



National actions say 'Not one more deportation!'

By Leilani Dowell

More than 80 events were held across the U.S. around the theme of "Not 1 More Deportation!" on April 5, the date immigrant rights activists estimated that the 2 millionth person would be deported under the administration of President Barack Obama. The actions were coordinated by the National Day Labor Organizing Network.

The following is a sampling of the actions.

Tacoma, Wash.

A prisoners' hunger strike began on March 7 at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash. Despite retaliation, the immigrant strikers continue to press their demands against brutal racist treatment and an end to deportations.

The strike has spread to at least one other prison, in Conroe, Texas. The GEO Group Inc. owns both prisons.

More than 100 demonstrators gathered in front of a Wells Fargo bank on April 5, then marched to the detention center. Wells Fargo owns a huge amount of GEO stock.

At the center, the protesters joined with hundreds of others holding banners and with many families with children. They chanted "¡No están solos!" ("You are not alone!") loud for the prisoners to hear. The march was organized by El Comité Pro Reforma Migratoria Y Justicia Social and Latino Advocacy, both of which have been in regular contact with the prisoners.

It was announced that 20 prisoners who had been placed in solitary confinement in retaliation for the strike had been released to the general population. But five other prisoners remain in solitary. They include army veteran Hassall Moses, who was penalized for typing an appeal for a work stoppage along with the hunger strike. The prisoners demand an end to slave wages of \$1 a day.

Spouses and loved ones spoke out against long-term imprisonment on petty charges. José Moreno, a hunger strike organizer who just got out on bond, demanded that the prison be shut down.

Two weeks ago, Washington Rep. Adam Smith led a delegation to talk to the prisoners. Smith criticized the prison conditions and the country's deportation policy.

The Washington State Labor Council held a week-long women's fast, starting March 31, and an all-day vigil at the detention center, and collected funds for the prisoners' families.

On March 23, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre and Washington State Labor Council President

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Atlanta

Atlanta community members stand against deportations on April 5, 2014, as part of the Not1More nationwide demonstrations.

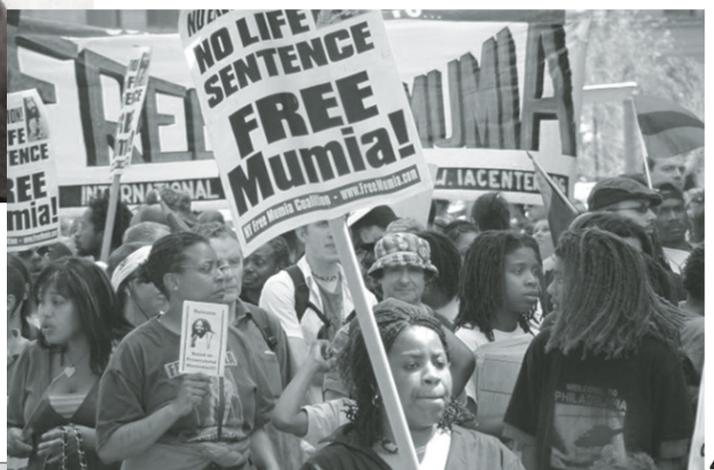


ALL OUT !

**MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S
 60th Life Celebration**

**SATURDAY
 APRIL 26TH
 IN PHILADELPHIA:**

PHOTO: AZI EBRAHIMI



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IPCC: 'Climate change endangers life on planet' Big business: 'Profits come first'

By Fred Goldstein

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued a dire report based on the findings of thousands of scientists and environmental experts. It shows that climate change has already left its mark "on all continents and across the oceans," damaging food crops, spreading disease and melting glaciers.

Big business polluters like ExxonMobil shrug it all off. The Heartland Foundation, the chief corporate climate denier — backed by the Koch brothers, the Olin Foundation, Walmart and a host of other right-wingers — issued anti-science rebuttals to the IPCC report. The Republicans in Congress tried, unsuccessfully, to pass legislation restricting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from carrying on any research on climate change.

The report talks of "extreme weather events" that are leading to the breakdown of "critical services such as electricity, water supply and health and emergency services." It also sounds the alarm about "the breakdown of food systems, linked to warming."

The IPCC shows how environmental damage flowing from climate change hurts the poor in poor countries and rich ones, too. As environmental change intensifies the spread of disease, inadequate health systems are overcome. Food supplies are already diminishing, and food prices are rising globally, hitting the poorest the hardest.

By 2050, rising sea levels due to thermal expansion and the melting of the Arctic and glaciers around the world will threaten 345 million people living in coastal regions. Acidification of the ocean is a fundamental threat to marine organisms and oceanic ecosystems. Wildlife are already under pressure, as are the world's forests and fresh water supplies.

In short, the IPCC has departed from its historically conservative, compromising reports, issued under pressure



from the big imperialist polluting powers. In this report, the IPCC has pulled few punches.

Irreversible damage done to the land, sea and planetary ecology comes from greenhouse gases, created mainly by the burning of fossil fuel that keeps heat from escaping the earth's atmosphere, raising the average temperature of the earth. This rise in the earth's temperature, especially of the oceans, is the underlying problem.

Exxon defies IPCC report, declares profits will continue

ExxonMobil, the largest oil company in the capitalist world, immediately issued its own report. Exxon shareholders had demanded to know what impact climate change, and subsequent global policies to slow its impact, could have on Exxon's assets and future profitability. Exxon acknowledged for the first time that there was climate change.

But it put a spin on this admission: "We believe producing these assets is essential to meeting growing energy demand worldwide, and in preventing consumers — especially those in the least developed and most vulnerable economies — from themselves becoming stranded in the global pursuit of higher living standards and greater economic opportunity."

It said it expected carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels to peak by about 2030 and then begin to decline.

Without blinking an eye and without a word about the human and environmental devastation that carbon emissions are causing, Exxon assured its stockholders of its intention to continue to pursue oil profits without letup.

The company was brazen enough to openly defy warnings backed by 73,000 scientific papers from over 80 countries. But it's not alone.

Chevron, BP, Shell, Total, ENI, Lukoil and all the other oil giants will not stop for a moment. The U.S. capitalist

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Who we are & what we're fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers' living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you're young, you know they're stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That's why for 55 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We've been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism's wars and aggressions. □

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The McCutcheon ruling

Buying elections gets more expensive

By Chris Fry

On March 2, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the McCutcheon v. FEC case that the wealthy could donate funds to an unlimited number of candidates, party campaign committees and political action committees.

Before this ruling, the most that one billionaire could openly give was \$123,000 during each two-year “cycle.” Now each can give millions to back hundreds of candidates’ campaigns.

In 2010, the same court had ruled that corporations, being “people,” could give

super PACs unlimited amounts of money.

According to the court, this is not bribery — it is an exercise of “free speech.” Of course, this “speech” can only be spoken by those with vast amounts of cash on hand: the financiers, bankers and corporation owners who make up the ruling class.

With this latest ruling, nearly all the post-Watergate-scandal laws and regulations meant to prevent some of the most egregious corporate campaign funding have been swept away.

Both Republican and Democratic Party leaders are ecstatic over this ruling. Reince Priebus, head of the Republican National Committee, announced gleefully that this ruling “allows us to go to our donors and say: ‘Look, instead of being able to give to only nine Senate candidates, you can now give to the 14 that are most in play. And you can give to the Senate committee, the congressional committee and the RNC, and you can max out to all three.’”

A Democratic Party official echoed Priebus, even more crudely, confiding that he was “happy as a pig in sh*t.” (blogs.rollcall.com, “Will McCutcheon Ruling Boost Political Parties?” April 2)

Of course, bankers and industrialists have long controlled both political parties and their candidates. In the book “Market Elections,” author Vince Copeland, a founder of Workers World Party,

described the political machinations of the capitalist “kingmakers” from 1876, when Black Reconstruction was betrayed, to 1976, when the Mellons and Lehmans — and somewhat secretly, the Rockefellers — backed Jimmy Carter over Gerald Ford.

Copeland explained that the bankers could not by themselves determine the outcome of each election. Typically, they invest in both political parties to protect their vast interests. But they groom most of the candidates and have their people fill the key posts.

Why is the Supreme Court, the most undemocratic institution of the federal government, allowing the billionaire class to tighten its grip on the electoral process at this time?

U.S. capitalism is a social and economic system that depends on the loyalty, or at least the quiet acquiescence, of its workers, particularly white workers. Wages are the chains to the social order. In return for a livable income, the workers must allow most of the value that they produce to be taken from them. Workers are supposed to accept being exploited. They are also obligated to fight in the wars generated by the master class to maintain and expand its rule.

Elections and the two-party system have served to maintain this rule. Workers are offered a choice between candidates presented to them by the billion-

aires. Even many unions are drawn into this charade. They call it “democracy.”

But now U.S. imperialism is in a deep crisis. Millions have been thrown out of work and can’t get even minimal wages to live on. Others are offered such low wages that even if they work they can starve. Black and Latino/a youth face police brutality and lives in prison.

So elections, for so long an arena controlled by the bankers and corporate giants, could become a danger.

Just last year in Mississippi, which has been the most reactionary state in the country, a true revolutionary — Chokwe Lumumba — was elected mayor of the state’s largest city, Jackson.

So, on the one hand, the oligarchs have directed their court to remove any obstacle to their vast wealth being used to buy unlimited advertising for their most loyal candidates. And on the other hand, they have manufactured onerous laws and regulations to prevent millions of people from voting, particularly oppressed people.

However, the McCutcheon ruling is a sign of ruling-class weakness, not strength. It means that they must spend more to maintain the lie that the profit system is the best of all possible worlds. In the end, that system cannot endure.

To order “Market Elections,” send \$10 with your name and address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd flr., New York, NY 10011. (Includes shipping.)

Climate change

Continued from page 2

energy industry has discovered fracking. In the name of energy sufficiency, it is gearing up to market natural gas to the world. Nor will it stop seeking new supplies of coal.

On the contrary, the oil giants see the disaster of ice melting in the Arctic as a business opportunity. To them, this opens Arctic sea lanes so they can drill for more oil — which will cause more global warming, melt more ice and further endanger hundreds of millions of people and animal and plant species.

The Pentagon also studies climate change and the environment to see how these will affect its mission of global domination. It watches such phenomena as desertification, drought and diminished water supply in order to anticipate national conflict. But growing environmental degradation will not stop the Pentagon, which is the world’s single biggest consumer of fuel and the world’s worst polluter.

Means of pollution are means of production

Nor will General Motors, Ford, Daimler, Toyota, Nissan, Fiat, Volkswagen, General Electric, Peabody Coal, utility companies, airlines, shippers and all the other polluters stop their polluting. They know that the process of creating pollution is also the process of creating profit. And the capitalist system is driven by the law of the maximization of profit.

Of course, every effort should be made to block their path. The XL pipeline must be fought, as should fracking, mountain-top mining, the devastation of the rain forests — wherever new attacks on the environment, which are also attacks on humanity, occur.

The struggle of the polluters for profit grows more intense as the capitalist economic crisis and slow growth drag on. With capitalism at a dead end, the monopolies will try to find profit in every corner of the globe and will leave no environment undamaged as the crisis intensifies.

What must be recognized is that, under capitalism, the means of pollution are the means of production and the means of profit. Unless and until the economy is taken out of the hands of the profiteers, the millionaires and billionaires, and taken over by the workers and the communities, environmental protection and rehabilitation cannot be secured.

