

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

• Detroit • Desafiando racistas • Gaza

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Vol. 56, No. 30 July 31, 2014

\$1



BROOKLYN, N.Y.

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We are all Gaza

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



New York City, July 17. See pages 6-7 for more U.S. solidarity actions with Palestine.

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Left: Thousands march in Detroit against water shutoffs, July 18.



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WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

From left: Luis Garcia Nazarit, Daniella Longchamps, Sharon Black, John Parker, July 19.

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Disability rights: A rich theatre of the class struggle

By Brian Shea

The 1970s saw the development of a very active ex-patient and psychiatric survivor movement. In 1974, the Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA) was among many organizations founded by people who had experienced psychiatric diagnoses. Also, a sister organization to NAPA was established in Boston, the Mental Patients Liberation Front.

NAPA raised the rights of people in the mental health service system as a human rights issue and exposed and opposed abuses of psychiatric force, including drugging, electric shock treatment and psychiatric imprisonment. Other issues raised were the use of patients as forced labor and the uninvestigated death of patients in psychiatric facilities.

NAPA organized pickets of the pharmaceutical companies and the American Psychiatric Association. Their militant picket lines and sit-ins were instrumental in getting abusive institutions closed and in getting laws passed limiting involuntary shock treatment in California. They formed the roots of today's peer support movement.

Activists in power chairs circled buses

The struggle for accessible public transportation was already ongoing when ADAPT, a national organization, was started in 1983. Originally an acronym for Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit, this militant group practiced "nonviolent direct action" to win civil rights for people with disabilities. Some 40 to 50 people in power chairs surrounded inaccessible buses.

ADAPT also set up picket lines and held direct actions against the American Public Transit Association, which was made up of industry leaders who design rolling stock [transit vehicles] — like buses, subways and trains. This struggle won significant concessions, including the rewriting of some access regulations.

In the late 1980s and 1990s, ADAPT changed its name to Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today, and refocused their emphasis to getting personal assistance services that people with disabilities need to remain at home or to leave institutions. These services are neither medical nor medicalized, yet nursing homes and other facilities make profits by providing them to people who want



Brian Shea speaks at solidarity rally for Boston school bus drivers, July 14.

PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN

to be at home. An ongoing struggle is to obtain adequate hours from personal assistants and adequate pay and benefits for them. These workers help with daily living tasks, like getting up in the morning, showering and getting ready for bed at night.

ACT UP won lower drug prices

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), which was led by people with HIV and AIDS, was one of the most significant movements of the 1980s. Formed in 1987 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York City, the organization described itself as "an international direct action advocacy group working to impact the lives of people with AIDS and the AIDS pandemic to bring about legislation, medical research and treatment and policies to ultimately bring an end to the disease by mitigating loss of health and lives." (actupny.org)

ACT UP's creative direct actions targeted Wall Street, the Stock Exchange, federal government offices, pharmaceutical companies and medical associations. The group demanded a coordinated national policy to fight the disease, greater access to experimental AIDS drugs and affordable medication. It also exposed and fought the misinformation and frenzy concerning AIDS, its transmission and the social stigma associated with the illness. ACT UP led this struggle.

The first HIV/AIDS treatment medications — AZT and anti-retroviral drugs — cost an astronomical

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Workers World

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 56, No. 30 • July 31, 2014
Closing date: July 22 2014

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editors: Lal Roohk, Andy Katz
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson

West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Keith Fine, Bob McCubbin
Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

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

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

WORKERS WORLD PARTY★

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. □

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

312.229.0161

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

Denver
denver@workers.org

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

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

312.229.0161

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

Huntington, W.Va.
huntingtonwva@
workers.org

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

323.306.6240

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

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

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

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

Rockford, IL
rockford@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447

San Diego, CA 92163
619-334-0644
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

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

Detroiter: Thirsty for justice

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

July 21 — The Detroit Water & Sewerage Department announced at a federal bankruptcy court hearing before Judge Steven Rhodes today that there would be a 15-day suspension of water shutoffs while policies were enacted to address the current crisis in the city. Additional measures are purportedly being designed to address the massive termination of water services for thousands of households in this economically distressed majority African-American city.

This declaration in federal court from the DWSD culminated a week-long series of events that focused national attention on the plight of working and poor people in Detroit. A mass demonstration through the downtown financial district on July 18 attracted thousands representing local organizations, National Nurses United and delegates of the Netroots Nation conference held at Cobo Conference Center July 17-20.

