, Dr. Stephen Dubovsky, chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Buffalo, State University of New York, states, "The main issue here, the real problem of violence in this country and the mass killings that you see are examples of the degree ... of readiness which we have in this country to resort to violent behavior." (CBSDC, Sept. 18)

A recent study conducted by the Schizophrenia Research Foundation in Chennai, India, discovered — when comparing the experience of people with schizophrenia who hear voices in the U.S. with those in India — that the voices in Chennai are considerably less violent than the voices heard by U.S. patients.

The U.S. patients heard voices which instructed the person to do something destructive and violent, while those heard by Chennai patients told the person to do something mundane, most likely a domestic task like cleaning, or in the more severe instances, to drink out of a toilet, or the voices expressed sexual thoughts.

T.M. Luhrmann, a Stanford University professor who wrote the article detailing the study, opines in the Sept. 19 New York Times, "These observations suggest that local culture may shape the way people with schizophrenia pay attention to the complex auditory phenomena generated by the disorder and so shift what the voices say and how they say it."

Before delving deeper into the general implications of Luhrmann's statement and U.S. social conditions and culture, a distinction must be made regarding violence.

That distinction is between the violence used to maintain a racist, sexist, homophobic, oppressive and exploitative status quo — and the related rife displays of violence on television, movies and in video games — and the violence that arises from people who buck such a system.

This is the era we live in, and things appear to be getting colder; it affects social relations. The event in the Navy Yards can't be analyzed outside this context.

It is not a foregone conclusion, however, that people may resort to anti-social behavior because of isolation, inadequate access to treatment or to other social needs, and the growing tenuousness of life under capitalism.

Stanley Tookie Williams, whom the state of California murdered in 2005, said in "Blue Rage, Black Redemption: A Memoir," that had he known of the Black Panthers, he and his cohorts would have joined them and been willing foot soldiers. (Pleasant Hill, CA: Damamli Pub. Co., 2004, 1st ed.)

That is perhaps part of the answer: to protest against a system in decay and oppose war, to fight for real material needs, and to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the planet.

From struggle arises a culture rooted in the fight. It will draw in people who feel disaffected and isolated and suffer from mental illnesses. It will give a sense of belonging and hope.

*Read the entire article at workers.org.*

## PART TWO NAVY YARD

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# The lynching of Miriam Carey

By Monica Moorehead

Oct. 7 — Valarie Carey and Amy Carey-Jones are publicly asking why deadly force was used against their sister, Miriam Carey. Appearing on CNN's *New Day* program today along with attorney Eric Sanders, Valarie Carey stated: "It actually doesn't make any sense. And the question really isn't why was she in Washington; the question is why was she killed in Washington. And all I can see, when I look at that video, is my sister's afraid and she's frightened and she's trying to get out of there. She's confused. She doesn't know which way to go. And I just can't imagine what she was thinking as she's trying to get away from bullet shots."

She went on to say: "My sister didn't have a gun. She was not shooting a weapon from her vehicle, so deadly physical force of a weapon being fired upon her car — I don't believe was justified."

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Oct. 3, all the ruling-class media ran nonstop coverage about a car chase that took place in the heavy security area of Washington, D.C. The chase involved a driver who crashed gates in front of the White House and on Capitol Hill. Cameras focused on a full mobilization of D.C. Metropolitan and Capitol Hill police, along with the FBI and other armed federal agencies.

There was endless commentary on how the lives of the police, who had their

guns and automatic rifles drawn the entire time, were being threatened by the lone driver using the car as "a weapon." After the car crashed with the driver still in the car, several police shot multiple times, killing the driver.

That driver turned out to be a 34-year-old dental hygienist named Miriam Carey, from Stamford, Conn. She was shot so many times that it took longer than usual to identify her. This African-American woman and mother of a 13-month-old toddler — who was also in the car but reportedly not hurt — had lost her job in 2012. Her family and boyfriend reported that she had a history of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, head trauma and postpartum depression.

For all the talk about the police being threatened, only two police officers were hurt, and those with only minor injuries. This was a lynching, pure and simple.

Throughout the day, the press was speculating that maybe this was a terrorist attack. One question that the media have not asked: Why didn't the police shoot at the car's tires, instead of at Carey?

After Carey was shot to death these same media, quoting the police, stated that the incident was "isolated."

But was it really an isolated incident? Not really. There are many current cases and many more to come of people suf-



## WW COMMENTARY

ing healthy lives have been eliminated under a profit-driven system now in crisis. For all the talk about "Obamacare," there are millions of people, especially African Americans, the undocumented and the poor in general, who as of now will continue to go uninsured.

There are also others, like Miriam Carey, who because of erratic behavior — even if not threatening — have wound up at the mercy of the shoot-to-kill mentality of the police and other repressive forces on a local, state and federal level. These victims and those imprisoned far outnumber the tiny handful of mentally ill people who actually have been a threat. And those threats — think of the recent massacres — might have been prevented if the individuals had received adequate mental health care.

Miriam Carey does not deserve to be demonized. She did not exhibit criminal behavior. Any erratic behavior that she may have displayed did not warrant her slaughter.

The criminal behavior belongs to the police and the big-business media that defend the cops' actions when it comes to protecting the status quo of private property and its puppet politicians.

In the meantime, another child loses its mother in a split second of senseless state violence. Justice for Miriam Carey! □

fering from mental illness who, instead of receiving the adequate treatment they deserve as fellow members of humanity, are locked up in prisons. One National Public Radio report estimated this number at 350,000.

This lack of treatment is due to the systematic closing of hospitals coupled with unemployment, low-wage jobs, homelessness, deadly cuts in food stamps, etc. These problems bring many to the point of committing anti-social behavior, because all positive outlets for lead-

# Derrick Gaines, killed by police at 15

By Terri Kay  
South San Francisco, Calif.

Workers World spoke with Dolores Piper, maternal great-aunt of Derrick Gaines, a Black youth who was killed by a South San Francisco police officer when he was only 15 years old. She and her husband had raised Derrick from the time he was 1-and-a-half years old.

Dolores Piper recounted: "On June 5, 2012, in South San Francisco, school had just gotten out for the summer. It was 8:30 at night. Derrick Gaines was 15 years old, hanging out with friends. They had been to McDonald's. He called me for a ride, but I wasn't home. They first went to the bus station, but when no bus came, they wandered back towards McDonald's and an Arco station. A police car was watching them, making Derrick look over. The cop swooped into the Arco station, [which was] full of people, and asked the young men why they were there.

"Derrick backed off and started to run. The police officer, Joshua Cabillo, hit Derrick on the head with his gun; then they struggled on the ground. Derrick was carrying an old gun, which didn't have a firing pin. It was an old collector-type gun, and not visible inside his clothing. It skidded out to the side, after he had been knocked down. Then the cop pointed the gun to [Gaines's] throat and shot him point blank. Witnesses say [Gaines's] gun wasn't near enough to have been a threat." Piper says that Gaines had been writing rap songs, and she believes the gun may have been a prop.

"Derrick never had a chance," Piper said. "He was a small young man, 5 feet 5 inches, 135 pounds, not a threatening stature." She described how "a gentleman who was trained in CPR offered to help,



but Cabillo refused to allow it, attempting CPR himself instead. Derrick was taken to San Francisco General hospital, where they went to great lengths to save him. They found a wound in his neck and his lower back."

Implying that racial profiling was the only reason they were stopped in the first place, Piper stated, "The family wants people to understand that they don't condone the risky behavior, by carrying a useless weapon, but the crux of the issue is that those boys were bothered at all."

Gaines's eighth grade social studies

teacher wrote for his obituary: "Derrick would ask the most inquisitive questions in social studies class and offer thoughtful analysis of U.S. history. Derrick's presence elevated the level of conversation in our classroom. He spoke eloquently and articulately, beyond his 13 years. I will always remember him for his intelligence, respect, kindness and humor."

Piper said: "There was an extensive investigation, including 're-creation' of the scene at the service station. The conclusion was that it was a 'justified' shooting. Officer Cabillo was part of a special Neighborhood Response Team [a police unit aimed at combating gang violence in the neighborhood], which swings into high gear when school is out. He has been quoted as saying that he loves foot pursuits." Neither Gaines nor his friend was a member of any gang.

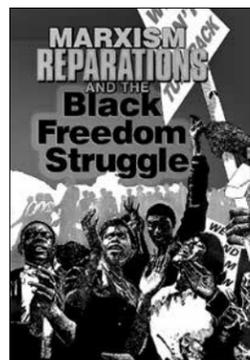
In the year following his death, the family conducted regular vigils at the gas station, with his mother, Rachel Guido, appearing at many public forums. A gathering was held at a park Gaines frequented on the one-year anniversary of his death. The family is pursuing a civil lawsuit in federal court for civil rights violation, filed by the John Burris law firm.