Fred Goldstein is the author of “Low-Wage Capitalism” and “Capitalism at a Dead End,” which has been translated into Spanish as “El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida.” See Web site and blog at lowwagecapitalism.com, where books are also available.

National actions say ‘Not one more deportation!’

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Jeff Johnson visited prisoners’ supporters and family members outside the prison. The two spoke out against the oppressive prison conditions and the deportation policies.

The hunger strikers have posted an eight-page handwritten letter in which they “demand that the Federal Executive (Mr. President Barack Obama) use his presidential authority and order a total stop to the unjust deportations.” They also have demands against the facility’s brutal conditions.

Houston

A militant protest took place outside the Harris County jail in downtown Houston. Houston Sheriff Adrian Garcia enthusiastically uses ICE’s “287(g)” and “Secure Communities” programs to detain and criminalize immigrants. Many

are arrested for “crimes” such as not having a driver’s license, which the undocumented cannot get in Texas. Then they are deported.

One focus of the demonstration was the hunger strike at the Joe Corley Detention Facility, located 40 miles north.

Adelina Cáceres spoke about the conditions her spouse, one of the leaders of the hunger strike, is protesting. The strike began on March 17, after the detainees were inspired by the Tacoma strike. Their demands include stopping the deportations, reducing the number of detainees in one cell, fixing health violations and the lack of health care, and an end to police cooperation with ICE.

The spouse of Manuel Martínez Arámula, Ernestina Martínez, spoke at the April 5 rally. On April 3, strike leader Martínez Arámula turned 50 years old. His spouse, daughters and many

supporters held a birthday party outside of the detention center. That night, Martínez was deported. He has lived in the U.S. since he was eight.

The crowd marched a block to the 287(g) office and took over the reception area. Security was alarmed as the room filled with sign-carrying protesters chanting “No justice, no peace!” and “Stop deportations!” Those who could not squeeze inside demonstrated outside.

The protest was held by the Southwest Defense Network, La TUYA (Texas Undocumented Youth Alliance), Alianza Mexicana, Third Ward Defense Network, the Houston chapter of Industrial Workers of the World and Houston Anarchist Black Cross.

Another Houston event to demand “Not 1 More Deportation” was held on April 5 by the Living Hope Wheelchair Association and the Fe y Justicia Worker Center.

Atlanta

Thousands of immigrants and their allies from labor, community and faith organizations walked from the Georgia state Capitol to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Atlanta. The Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights initiated the action.

Buses, vans and cars brought participants from throughout Georgia, including small children. Banners, signs and balloons called on President Obama to prevent the deportation of even one more immigrant.

At the ICE office, the demonstrators surrounded the fence-enclosed building. Hundreds of signs bearing the names of Georgia men and women deported or held in detention were affixed to the iron bars.

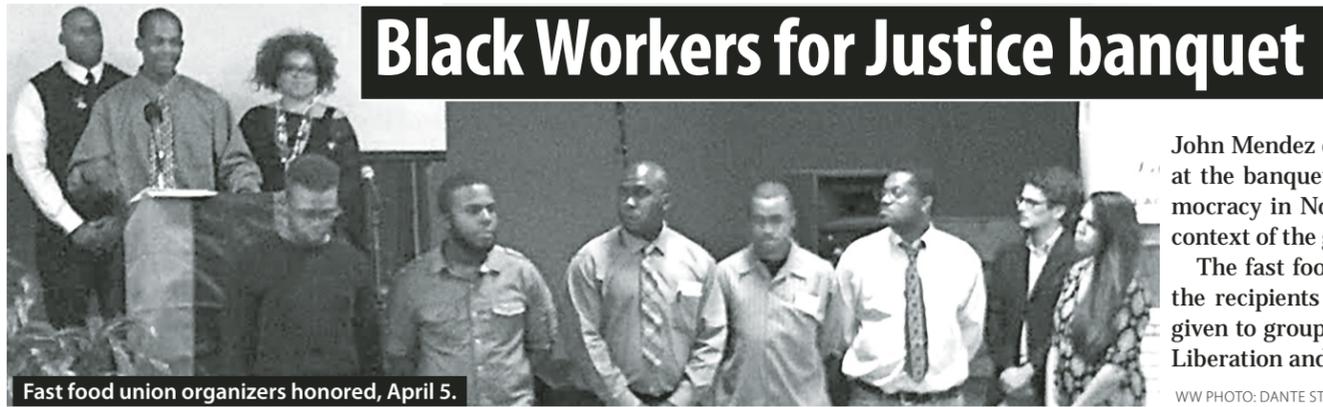
Dianne Mathiowetz, Jim McMahan and Gloria Rubac contributed to this report.



- ▶ **Legalización ahora, No deportaciones ni detenciones**
We demand legalization for ALL, End to deportations and detentions, and an End to militarization of our borders.
- ▶ **Aumentar el salario mínimo Alto al robo de los salarios**
We demand a \$15 Minimum Wage. Everyone deserves a living wage.
- ▶ **Contratos justos y pago retroactivo para trabajadores de la ciudad** We demand immediate contracts for all city employees. No concessions! No givebacks!

To endorse or volunteer
www.may1.info

The May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights



Black Workers for Justice banquet

Fast food union organizers honored, April 5.

Black Workers for Justice held their 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Support for Labor Banquet in Raleigh, N.C., on April 5. The Rev. John Mendez of Winston Salem delivered the keynote address at the banquet, which raised the struggle for dignity and democracy in North Carolina and the South, particularly in the context of the growing Moral Monday Movement.

The fast food workers' union in North Carolina was among the recipients of the Abner Berry Self-Determination Award, given to groups and individuals who aid the struggle for Black Liberation and labor rights in the state.

— Durham, N.C., WW Bureau

WW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

On April 24, political prisoner and world-renowned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal turns 60. He has spent over half his life in solitary confinement on Pennsylvania's death row, and most recently, since early 2012, he has been in general population at SCI Mahanoy where he still faces life in prison despite ample evidence of his innocence.

In December 2011, nearly three decades of relentless struggle on Abu-Jamal's behalf resulted in lifting the death sentence he had faced since 1982 when he was unjustly convicted of the murder of a Philadelphia police officer.

Threats to Abu-Jamal's life continue. That the Fraternal Order of Police in Philadelphia is still determined to silence him is evident in their recent attacks on Debo Adegbile, President
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ALL OUT !

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S
60th Life Celebration

SATURDAY
APRIL 26TH
IN PHILADELPHIA:

A Sons & Daughters of the Revolution March from 10 am-11 am

Starting **19th & Cecil B. Moore** (former Black Panther Headquarters)
Ending at **18th & Diamond** (site of the historic Church of the Advocate)
The former BBP headquarters is where Mumia got his start as a youth with Captain Reggie Schell in the fight for social justice. The Historic Church of the Advocate is where Father Paul Washington housed his meetings and the voices of resistance to the government and the mental terrorism of that time.

A Constitutional Protest through the Arts
CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE

18th & Diamond, 10 am to 6 pm

Starting at 11:30 inside the church there will be workshops and panels on political prisoners, know your rights, gentrification, the school-to-prison pipeline and updates on Mumia's case.



Featuring performances by **Dead Prez, Immortal Technique, Dice Raw, Jasiri X, Taina Asili, Hakim Green (Channel Live) & more following the march**

There will be vendors and activities for children throughout the day.

The Celebration of Life is a constitutional protest through the arts. The attacks on Mumia and our community persist, but we are the solution. We celebrate in defiance to the system. We are not only celebrating the birthday of **Mumia Abu-Jamal** but also the birthdays of other freedom fighters: **Dr. Ed Robinson, The MOVE family, Marshall 'Eddie' Conway, and Father Paul Washington.**

Go to www.bringmumiahome.com
For NYC bus information and tickets call **212.633.6646** after 3 pm or **866.745.6963**

Who killed Kendrick Johnson?

By **Dianne Mathiowetz**
Macon, Ga.

Hundreds of people gathered on the steps of the William Augustus Bootle Federal Building in Macon, Ga., on April 4 to press for justice in the case of 17-year-old Kendrick Johnson, whose mutilated body was discovered in a rolled-up wrestling mat on Jan. 11, 2013.

K.J., as he was known to his family and friends, was a star athlete and student at Lowndes High School in Valdosta, Ga., a city of close to 55,000 people that is just 15 miles from the Georgia-Florida line. A little more than half of Valdosta's population is Black.

While news articles describing the case often mention the many high school football championships that both the Valdosta and Lowndes teams have won, they leave out one glaring piece of history that underlies the struggle for justice in this Southern town.

In May of 1918, a Black farmworker named Sidney Johnson, tired of mistreatment, killed his white boss. From May 17 to 24, a white mob of 700 lynched at least 13 African Americans, including pregnant 21-year-old Mary Turner. Johnson was captured, killed, castrated and his body dragged for miles. In the face of this racist mob violence, some 500 Black people left everything behind and fled in fear. Well into the next decade, open Klan rallies were held in Valdosta.

Although some Black elected officials can now be found there, economic and political power in both Lowndes and neighboring Brooks County still rest in the hands of a small circle of influential white men.

The rally, held on the 46th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther



Kendrick Johnson, left. Above, April 4 rally.

PHOTO: AZI EBRAHIMI

King Jr., brought out civil rights leaders from the NAACP, the National Action Network-Ga., the Coalition for a People's Agenda and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Many times the speakers referenced the murders of Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis and other young men and women whose killings go unpunished by a racist injustice system.

Youth from Albany and Valdosta State colleges, Macon residents, many with their children, as well as cars and busloads from Atlanta and Detroit came to stand with Kenneth and Jacquelyn Johnson, whose determined fight to learn what happened to their son has brought national attention to the many inconsistencies in a finding of "accidental death" by the Lowndes County sheriff's office.

Within hours of the discovery of young Johnson's body, which had been wedged into an upright, 6-foot wrestling mat in the corner of the gym, Sheriff Chris Prine declared his death an accident. He claimed that Johnson had fallen head first into the mat trying to retrieve a sneaker and couldn't get out. A Georgia Bureau of Investigation autopsy followed suit and said that "positional asphyxia" had produced the gruesome injuries to his body.

A second autopsy, paid for by the parents, ruled that Kendrick died from a blow to the side of his neck. This examination of the youth's body also revealed that all of his vital organs were missing, as well

as his tongue and windpipe, and that the body had been stuffed with newspaper by the funeral home.

After months in which concerned people stood every day with signs outside the Lowndes County Courthouse, the case began to generate national attention a year ago. CNN made multiple attempts to gain access to information about the investigation by the local authorities. The failure to immediately question students and staff at the school, the dismissal of

the first responders' findings that it was a crime scene, missing sections of a school video tape, no identification of blood stains on the gym walls and much more have led experts to declare the sheriff's investigation shoddy and incomplete.

On Oct. 31, 2013, U.S. District Attorney Michael Moore finally announced that the Justice Department was looking into the case. The rally was held outside his office in the Bootle Federal Building. Prior to the protest, the family, lawyers and others held a meeting with Moore to gain information about the progress of the now six-months-long investigation.

Johnson's parents have endured threats and pressure to stop insisting on finding out what happened to their son. The crowd applauded their refusal to be silent as Jacquelyn Johnson said: "We want to let them know that we're not going anywhere. ... They just messed up and killed the wrong child this time."