During the objections hearing on July 15, Kris Hamel, representing the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, introduced the question of the water shutoffs into the federal bankruptcy proceedings for the first time. Over 600 rank-and-file people had filed objections to the so-called "plan of adjustment" submitted by Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, which would slash pensions, privatize public assets and create conditions for the long-term disempowerment of city residents.

Hamel called upon Judge Rhodes to declare a moratorium on the water shutoffs, noting that the terminations had drawn condemnation from the United Nations and other organizations locally and nationally. Rhodes then ordered Jones Day law firm, which is administering the affairs of the city under EM Orr, a former partner in that firm, to compel the DWSD to come to court and explain

its program to prevent shutoffs.

After the presentation and questioning of Darryl Latimer, the DWSD deputy director, Rhodes ordered him to return on July 21 with more detailed plans to assist residential customers facing shutoffs. Rhodes noted that the shutoffs have been an embarrassment to the city and were "bad for the bankruptcy."

Also at the July 21 hearing it was announced that a class-action lawsuit has been filed in the bankruptcy court demanding a moratorium on the shutoffs, saying that the actions by DWSD at the aegis of EM Orr represented a violation of due process. Plaintiffs in the filing included victims of the water termination actions, along with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, the People's Water Board and the Michigan Chapter of the National Action Network.

In court, representatives of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union announced they had issued a letter to Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, EM Orr, DWSD Commission Chair James Fausone and CEO Sue F. McCormick regarding the shutoff policy.

The letter read in part: "We ask that DWSD immediately cease terminating services and restore water to the thousands of customers who are currently without this basic necessity. We urge DWSD to restore water service immediately to avoid further harm to the City's most vulnerable citizens, the vast majority of whom are African American, and to place a moratorium on plans to discontinue water service pending the development of a review-and-implementation plan that is based on accurate information, that is staffed sufficiently for effective implementation, and, ultimately, that is humane."

Demonstration in solidarity with people of Detroit

The social and political situation in De-



PHOTO: JENNIFER TEED

Baxter Jones being arrested, July 18.

troit gained renewed national and worldwide attention July 17-20 during the Netroots Nation conference, which brought together progressives, labor unions and left-wing Democrats who are heavily focused on blogging, video streaming and a myriad of social media networks.

Officials of National Nurses United, which represents 188,000 U.S. health care professionals, were strong participants in the conference. They contacted the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and other local groups about lending assistance to the struggle against water shutoffs, emergency management, privatization and the city bankruptcy. Moratorium NOW! organizers immediately suggested that delegates from the conference come into the streets for a mass demonstration in solidarity with the people of Detroit.

Through the work of the NNU, endorsements were secured from the Detroit Metro AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers Local 600, Amalgamated Transit

Union Local 26, Communications Workers of America and a host of other labor organizations.

On the afternoon of July 18, thousands marched from Cobo Center through the financial district, passing the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, to Hart Plaza for a rally where they heard from over a dozen speakers. This action was the tenth consecutive week of "Freedom Fridays" organized by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, with rallies and demonstrations outside the federal courthouse and later the DWSD headquarters, which then spread into other areas of the downtown financial district.

The July 18 demonstration received national and international coverage. Earlier in the day the second blockade at Homrich, the private contractor hired by the EM to assist in water shutoffs, took place, resulting in nine arrests. Among the arrestees was S. Baxter Jones, a Moratorium NOW! activist who uses a wheelchair.

The NNU issued a statement at the rally declaring the city of Detroit as a "Public Health Emergency Zone" in light of the water shutoffs. The declaration read: "As registered nurses, we are compelled to advocate for all our patients, whether at the bedside or in our neighborhoods and communities. ... We demand an immediate end to all water shutoffs. We demand an end to the disgraceful practice of city officials who have removed children from homes where water has been shut off. And we demand the guarantee that all Detroit residents have immediate and full access to clean water."

Abayomi Azikiwe co-chaired the July 18 rally at Hart Plaza and addressed a plenary at the Netroots Nation conference on July 19 dealing with the water crisis in Detroit. □

Court forced to address water shutoffs

By WW Detroit bureau

July 16 — A dog and pony show by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Detroit municipal bankruptcy proceedings took an unexpected turn on July 15 when Moratorium NOW! Coalition activist Kris Hamel, who is also a WW managing editor, told the judge he needed to put a moratorium on mass water shutoffs and ameliorate the suffering of the poorest Detroiter.