WW asked Piper what she hoped the

outcome of a Oct. 22 statewide rally against police violence in Sacramento, Calif., would be. She responded: "Unclear, but we have to continue to bring these killings to public attention. My community was satisfied once they heard the police investigation resulted in a 'justified shooting.' One of his elementary teachers, who knew him well, questioned why we were continuing our vigils at the Arco station. I think a large segment of the population in this somewhat conservative community doesn't realize how the police conduct themselves with regard to minorities."

Piper noted: "A large number of people were severely traumatized. The Latino friend who had been with him that night had a very difficult year. Neighbors and other close friends were horrified."

Piper concluded: "I raised him there so he would have a safe environment. It may have lulled him into a false sense of security. ... A juvenile probation officer from Montana says teenagers are given a lot of slack there, because there is an understanding that they are just developing and their brains are not always as logical, and they will engage in risky behavior, making questionable choices at times. They need tolerance and guidance, and a different protocol, not harassment and violence." □



## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

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**Are Conditions Ripe Again Today?**

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Available at Amazon and other bookstores.

# ON THE PICKET LINE

By Sue Davis

## Thousands march for immigrant rights and citizenship

All across the country, in 183 cities in 40 states, thousands upon thousands of workers of all nationalities, including immigrants, the unionized, the underemployed and the unemployed, marched for comprehensive immigration reform on Oct. 5. The National Day for Dignity and Respect was called by national and local immigrant rights groups and supported by many unions, and state and local affiliates of the national AFL-CIO.

The workers and their families brought to 3-D life slogans like “Citizenship now,” “Keep families together,” “Protect workers,” “Safeguard civil rights” and “End deportations now.” Chants of “¡Sí, se puede!” and “The time is now!” ricocheted from coast to coast.

The national protest, which drew large rallies in all major cities, was called to pressure Congress to pass an immigration bill that provides a clear, easy, quick path to citizenship, not like the one passed by the Senate or the one stalled in the House. Will this strong, multinational, united outpouring have any effect on the millionaires in Congress or their billionaire backers? (blog.aflcio.org, Oct. 7) La lucha continúa.



Brooklyn, N.Y., Oct. 5.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

## Support Gerawan workers' fight for UFW contract

About 6,000 workers who pick peaches, plums, apricots, nectarines and table grapes for Gerawan Farming Inc. in California voted months ago to be represented by the United Farm Workers. After months of fruitless negotiations, Gerawan was ordered by the state farm board in April to engage in mandatory mediation.

The board issued a formal complaint on Aug. 15 accusing Gerawan of coercing workers to sign a petition to decertify UFW. It followed that on Sept. 25 with “a blistering 12-page dismissal notice document[ing] Gerawan’s illegal ... drive to get rid of the union and ... widespread forgeries of signatures on the decertification petition.” The UFW is calling for supporters to sign a petition at [ufw.org](http://ufw.org) demanding that Gerawan stop stalling and implement the contract immediately! ([ufw.org](http://ufw.org), Sept. 30)

## NYC transit workers fight for ‘fair’ contract

President John Samuelson, of the Transport Workers Union Local 100 in New York City, issued a video statement summarizing the Sept. 30 opening contract negotiations with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Noting that this was the first time Local 100 had met with the MTA in more than a year, Samuelson applauded the heroic way TWU workers got the city moving so quickly after the incredible devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy.

But even after the workers showed such competence and dedication, and the MTA announced that it had “found” savings of \$2 billion over the next four years, it “was still demanding [to pay the workers] three zeros [\$000] over the life of the contract.”

After denouncing the MTA offer as “a political decision,” Samuelson announced that Local 100 had its own plan: “We adamantly refuse to take three zeros. ... If the MTA gets its way, the contract will do significant damage to our livelihoods and our ability to take care of our families.” He urged all TWU workers to attend a contract rally at MTA offices at 2 Broadway on Oct. 29. All out for all New York City unions and community activists, too! ([twulocal100.org](http://twulocal100.org), Sept. 30) Stay tuned.

## Federal shutdown: lockout of 800,000 workers

One disastrous side effect, among many, of the federal shutdown is that nearly a million federal workers will not be paid starting Oct. 1. American Federation of Government Employees President J. David Cox called it exactly what it is: a lockout. Even though H.R. 3223, providing retroactive pay, was introduced Oct. 2, eventual passage of the bill when Congress resumes will not help workers who depend on paychecks to pay mortgages and rent, dental and medical bills, credit card minimums, and for food, utilities and music lessons. No wonder AFGE members and other unionized federal workers have protested all over the country to end the lockout, which some are calling an “attempted coup.” ([afge.org](http://afge.org), Oct. 1) □

## FLORIDA

# Farmworkers protest Southeast groceries

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Florida farmworkers have taken their campaign for Fair Food to several states in the Southeast, focusing on the Publix grocery chain. Headquartered in Florida, the corporation has refused to sign on to a code of conduct agreement regulating the wages and working conditions in the fields where their produce, particularly tomatoes, is grown.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers members traveled to several states, including Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Alabama. In each city they met with students, trade unionists, community activists, faith leaders and elected officials to describe the brutal condi-

tions and poverty wages faced by farmworkers. More importantly, they shared the good news of their victories and the changes on the farms where the Fair Food agreement is in place.

At each stop, a local Publix was the site of a large, loud and colorful protest.

In Atlanta on Oct. 3, more than 200 people filled the sidewalks in front of the Ponce de Leon store, during the crowded evening rush hour. As the Publix managers looked on, chants filled the air and passing cars kept up a steady cacophony of approving horn blasts. The immigrant workers expressed their appreciation for the solidarity and declared that they would not stop their struggle for human rights and dignity. □

## Philadelphia:

# Our schools are not for sale!

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

As a group of wealthy investors looking to capitalize on the public education crisis met behind closed doors at the Union League on Sept. 30, protesters gathered outside let it be known that “Our schools are not for sale!”

Students, teachers, parents and community activists who joined the demonstration were urged to “bring the noise” and disrupt “corporate education reform.” They carried signs reading “No to profiteers” and notifying the for-profit school advocates inside that “Children are not commodities.”

During the rally, Benjamin Franklin High School student Sharron Snyder, a member of the Philadelphia Student Union, described her crowded classroom this fall, where some of the 45 to 50 students have to sit on radiators and floors for lack of desks. She called the attacks on Philadelphia schools “racist,” noting that “they are not doing this in white schools.” Snyder was adamant that “we are not going to go to prison; we are going to college and we are going to succeed.”

Youth United for Change member Mahala Papadopoulos, a freshman at Masterman High School, said, “The billionaires gathered here today helped create the crisis in education. Trying to make profit off the education crisis is totally not cool.”

### ‘Vulture’ capitalists plot to defund public schools

With attendance at the two-day conference limited to those who make \$50,000 in charitable donations per year, there was little doubt that these vulture capitalists did not want the public to get wind of their plans to further defund public schools and force students into for-profit charter or even private schools. The press was kept out as well.

But these conference participants are not strangers to the growing movement fighting to stop the attacks on public education. The \$2 billion William Penn Foundation, which provided funding for the event, also financed the Boston Consulting Group’s “Blueprint” study.

Commissioned by the Philadelphia School Reform Commission in 2012, the study proposed closing 64 schools by 2017, gutting the Philadelphia School District office and breaking up schools into “achievement networks” to be operated by private managers. A number of these potential managers were at the conference.

The Philadelphia School Partnership — advocates of the BCG “Blueprint” and promoters of the Great Schools Compact — played a key role at the closed-door event. PSP has received \$65 million in pledges from wealthy businesses, individuals and foundations to support its

goal to privatize Philadelphia schools. Their Web page boasts of a \$5 million grant just received from the Walton Family Foundation.

The Gates Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, both of which funded the Great Schools Compact, were also at the conference.

Another key player at the event was Jonathan Cetel, director of Pennsylvania Campaign for Achievement Now. Closely linked to PSP, PennCAN was recently caught secretly advising Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett that forcing major contract concessions from Philadelphia teachers could help his bid for re-election.

Having already succeeded in forcing the closure of 23 Philadelphia public schools and layoffs of more than 4,000 teachers and school workers in 2013, the for-profit education industry is now engaged in a major offensive against teachers’ seniority. PennCAN, PSP and their funders, including the Gates Foundation, are all behind this campaign.

One day before their conference opened, organizers announced plans to ask the School Reform Commission to “immediately pull seniority off the bargaining table and give Superintendent William R. Hite Jr. a free hand in assigning staff.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 30) The SRC is currently in contract negotiations with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, whose contract expired Aug. 31.

The coalition introduced a bill in the state legislature on Oct. 1 to strip language from the state school code requiring that layoffs and recalls be based on seniority. Opposition to this ominous attack on a union’s right to negotiate their contract was reflected in signs carried by protesters that read, “The problem isn’t teachers’ seniority; it’s the 1%’s corporate greed!”

The calculated defunding of public education and the attacks on public employee unions are not unique to Philadelphia. Unwilling to create more jobs to produce goods and services in an economic system on the brink of collapse due to overproduction, Wall Street investors sitting on trillions of dollars are looking for other investment options.