For more information, please see justice4KJ.org and [facebook.com/R.I.P.KendrickJohnson](https://www.facebook.com/R.I.P.KendrickJohnson). □

Barbecue honors Bobby Hutton



Lil' Bobby Hutton BBQ.

WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

The "Lil' Bobby Hutton BBQ for the People" was held in Oakland, Calif., on April 6, with about 75 people enjoying free food, speakers and entertainment. Lil' Bobby was killed by the Oakland Police Department prior to his having a "Feeding The People" function at DeFremery Park in Oakland.

Mumia Abu-Jamal notes in "We Want Freedom," his highly praised book on the Black Panthers, "Bobby Hutton, the Par-

ty's first martyr, [was] killed by Oakland cops as he surrendered with Eldridge Cleaver on April 6, 1968." (p. 71)

Community members in 2012 organized a "Take Back the Town BBQ" at what is known today as Lil' Bobby Hutton Park.

The theme of this year's event was "Speaking Up Against Violence." Speakers included Dinyal New, who spoke about her horrifying experience in the

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IN COMMEMORATION OF LENIN'S DEATH 90 YEARS AGO

The following excerpts are from two talks given at the March 29, 2014, "Hard Times are Fighting Times" conference in Durham, N.C.

The National Question & Black Liberation

By Lamont Lilly

Just as Vladimir Lenin did in October of 1917, it is time that freedom fighters once again revisit the importance of the National Question. As thinkers and revolutionaries today, it is time that we face the reality of our constantly changing conditions. It is time we re-evaluate the ways in which imperialism and capitalist rule continue to tweak the oppression of various groups, global regions and nationalities.

It just so happen to belong to a very special but highly oppressed nation right here in the U.S. — the African American. My ancestors were forcibly brought to North, South and Central America to work for free. They were brought here in steel chains to toil the soil. They experienced the most brutal and sadistic conditions known to modern times, resulting in social conditions today throughout the Western Hemisphere of extreme institutionalized racism.

In the United States, African Americans are still kept as hostages in mass pockets of poverty. Our families and communities are being dismantled by the Prison-Industrial Complex. Our children are being stolen every day by the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Valuable members of our community are being murdered by local police departments and vigilantes with impunity. Regarding our right to work, African Americans are the last ones hired and first ones fired while Black workers are still primary subjects of racial discrimination in the workplace. In reference to the National Question and Black Liberation, African Americans are still frustrated, angry and deservedly so. As revolutionaries, we have to be honest with these conditions. We must learn about them as much as we can.

Re-examining the old and new

What the National Question forces us to do as revolutionaries is continue to seek best practices and solutions to not only workers' rights and the exploitation of labor, but solutions to distinct groups who are oppressed in varying ways by white supremacy and to nationalities who are often forgotten or ignored by white chauvinism.

As one of the greatest catalysts of revolutionary thought, Vladimir Lenin was very aware of this particular oppression. In a 1917 pamphlet entitled "Statistics and Sociology," Lenin writes: "In the United States, the Negroes should be classed as an oppressed nation, for the equality won in the Civil War of 1861-1865 and guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic ... in the chief Negro areas (The South)."

This was in 1917. The Southern Black Belt was where most of the African-American population resided before two waves of mass migration to the urban North. Even then, Vladimir Lenin called it right. His insight in the early 20th century was quick to recognize that capitalism, imperialism and colonialism had affected African descendants in a very unique way, especially in the U.S. Southern Black Belt. Lenin referred to the U.S. South as "the most stagnant area where the masses are subjected to greatest degradation and oppression ... a kind of prison where these emancipated Negroes are hemmed in, isolated and deprived of fresh air."

Lenin's forethought on the National Question, and more specifically the Black Question, was light years ahead of his revolutionary contemporaries, which is exactly why current freedom fighters must

once again reassess this critical question. While those of African descent continue to be lynched by the Michael Duncans and George Zimmermans, as countries like Venezuela, Haiti and Cuba continue to be assaulted by the vicious tentacles of neocolonialism and racial prejudice, revolutionaries must once again toe a tight line on this question. As Lenin so articulately noted in his 1920 "Draft Theses on National and Colonial Questions": "The communist parties must consistently expose that constant violation of the equality of nations and of the guaranteed rights of national minorities, which is to be seen in all capitalist countries, despite their democratic constitutions ... by uniting first the proletarians and then the whole mass of the working population in the struggle against the bourgeoisie, and second that all communist parties should render direct aid among the dependent and underprivileged nations."

This was a personal reminder to all revolutionaries to actively build and connect our struggles. As revolutionaries today, we don't have a choice but to be staunch defenders against Stop-and-Frisk. We have no choice but to be staunch defenders against the School-to-Prison Pipeline and the Prison-Industrial Complex. These are distinct policies and institutionalized practices that disproportionately seek to oppress African Americans. Driving While Black and racial profiling are parts of the fabric of imperialism. As

revolutionaries guided by the principles of Vladimir Lenin, we cannot throw a blanket over such reality and simply hope for the best. As revolutionary socialists, we have to recognize the potential here. We have to embrace the possibility of building a stronger movement through supporting the National Question, regardless of what form it takes.

Through the eyes of capitalism, the African-American worker has suffered greatly. As the last ones hired and first ones fired, Black workers have been held at bay with the least pay; whether urban North or rural South, Black workers are still exploited to the highest degree. The labor movement must not only see this; it must speak power to such racist policies and continuously support resistance.

These are the same tactics the ruling class employs to intentionally prey on the poor and the proletariat, to conquer and divide our mass movement. It was Vladimir Lenin, however, who instructed revolutionary Marxists to be critical in our analysis of structural and institutionalized racism — of the subtlety of white privilege and how it affects the working class, worldwide. As revolutionaries, we have a duty to support the Black Question, to support the complete liberation of the oppressed and to seek their allegiance.

Just as Lenin possessed forethought in arming the revolution before his death 90 years ago, let us today, continue the work of building a unified front.

The Black Question is not only a matter of understanding the nationalism of the oppressed, no matter the form. It is instead, a charge toward political and economic equality, toward social justice and cultural autonomy, toward the right to determine our own destiny. The struggle for liberation and self-determination is not only a political cause, but a moral charge. This is the blueprint that Lenin left to revolutionary socialism. Freedom for all is far from complete, comrades. The National Question must still be answered. Let's go to work!

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WW PHOTOS: DURHAM WWP BRANCH

Lamont Lilly & Monica Moorehead lead "What is a revolutionary" discussion on March 29.

Lenin's 'Imperialism' and the struggle vs the 1%

By Monica Moorehead

Vladimir Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik Party, which led the first successful socialist revolution in modern history. Out of this revolution was born the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with over 100 nationalities, many of whom had their own republics. Lenin was a continuer of the teachings of Karl Marx.

Lenin described imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism, an economic system, first and foremost, with inherent governing laws. The developed capitalist countries have been driven to expand their productive forces beyond their own borders and plunder the less developed countries in order to make profits or die.

Capitalism in its earlier stage of development was based on competition, but capitalism in its highest stage is based on monopoly capitalism — that is, larger transnationals and banks gobbling up their weaker competitors. The five components of imperialism are (1) the concentration of production and capital; (2) the merging of bank capital with industrial capital, or "finance capital," which creates a financial oligarchy; (3) the dominance of the export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities; (4) the formation of international monopolist capitalist associations which share the world among themselves, i.e., the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization; and (5) the territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers.

Lenin wrote "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism" during World

War I because this "great war" was really an inter-imperialist war; it was a war carried out in its most brutal form by the then European, U.S. and Japanese imperialists among themselves over how to redivide the previously enslaved colonial peoples in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

During the colonial era, whole nations of people had been forced under the whip and gun to be superexploited in order to enrich the imperialist countries to build up their economies and destroy the oppressed ones with superexploitation of labor, resources and lands. This was "territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers" in Lenin's "Imperialism."

The war prompted Lenin to call for "revolutionary defeatism" — that is, for socialists and communists based in the imperialist countries to unite in calling for the defeat of their own governments, to declare that "the enemy is at home" and to turn their guns around against their own ruling class.

While calling for revolution against the imperialist governments, Lenin also called for the right to self-determination for these oppressed countries, which had historically been denied the right to develop their economies based on capitalist laws of production.

Crises in Venezuela, Ukraine

Without a clear understanding of what imperialism is as a worldwide economic system first and foremost, the chances of there being consistent anti-imperialism or internationalism is threatened.

In Venezuela, the Bolivarian Revolution was launched with the presidency of the late Hugo Chávez when he became president in 1999. The present government of Nicolás Maduro is continuing the Bolivarian revolutionary process and aspires to move in the direction of socialism. What you have in Venezuela is a long lasting dual power situation — an anti-imperialist, pro-socialist government with mass support especially from the poor versus the capitalist oligarchy class which still has a stronghold in the private economy and the media and is backed by the White House, the CIA, the Pentagon and Wall Street and is deeply connected to U.S. imperialism.

Ukraine is a more complex situation because of its relationship to Russia. It became an independent capitalist country as a product of a capitalist counterrevolution in 1991 that broke up not only the Soviet Union but earlier in 1989 took over Eastern Europe. Our party characterized this as a historic setback for the workers and oppressed worldwide and the bourgeoisie declared it as a victory. It has been the number one mission of U.S. imperialism to recolonize the world into a U.S. empire since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This is the geopolitical context that defines this development — that being the semifascist and fascist elements who have violently ousted the legally elected government in Ukraine with the backing of the U.S. and NATO. In the process, they have outed their fascistic nature by brazenly raising the flags of the U.S. Confederacy and the Nazis. This is an attempt

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Challenge to labor movement

UPS fires 250 union workers

By Stephen Millies
New York

Bosses fire workers for being late. But Jairo Reynes, a 24-year United Parcel Service worker at the company's Maspeth hub in Queens, N.Y., was fired for being early.

With management approval, Reynes came in early sometimes to find a good spot at the loading dock for his truck. The UPS bosses then turned around and fired the driver on Feb. 26 for "stealing time."

The real reason for Reynes' firing was because he signed a mass grievance against UPS for ignoring seniority rules with respect to starting times.

Reynes' firing was a provocation aimed at Teamsters Local 804. The local's membership responded by staging a protest for 90 minutes on Feb. 26.

UPS — the 53rd largest U.S. company in the 2012 Fortune 500 list, with \$54 billion in revenue — retaliated by firing 250 workers.

Local 804 was the home local of the late Ron Carey, who as International Teamsters president led the 1997 strike against UPS. That's the last time a big company was successfully struck in the U.S.

The present mass firing is a challenge to the entire labor movement, and it is happening right in New York City.

Union members are fighting back. Local 804 held a news conference on April 3 at New York City Hall. "Union members from Teamsters locals all across the city were joined by [Metropolitan Transportation Authority] workers from Transport Workers Union Local 100, Service Employees 32BJ and members of Communication Workers of America and other union supporters," reported FightBack! News on April 3.

"President of Teamsters Local 804 Tim Sylvester told the crowd, 'UPS is threatening to bankrupt 250 families,' and described the attacks as a heartless attack on drivers and their families. The crowd responded with shouts of 'Shut 'em down!'

and 'Save the 250!'"

Teamsters point out that UPS got a \$43 million contract to deliver packages for city and state agencies. At the same time former Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave the outfit a sweetheart deal by wiping off nearly \$16 million annually in parking fines.