The hearing was for objectors to the city's emergency manager's "plan of adjustment," which outlines deep cuts in health and pension obligations to city retirees and the "clawback" of workers' annuity funds in order to pay the city's alleged debt to the banks. Out of more than 600 objections that were filed by rank-and-file workers, residents and retirees, 100 objectors were chosen to appear at the hearing and given five minutes each to address Judge Steven Rhodes. Because the austerity plan is essentially a done deal according to the EM and corporate media, many objectors did not bother to show up. But several dozen testified as more than 100 spectators watched from another room.

Poignant and heart-wrenching testimony was given by retirees, especially regarding the now high cost of their health care. A cancer patient told of skipping her appointments because of high doctor visit co-pays, while another said his health care

costs have gone from \$152 to more than \$1,000 per month since draconian health care cuts became effective in March. Moratorium NOW! organizer and city worker Andrea Egypt also addressed the court, saying the situation in Detroit "parallels the austerity measures imposed on the public workers in Greece by the officialdom, the banks and the corporations."

Mass water shutoffs an 'international disgrace'

But it was when Hamel took the podium that for the first time the mass water shutoffs were brought into the city's bankruptcy case.

"While the poorest Detroiter have their water cut off for owing \$150, JPMorgan Chase, UBS [United Bank of Switzerland], Loop Financial and Morgan Stanley were paid \$537 million in termination fees on interest rate swaps out of \$1 billion in bonds issued from 2010 to 2013, bonds that were earmarked to fund repairs of the water infrastructure system, not line the pockets of these four banks. Orr, while cutting off water to the poor and raising water rates, has not taken one step to recover this \$537 million giveaway to the banks."

Hamel challenged the court: "It is up to you [Judge Rhodes] to stop the national and international disgrace and humanitarian disaster of mass water shutoffs in the city of Detroit. You must immediately



At march in solidarity with Palestine, July 13.

enjoin these shutoffs by placing a moratorium on them today and ordering [Emergency Manager] Orr to implement a real water affordability plan for the poorest Detroiter."

Hamel demanded the court "recoup and recover the \$537 million paid to the banks out of water bonds meant for the people. Chase and UBS have a record of criminal fraud regarding swaps like these all across the U.S. Go after the banks, not the poor, because in Detroit, the city most devastated by years of bank fraud and racist predatory lending, the people are paying the banks rather than the other way around. This is not equitable."

Water shutoffs 'a problem affecting this bankruptcy'

After Hamel's testimony, Rhodes demanded that the Jones Day lawyer for the city address the water shutoffs. Her lack of knowledge caused the judge to order her to bring to the afternoon session a representative of the city who could address the crisis.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., activists with Moratorium NOW! and other groups gathered in front of the courthouse for a people's speakout against the plan of austerity. Retirees and others who had tes-

Continued on page 4

LOS ANGELES

Assembly pushes \$15 minimum wage ballot initiative

By Los Angeles WW bureau

A Workers' Assembly on July 19 in Los Angeles drew more than 100 excited people, mostly low-wage workers and their supporters, who were eager to sign up and become part of a campaign to put an initiative on the ballot for a \$15 minimum wage that would take effect immediately.

John Parker, a board member of the South Central Neighborhood Council convened the assembly. He pointed out that one out of every four persons in Los Angeles lives in poverty and that low-wage workers and the community need this measure now.

Assembly co-chair Daniella Longchamps is a young low-wage worker herself. She opened up with an account of how low-wage workers, and tipped workers in particular, are treated by their bosses: "We work long hours, sometimes we don't even make the minimum wage, and are abused. My co-worker told me how the boss took her into the bathroom

and raped her."

Luis Garcia Nazarit, a student at Los Angeles Trade Technical College and president of that campus's chapter of MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán), a participating group, offered to translate for the assembly. Meeting participants could sign up to testify and ask questions.

OUR Walmart workers and Service Employees union Latino/a caucus members, which included Rosie Martinez, former president, SEIU Local 721; Marva Burgess; and Yvonne de los Santos received tremendous applause.

Larry Holmes, a national coordinator for the Peoples' Power Assembly, pointed out that the campaign being launched is not only significant in and of itself: "Its ability to assist the low-wage workers' movement, and particularly their demands for a union, are equally important." He described how this fight has national significance, taking place in the second-largest city in the U.S., with the



WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

Larry Holmes at the podium.

largest number of low-wage workers.

Jose Vandenburg from \$15 NOW, a group that originated in Seattle, testified, debunking some of the myths around raising the minimum wage.

This ballot initiative was not the only workers' issue discussed.