Even a cash-strapped district like Philadelphia is mandated to pay up to \$10,000 per student attending charter schools each year, to the considerable detriment of the public schools. Privatizing schools, like the privatization of prisons, is clearly high on the corporate agenda.

Several of the youth participating in the rally denounced the state spending billions on new prison construction while schools are being defunded and closed. Olivia Vazquez, a 19-year-old organizer with the immigrant rights group Juntos, told the demonstration, “We need a pathway for young people to go to college, not to go to prison.” □



## ‘Struggle, struggle, struggle’

# Gov’t shutdown a workers’ lockout

*The following is excerpted from a talk given by Steve Millies at a Oct. 4 Workers World Party meeting in New York City.*

More than 800,000 workers were thrown out of their jobs on Oct. 1 when the U.S. government shut down. Hundreds of thousands more were told to work without pay by their bosses.

Nine million mothers and their children who depend on the Women, Infants and Children nutritional program were prevented from accessing information. Hungry families needing to enroll were out of luck.

What was Wall Street’s initial reaction to this catastrophe? That same day the Dow Jones industrial average went up 62 points.

Even though the stock market has fallen since then by a couple of hundred points, it’s nothing like its reaction on Sept. 29, 2008, when it fell 777 points when the Troubled Asset Relief Program bailout was initially rejected by the House of Representatives.

What do capitalists care about millions losing access to food? They’re starving people all over the earth to keep food prices high.

Do you think Dow Chemical is alarmed that over 90 percent of the employees of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board have been let go?

Let’s make it very clear: Millions of people are suffering and tens of millions more are threatened by the shutdown of government services, like the WIC program. These programs have been won through decades of struggle.

But the capitalist state hasn’t been shut down. The U.S. is still occupying Afghanistan while it continues to threaten Syria. The Pentagon continues to assassinate with drones. The National Security Agency is spying on everybody.

La Migra’s immigration enforcement continues to deport immigrant workers and their children. Thirty thousand immigrants are locked up in jails, many of which are run by private, extremely profitable outfits.

The capitalist state isn’t about helping people with Social Security or food programs. The capitalist state is cops, jails, brutality and death.

And this organized violence on behalf of the rich hasn’t been shut down at all.

### Lockout against Black workers

The government shutdown is really a lockout of hundreds of thousands of union workers by the biggest employer of all, the capitalist state.

It’s a racist lockout of the Black city of Washington, D.C., which has been denied statehood for decades because it would mean two more African Americans in the U.S. Senate.

This lockout is aimed, first and foremost, at Black workers, but it affects the entire multinational working class.

During the last four decades of deliberate deindustrialization, hundreds of thousands of Black workers have been thrown out of steel mills, auto plants and other shut-down factories. Many of the better-paying jobs still held by African Americans are government jobs.

More Black workers earning \$55,000 or more are employed by the U.S. Postal Service than any other company. African-American homeownership neighborhoods like St. Albans, Queens, N.Y., are filled with public workers.

The union-busting campaign against government workers hasn’t been waged by the Tea Party alone.

Vice President Al Gore went around the country bragging that the Clinton administration had fired 100,000 federal employees. What Prince Albert didn’t mention was that 47 percent of those given pink slips were Black.

The Tea Party bigots in Congress are allowed to carry out this lockout by big capital.

It’s not just the billionaire Koch brothers who are pulling the strings. The entire capitalist class is for cutbacks.

### Capitalist history repeats

It’s through cutbacks and wars that the rich have gotten through every previous capitalist economic crisis.

The capitalist world market was born through the African Holocaust and the extermination of Native peoples in the Americas. It also included wholesale attacks on poor people in Western Europe.

English King Henry VIII hanged 70,000 so-called vagabonds who were really homeless people. Five centuries later, moneybags Mayor Mike Bloomberg wanted to charge homeless families for sleeping in shelters.

While African children were being thrown to the sharks in the Middle Passage, workers in what were to become capitalist states in Western Europe were being starved and actually decreased in height. That’s how severe the cutbacks in food were at the beginning of capitalist era, during the Industrial Revolution.

Just as capitalism was born with cutbacks, it’s decaying with even more.

The whole Tea Party crew in Congress could be brought to order by Wall Street, if it wanted to. House Speaker John Boehner’s suburban district is between Cincinnati and Dayton. Proctor & Gamble runs Cincinnati. General Electric has a big aerospace plant in Boehner’s district.

But neither Proctor & Gamble nor GE has any inclination to do so.

Capital has to expand or die. And the only way capital can even maintain itself during this economic crisis is by stealing even more from the working class, which includes more than 20 million unemployed.

Last year Con Ed conducted a 27-day lockout of its unionized workers. This lockout ended only when a dangerous storm, a derecho, was approaching. The capitalist class needs an electrical system to exploit workers and make profits. But even this necessity took second place to the war against Con Ed workers.

Con Ed is the same outfit that removed without a backup a vital feeder cable that powers Metro North’s electric trains on the New Haven line. Sixty thousand commuters have been affected by this capitalist utility’s recklessness.

The electrical grid is a prime example of how industry is really socialized production that’s strangled by private capitalist ownership. Over the last decades Con Ed has had a string of electrical blackouts. But this capitalist utility won’t fix the problems. There’s no profit to do so.

### ‘Injustice in health care shocking and inhumane’

The ostensible reason for this government lockout — this shutdown of government services — is the start of the Affordable Care Act.

Fifty million people without health insurance have been eagerly waiting for this law to take effect.

But millions of people who desperately need health care won’t be getting any help. John Roberts and his fellow Tea Party judges on the Supreme Court allowed states under Tea Party rule not to increase Medicaid coverage.

Immigrant workers won’t get any help from this law at all. That’s a racist attack on millions of our fellow workers. It’s like reinstating Jim Crow hospitals, where Black patients died in ambulances going past them.

But our criticisms of this law have nothing to do with the Tea Party racists who spat on Congressperson John Lewis. Lewis was viciously clubbed by Alabama State Police in Selma while fighting for voting rights with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

King said, “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

For want of a dentist, 12-year-old Deamonte Driver died of a toothache on Feb. 25, 2007. This Black child died in Prince Georges County, Md., where tens of thousands of government workers are now out of work because of the shutdown.

Do you think the Tea Party bigots care at all for Deamonte Driver or the 50 million people without health insurance? Neither does the entire capitalist class.

After decades of demands for public health insurance, the Affordable Care Act was only passed with a whole series of sops and giveaways to Aetna, United Health Care and the rest of the gigantic insurance outfits.

So why does the capitalist class allow it to be endangered now, upon its inauguration?

It’s sort of like the timid liberal who was summoned to a red-baiting congressional committee during the anti-communist witch hunt. The liberal cried, “I’ve always been an anti-communist.” To which Joe McCarthy replied, “We don’t care what sort of communist you are.”

To many in the capitalist class, it doesn’t matter that the Affordable Care Act is meager legislation that guarantees more profits for the medical insurance complex.

The super-rich don’t even want to give the appearance of reform. All they want is to attack, attack, attack poor people all over the globe.

How can we turn this around?

Without the masses’ intervention, this government lockout and the so-called federal debt ceiling will be used to pass

cutback legislation. The Democrats will call this a compromise that we’re supposed to be relieved to hear about.

It will be a rotten compromise. Two years ago, President Barack Obama offered a trillion dollars in cuts to Social Security and other vital programs. It just whetted the Tea Party’s appetite.

We need to struggle, struggle and struggle still more. Fannie Lou Hamer didn’t wait for the Democratic Party to do something, because the white Democrats were the ones who tortured her in Mississippi.

All through her life Fannie Lou Hamer struggled. So did thousands of other courageous fighters.

That’s how millions of workers were organized into unions in the 1930s and how segregation was defeated in the 1960s.

We need to build peoples’ assemblies everywhere to fight police killings of poor people, every cutback and every rich-man’s war.

We need to assemble to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and the MOVE 9. We need to fight to free CeCe McDonald. We need to assemble to bring home the millions of sisters and brothers who are in prison. The Cuban 5 must be freed immediately and their jail cells occupied by five CEOs of Pfizer, Merck and other drug profiteers.

We need what the people of Cuba have — free health care for all!

This weekend the International People’s Assembly Against the Banks and Against Austerity is convening in Detroit, a Black city that was economically destroyed by finance capital.

On Oct. 22, people will be rallying in cities against police brutality and mass incarceration.

On Oct. 24, we’ll be fighting for a \$15 minimum wage. We need to fill Herald Square in New York.

Struggle is the only way we can defend ourselves and our families.

Both Herman Wallace and General Giap struggled all their lives.

During 47 years of imprisonment, including 41 years of solitary confinement, Herman Wallace never gave up. Neither can we.

General Giap showed the people of the world how to defeat the French and U.S. war machines.

The capitalist class has shut down government services. We will give Wall Street a Dien Bien Phu — a socialist revolution!

Long live the memory of Herman Wallace and General Giap! □

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Where nearly 1 million federal workers — and all who work — cannot be locked out of their jobs or denied the basic human right to free, comprehensive health care as part of a good life.