In return UPS is trying to fire Domenick DeDomenico, who was struck by a car last year while delivering packages. The union brother was in a coma for 10 days, had brain surgery and received physical therapy.

After DeDomenico returned to work, UPS sought to get rid of him for delivering 11 packages an hour instead of 13. This loyal Teamster with a 13-year-old son now has a second discharge notice for being one of the 250 workers who stood up to UPS.

War against Teamsters

The wealthy and powerful are rooting for UPS to smash the Teamsters. With huge job cuts in manufacturing, UPS has one of the largest number of union workers of any U.S. company.

The war against the Teamsters is decades long. By deregulating the trucking and airline industries, former President Jimmy Carter set back the entire labor movement. This so-called reform opened the door for union busting in both industries and smashed the Teamsters' master freight contract.

Another motive for the UPS mass firings is the corporate plan to privatize the U.S. Postal Service. Along with FedEx, UPS is a prime contender to take over the best parts of the postal service when big business takes over. In order to do so, UPS aims to break the Teamsters.

UPS has led the corporate charge toward part-time work with few benefits. Alongside full-time employees at UPS, who are often forced to work overtime, are tens of thousands of part-timers. They have to work as long as 11 to 13 years before they can hope to get a full-time job.

Teamsters have fought heroically for



April 3 press conference for fired UPS workers.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

nearly 40 years against this exploitation. A UPS worker was killed in Secaucus, N.J., during a 1976 strike that was partly against replacing full-time workers with part-timers.

Although Carey and the Teamsters won 10,000 more full-time jobs after winning the 1997 strike, there continue to be an army of UPS workers earning hardly more than the minimum wage.

That situation could help kill any desire by FedEx workers to stick their necks out in supporting a union drive.

Solidarity from Boston's school bus workers

The UPS mass firing in Queens is a carbon copy of what Veolia — another multi-billion-dollar transportation behemoth — did in Boston last October. Four leaders of United Steelworkers Local 8751 were fired after hundreds of school bus workers were locked out for protesting violations of their contract.

While fighting to get their own jobs

back, two of the fired Boston union leaders declared their support for the fired UPS workers.

"The labor movement, including at the highest levels, needs to reinforce, with every resource available, the workers like those at Local 804 who are fighting to defend themselves from this coordinated corporate campaign to break unions, decapitate union leadership, and lower wages and benefits even further," said Steven Gillis, USW Local 8751 vice president and pension plan administrator. "We have to go on the offensive to win back what these modern-day robber barons have illegally stolen!"

"The survival of a fighting union movement is at stake," said Stevan Kirschbaum, a founding member of Local 8751 and chair of its grievance committee. "We were proud to 'walk the line' with the Teamsters in their historic 1997 strike of UPS. It is time once again to demonstrate to UPS and Veolia that if you try to bust our unions, our unions will bust you." □

ON THE PICKET LINE

by Sue Davis

NYC building workers march for a raise

A sea of yellow and purple Service Employees union Local 32BJ flags swept up New York City's Park Avenue on April 2. About 7,500 door attendants, porters, superintendents and handypersons marched to show they will strike if owners of 3,300 residential buildings throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island refuse to raise their wages when the old contract expires April 20.

"Rents are going up in record numbers," 32BJ President Hector Figueroa told Alex Silverman of WCBS radio. (Apr. 2) "Our [30,000] members are struggling to make ends meet." He noted that while the real estate industry is thriving — Rupert Murdoch plunked down \$57.25 million for a four-floor condo in late February — 32BJ members need to keep up with the cost of living. "Our strong presence on the streets of Manhattan yesterday will make us stronger at the bargaining table, and we won't settle for anything less than what we deserve," read an April 3 press release at seiu32bj.org.

NYC airport workers march for a raise

Members of Service Employees union Local 32BJ joined with airport contract service workers, overwhelmingly Black and Latino/a, on April 4 when they marched 10 miles from New York's Kennedy Airport to LaGuardia Airport to demand a raise to at least \$10 an hour, benefits and union representation. They chose April 4 because it was the 46th anniversary of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was,

at the time of his assassination, supporting a strike of African-American sanitation workers in Memphis. The protesters were joined by U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and 90-year-old Hazel Ingram — two veterans of Dr. King's historic 1963 March on Washington. "I want to help people get better benefits and raises," said Ingram, who has held various cleaning jobs during her 68 years as a member of 32BJ.

While some airlines have agreed to increase hourly pay, 32BJ President Hector Figueroa said it's not enough. "Unless [the workers] have health insurance and other benefits, it doesn't solve the problem of poverty at the airport." (nydailynews.com, April 3)

At the end of the march, it was announced that the workers were counting down to April 28, when the airlines and their contractors must come up with a plan to meet the workers' demands. (seiu32bj.org, April 4) That timetable was set by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the airports.

Demand Calif. farmworkers get a raise

Four months ago, after a long struggle by the United Farm Workers, the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board ordered Gerawan Farms to raise wages for more than 5,000 mostly immigrant farmworkers to at least \$10.75 an hour on March 15. But the multimillion dollar company has not complied, even though the workers sued Gerawan Farms, which markets fruits under the Prima brand, for wage and hour violations on Feb. 4. Tell the ALRB to go to court and force Gerawan to follow the law by signing the petition at action.ufw.org/prima.

End gender gap in wages

April 8 is Equal Pay Day, when, on average, women's pay catches up after 15 months with what men earn in 12 months. This week the Senate is due to vote on the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would require employers to show that wage differences are job-related and not gender-based and that protects employees from retaliation when they share compensation information. To sign a petition supporting the bill, go to [Take Action on now.com](http://TakeActiononnow.com).

Connecticut hikes state minimum wage

As of March 27, Connecticut became the state that will have the highest minimum wage, of \$10.10 an hour, by 2017. Connecticut's current minimum is \$8.70, the fourth highest in the country after Washington state at \$9.32, Oregon at \$9.10 and Vermont at \$8.73. A total of 21 states and the District of Columbia have higher rates than the \$7.25 federal minimum.

The Connecticut wage, which will increase to \$9.15 on Jan. 1, 2015, and to \$9.60 in 2016, will affect the lives of between 70,000 and 90,000 workers and many thousands more family members. (New York Times, March 28) However, Workers World notes, this raise will not move these workers out of poverty, though it will make their lives less difficult. The progressive movement is already demanding a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, which still barely buys what the minimum did decades ago. □

\$15 and a union!

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

Low-wage workers and their supporters gathered outside a McDonald's restaurant here on April 3 for the second time in two weeks to challenge the megacorporation's theft of workers' wages and its negative treatment of employees and customers alike. Both demonstrations were organized by "Fight for \$15" and called for a union for the company's workers.

Chanting "McDonald's, come off it! You make enough profit!" and "McDs, you're rich and rude! We don't like your attitude!" protesters filled the sidewalks in front of the store and spilled into the street.

Passing motorists responded with enthusiasm to signs asking them to "honk for a \$15 minimum wage," frequently drowning out rally speakers. A highlight of that moving support was when a Philadelphia sanitation worker drove by in his garbage truck, blasting the horn. Philadelphia's blue-collar workers represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union, District

Council 33, have worked without a contract since 2009.

Several low-wage workers participated in the rally, including Justin Watson, head of maintenance at the McDonald's being picketed. Watson spoke of his two-year struggle to support his family on the low wages McDonald's pays and a fight to get the company to pay a promised raise.

"If someone robbed your house, you might have some recourse," Watson said, "but as a professional corporate thief, McDonald's gets away with stealing workers' wages." In March, McDonald's workers in three states filed class-action lawsuits claiming that McDonald's schemed to drive labor costs down by not paying overtime and striking hours off time cards.

Watson described a meeting with his bosses after the first protest action. "They asked me what was going to make me happy, and I responded, '\$15 and a union!'"

After working two years at Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins, Crystal Lopez still doesn't get paid time-and-a-half for overtime. Lopez works to support her mother, who has chronic health concerns.



April 3 protest at McDonald's restaurant in Philadelphia.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

But the company cut her work hours after she participated in a protest. She told the crowd, "We deserve to be treated as humans. We're gonna win no matter what. If everybody stands with us, we're good!"

McDonald's worker Justice Wallace stated, "The cost of living is way too high, and we are being paid way too little. McDonald's treats us like children, but we

are parents with our own children to support, and we can't do it on \$7.25. We are constantly forced to choose between paying rent or buying groceries.

"I believe that a terrible crime is being committed in this city by companies like McDonald's that are engaged in wage theft. I also believe that one day we will make \$15 an hour," Wallace concluded. □

Bobby Hutton honored

Continued from page 4

death of her two sons, Lamar Devante Broussard and Lee Edward Weathersby. Tameka Rothschild spoke about the death of her son, Derryck Harris.

The Black Riders Liberation Party made an appeal for support for Jihad Mujahid Muhammad, a BRLP member who has been in jail for a year and is now facing new charges in Santa Clara County, Calif. If found guilty on this new charge, brought just before his release from prison, Muhammad would face third-strike mandatory sentencing.

Muhammad was a participant in the California prisoners' hunger strike last summer. A benefit was held for him the evening of April 6, with about 50 people attending.

—Terri Kay

Detroit youth march for jobs

By **Tom Michalak**
Detroit

Demanding jobs and an end to the corporate theft of city services in the municipal bankruptcy case, several dozen people marched through downtown Detroit on April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Called by the youth group Detroit FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together), it was a march for jobs and justice, which attracted activists from various groups as well as college students, young unemployed workers and low-wage workers, as well as a handful of students still in high school.

The marchers covered a lot of ground in the downtown area. Starting with a



April 4 protest.

WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

rally at the iconic Spirit of Detroit statue outside city hall, they then headed to the Chase Bank building, the botched Wayne County Jail project and through Greektown, chanting and stopping to rally at each stop.

Detroit's overall unemployment rate for those aged 16 to 64 is 49 percent, and for those under the age of 30 it is closer to 60 percent. The demonstration stressed the dire need of people in the city for employment.

Over the last year, the state-appointed so-called "Emergency Manager," Kevyn Orr, has spent \$96 million on a handful of corporate consultants from Wall Street to come into the city and conjure up ideas as

to how the city can be revitalized into an economically viable entity. Although that money is only a drop in the bucket of corporate theft from the public, it is enough money to employ 3,000 young people at a salary of \$30,000 a year! This served as a rallying cry for those who marched and demonstrated.

Youth see that there are homes that need restoration, roads in need of repair and schools that need to be staffed to teach children. Protesters say the money is there, and instead of diverting it into the already deep pockets of Wall Street parasites, use the money to put the people of Detroit to work at good-paying jobs that are desperately needed. □

All out for Mumia's 60th birthday

Continued from page 4

Obama's nominee to the U.S. Department of Justice, because of his legal advocacy work for Abu-Jamal. While an attorney for the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, Adegbile provided support for attorneys who successfully argued for relief in Abu-Jamal's 1982 death sentence due to erroneous instructions given to the jury by the prosecutor. The FOP used the opportunity of Adegbile's nomination to further promote their lies and distortions about Abu-Jamal's case.

Abu-Jamal's supporters are even more determined that the truth will prevail. A broad coalition of individuals and organizations committed to see Abu-Jamal released from prison will hold a series of events to celebrate his 60th birthday in Philadelphia from April 24 to 26.