Teresa Gutierrez, representing the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights, proposed a national cara-

van in support of the migrant children who are facing fascist mobs. Colleen Davidson, from the FIST — Fight Imperialism, Stand Together — youth group, connected the issues of support for Gaza and Palestine with the refugee migrant children and low-wage workers. She proclaimed her group's support for the Workers' Assembly.

Other participants talked about the importance of the assembly itself as a vehicle for workers' rights. Participating groups included Fight for \$15; the South Central Neighborhood Council; OUR Walmart; BAYAN; the United Electrical Workers and Los Angeles Trade Technical College students.

Members of the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party stayed for the more informal question-and-answer period to lend their electoral expertise to the assembly. Other participating groups included the Southern California Immigration Coalition, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, and School of the Americas Watch.

Sharon Black, a volunteer with the Los Angeles Workers' Assembly, announced a follow-up organizing meeting on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 3 p.m. at the Harriet Tubman Social Justice Center, 5278 West Pico Blvd. in Los Angeles. She also proposed a "Walk for Justice for \$15 and a Union" in September from East to West Los Angeles, with a goal to involve students and youth across Los Angeles in this important fight.

To get involved, call 323-306-6240 or email LAWorkersAssembly@gmail.com. See Facebook page tinyurl.com/q43vkg6. □



WW PHOTO: IMANI HENRY

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

'No to gentrification'

The Equality for Flatbush Project held a "Save Affordable Housing/Fight Gentrification Visibility Day" on July 19 to demand an end to rising rents. The community group, which describes itself as "a new people of color-led grassroots campaign to create a stronger network between tenant rights groups, block associations and community organizations fighting for better conditions for Flatbush and East Flatbush residents," does grassroots anti-police repression, affordable housing and anti-gentrification organizing in Brooklyn. Visit facebook.com/EqualityForFlatbush.

Walking and filming along busy Flatbush Avenue, participants asked passing drivers to "honk if the rent's too high" and handed out flyers about the group's

project, "Before It's Gone/Take It Back," a documentary art and resource website that E4F has been fundraising to build. (facebook.com/Befor ItsGoneTakeItBack) The group also took a solidarity ride in a dollar van, an example of local Caribbean businesses, this one created in response to the lack of adequate public transportation in the area. E4F reports that there has been an upsurge in police harassment and ticketing of dollar van drivers.

Activists came from the Brooklyn Community Pride Center as well as the Prospect Park East Network, which has been fighting the construction of a massive 23-story Hudson Companies luxury housing complex. Rent for studio apartments there will start at an outrageous \$2,000 a month.

—LeiLani Dowell

Pride marchers call for global solidarity

By Starr

SAN DIEGO

The yearly San Diego Pride Parade is southern California's largest Pride event. This year, held on July 19, it was infiltrated by radical queers of all stripes calling for solidarity with Central American children, Palestinians, workers, incarcerated trans people, including — at the top of the list — Chelsea Manning. Manning, the WikiLeaks whistleblower, is now serving a 35-year prison sentence for heroically releasing "classified" information about U.S. war atrocities while she was a soldier.

More than 30 queer and allied radicals gathered and marched in the parade, chanting, "There's no pride in unsafe schools!" "Queer liberation, not prisons, war and occupation!" and "From Palestine to Mexico, apartheid walls have got to go!" The demonstrators held signs reading "Queers against Israeli Apartheid!" "No occupation, no deportation!" and "Resist Pinkwashing!"

The Radical Queer coalition's float displayed an image of Manning, as well as a huge sign reading, "Queer Community,

Not Gay Capitalism!"

These forces chanted "Sexist, racist, anti-gay! Right-wing people go away!" as they passed the area where the horrific Fred Phelps haters used to gather and noted that this time around only one individual was there.

Event organizer Gabe Conaway explained to Workers World, "We're here to protest the militarization and corporatization of queer communities. We hope to prevent the continued pinkwashing of our communities when corporations like Nike donate millions to HRC [the Human Rights Campaign] to make themselves look good, while allowing their queer workers to remain exploited. This is an intersectional dialogue that challenges people to go beyond 'gay pride' and to organize around real life issues faced by workers every day."

Represented in the march were the International Action Center, the San Diego Alliance for Marriage Equality, Canvass for a Cause, Students for Justice in Palestine and Pink & Black, a local activist

group devoted to ending harassment and the incarceration of queers. The San Diego Police Department has a long, sordid history of brutalizing anyone who does not appear straight.