An impossible dream? Nope!

Marx envisioned it about 150 years ago when he observed that all things of value are created by workers’ labor. The major problem — the cause of oppression,

poverty, want, wars and lockouts — is capitalist ownership. That enables the 1% to skim off the cream (profits) from what the 99% create.

That’s what’s behind the federal lockout and shutdown of vital services that working and oppressed people rely on every day.

The tables are turning. Workers who don’t make a living wage are rising up and inspiring their sisters and brothers in the working class to unite with them for a better life.

But first we have to trash capitalism. That’s the only way we can end lockouts and the ruling-class dictatorship over our lives.

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# Gov't lockout rooted in capitalist crisis

By a representative of locked out workers  
Washington, D.C.

## COMMENTARY

On Oct. 1, the federal government shut down most of its agencies, which basically locked out 800,000 federal workers. According to J. David Cox, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, in an interview with PBS NewsHour: "I actually prefer to call it a government lockout because employees are being locked out of their jobs. Our members want to go to work today. They want to serve the American public." (pbs.org, Oct. 3)

He also stated that the lockout was devastating for federal workers as well as people relying on public services.

The lockout comes only weeks after thousands of federal workers were "furloughed" for seven days and are desperately trying to recoup the economic losses that they have had. This time the excuse from the most reactionary members of the House of Representatives is that they want President Obama to negotiate "changes" to the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as "Obamacare."

Although the ACA, which is now the law, has many flaws and has become an economic windfall for the medical and pharmaceutical industries — as well as sections of the law being opposed by some unions — the Tea Party-driven Republicans want to use federal workers as pawns and hold them for ransom.

It would, however, be a mistake to view this crisis as the responsibility of one or the other political party. Instead, the crisis is a result of the worldwide effort of the capitalist class to impose austerity and cutbacks on the international working class, and part and parcel of the efforts of neoliberalism to drive back the hard-fought gains of the working class that were won for the past 75 years. From Athens, Greece, to Detroit to South Africa to Wisconsin, austerity and cutbacks in wages, public services and pensions, reducing the living standards of the global working class is the end game for an economic system in a downward spiral.

Besides the AFGE national leadership calling for mass actions and protests, there are many AFGE locals across the country that have initiated demonstrations.

AFGE Local 17, representing the Department of Veteran Affairs, plans to call for another rally on Oct. 11 from noon to 3 p.m. on the west front of the U.S. Capitol Building. Local 17 President Bill



Protesters at New York City's federal building Oct. 2 especially denounce how the shutdown affects women.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Preston has invited friends, families and any allies to fight back this attack to help broaden the struggle of federal workers. He also states in a leaflet announcing the rally that any homemade signs to express to Congress feelings about the lockout are more than welcome.

At the Oct. 4 rally, Johnny Zuagar, an African-American U.S. Census Bureau employee and president of AFGE Local 2782, stated to the Metro Washington AFL-CIO Council News: "I don't know what bills to pay. I am afraid I am going to lose my house. I don't know how it got to this."

At the same rally, which turned out hundreds of federal workers, a Federal Aviation Agency inspector and shop steward for AFGE Local 1653, Dan Ronberg, expressed his anxiety over the dangerous situation created by the lockout of 800

other federal aviation inspectors.

Another employee, Melissa Howard, a civilian employee of a Child Care Development Center at Fort Meade, Md., told of her anger at having to borrow money from infamous "Pay Day Loan Centers," which charge exorbitant interest rates, in order to pay some of her bills. She said, "It's a choice between fuel or food."

An employee on an AFL-CIO blog said: "The duty of the federal government is to keep the citizens safe and secure. In other words, take care of us. Sacrificing the workers for the benefit of corporations in this New World Order, the protection of labor has been left out of every free trade agreement or completely ignored. Does this sound safe and secure? Not one consideration of what this would do to American workers, putting us in direct compe-

tion with the workers in other countries that make a dollar a day. Our government set all of this up for corporate profit and does not give a damn about citizens of this country."

This blogger, however, has it only partially right. We should not be in competition with workers from other countries; we should be in solidarity with them in their struggles.

It is the capitalist class and imperialism that puts us in "competition" with each other. The U.S. labor movement needs to interpret the union slogan, "An Injury to One Is an Injury to All," to include all workers living under capitalism, in order for workers to understand the global ramifications of both the current attacks and the fightback. A better world is possible! It's called socialism! □

## PSC protests Board of Trustees



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

By G. Dunkel

Two hundred Professional Staff Congress members protested at the City University of New York Board of Trustees meeting at Baruch College on Sept. 30. A number of faculty and staff went inside the meeting, while others, plus some students, held a picket line outside.

The protest made it clear that the

union is not going to accept an austerity contract for its members or an austerity education for CUNY students. What the union wants from the board is a fair contract, quality education for CUNY students and a reevaluation of the board's Pathway proposal, which will diminish the quality of CUNY education.

The six students from the Ad Hoc Committee Against the Militarization of

CUNY who were arrested by police on Sept. 17 came to the rally in solidarity with the union. They spoke about their case, in which police physically assaulted them at a demonstration against war criminal Gen. David Petraeus teaching at CUNY's honors college. Union leaders repeated the union's defense of the right of peaceful protest at CUNY without fear of police violence. □

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## Commentary:

# The crime at Lampedusa Island

By John Catalinotto

A boat crowded with 500 refugees that had left from a port in Libya foundered off Italy's Lampedusa island, located 130 miles south of Sicily. According to media reports, someone set a blanket on fire to call attention to their plight. The fire spread, driving the refugees to overload one side of the ship, capsizing and sinking it.

Only 155 people have been rescued. The more than 300 others are feared dead.

A tragedy? Yes. But more than a tragedy, it is another crime of the Italian government and the European Union toward the millions of refugees, most of them Africans, who are fleeing their countries to seek asylum, to seek work, to seek a life in Europe. In the last 20 years, at least 20,000 of these migrants have lost their lives in shipwrecks and similar tragedies

while crossing the Mediterranean.

Italian law allows the courts to fine the 155 survivors up to 5,000 euros each for illegal immigration. That in itself tells us how vicious European immigration policy is.

The situation leading to this massacre of human beings is similar to that on the U.S.-Mexico border. There, millions try to cross each year, either seeking asylum or simply seeking work. Over the last 10 years about 400 people a year have been counted as killed on the journey. That figure doesn't include those lost in the desert.

The homelands of the African migrants to Europe had first been pillaged by the slave trade and then underdeveloped by the exploiting classes in the colonial countries, whose own industrial development was financed by this plunder. You can find European ruling-class crimes

that contributed to this recent tragedy by going back 100, 200 or 400 years.

But you don't need to look that far back. Only two years ago, the U.S. and NATO manufactured a pretext to bomb Libya and destroy the sovereign government that ran that country under the leadership of Col. Moammar Gadhafi.

The former Libyan government kept some control of its energy reserves and had a cash reserve of some \$150 billion, much of which it put into African-based banks — the African Investment Bank, the African Central Bank and the African Monetary Fund. Such banks made Africa less dependent on the imperialists.

Libya also provided a per-capita income of \$13,000, the highest in Africa, to its 6 million citizens. Even the poorest residents had much more than the poor of other African countries. Some 1.5 million Egyptians were working in Libya in 2010,

along with more than a half-million migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. These workers supported millions of people with the money they sent home.

The U.S.-NATO predatory war, with mercenaries and 10,000 bombing runs, destroyed Libya. They left a mostly broken state that provides no jobs for foreigners and few for Libyans. This imperialist adventure leaves millions of people with no choice but to attempt a very dangerous voyage.

The same U.S. and European rulers who waged war on Libya and who promote repressive immigration laws have also weaponized the aggression against Syria. This too has created millions of refugees, who are beginning to try to escape to Europe. Some Syrians were on the ship that capsized off Lampedusa, the first of a new wave of desperate asylum seekers. □



Atlanta

## March demands: 'End deportations!'

Thousands of immigrants and their allies rallied in front of the Georgia state Capitol on Oct. 5 to take part in the National Day of Action for Dignity and Respect. Organized by the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, the enthusiastic crowd marched through the downtown streets, passing Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices with colorful banners and signs held high and chanting demands for no more deportations.

Refusing to allow congressional inaction on comprehensive immigration reform to delay an end to mass detention and

deportations, the demonstrators called upon President Barack Obama to take executive action to end the breakup of families.

From undocumented students who are challenging Georgia's requirement that they pay out-of-state tuition; to the president of the state AFL-CIO; to elected officials and a broad range of faith leaders; to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and women activists; the rally speakers presented the face of a growing movement that loudly declares, "¡Sí, se puede!"