The kick-off event on April 24 will be a special program dedicated to the late Amiri Baraka and Amina Baraka and the Black Arts Movement. The ticketed dinner to celebrate Mumia's birthday will feature Cornel West, the Last Poets, Marvin X, Ewuare Osayande, video presentations from Angela Davis and Mama Charlotte O'Neal, a live jazz band and more. Tickets can be purchased at Aytia Ola's Spirit First Foods at 4505 Baltimore Ave. in Philadelphia or online at tinyurl.com/njeglla.

On April 25, Books & Beats Free Mumia

Edition will be held at Black Angel Café at 4414 Germantown Ave. featuring local Philadelphia poets. Admission is \$10 at the door and proceeds will benefit local work to free Mumia.

See accompanying ad for April 26 events on page 4. Call 212-330-8029 or 212-633-6646 for New York transportation.

Co-sponsors of the activities include the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, International Action Center, Coalition to Free Mumia (NYC), Educators for Mumia, and Committee to Save Mumia. Information on all events is at bringmumiahome.com.

ICFFMAJ leader, Pam Africa told Workers World, "The attacks on Mumia and our community persist, but we are the solution. We celebrate in defiance to the system. We are not only celebrating the birthday of Mumia Abu-Jamal but also the birthdays of other freedom fighters: Dr. Ed Robinson, The MOVE family, Marshall "Eddie" Conway and Father Paul Washington.

"The power of the people stopped the state from executing Mumia in 1995. Now it's on us to keep this struggle going and to reach out to young people who were not yet born when Mumia was imprisoned in 1982. We won't stop until Mumia is home." □

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UKRAINE:

People's power vs. fascist repression

By Greg Butterfield

April 8 — Dramatic events April 6-8 have brought Ukraine to the brink of civil war.

The rebellion by Ukraine's Southeastern region — very working class and predominantly Russian speaking — against the far-right coup regime in Kiev has escalated to a crisis of dual power in many cities.

In Donetsk, Kharkov, Nikolayev and Lugansk, thousands of anti-fascist protesters rooted in the local communities have seized government administration buildings, police headquarters and banks, and declared independence from the U.S.-backed junta that came to power in February following the ouster of elected President Viktor Yanukovich.

The anti-fascists have set May 11 as the date for regional referenda, when local residents should democratically decide their future status — whether for broad autonomy within Ukraine, independence or in some cases affiliation with Russia, as the people of Crimea chose on March 16.

The demand for a referendum has been eagerly seized by the masses of workers, retirees and youths throughout the region, and it is their support that fuels the rebellion.

The referendum deadline falls two weeks before presidential elections set by Kiev for May 25. The coup regime, dominated by fascist and far-right organizations like Svoboda and Fatherland, has rejected any referendum.

The regime has labelled those advocating a democratic vote as “terrorists” and paid agents of Russia. On April 7, Acting President Alexander Turchinov declared that “coercive measures” would be used against referendum supporters.

Acting Deputy for Presidential Administration Andriy Senchenko told journalists in the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) on April 8 that the Ukrainian military had been authorized to “shoot the terrorists ... if necessary to protect the territorial integrity” of Ukraine. (RBC-Ukraine)

Members of the openly racist and anti-Semitic Svoboda party physically attacked Communist Party representatives on the floor of parliament April 8 after Communist leader Peter Simonenko dared to assert that the coup regime was responsible for the unrest in the Southeast. (Neues Deutschland)

The resistance, including the leftist Union Borotba (Struggle), says there can be no legitimate elections without a referendum.

People's Republics declared

April 6 was a major, coordinated day of action by anti-fascists in Southeastern Ukraine. Demonstrations in several cities grew in intensity and continued into the evening.

Overnight April 6, activists seized the regional assembly building in Donetsk and proclaimed an independent People's Republic of Donetsk. The protesters declared that they are now the region's only rightful authorities.

After the declaration was read, the “Internationale” and Soviet national anthem were broadcast over loudspeakers in the main square to thousands of cheering residents.

The revolutionary authorities appealed to the Russian Federation to send peacekeepers to protect the May 11 referendum.

Donetsk, in the Donbas mining region, is a traditional stronghold of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Hours later, in Kharkov, thousands of anti-fascists led by Union Borotba and the People's Unity Coalition seized the Regional State Administration building and proclaimed a People's Republic of Kharkov. New regional councilors were elected from the assembled workers, youth and retirees.

The anti-fascists took action after the Kharkov Regional Council failed to act on a petition presented at a mass demonstration on April 6. The petition called on the council to set a referendum on three points: Should Ukraine be a federal country? Should the Russian language be

legal? Should Ukraine be a non-aligned country — without NATO?

The declaration of the People's Republic of Kharkov calls for an end to the exploitation of labor and gives priority to collective forms of ownership.

In both cities, military personnel and police refused orders to move against the anti-fascists.

Fascist forces attack

As revolutionary actions were unfolding in the Southeast, the crisis-ridden regime in Kiev met in a marathon session to pass new “anti-terrorist” laws to further criminalize the anti-fascist resistance.

The far-right Minister of Interior Arsen Avakov was placed in charge of the “anti-terrorist” offensive. (LifeNews.ru)

Avakov's main task has been to bring the competing neo-Nazi tendencies in Western Ukraine under the regime's discipline by integrating them into a so-called National Guard and joint patrols with police.

For weeks, the Interior Ministry has been sending Right Sector and other neo-Nazi goons to infiltrate the rebellious regions. Police and military agencies have also transferred personnel to replace those reluctant to attack the local populace.

On the night of April 7, these forces were unleashed against the people of Southeastern Ukraine.

The Right Sector attacked an anti-fascist camp in Nikolayev. One man was reported killed and others were seriously injured. In Lugansk, three were shot dead, and another was reported killed in Odessa.

In Kharkov, Right Sector and Maidan “Self-Defense” agents, dressed in Special Forces uniforms, were deployed against the people's forces holding the Regional State Administration building. The fascists set fire to the building and dispersed the protesters. At least 70 people were arrested and immediately deported to Kiev.

Activists report that among the repressive forces were English-speaking

mercenaries, whom they believe work for the U.S. company, Greystone Ltd., whose presence has been reported elsewhere in Ukraine since the coup. Greystone is a division of the notorious mercenary firm formerly known as Blackwater USA.

The offices of Borotba and People's Unity in Kharkov were seized and occupied by the fascists.

An April 8 statement issued by Borotba says, “Despite the repression, the resistance does not subside. Now people are returning to the State Administration building to continue the fight.”

Videos posted on April 8 showed running clashes continuing in Kharkov's streets. In one video, protesters prevented Special Forces agents from leaving a bus.

Donetsk prepares

According to a report by Ivan Pobedonoscev in Donetsk, posted by the Russian communist website RedTV, the new people's government in Donetsk is preparing to repulse a military attack on the Regional State Administration building it occupies, perhaps as soon as the night of April 8.

On the morning of April 7, workers at the Yasinovka steel plant in Makeevka stopped work and organized buses to join the Donetsk defenders, vowing to stay and protect the protesters as long as necessary.

Volunteers are building barricades and mobilizing supporters to defend the People's Republic of Donetsk. They have issued an urgent call for people to bring rations, beverages, fire extinguishers, gas masks and medical supplies.

Kiev has reportedly flown in Alpha special security forces from Western Ukraine, equipped with SWAT team weaponry and full armor. Greystone mercenaries are said to be among them, disguised as soldiers. Military equipment has been moved to encircle Donetsk. The RSA building's electricity was cut off.

The Russian Foreign Ministry urged Ukraine on April 8 to “halt any interior military preparations which could instigate a civil war.” □

Behind right-wing gains in French election

By G. Dunkel

The New York Times and Washington Post in the U.S. and the Guardian in England presented France's local elections on March 30 as a breakthrough for the French far right, along with substantial gains for the center-right.

But the real key to understanding developments in France is the record level of abstentions. Nearly 40 percent of the electorate withheld their vote in the March 30 second round. This abstention shows the “center-left” has lost working-class voters and is a massive rebuff to the current government of President Francois Hollande and Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, whose policies have been as anti-working class as that of their center-right opponents.

For decades, Hollande's misnamed Socialist Party (PS) and the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), which is tightly tied to French big business, have alternately administered the French government. Both these parties supported France's imperialist adventures in Africa, support French membership in

the European Union and agree on imposing austerity on the French workers.

In France, the extreme right-wing, incarnated in a racist, anti-immigrant party called the National Front (FN), has said it wants to become the country's third electoral force to assure its influence over French policies. FN founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, who died in 2011, had established its earlier fascist image based on his role in the French occupation army's torture of Algerian liberation fighters during Algeria's war for liberation.

To increase its electoral appeal, Marine Le Pen, the current leader of FN, has softened the FN's fascist image. The FN is also “Euroskeptic,” which in the current situation means it can pretend to oppose the EU's anti-worker austerity measures.

The “left” pole in the elections includes the French Communist Party (PCF), the Greens, the Party of the Left (PG) that brought together diverse left forces a few years ago, and even smaller parties like Workers Struggle (LO) and the New Anti-Capitalist Party (NAP).

In the first round of elections on March 23, the PS won far fewer votes in major constituencies than it did six years

ago, when the last municipal elections were held. Worried by the results, the PS government announced it was going to “accelerate its program of economic recovery.”

Election results

What did this mean? That the Hollande-Ayrault government intended to increase anti-working class austerity, which then compounded its electoral setback. A sharp and significant rise in unemployment in February underlined the impact of this announcement.

According to Jérôme Métellus, writing on the blog La Tribune, which represents the views of a caucus inside the PCF, “This gap between the optimistic discourses of the government and the brutal reality of the current social situation is an insult to the millions of victims of the capitalist crisis.”

Métellus continued, “The capitalist crisis engenders a polarization and increasing political volatility. There are sharp changes in public opinion, sometimes toward the left and other times toward the right,” especially since austerity in France is affecting relatively

privileged sectors as well as the poor and nationally oppressed, like the North African and Black communities.

In these days of crisis, the FN attracts votes beyond its traditional small-business base, since it presents itself as opposed to the system and to the European Union. The EU has demanded each member cut social services, public jobs and raise taxes.

Métellus feels that unless the PCF and the PG clearly present a socialist alternative that calls for the abolition of capitalism and its crises, and abandon their “electoral opportunism and reformism,” their results will not be “brilliant.”

Preliminary official results on March 30 gave the “left,” by which they mean the PS and the smaller workers' parties, 42 percent of the vote. The right — mainly the UMP but also some smaller fringe parties — received 49 percent. The far-right FN got 9 percent. According to Le Parisien, 15 cities where the PS had control fell to the UMP, and eight cities, none over 20,000 people, went to the FN. The PCF said that most of their mayors were voted back into office. □

Seminar in Mexico

Fighting U.S. intervention takes front burner

By John Catalinotto

Some 260 leftist political activists from 39 countries, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean but including people from around the world, gathered in Mexico City from March 27 to 29. They joined hundreds from the hosting Labor Party (Partido del Trabajo or PT) at its 18th International Seminar. Some 100 speakers, from a broad range of left political positions, spoke on many subjects with a common thread: the danger posed by Washington's aggressive posture toward all countries south of the U.S. border and especially toward the Bolivarian government of Venezuela.

Other topics near the front burner were the March 15 election of Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front member Salvador Sánchez Cerén as president of El Salvador, the successful March 26 general strike in Paraguay, and the worldwide capitalist economic crisis and its accompanying high, long-term unemployment. They also discussed the continued U.S. intervention against Syria in the Middle East and against Ukraine in Eastern Europe, which has provoked a confrontation with Russia.

Attracting even more participation than usual, the seminar featured American political leaders Carlos Fonseca of Nicaragua's Sandinistas; former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya; Che's daughter, Dr. Aleida Guevara of Cuba; professor Alberto Anaya, head of the PT; and Nidia Diaz of the FMLN of El Salvador. Elected officials from national legislatures of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Bolivia and others were there, as well as comrades from parties in the governments of Brazil, Uruguay and Cuba. There were also representatives from parties in power in China, Vietnam, Laos and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Daily mass organizing was also on the agenda. Yvonne Muñoz of Cuba showed with a PowerPoint demonstration combining photos, videos and music, how the Cuban government has involved whole communities in planning and construction of public spaces. A speaker from

Nicaragua underlined the gains made by women, who have more than 40 percent representation in the parliament, almost all from the Sandinista Front.

Berta Joubert-Ceci, from Workers World Party USA, got a standing ovation when she pointed out the enormous advances in the participation of women in the seminar itself and their many contributions. She then appealed for international actions in solidarity with the struggles of low-wage workers on all continents, including in North America.

There was detailed discussion of the situation in Mexico, of which the most pressing issues at this time are the imperialist-promoted attempt to privatize the national oil company, Pemex, disguised as a "reform," and the attack on various labor unions.

Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela

While Venezuela was on the front burner at the seminar, the participants were also concerned with the imperialist-provoked civil war in Syria, which Lebanese activist Leila Ghanem reported on, and with the ongoing U.S. and European Union intervention in Ukraine that threatened to bring the NATO military alliance into a hostile confrontation with Russia on that country's border.

A speaker from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation focused his presentation on the criminal imperialist intervention in Ukraine, as did some of the speakers from European communist parties. A representative of WWP included Ukraine as the latest on the list of countries that world imperialism, led by the United States, was attempting to reconquer and recolonize following the collapse of the Soviet Union. He also called attention to the demonstrations WWP held in 19 U.S. cities in March that demanded "No war against Russia! U.S. imperialism out of Syria, out of Venezuela, out of Ukraine!"

Ana Elisa Osorio, from the national committee of the governing Socialist Party of Venezuela, explained the situation in her country as of March 28: "There are still six of our 335 municipalities suffering from the actions of fascists backed



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Ana Elisa Osorio, a leader of Venezuela's Socialist Party, called for solidarity with her government.

by opposition mayors, and these actions have killed 37 people." The corporate media, she said, have completely distorted the situation, charging President Nicolás Maduro with the deaths, which is the opposite of what really happened.

While the current crisis in Venezuela may be under control, no one thought the attacks from "the Empire" were ending. In addition, many speakers saw the assault on Venezuela not in isolation but as an attack on the left governments, from the most social democratic to the most radical, in the entire region.

While there have been tremendous electoral gains in many countries — starting with Hugo Chávez's election in 1998 and from Argentina to El Salvador — in all cases, outside of socialist Cuba, the gains have been limited to a left party taking over the administration of the government. The governments range from barely left of neoliberal to social democratic to openly anti-imperialist, but nearly all share the aim of getting out from under the U.S. yoke. The state — that is, the armed forces and police — and the main media resources remain in the hands of the old ruling classes. In the best case the army is led by patriotic officers who pledge neutrality.

This leaves the left governments in a fragile position. They can attempt pro-

grams that aid the workers and peasants, but are susceptible to economic and military pressure from the local oligarchs and from imperialism. As PT head Anaya pointed out, the imperialists were able to organize "a new type of coup d'état," for example, in Honduras in 2009 and in Paraguay in 2011, where the successor regime was quickly legitimized by an often fraudulent election.

Cuban analyst Roberto Regalado raised the imperialist plan for what he called "positional warfare" to reverse the electoral gains in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and other places. What was needed, he said, was to mobilize the masses and keep them politically conscious and active to combat this process.

The Haitian delegation threw out a challenge to the seminar by asking those parties in countries whose military is participating in the Minustah occupation of Haiti to fight to have those troops withdrawn.

Among the resolutions approved were those for the independence of Puerto Rico, for freedom for political prisoner Oscar López Rivera and all the Cuban 5 patriots from U.S. prisons, and support for independence of the Western Sahara.

Berta Joubert-Ceci and John Catalinotto represented WWP at the seminar.

□

Tweets, the Cuban 5 and the U.S. blockade

By Cheryl LaBash

A widely distributed Associated Press article on April 3 revealed details of yet another covert U.S. program meant to undermine socialist Cuba.

The AP's investigative report, titled "U.S. secretly built 'Cuban Twitter' to stir unrest," describes a multimillion-dollar program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development that was meant to gather intelligence on cellphone users in Cuba for eventual use in destabilizing the country.

Both this report and an earlier one on the secret role of USAID contractors in Cuba, published on Feb. 13, 2012, strip away the agency's claims of helping poorer countries and show it to be really just another tool of U.S. imperialism.

An immediate response came from Josefina Vidal, who is in charge of relations with the U.S. at Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

"The information contained in the article published by the U.S. news agen-

cy AP," she said, "confirms the repeated denunciations made by the government of Cuba. It is once again demonstrated that the government of the United States has not given up on its subversive plans against Cuba, which seek to create destabilizing situations in the country in order to provoke changes in our political order, to which the government of the United States continues to dedicate budgets of millions of dollars every year.

"The government of the United States must respect International Law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and it must, therefore, cease its illegal and covert actions against Cuba, which are rejected by the Cuban people and the international public opinion." (Cuba MinRex)

The AP report describes how the U.S. carefully concealed its hand in setting up a Twitter-like application, aimed at Cuban cellphone users, that it called ZunZuneo. It resorted to money laundering, fictitious offshore shell corporations, mirrored sites and computers in different countries

in order to conceal the origins of the app.

In an era of the massive gathering of electronic and phone communications by the National Security Agency, both in the U.S. and around the world, the ZunZuneo subterfuge shouldn't be too surprising. Even former President Jimmy Carter says he uses the postal service to communicate with other heads of state because he believes the U.S. government is spying on him.

After the AP's bombshell, the International Business Times published a brief history on earlier U.S. attempts to undermine the Cuban government. It included images of U.S. documents from the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion to Operations Mongoose and Northwoods — including assassinations and scenarios meant to provide the pretext for an open invasion.

It took years for these plots to be revealed in the major media. So what is new, and why now?

One factor is undoubtedly the global capitalist economic crisis, which is intensifying competition among the imperial-

ists for economic penetration and profitable exploitation of more countries.

Blockade of Cuba has failed

In the digital age, the U.S. blockade of Cuba is intensifying. Take for a tiny example what happened to the British group Cuba Solidarity Campaign when it attempted to purchase a book from the U.S. publisher Monthly Review called "The U.S. Economic War Against Cuba." The financial transaction was intercepted and blocked, and not only the left was angry.

The U.S. blockade of Cuba was a political decision put in place more than half a century ago that was meant to destroy an independent, sovereign and socialist Cuba. But Cuba's prestige is high and its system has survived. Today the blockade conflicts with the interests of growing sectors of the U.S. ruling class. Exposés like AP's investigative reports strengthen their hand.

A growing number of businesses in the

Continued on page 11

WORKERS WORLD

editorials

Albuquerque and people's assemblies

If anything cries out for the building of genuine people's assemblies — places where workers and the most oppressed can freely testify to the unbearable crimes being committed against them — it's the police shootings that have been happening in Albuquerque, N.M.

The one that tipped the scales happened on March 16, when a homeless and mentally ill man, James "Abba" Boyd, was gunned down by cops for camping in the Sandia Mountains — illegally, they said. An impoverished person who needed help in a society where there's a glut of everything, billionaires included, got a rain of bullets instead of a safe and nurturing place to live and heal.

This wasn't a fluke. Albuquerque police have shot 37 people since 2010, 23 of them fatally and most of them Native or Chicano/a. But Boyd's killing was the last straw for lots of people. After seeing the video of a vulnerable person being executed in front of their eyes, they poured into the streets on March 30 in what the authorities called a "riot," but really was a justified rebellion.

So passionate was that mass act of defiance in a city that claims a liberal reputation that the authorities seemed to back off a little. Mayor Richard J. Berry called Boyd's death a "game changer" and promised to expedite a Justice

Department investigation. He talked about better police "training" and more services for the mentally ill.

It's probably just talk, with those in authority hoping things will quiet down again. But what kind of society is it where people have to take to the streets, in a situation so tense that they could be putting their own lives on the line, just to extract a vague promise from the powers that be?

"The powers that be" can't be the end of this story. We must think in terms of the powers that COULD be — the power of the people, of those who become political not to get a cushy job or a "legal" pipeline so they can syphon off public funds into their own corporate accounts, but to really change society. There are plenty of such people, organizers and activists who have been fighting the capitalist class and its state power, trying to get justice for so many crimes and abuses.

People's assemblies have the potential to unite and elevate all these struggles to the point where those who have suffered for so long won't have to beat their heads against a brick wall at City Hall or the State Capitol or the White House. They can come together and frame their demands, and together find the power to carry them out. □

PART 1

The war on public education

By Heather Cottin

Today's capitalist public school curriculum called "Common Core," coupled with impossible-to-pass examinations, is facing growing opposition all over the United States.

The president of a parents' group on Long Island called Common Core and high-stakes testing "child abuse." Some 30,000 children, with their parents' permission, opted out of Common Core examinations in New York state at the beginning of April.

In Brooklyn, N.Y., teachers, parents and students filled a schoolyard to protest Common Core tests administered by the school. In one Connecticut high school, only 47 of 530 high school juniors sat for the Common Core English examination.

In every state, opposition to Common Core is growing.

War on public education began with Reagan

The war on public education began when Ronald Reagan, then governor of California, gutted one of the best university systems in the U.S. Cutting funding for higher education by 20 percent and ending free tuition, Reagan famously said California "should not subsidize intellectual curiosity." He also cut funding to public kindergarten to 12th grade (K-12) schools in the state, devastating already poor and inner-city schools.

Once he became president, Reagan tried to shut down the Department of Education. Failing that, he appointed Wil-

liam Bennett to head it. That heartless reactionary relentlessly attacked teachers' unions.

Reagan cut federal funding to education by half. The most destructive part of his legacy came from his creation of a so-called "blue ribbon" commission that produced a 1983 report entitled "A Nation at Risk." The report promoted the lie that the U.S. educational system was a "rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and a people."

This report justified the defunding of the U.S. public educational system and the privatization of schools. It led to the DOE's development of the "No Child Left Behind" policy. Initiated under the George W. Bush administration in 2001, NCBL required all public schools that received federal funding to administer standardized tests to all students. The plan was to give a school federal money if students did well and take it away if they didn't.

A decade earlier, James D. Watkins, an admiral appointed by President George H. W. Bush to head the Department of Energy, had commissioned the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico to develop data on the so-called decline of U.S. public education. The charts and graphs in the labs' findings, published in 1990, absolutely disproved the later conclusions of the NCLB act. Instead, Watkins found there were improvements at every level of U.S. public education. The report was buried.