— Dianne Mathiowetz

Part 20

## A brief history of 'marriage'

# Did communal society survive the Europe's Agricultural Revolution?

By Bob McCubbin

Was there a golden age of woman-centered peace and plenty during the Neolithic period in the far western region of Eurasia, an area that archeological theorist Marija Gimbutas labeled "Old Europe"? Gimbutas' hypothesis, presented in a number of books and enthusiastically embraced by numerous feminist writers, envisions a widespread gynocentric society flourishing under the blessings of economic equality and social harmony but, problematically from a materialist point of view, set technologically in the context of the unfolding agricultural revolution.

Gimbutas attributes the demise of this Old Europe to an invasion of warriors from the Eastern Steppes, who brought with them the trappings of patriarchy and their Indo-European language and culture. She bases her hypothesis on the results of her own extensive European archaeological fieldwork, the findings of other archeologists in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern areas, an analysis of religious beliefs and myths in those areas, and generally known facts about the prehistory of the areas.

Gimbutas is widely known among feminist scholars for her interpretation of what she terms "goddess figurines." This diverse array of human shapes in stone,

bone and clay, many of them with clearly feminine features, are frequent finds at archeological digs, and Gimbutas marshals them all as evidence for her hypothesized prehistoric gynocentric society in "The Language of the Goddess." (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989) Her description of marriage in Old Europe pretty much parallels what has been written in this series about the pairing marriage form found in matrilineal clan societies previous to the adoption of agriculture.

### Challenges to "Old Europe" hypothesis

Gimbutas' hypothesis has proved to be very controversial. Many archeologists have challenged her conclusions, and not all these responses have had a reactionary, anti-feminist subtext. Archaeologist Ian Hodder, for example, has continued the excavation of the prehistoric Anatolian site Çatalhöyük. This work was begun by James Mellaart, whose preliminary discoveries there form an important part of Gimbutas' evidence. Hodder, in "The Leopard's Tale," respectfully disagrees with Mellaart's earlier conclusions and Gimbutas' use of them. (London: Thames & Hudson Ltd., 2006) Another challenge to Gimbutas has come in the form of essays by 12 women archeologists collected under the title "Ancient Goddesses: The Myths and the Evidence." (Edited

by Lucy Goodison and Christine Morris. Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1999)

It remained for a revolutionary Marxist, however, to present a thoroughgoing critique of Gimbutas' hypothesis. As a militant woman leader and a Marxist theorist, Workers World Party founder Dorothy Ballan was very interested in what Gimbutas had to say. In her article on Gimbutas' hypothesis, "When Goddesses Ruled: 'The Language of the Goddess' Confirms Early Matriarchy," Ballan credits Gimbutas' remarkable achievement in "The Language of the Goddess": "The very fact that a woman has broken through the almost inaccessible male-dominated field of archeology is in itself a considerable accomplishment and a source of pride and encouragement to other women." ("Liberation and Marxism," June/July 1990, p. 2)

Ballan acknowledges Gimbutas' conception of what Ballan terms "an idealized version of ancient primitive communism" as a positive contribution, but notes that "it is not a new one. This idea was expounded more than a century ago by Bachofen in 'Mother Right' and by Lewis Morgan in 'Ancient Society.' These forerunners of Gimbutas, who analyzed early society with the information available at that time, were basically correct. But surprisingly, they are not mentioned

in Gimbutas' book. ...

"Bachofen, Morgan and Engels laid the foundation for 'The Language of the Goddess.' What then is Marija Gimbutas' contribution? What she did was unearth physical evidence that they were right, that the matriarchy did precede the patriarchy."

### Eurocentricism and anti-communism tarnish findings

"However," stresses Ballan, "her idealized focus on the matrilineal societies of Stone Age Europe leads to a distorted view of human history. Today a Eurocentric view of world history is justifiably under attack by progressive historians and social scientists. Gimbutas' descriptions of 'our authentic European heritage' destroyed by 'that aggressive male invasion' from Russia and Asia introduces a narrow Eurocentric view of prehistory.

"Gimbutas is an archeologist with 30-years experience who speaks 17 languages. She cannot be unaware of the research of numerous other anthropologists, archeologists and historians who have confirmed the worldwide evidence of matrilineal and matriarchal societies. ...

"Gimbutas presents the overthrow of the matriarchy as though it were merely a case of external force intervening in a

## As poverty grows here

# U.S. and Japan sign military pact

By Deirdre Griswold

The wars the Pentagon has been waging to grab control of North Africa and Southwest Asia haven't gone well for them — even though the damage they have wreaked is enormous. However, this hasn't stopped the generals and politicians — or the big-money think tanks that have groomed the czars of U.S. foreign policy for more than a century — from planning the next war.

Even after the start of the government shutdown — presumably over lack of money, and while 800,000 workers were being locked out of their jobs as public services closed — the money was there to send U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to Tokyo to sign a new military pact with their former enemy.

By the end of World War II, Japanese imperialism had been so weakened by its military drive to take over the Asian colonies of Europe and the U.S. that it had to surrender and agree to totally disarm. Once it was firmly established in the role of a junior partner to U.S. capitalists' ambitions in Asia, however, Washington began encouraging Japan's rearmament — against the Japanese Constitution and the will of the Japanese people, who have opposed it every step of the way.

However, Shinzo Abe, the present prime minister of Japan, leads a right-wing government with territorial ambitions and is eager to further rearm as a partner of the U.S. The agreement just signed provides Japan with high-tech drones and a new missile “defense” system — which makes it more secure when it goes on the offensive.

This is all bad news for the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Both suffered enormously from Japan's effort to become a global imperialist power. Korea was turned into a colony of Japan for 35 years. China lost its province of Manchuria to Japan, whose armies inflicted horrendous casualties trying to subdue the rest of the country. In both nations, it was the Communists who built a successful armed resistance to the Japanese invaders.

This spring, Japan joined the U.S. and south Korea in war practices — called “games” — off the coast of the DPRK. It also has been in a struggle with China and Vietnam over uninhabited islands in the South China Sea that may provide access to undersea oil and gas in the future. The drones Washington is providing Japan are specifically meant for these islands.

### What ‘threat’ from China?

What justification is being given by the

U.S. government for this ominous “pivot toward Asia” by the Pentagon? The corporate news media say it quite bluntly: It is to counter the “threat” from China.

What threat? China doesn't have military bases all over the world, as U.S. imperialism does. It isn't fighting in even one war, let alone half a dozen wars and “military actions,” like the U.S. interventions throughout the Middle East and Africa.

However, the U.S. ruling class does feel threatened by China. Why? Because from 1981 to 2010, China reduced extreme poverty for 84 percent of the population to only 12 percent. This is unprecedented anywhere else in the world, and represents hundreds of millions of people getting out of poverty.

In the same period, the official U.S. poverty rate has risen from 13 percent to 15 percent, and it continues to go up.

While the way poverty is measured here is undoubtedly different than in

China, the trend is very clear.

The developing Chinese economy, which is still under the control of the state created by the Chinese Revolution, has grown by close to 10 percent every year. Huge infrastructure projects have been undertaken. New housing with urban facilities is replacing the impoverished villages of yesteryear. Wages and purchasing power are rising fast. All that is a tribute to socialist planning. Meanwhile, capitalism has gained a foothold there, too. That is why China has a growing income gap. The two systems are in struggle with one another.

Washington's military focus on Asia is meant to reinforce the growth of capitalism there — but capitalism that brings money in interest and dividends back to the imperialist ruling class in the U.S., which continues to accumulate wealth at a record rate while poverty grows here. That's the real threat to the U.S. working class. □



## What will it take to defeat dead-end capitalism

peaceful, stable and egalitarian system. She has no other explanation for the great, historic and decisive development that brought about the patriarchy. She dare not give any explanation that deals with the material conditions of life, i.e., with the basic economic conditions in human society. ...

“The material conditions of life, the growth of the productive forces of society and the relations of production that grow out of it, have no relevance to her cultural theory. The view that technology ... in turn changes all the old relations in society, including art and literature, seems not to influence Gimbutas' thinking at all.”

### Material forces are basis for beliefs, social change

Ballan continues: “It is important to study the forms of ownership in any society to get to the root cause of development, which includes not only upward, forward movement, but also includes regression. What did destroy the primitive form of communism and matrilineal relations in the period of mother right was the beginning of surplus and the private ownership of that surplus.

“The beginning of existence of these new conditions corresponds roughly to the rise of the patriarchy. The very social relations that had existed for so long became a brake upon the society and that stagnation led to erosion of the old family relations. It

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Continued on page 11

## Health care for all? Catch-22 denies 8 million!

If you live in Texas and are one of the 1.5 million people who have low incomes and hoped to get health care through Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, you are out of luck. Texas is one of 26 states that opted out of Medicaid expansion.

The Affordable Care Act required states to expand Medicaid to those whose incomes reached up to 133 percent above the poverty line, which is \$11,500, or \$23,500 for a family of four. The federal government would then carry the lion's share of health care costs. Presumably, 17 million uninsured people would get coverage. Financial penalties would be levied against states that did not comply.

Washington would also provide subsidies for some purchasers of insurance on the new health exchanges. However, their incomes would have to be at or up to four times above the poverty line — but not below it. No one earning below the poverty level is eligible for federally subsidized health insurance.

On June 28, 2012, when the U.S. Supreme Court approved the Affordable Care Act, the justices handed the right wing a victory. In a 7-2 decision, they ruled that states could opt out of expanding Medicaid — without penalty.

Five reactionary governors immediately said they would not extend Medicaid. To date, 26 right-wing state governments have jumped on the anti-poor bandwagon, denying this vital program to millions of people who desperately need it, even rebuffing billions of dollars in federal funds to cover its costs.

Now, 8 million low-income, uninsured people are trapped in a ridiculous Catch-22, with no health coverage. Denied Medicaid, and yet working 40 hours a week, they are “too poor” to get subsidized health coverage. They are stuck, living in states whose officials refuse to expand Medicaid, where income levels must be extremely low for applicants to even qualify for the program. These states provide little or no coverage for childless adults, even when unemployment is high or wages low.

The New York Times of Oct. 3 reported “Millions of Poor Are Left Uncovered by Health Law.” The article listed the categories of hard-working yet underpaid workers who perform vital jobs

for society, but have been denied health coverage: cashiers, cooks, nurses' aides, sales clerks, waiters, custodians and housekeepers. The workers question how they can be living in poverty and not be eligible for Medicaid or subsidized insurance. It's a good question.

This situation could only happen with the greediest, profit-driven health care system. The refusal of politicians in 26 states to expand Medicaid to underpaid workers shows to what extent the right wing will play politics with people's lives. It also exposes the deep racism that is at play here. The impact of such refusal will disproportionately affect African Americans, Latinos/as and other people of color.

Half the U.S. population lives in these 26 states, including 60 percent of all uninsured, underpaid workers. Two-thirds of low-income, uninsured African Americans and single mothers reside in them. Texas, which has the second largest Latino/a population in the country, is a leader in the anti-Medicaid bloc.

Every state government in the Deep South, except Arkansas, has refused to open up Medicaid enrollment. This is a region where poverty, illness and lack of medical insurance are severe. The legacy of segregation and Jim Crow racism still weigh heavily there, affecting government policies.

Dr. Aaron Shirley, an African-American physician and civil rights activist, told the Times that racism influences health care and other programs in Mississippi: “Politicians have used race to oppose minimum wage, Head Start, all these social programs.”

Some 13 percent of this country's poor and uninsured people live in Mississippi. The Times gives examples of two residents who can't get Medicaid or subsidized federal insurance. Willie Charles Carter, 53, is unemployed and, as a childless adult, is ineligible for Medicaid, although his income is below the state's Medicaid ceiling of \$3,000. Clarethia Briscoe earns \$11,000 a year as a fast-food cook.

Carter, Briscoe and all low-income workers, employed, underemployed and unemployed, deserve health care. The federal government must find a way to extend Medicaid to all who've been kept off the program. Health care is a right! □

## Communist Gen. Giap's enemies

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap had many friends and admirers among the people of the world, for whom he is a true communist hero. However, we focus in this editorial on his enemies.

Comrade Giap has been the object of imperialist hatred all his life, and also upon his death, because he was an effective fighter and a political-military leader of Vietnam's liberation movement. Giap was a developer of the people's war strategy that the Vietnamese used and which has served as an example to all peoples fighting to liberate themselves from imperialist slavery.

The imperialists hate to lose. Gen. Giap trashed them. He commanded the people's army that won a smashing victory against French imperialist troops in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu, and guided the efforts of tens of millions of Vietnamese that drove U.S. imperialism — the world's most powerful oppressive military apparatus — out of Vietnam in 1975.

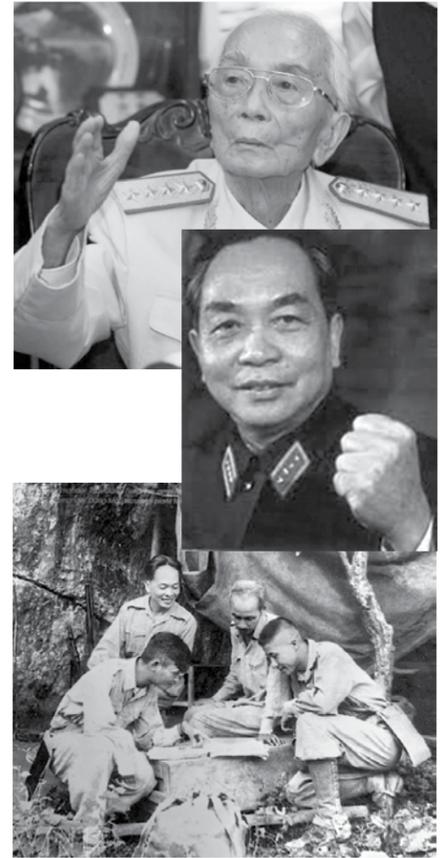
Since the self-taught Gen. Giap had been an exemplary communist for 82 of his 102 years, the imperialist corporate and state media have been unable to attack him for accumulating privilege or property. With Giap's history possessing no hint of the kind of scandal that sucks in every capitalist political leader, they had only one line of attack.

One can hear a whine in the explanation Gen. William Westmoreland — the U.S. commander in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968 — gave to explain the U.S. defeat: “Any [U.S.] American commander who took the same vast losses as Giap would have been sacked overnight.” (New York Times, Oct. 4) The BBC thus attacked Giap for being “willing to accept high casualties.” The Huffington Post called him “ruthless.”

The Vietnamese fought a people's war. The entire population was politically committed to it and determined to win liberation, whatever the cost. Like anyone in the West, those in this population suffered when loved ones were lost, but they were ready for sacrifices. They chose leaders who were equally determined to win, including Comrade Giap.

Gen. Giap's enemies — Westmoreland, President Lyndon Johnson, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara — should have understood long before the 1968 Tet Offensive that the Vietnamese would persist and win. They could have left Vietnam earlier, saving the lives

of millions of Vietnamese and tens of thousands of U.S. troops. Imperialist arrogance and a racist underrating of



their Vietnamese enemy distorted their decisions.

Much later, McNamara confessed this blunder. The ruthless U.S. leaders and generals used the latest weapons to kill 1 million Vietnamese troops and 4 million civilians. They did this without regard for human life.

There were other consequences of expanding U.S. casualties. Already hundreds of thousands of U.S. youth — faced with a war that did nothing to further their interests nor those of their class sisters and brothers — were instead going to Canada, underground or to jail and mobilizing against the war, even reaching out to the troops, who joined the movement. A few combat troops got so angry they blew up their officers in Vietnam with fragmentation grenades.

Westmoreland wanted a million U.S. troops he could sacrifice for “victory.” U.S. political leaders saw this would only arouse more resistance. But had he gotten them, one of those reluctant troops might have rolled a grenade into his tent.

Gen. Giap's troops would never have thought of doing such a thing. □

### Vietnam:

## Revolutionary hero Vo Nguyen Giap dies at 102

By Paddy Colligan and G. Dunkel

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, a hero and leader of the Vietnamese people's struggles against Japanese, French and U.S. imperialism, died Oct. 4.

He was the founder and first leader of the Vietnam People's Army and helped to develop and applied the concept of “people's war” that the Vietnamese used first to defeat the French colonial rulers in 1954 and later to drive U.S. imperialism and its puppets out of South Vietnam in 1975.

Giap envisioned the Vietnamese army as an instrument for organizing the masses to carry out a military struggle that would lead to a political revolution.

The clearest example of the power of people's war came in the 1954 two-month-long siege of the French colonial army, which was well dug in at Dien Bien

Phu, a remote area in northwest Vietnam. The battle was waged by 100,000 soldiers and another 100,000 workers — mainly women — who were employed to do the logistical work the 100,000 soldiers required. With this battle, the Vietnamese army forced the French army to surrender. France had to leave Vietnam.

Even though the French artillery and the French air force inflicted heavy casualties on the soldiers and the workers directly supporting them, Vietnamese morale didn't crack. The fighters and those supplying them knew they were fighting for Vietnam's national independence, their national sovereignty and their homeland. They also knew that a liberation struggle led by a Communist Party would mean enormous social gains for the peasants and workers.

The liberation war to drive out U.S. imperialism was longer and more in-

tense because the United States was militarily much more powerful and wealthier than France.

The U.S. lost 58,226 soldiers in its war against Vietnam and suffered several thousand missing in action. These losses, coming in a period of political awakening inside the U.S., especially of the Black Liberation struggle, were more than enough to turn U.S. popular sentiment against the war.

Vietnam released figures on April 3, 1995, that a total of 1 million Vietnamese combatants and 4 million civilians were killed in the war. The accuracy of these figures has generally not been challenged. Even after killing all these people, U.S. imperialism was unable to break the will of the Vietnamese to wage a people's war for national sovereignty and liberation.

Vietnam is still suffering from the

chemical warfare the U.S. used against it. Even now, 40 years after the Pentagon dumped millions of gallons of Agent Orange on its soil, Vietnamese children are still being born with severely disabling physical and mental abnormalities caused by contamination of the environment and its genetic legacy.