The second Bush administration moved forward with No Child Left Be-

Dr. King and jobs

On April 4, 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., while showing solidarity with more than 1,000 striking low-wage sanitation workers, all African Americans. The spark for the strike was the deaths of two sanitation workers, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, due to malfunctioning garbage trucks. The utter disregard by city officials for these tragic deaths, coupled with the ongoing racist, anti-worker abuse by the city of Memphis, resulted in this historic strike. The wages of these workers were so low that many of them were forced to rely on food stamps and welfare to supplement their salaries to help keep themselves and their families afloat.

On April 8, 1968, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, along with Civil Rights leaders and union officials, initiated a march of more than 40,000 people to honor Dr. King and put pressure on then Mayor Henry Loeb and the Memphis City Council to recognize the right of the sanitation workers to unionize — a right that was won on April 16, 1968.

Before he was killed, Dr. King spoke to the sanitation workers about the significance of their strike: "We've got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end. Nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point in Memphis. We've got to see it through." ("I've Been to the Mountaintop," page 217)

Fast forward 46 years and Dr. King's words are just as relevant today as ever. Workers are facing even more dire conditions today compared to 1968. Mass layoffs and high unemployment are the norm. Congress voted last year to slash

the food stamp program. Welfare, or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, was decimated in 1996 under the Clinton administration. Practically every benefit fought for and won by struggle has been under the knife, slashed and gutted.

But now low-wage, underpaid workers are taking center stage here and worldwide to demand a living wage and decent working conditions.

In the U.S., a central demand of these workers is for a \$15-per-hour minimum wage. Some of the main targets of this struggle are McDonald's, Burger King, Walmart, Dunkin' Donuts, and many national and local chain restaurants and retail and box stores.

On April 4, in commemoration of Dr. King's assassination and his campaign for social and economic justice, hundreds of protests took place to demand jobs and union wages and/or a livable income for all. These protests included a youth march in Detroit and flash mobs in North Carolina fast food places. A march of hundreds of airport workers, from Kennedy Airport to LaGuardia Airport in New York City, took place in the rain. Immigrant rights activists held protests in Atlanta and elsewhere to demand no deportations of undocumented workers. Occupy Wall Street activists organized "Wave of Action" global events targeting the 1%.

A major mobilization is being called by the Baltimore Workers Assembly for April 29 in Washington, D.C., against the National Restaurant Association annual meeting. This association, which represents the interests of an important sector of the billionaire class, helps set the policies that keep millions of restaurant workers earning wages at poverty and below-poverty levels in non-union working conditions.

Workers World supports the struggles of low-wage, underpaid workers to better their pay and working conditions as well as their right to unionize. We understand the importance of using Dr. King's legacy of struggle to help forward the struggle for social justice for all workers, especially the most oppressed.

The call for a \$15 minimum wage deserves the support and political solidarity of progressive activists everywhere. The struggle of underpaid workers, which includes women and people of color in disproportionate numbers, is one that will benefit the entire worldwide working class. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination
Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery
Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance Leilani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers United Demand

Passage of a Bill of Rights Imani Henry

Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice! Saladin Muhammad

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal

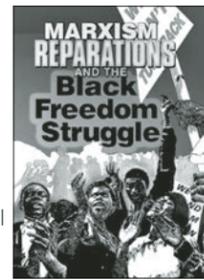
Racism & Poverty in the Delta Larry Hales

Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions Pat Chin

Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation Consuela Lee

Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker

Available at most online bookstores.



GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

EU-Africa Summit may lead to increased imperialist interventions

Gathering in Brussels undermines African unity

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

The EU-Africa Summit on April 2-3 in Brussels was not attended by several key African leaders from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi, Eritrea and Sudan. The European Union bypassed guidelines set down by a leading organ of the African Union, the Peace and Security Council, in convening and carrying out the summit.

Held under the theme of “Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace,” the conference advanced no real initiatives for the continent. Yet, the EU is deepening its military interventions on the continent; it plans to send soldiers into the volatile situation in the Central African Republic.

Summit conveners reported that 36 African heads of state attended. The AU has 54 members; all are independent, with the exception of people of the Western Sahara who are under Moroccan occupation.

Morocco, which withdrew from the AU over the recognition of the Sahawari Arab Democratic Republic in the Western Sahara, was invited. So was Egypt, which the AU suspended after the military coup on July 3, 2013. The EU had announced that invitations would be extended to individual African states, not to the AU as a regional body.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta contemplated not attending because his security director was denied a visa, but it was finally granted.

Kenyan Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Karinja Kibicho explained to the April 3 Zimbabwe Herald that the State House had cancelled the trip due to Belgium’s “unexplained refusal ... to issue an EU travel visa to the head of presidential security. The refusal of a visa for a vital member of the Kenyan delegation sent the wrong signal that the EU is in a position to dictate even the security arrangements of African heads of state.”

Kibicho stressed, “These actions in their totality make for an unfortunate precedent in the proper running of international relations. The government notes that if indeed the EU-Africa Summit is intended to advance mutual interests, such a worthwhile goal must be rooted in the recognition that Africa and EU coun-

tries are meeting in Brussels as partners and equals.”

Malawi President Joyce Banda, chairperson of the regional Southern African Development Community, also did not attend the summit.

More imperialist intervention looms

Prior to the EU-Africa Summit, a crisis gathering was held on April 1 involving the political and security crisis inside the CAR. Thirteen European states and 12 African nations attended pre-Summit talks, along with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

After that meeting, the EU announced that it was establishing a military mission in the CAR, sending 1,000 troops, to join thousands of U.N.-coordinated soldiers. About 8,000 foreign forces occupy the CAR, including 2,000 troops from France, the former colonial power in the mineral-rich state.

Despite France’s military presence and 6,000 allied African troops, violence against the minority Muslim population is continuing. One-quarter of the population of less than 5 million has been displaced. Thousands of members of the Muslim community remain trapped, even in the capital of Bangui.

The new interim government of President Catherine Samba-Panza and Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke was installed in January after the forced resignation of Michel Djotodia, who headed the Muslim-dominated Seleka Coalition. Seleka took control of Bangui in March 2013 after France refused to provide any security assistance to Francois Bozize’s ousted government.

EU Foreign Policy Minister Catherine Ashton indicated that troop deployment would take place soon because the EU has a firm “determination to take full part in international efforts to restore stability and security in ... Bangui and ... across the Central African Republic. It is vital that there is a return to public order as soon possible, so that the political transition process can be put back on track.” (Deutsche Welle, April 1)

Nonetheless, the enhanced intervention of France with U.S. logistical support has worsened the security and hu-

manitarian situation inside the CAR.

Food assistance pledged by the U.N. has not been forthcoming, as Muslim shopkeepers and traders have fallen victim to the Christian-dominated anti-Balaka militias, who have facilitated the looting of businesses and the disruption of transport routes. The U.N. estimates that 19,000 Muslims are in mortal danger; tens of thousands have already fled to nearby Chad and Cameroon.

The presence of both Chadian and French troops has drawn widespread opposition throughout the CAR within both the Christian and Muslim communities. During the EU-Africa Summit, Chad an-

nounced that it was withdrawing its military forces from the CAR.

France has been accused of siding with the Christian community and not actively pursuing the armed anti-Balaka militias. Chad, on the other hand, has been charged with favoring the Muslims due to their efforts to transport people out of areas where violent campaigns are taking place against them.

The progressive movements in the United States and Europe must be alert to growing imperialist military intervention in Africa. All troop deployments, including those orchestrated by the EU, should be taken up and opposed. □

Tweets, the Cuban 5 and the U.S. blockade

Continued from page 9

U.S. are chafing at Washington’s restrictions that make trade with Cuba almost impossible. Take Florida, which has a long economic history with Cuba that goes back long before 1959, and then became a bastion of counterrevolutionary Cuban exile groups. Elected officials in Florida are pushing for changes. A recent Atlantic Council poll showed that support for normalizing relations with Cuba is strong throughout the U.S., and now even stronger in Florida.

U.S. allies are also balking at the U.S. blockade. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Cuba is a welcome partner. Brazil has announced that Cuba will be advertised as a tourist destination, even though U.S. air carriers are fined when they pay Cuba for overflight authorization.

The U.S. blockade prohibits ships that dock in Cuba from docking in a U.S. port for six months. But now, shippers and port operators on the East Coast are wondering what will happen when Cuba’s new container port at Mariel is fully functional. Will China’s supercontainer ships pass through the widened Panama Canal and go to Mariel instead of Miami? Could Mariel become the transshipment point for providing goods throughout Latin America and the Caribbean?

Cuba has just expanded foreign investment opportunities — a measure that will certainly bring problems as well as possibilities. But health care and education, two rights provided to Cubans at no out-of-pocket cost, are not for sale.

Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy calls the blockade “a foolish, self-defeating embargo” and is calling USAID officials before the Senate appropriations subcommittee on April 8 to explain why the ZunZuneo project was undertaken without congressional approval.

Leahy was one of 66 senators who signed a Nov. 21 letter urging President Barack Obama “to act expeditiously to take whatever steps are in the national interest to obtain [Alan Gross’s] release, and we stand ready to support your Administration in pursuit of this worthy goal.” Gross, a USAID contractor arrested in Cuba as a spy, was the subject of an earlier report by AP in 2012 that demolished the State Department’s claim that

Gross was a humanitarian. It showed he was actually on the U.S. government payroll installing secret communication devices issued by the U.S. military or State Department.

Back on Jan. 1, the 55th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, President Raúl Castro said: “The attempts to disseminate ideas that deny the vitality of the concepts of Marx, Lenin and Martí must be countered, among other ways, by a creative theoretical conceptualization of the socialism that’s possible within Cuba’s capabilities as the only alternative of equality and justice for all.

“The new generations of leaders, who gradually and orderly are assuming the main responsibilities in the leadership of the nation, should never forget that this is the Socialist Revolution of the humble, by the humble and for the humble, an indispensable precept and effective antidote to refrain from falling under the influence of the siren songs of the enemy, who will not renounce the objective of distancing [our leaders] from our people so as to undermine their unity with the Communist

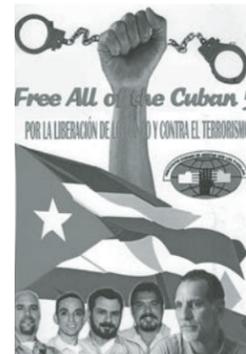
Party, the only and legitimate heir of the legacy and authority of the Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution, comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.” (Progreso Weekly, April 3)

Support for the Cuban 5

The details revealed in the AP report point once again to the profound injustice done to the Cuban 5 and their families. These five men came to

the U.S. to protect innocent Cubans and others from the relentless attacks on all levels launched from this country. They did no harm to the people of the U.S. but were arrested in 1998 and received heavy jail sentences. They are heroes on all levels. Three of the Cuban 5 still remain in U.S. prisons: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero. René González and Fernando González have returned to Cuba after completing their sentences.

From June 4 to 11, activists will bring their case to Washington, D.C. Join the “5 Days for the Cuban 5” at a rally at the White House at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 7. On the fifth of every month, call, email or fax the White House. Plan educational activities in your area. Get more information at theCuban5.org and 5DaysfortheCuban5.com.