The U.S. government has refused to provide any compensation or restitution to Vietnam and the children damaged by these poisons. Washington was even highly reluctant to compensate the U.S. veterans and their children damaged by these poisons.

Long live Vietnam and its heroic struggles! Long live the memory of Senior Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap!

(For more information on Giap and his role in the struggle against French and U.S. imperialism, please see workers.org/2011/world/giap\_0908/.) □

## Freedom fighter

# Herman Wallace, presente!

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The decades-long struggle by various forces in the Black Liberation Movement, the human rights and prisoner support movements resulted in the release of Herman Wallace from the Angola prison plantation in Louisiana on Oct. 1. Wallace, along with Albert Woodfox and Robert King, had become known internationally as the Angola 3.

Wallace's bogus conviction for the death of a prison guard in 1972 had been challenged by him and his supporters. The three inmates were organizers for the Black Panther Party inside the dreaded prison, which was a slave plantation during the antebellum period.

After his conviction was overturned on Sept. 30, Wallace was released from prison, only to die three days later on Oct. 4. Wallace had been suffering from terminal cancer due in large part to the horrendous conditions he endured in the prison, known as one of the worst such facilities in the U.S.

Wallace, Woodfox and King were placed in solitary confinement after they were deemed a threat to the prison authorities during the early 1970s. King was released in 2001 after spending 29 years in solitary confinement, while Woodfox remains at Angola.

### Freedom for all political prisoners

The injustice of the Angola 3 is not an isolated situation. Many political prisoners



are being held in prisons inside the U.S.

Although the U.S. government denies there are political prisoners inside this country, many people who were associated with revolutionary and progressive movements within the oppressed nations remain incarcerated under extremely harsh conditions. According to the Jericho Movement, which has demanded a general amnesty for political prisoners for more than 15 years, there are at least 150 of such inmates throughout various so-called correctional facilities across the country.

The U.S. government's false claim that there are no political prisoners flows from

the overall situation involving the nationally oppressed. Africans, people of Latin American descent, Native Americans and others suffer direct repression and exploitation that is deeply entrenched within the exploitative system.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the struggle for national liberation, genuine equality and self-determination took on a mass and militant character. Although some concessions were granted as a result of these popular struggles, the fundamental structures of capitalism and imperialism remain intact.

By the middle years of the 1960s, rebellions began to sweep across the U.S. that shook the foundations of the racist and oppressive system. From California to New York City and to the colonies of Puerto Rico, the Native nations and occupied Mexico in the Southwest, organizations arose that took on a revolutionary approach to the struggles against racism and economic exploitation.

This is the context in which the Black Panther Party, Republic of New Africa, Young Lords, American Indian Movement, Brown Berets, Weather Underground and other revolutionary organizations came into being. These organizations, and the movements surrounding them, were met by the armed might of the capitalist and imperialist state based in Washington, D.C.

The FBI, CIA, Military Intelligence Corps as well as local and state law-enforcement departments were mobilized and provided vast amounts of funding and political support to attack all genuine movements for freedom and justice taking place in the U.S. Dozens of BPP and AIM members were killed between the late 1960s and the early 1980s.

Political prisoners such as Mumia Abu-Jamal, Sekou Odinga, Leonard Peltier, Oscar Lopez Rivera, Mutulu Shakur, Ed Poindexter, the MOVE 9 and many too numerous to mention remain locked up for purely political reasons. Efforts by the Jericho Movement and other organizations to appeal for a general amnesty have been rejected by successive administrations from Bill Clinton to Barack Obama.

Others who were held unjustly as political prisoners, such as Assata Shakur and Nehanda Abiodun, were liberated by their comrades and granted asylum in revolutionary Cuba. Shakur was designated as a "most wanted terrorist" by the U.S. government earlier this year, four decades

after she was shot, captured and unjustly imprisoned by the New Jersey state authorities.

Wallace's last words after being released were "I am free, I am free." The tragedy is that this soldier of the people's struggle for liberation should have never been imprisoned at all. In light of the evidence that vindicated him from the crimes in which he was accused, he should have been released decades ago.

Over the last four decades there have been periods where various movements have been successful in winning the release of political prisoners. Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt was released in 1997 after spending 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Angela Davis was acquitted of trumped-up charges related to efforts aimed at the liberation of George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers in 1972. Both George and Jonathan Jackson, his younger brother, were freedom fighters killed trying to liberate themselves and their comrades.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former leader of the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia and a supporter of MOVE, was released from death row as a result of an international movement in his defense that has been active since the time of his shooting and incarceration in 1981. Mumia remains in prison with a life sentence, while efforts continue to bring about his release from the penal system in Pennsylvania.

### Escalate struggle to free all political prisoners

One clear lesson from Herman Wallace's death at a private home in New Orleans is that the people's organizations and movements across the U.S. must escalate their efforts to expose both the existence and plight of political prisoners as well as the necessity of bringing about their release. The struggle to free political prisoners is part and parcel of the broader efforts to end national oppression and class exploitation in general.

The campaigns for the release of all political prisoners are inextricably linked with the aims of bringing about a revolutionary movement in the U.S. to overturn the exploitative and oppressive system of capitalism and imperialism. Inside the U.S., which claims that it is the most advanced democracy in the world, there are more prisoners per capita than in any other state around the globe.

Disproportionately the oppressed African, Latin American and Native populations are incarcerated at a far higher rate than whites. Prisons are containment, slave labor and behavioral modification centers designed to maintain the dominance of the racist ruling class and its state apparatus operating on national, state and local levels.

A new wave of prison activism is moving across several states inside the country. The prisoner hunger strikes in California, Ohio and Georgia in recent years should be supported by all civil and human rights organizations throughout the U.S.

The only way in which the large-scale incarceration of the nationally oppressed, workers and poor people can be halted is through the transformation of the U.S. into a socialist state where people-of-color communities have the inherent right to self-determination and full equality. Prisons are an integral part of the mechanism of control and exploitation designed to uphold the right of private property over and above the needs of the majority of people held down under this system of oppression and exploitation. □



A NICE organizer confronts the boss.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Immigrant workers at Well-S Inc. construction company, who are owed \$94,000 in back wages and damages, have been fighting their case in court. On Oct. 6 they took their demands directly to one of the bosses at his home in Queens, N.Y. The protest was called by NICE (New Immigrant Community Empowerment), which was recently organized by two Latinas, and supported by activists from a number of organizations, including the Laundry Workers Center. — Sue Davis

### A brief history of 'marriage' – part 20

## Did communal society survive Europe's Agricultural Revolution?

Continued from page 9

was a development on a world scale, not an external force invading an idyllic society. It was an outgrowth of the stagnation of the older forms of social relations." (pp. 3-4)

Ballan notes and condemns the anti-communist tirade that concludes "The Language of the Goddess": "Gimbutas turns to crude anti-communism as a prop for her thesis. This may be music to the ears of the ultraright in the United States and it may help in gaining favorable press reviews. But it will do little to establish her work as a significant contribution — either to archeology or to the women's movement."

She continues: "Another problem is what many reviewers praise as the spiritual implications of her work. ... It is all

good and well for women to be inspired by the facts, established more than a century ago, that matriarchal, communal societies flourished widely for many, many thousands of years. ... But Gimbutas climbs to another dimension altogether when she glorifies divine female worship as the force behind egalitarian, communal societies. She implies that myths determine the basis of society, rather than the social and economic basis of society determining the myths. This puts her work in the field of myth and superstition. It also puts her in conflict with science." (p. 5)

Taking into consideration Ballan's incisive evaluation and the misgivings of many of Gimbutas' archeological colleagues, we think it's safe to conclude that Gimbutas' hypothesis (as opposed to the findings of her fieldwork) does not

represent a defensible exception to a materialist perspective on the evolution of patriarchal marriage.

As human groups in Europe and elsewhere adopted agricultural production over foraging and hunting as their primary source of sustenance, the new relations of production introduced economic inequality that favored men over women. What Gimbutas' work actually uncovered are significant vestiges of the communal human society that was no longer dominant in her hypothesized "Old Europe" of the Neolithic period.

In future installments in this series our attention will be drawn to the tenacious persistence of some other pre-patriarchal "vestiges" well into the epoch of patriarchy and the efforts of patriarchal rulers to stamp them out. □

## EDITORIAL

2 de octubre

### CIERRE DEL GOBIERNO ¿Quién sufre?

Incapaces o reacios a llegar a un acuerdo para ampliar el gasto del gobierno, el Congreso estadounidense ha provocado un cierre del gobierno. Rápidamente despedirá temporalmente a 800.000 trabajadores/as gubernamentales, mantendrá a otros/as empleados/as trabajando sin paga y amenazaré recortar algunos programas sociales esenciales como el de asistencia para mujeres, infantes y niños (WIC por las siglas en inglés) e instituciones como el Centro para el Control de Enfermedades, ya disminuido por el secuestro.

El conflicto en el Congreso enfrenta a los/as republicanos del Partido del Té contra la administración de Obama, mientras los/as otros/as republicanos/as—hasta ahora—se han alineado con su ala más intransigente y reaccionaria. La escoria del Partido del Té en el Congreso parece no preocuparse de que podría pagar un precio político si su obstruccionismo retarda el crecimiento de la ya frágil economía capitalista—lo que ocurriría si hay un cierre extendido.

Esta agrupación, financiada por multimillonarios ultraderechistas como los hermanos Koch, sobre todo se ha centrado en la nueva ley de salud, Obamacare. Ésta tiene muchos defectos y complicaciones que se crearon cuando los demócratas permitieron que las industrias farmacéutica, médica y de seguros la diseñaran. Si el nuevo plan simplemente hubiera extendido el Medicare a toda la población, habría despertado la oposición de la industria médica pero habría sido extremadamente popular entre la clase obrera, como lo son el Medicare y el Seguro Social.

El gobierno ha tomado medidas para mantener la maquinaria represiva del estado trabajando. Obama firmó un proyecto de ley antes del cierre para continuar pagando a todos los militares activos. Los drones que disparan cohetes en Pakistán y Yemen seguirán siendo financiados, así como los misiles apuntados hacia Damasco en Siria. Los/as veteranos por el contrario, van a experimentar demoras en recibir sus beneficios, y 400.000 empleados/as civiles del Pentágono serán enviados/as a casa con vacaciones sin paga.

Aunque el foco del ataque republicano está en Obamacare, la verdadera cuestión es sobre el presupuesto y cómo se financia. Aunque están en desacuerdo acerca de si se deben aumentar algunos impuestos, quiénes deberían ser gravados o cuán rápido deben cortarse los programas, el Partido del Té, los/as republicanos/as y los/as mismos/as demócratas comparten un programa básico. Están de acuerdo en principio que debe reducirse el déficit del presupuesto y que la prioridad del gobierno debe ser continuar pagando los intereses sobre préstamos bancarios mientras continúan la financiación de la máquina militar.

Como resultado, cortan el déficit atacando a todos los programas existentes que, o bien proporcionan beneficios a los/as trabajadores/as y a los/as pobres — como los cupones de alimentos, el WIC, los almuerzos escolares — o que monitorean los crímenes de los patronos — como la inspección de alimentos y la vigilancia del medio ambiente — o que proporcionan servicios esenciales, como la oficina de correos y el Centro para el Control de Enfermedades. Si ocurren estos recortes, el gobierno, incluso más que ahora, se convierte en una herramienta exclusivamente de los bancos y de los súper ricos.

Estos ataques hacen del Partido del Té y los/as republicanos/as, enemigos evidentes de los/as pobres y los/as trabajadores/as. Sin embargo, el Partido Demócrata, tal y como descartó las mejores partes de un plan universal de salud, puede esperarse que conceda partes de los programas que ayudan a los/as trabajadores/as, incluso el Seguro Social y el Medicare.

La lección del cierre entonces, es la necesidad de que los/as trabajadores/as, las comunidades y todas las personas pobres se organicen independientemente de los grandes partidos políticos capitalistas para defender sus intereses de clase, como por ejemplo mediante la organización de asambleas populares y de trabajadores/as. □

## Mineros sudafricanos continúan acciones sindicales

Por Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African news Wire

La militancia laboral continúa en la República de Sudáfrica, la cual tiene la clase obrera industrial más grande del continente. Unos 20.000 mineros han participado en un intenso enfrentamiento con sus patronos, exigiendo aumentos salariales y mejores condiciones de trabajo. Los trabajadores están representados por el Sindicato Nacional de Mineros, (NUM por sus siglas en inglés), la organización sindical más grande en el Congreso de Sindicatos Sudafricanos, COSATU (siglas en inglés).

Las negociaciones entre el NUM y las empresas mineras del carbón, que incluyen a la Anglo American y la Glencore Xstrata, continuaron el 30 de septiembre. Las ofertas de un aumento salarial entre el 7 y 11 por ciento fueron diseñadas para evitar una huelga. Estos incrementos salariales están por encima de la tasa de inflación, ahora en un 6,4 por ciento.

El NUM había exigido un aumento salarial del 15 por ciento para los trabajadores veteranos y 60 por ciento para los trabajadores principiantes. Una huelga habría impactado la industria energética del país al igual que el abastecimiento de carbón a Europa y Asia. Eskom, la compañía sudafricana de energía, se basa en la producción de carbón para el 85 por ciento de su fuente de energía. En total, el país produce 68,3 millones de toneladas de carbón para la exportación a través de la Terminal de Carbón de Richards Bay.

Sudáfrica es el quinto productor mayor de carbón a nivel mundial. Este sector junto al oro, el platino y el mineral de hierro, constituye la mayor parte del producto interno bruto del país.

### AMCU sale en huelga

En el área de Rustenburg, la Asociación de Mineros y la Unión de Construcción, AMCU (siglas en inglés), llevó a los trabajadores a una huelga que comenzó el 27 de septiembre. La AMCU ha alcanzado un estatus de mayoría entre los mineros de la zona y se ha convertido en la representante principal de los trabajadores superando al NUM.

La rivalidad entre el NUM y la AMCU ha sido fuente de disputa en la provincia del noroeste. El liderazgo de la AMCU rechazó el incremento salarial del 8 por

ciento ganado por el NUM en las áreas de explotación minera en otras regiones del país y comenzó una huelga separadamente.

Una cuestión importante en la huelga de Rustenburg es el anuncio hecho por la administración de que 3.300 empleos se perderían en esta región en las minas de la Anglo American Platinum (Amplats). Desde principios del 2013, los patronos de la mina han amenazado con recortes que inicialmente hubieran involucrado a más de 14.000 empleados.

Por las amenazas de huelgas y más disturbios, los planes de reducción del personal de la compañía fueron reducidos a números más bajos. No obstante, la amenaza de despidos ha sido una importante fuente de tensión para los miembros tanto de la AMCU como el NUM.

El director ejecutivo de Amplats, Chris Griffith, dijo en una declaración el 27 de septiembre que la firma seguiría participando en negociaciones con la AMCU. Luego renovó las amenazas de reducir el número de trabajadores al afirmar que la corporación no podría pagar sus reclamos: “Hemos dicho anteriormente que la empresa está bajo una tremenda presión económica. Las huelgas y los paros laborales resultarán en más pérdidas que entorpecen los planes para la futura sostenibilidad y además amenazan el futuro de nuestros 45.000 empleados”. (bdlive.com.za)

### Acuerdo negociado con los trabajadores lesionados

En una decisión legal sin precedente, 23 mineros de Sudáfrica y del vecino Lesotho han ganado un acuerdo contra la Anglo American por lesiones y enfermedades ocurridas en el trabajo. La cantidad del acuerdo no ha sido revelada y la compañía no fue obligada a admitir su culpabilidad.

Este fue el primer acuerdo de ese tipo de compensación en Sudáfrica. El acuerdo podría abrir el camino para indemnizaciones por miles de otros mineros que contrajeron enfermedades pulmonares mientras trabajaban para la Anglo American.

Estos demandantes estuvieron representados por el abogado Richard Meeran de la firma Leigh Day en Londres, la cual llevó a la corte el caso inicial en 2004. La mayoría de los daños eran derivados por las condiciones de la época del apartheid que prevalecían en las minas. Desde la caída del apartheid y el ascenso al poder del Congreso Nacional Africano, muchos dicen que las condiciones han mejorado en la industria minera.

“En un sentido técnico y jurídico, actualmente es el primer acuerdo de este tipo en Sudáfrica”, dijo Meeran. “Después de este acuerdo uno tendría que preguntarse por qué Anglo y otras empresas contestarían otros casos semejantes — esto desafiaría la lógica”. (Christian Science Monitor, 27 de septiembre)

### Se necesita el socialismo en Sudáfrica

Estos acontecimientos en Sudáfrica muestran la necesidad de continuar la revolución democrática nacional en la dirección hacia el socialismo. Como las minas son propiedad privada, los propietarios de minas en el sector del oro han podido cerrar las instalaciones y reducir su fuerza laboral.

La Anglo American, que fue formada en Sudáfrica en 1917 bajo el colonialismo, trasladó su sede a Londres en 1999, a sólo cinco años después de que el Congreso Nacional Africano llegara al poder. La corporación vendió sus intereses mineros de oro sudafricano a otros capitalistas, aunque todavía tiene intereses importantes en los sectores de platino, mineral de hierro y carbón térmico.

Bajo el socialismo, las compañías mineras y sus instalaciones podrían ser nacionalizadas por el gobierno y distribuidas a los trabajadores para su gestión integral y su operación. Como los capitalistas siguen sus acciones depredadoras con el objetivo de maximizar las ganancias y desempoderar a los trabajadores, el control obrero de las minas y otros medios de producción en Sudáfrica se convertiría en la única solución para conservar puestos de trabajo y mejorar las condiciones de trabajo. □



## What will it take to defeat dead-end capitalism

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