Lenin’s ‘Imperialism’ and the struggle vs the 1%

Continued from page 5

by the U.S. and NATO to expand more and more towards the east and further encircle Russia. It should be made clear that the Putin government is a capitalist one backed by a Russian capitalist class of billionaires and millionaires. But it is not close to being an imperialist country like the U.S. or its European allies. Russia doesn’t have military bases in over 150 countries like the U.S., not to mention the hundreds inside the U.S. in order to protect the profits of the 1%. A victory for Washington would strengthen world imperialism and be a great danger to the workers and oppressed of the world.

This current global economic crisis indicates that capitalism is at a dead end. It can no longer expand its production like during its earlier stages of development. It is in a desperate, adventurous mode which means that wars and political crises — as what is going on in Venezuela and

Ukraine — can break out at any time and any place. Plus at home the masses are feeling this deepening crisis of imperialism with racism, low wages, attacks on pensions, housing, education and health care; there is crumbling infrastructure and much more but there are also signs of resistance and fightback.

This is along the same lines that Lenin raised on a much higher level: the revolutionary defeatism of one’s own government. Our movements have a strategic role to play in the South and throughout the U.S. to show our solidarity with the rest of the world by building anti-imperialist fronts, building pro-socialist fronts that will weaken imperialism at home, which will strengthen the anti-imperialist struggle abroad.

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Importancia singular del Sur de los EUA

Los siguientes extractos son de un documento escrito por las/os miembros de la rama del Partido Workers World /Mundo Obrero de Durham, Carolina del Norte, para la Conferencia sobre la Revolución y el Socialismo el 29 de marzo, con el tema "Los tiempos difíciles son tiempos de lucha". Se puede leer el documento completo en Workers.org

El Sur de EUA tiene un carácter dual. Se trata principalmente de una región de la mayor potencia imperialista del mundo. El Sur de EUA tiene una historia única, con un patrón diferente de desarrollo arraigado en la esclavitud —caracterizado por el colonialismo, la explotación por las potencias imperialistas y opresión nacional.

La Escuela de las Américas en el Fort Benning en Georgia, ha entrenado a escuadrones de la muerte y militares de derecha que han aterrorizado a Latinoamérica por décadas.

La misma Carolina del Norte es el hogar de Fort Bragg, la mayor base del Ejército estadounidense en el mundo, que alberga el Comando de Fuerzas Especiales, el Comando del Ejército Aerotransportado y el Comando de la Reserva del Ejército— la mayor concentración de generales fuera del Pentágono, y éste está a su vez en el Sur (Virginia). Camp Lejeune es la mayor base de la Marina de EE.UU. en el mundo.

Otras bases importantes de Estados Unidos en el Sur incluyen el Fuerte Jackson del Ejército, la Base del Fuerte Hood del Ejército, el Depósito de Reclutas de la Marina Parris Island, las Bases de la Fuerza Aérea Shaw, Pope y Langley, la Base de Infantería de Marina Quantico, la Base Fort Hill del Ejército y la base naval de Norfolk.

La concentración económica

El Sur es el hogar de un 30 por ciento de la fabricación de EUA. Un porcentaje cada vez mayor debido a la huída de los talleres de fabricación desde el norte más sindicalizado, y a las inversiones directas del exterior para nuevas manufacturas. El Sur ahora recibe el 43 por ciento de todas las inversiones directas desde el exterior a los EUA.

La nueva producción en el Sur no sólo se debe a las leyes antisindicales racistas que deprimen los salarios, sino también a los miles de millones de dólares en incentivos por parte de los estados y ciudades que se vieron obligados a competir por las inversiones. Estos enormes regalos corporativos drenaron los presupuestos necesarios para pagar a las/os trabajadores públicos y para las viviendas, la

educación y la infraestructura que ya estaba gravemente atrasada. Esto hace que el Sur sea todavía más vulnerable a los desastres naturales y a los creados por el ser humano. Los Estados también están compitiendo entre sí eliminando las protecciones ambientales y permitiendo la fractura hidráulica.

El Sur de EUA también es cada vez más un centro del capital financiero, especialmente Charlotte en Carolina del Norte, que ahora es el segundo centro bancario más grande en los EUA, detrás sólo de Nueva York. Charlotte es la sede del Bank of America y la sede de Wells Fargo en la costa este.

Represión racista y anti-sindical

El moderno complejo prisión-industrial está directamente enraizado en la esclavitud y Jim Crow. Este nuevo sistema penal, construido con mano de obra esclava, surgió como una nueva herramienta para la opresión de ex esclavos.

La violencia del Estado continúa donde la policía y los tribunales racistas son las principales herramientas de la opresión racial. La pena de muerte racista se concentra en los estados del sur, sobre todo en Texas. Las llamadas leyes de "defienda su territorio" (stand your ground) que tratan de legitimar el asesinato de jóvenes negros desarmados como Trayvon Martin, comenzaron en el Sur y se están extendiendo. Los asesinatos por la policía de las personas de color están a la orden del día, en particular los asesinatos de Jesús Huerta y Jonathan Ferrell aquí en Carolina del Norte.

Trabajadoras/es negros, antiguas/os esclavos y aparceros huyeron hacia el norte en la Gran Migración, huyendo de la pobreza, la segregación y el terrorismo del Klan. Los patronos trataron de utilizar a estas/os nuevos trabajadores para reducir los salarios y socavar las campañas de sindicalización, utilizando el racismo de las/os trabajadores blancos.

Al mismo tiempo, los capitalistas comenzaron a mudar la manufactura hacia el Sur para evitar la organización sindical, comenzando con la industria textil. Enormes fábricas de textiles se abrieron a través de Carolina del Norte, convirtiéndose rápidamente en la industria imperante. Por primera vez las/os comunistas reconocieron la importancia crítica de la organización del Sur sobre una base de total solidaridad antirracista.

En el 1940, una campaña sindical tuvo éxito en la Compañía de Tabaco Reynolds cuya fuerza laboral era mayoritariamente negra y femenina, siendo luego deshecha

por el racismo de los tribunales federales, que sacó a las/os trabajadores negros de la negociación y agregó a supervisores blancos, rompiendo así el sindicato.

Después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, el último gran esfuerzo del Congreso de Organizaciones Industriales fue la Operación Dixie de 1946-1953. La campaña fue derrotada en última instancia por una combinación de supremacía blanca, pánico anti-comunista y la Ley Taft-Hartley, que permitía a los estados prohibir las huelgas y cerrar las oficinas sindicales. Esta derrota llevó directamente a un desplazamiento hacia la derecha del movimiento sindical en general, cuando la CIO fue forzada a fusionarse con la Federación Estadounidense del Trabajo (AFL) y abandonar el sindicalismo social por el sindicalismo empresarial.

En el 1959, Carolina del Norte promulgó una prohibición de la negociación colectiva para las/os empleados públicos, desproporcionadamente de raza negra y mujeres. Este ataque contra las/os trabajadores públicos fue racista y sexista. Virginia aprobó una prohibición similar. Los empresarios ahora están expandiendo este ataque a través de estados anteriormente con sindicatos fuertes como Michigan y Wisconsin, lo que desencadenó una lucha histórica en 2011.

El cambio de la clase obrera

Trabajadoras mujeres y afroamericanas/os siempre han sido el mayor porcentaje de las/os trabajadores semi-calificados, y ahora las/os trabajadores latinos han aumentado en número, quienes están creciendo como porcentaje de la fuerza laboral más rápido en el Sur que en cualquier otra región de los EUA.

Desde 2010, las mujeres constituyen casi la mitad de la fuerza laboral de Carolina del Norte, que sigue aumentando. A las mujeres se les paga mucho menos por la misma posición. También son mucho más propensas a tener sólo trabajo a tiempo parcial.

En 1997, la United Electrical Workers (UE) llegó a Carolina del Norte a petición de los Trabajadores Negros por la Justicia (BWFJ), para ayudar a organizar a las/os trabajadores negros en la planta de Consolidated Diesel en Rocky Mount y en otras. Esta organización se amplió a las/os trabajadores públicos, en su mayoría negra y de bajos salarios, en ciudades, instalaciones estatales y universidades, con la fundación en 1999 de la Seccional 150 de la UE.

El enfoque de la UE-150 y el BWFJ ha sido construir solidaridad entre la comunidad y el sindicato, especialmente en torno a la lucha contra el racismo en el lugar de trabajo. Comenzando con la Campaña Mt. Olive Pickle en el año 1998, el Comité Organizador de Trabajadores Agrícolas (FLOC) ha organizado con éxito a miles de trabajadoras/es agrícolas migrantes latinas/os mediante la participación de una amplia base de partidarios de la comunidad en torno a temas laborales y cuestiones más amplias de derechos de las/os inmigrantes.

El sindicato UFCW ganó exitosamente un contrato en la planta de Smithfield, la planta de procesamiento de carne de

cerdo más grande en el mundo en 2009, después de una lucha por 16 años.

Este enfoque es ahora evidente en la campaña del sindicato de Servidores Públicos SEIU por las/os trabajadores de comida rápida, que está ganando terreno en todo el Sur. Impulsar este movimiento en una dirección explícitamente antirracista y para la construcción de liderazgo independiente entre las/os trabajadores y la comunidad son nuestras tareas más urgentes. Las/os trabajadores de FLOC, UE-150 y de Smithfield, hacen menos de \$15 la hora.

Lunes de Moral y el movimiento de asambleas

La comprensión de la lucha de Lunes de Moral debe comenzar con la lectura del artículo de Saladin Muhammad, "Los lunes de moral: Surgimiento y Dinámica de un Movimiento de Masa Pro Derechos Humanos". En él, expone las raíces de los Lunes de Moral en una Asamblea Popular de 2007 y en la solidaridad del presidente de la NAACP Rev. William Barber, con el UE-150. El programa de la Asamblea del Pueblo, con su agenda de 14 puntos combina las demandas por los Derechos Laborales y Civiles, con la oposición a la guerra imperialista y la necesidad de programas sociales para las/os desempleados.

En Jackson, Mississippi, el movimiento de asamblea popular condujo a la histórica elección de Chokwe Lumumba como alcalde, cuya reciente muerte fue un duro golpe para nuestra clase, pero cuyo éxito refleja el poder del proceso de asambleas populares. Será necesario prestar una atención constante a la evolución de Jackson en los próximos meses para asegurarse de que la trágica muerte de Lumumba no se traduzca en un revés político y se continúe empujando las asambleas hacia un compromiso más profundo en torno a las luchas de las/os trabajadores.

La Asamblea de Trabajadores del Sur representa un esfuerzo conjunto de las/os activistas y revolucionarias/os con BWFJ, FLOC, UE-150, el comité de organización de los trabajadores de comida rápida, y la seccional UFCW Smithfield para construir una asamblea popular en el Sur, que no sólo una estas fuerzas sindicales, sino que también actúe como una fuerza independiente consciente en el movimiento de Lunes de Moral.

Las asambleas populares son de especial importancia en el Sur por la posibilidad de utilizarlas para superar el racismo y otras formas de opresión. En primer lugar, pueden construir un polo revolucionario dentro del movimiento sindical y una estructura independiente, sin compromisos con el Partido Demócrata, ni depender de la financiación de los sindicatos internacionales que pueden retirar su apoyo. En segundo lugar, las asambleas son un foro para la explicación paciente y el debate necesario para ganar a las/os trabajadores blancos al liderazgo de las/os más oprimidos, y hacer que todas/os los trabajadores comprendan las similitudes de sus situaciones, que trascienden industrias y nacionalidades y se pueda construir las relaciones necesarias para una lucha prolongada. □

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