The coalition organized Guerilla Pride last month to contrast, challenge and subvert the increasingly pinkwashed San Diego Pride. [The expression "pinkwashed" was originally used to characterize the way the garrison, apartheid state of Israel has used its official policy of tolerance for homosexuality to distract attention from its genocidal anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab campaign. But the expression has been generalized to include all the institutions in capitalist society that cover their continuing prejudice and oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people with meaningless "official" gestures of inclusion or support.] Workshops were held and a potluck meal was enjoyed. Topics such as Trans Power and workplace protections were on the agenda. Look for more direct action in the future from these empowered radical queers. □

DETROIT

Court addresses

Continued from page 3

fied in court were interviewed by local media and spoke at the rally.

At the 2 p.m. session, Darryl Latimer, deputy director of the water department, was presented to the court and grilled by Judge Rhodes. He verified that the city has no program for reaching customers with overdue water bills and that a 30 percent down payment is needed for the "payment plan" offered by the city. Latimer claimed that they don't shut off water to people, only to buildings, and confirmed that residents are not warned of the shutoffs. He said that informational inserts have been put in with bills and that a "water fair" is being planned.

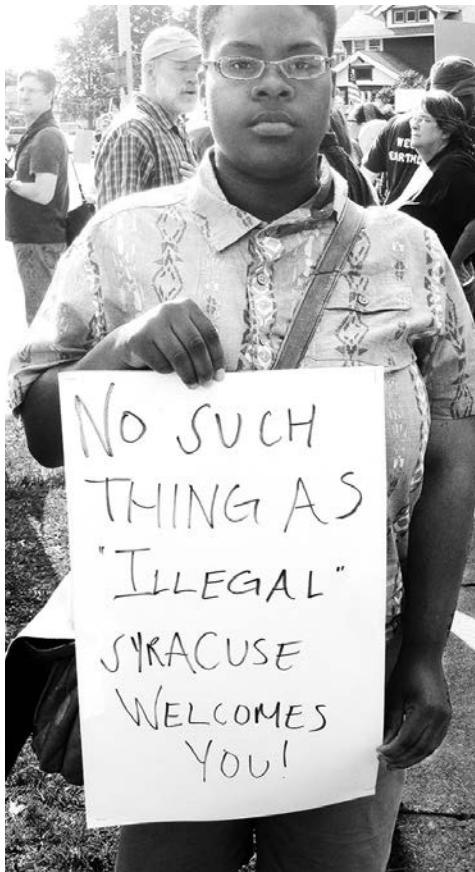
"Your residential shutoff program," said Rhodes, "has caused not only a lot of anger in the city but also a lot of hardship. It's

ACROSS THE U.S.

NO TO MIGRANT BASHING

PHOTO: ANANDA MOSI

SYRACUSE, NY



Nikeeta Slade welcomes migrant children.

Chanting “The people united will never be defeated! El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!” a crowd of more than 100 people in Syracuse, N.Y., rallied July 18 to support migrant children. Their voices drowned out intermittent anti-immigrant shouts from about fifty right-wingers across the street.

The pro-immigrant crowd held their ground at two corners of an intersection in front of buildings belonging to the Sisters of St. Francis, a Catholic order. The site is being considered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Human Services as a detention center for migrant children.

Participants welcomed the children with many messages of love and support. They also held up slogans linked to Syracuse’s history of anti-racist struggle, including “Refugee not racism,” “Remember Harriet Tubman,” “Syracuse is a sanctuary city,” “Ningún niño es ilegal” and “Syracuse helps freedom-seekers.”

Some signs linked the pro-migrant struggle to the battle in Syracuse against

SAN DIEGO

Activists and community members gathered outside the Mexican Consulate in downtown San Diego on July 18 to tell racist anti-immigrant protesters they’ve got it all wrong.

The same racists that in Murrieta, Calif., turned around buses that were carrying Central American refugees showed their ugly sentiment at the consulate.

But pro-immigrant activists were there in force distributing Workers World newspapers and raising awareness about the role of U.S. imperialism in driving minors to cross U.S. borders.

The so-called North American Free Trade Agreement, the CIA’s destabilization efforts and the U.S. “war on drugs” are just a



few of the reasons for the recent influx outlined by protesters as many curious passersby as well as families accessed the consulate.

City workers and restaurant goers alike thanked the activists for standing up to the hate speech and misinformation being promulgated. The youngest

pro-immigration activist, nine-year-old Ananda, held a sign that read, “Estamos contigo niños.”

Ananda’s grandma, Gloria Verdieu, emphasized to WW the absence of Nicaraguan children coming to the U.S. southern borders, seeing as Nicaragua has managed to free itself from U.S. economic exploitation.

—By starr

water shutoffs

caused a lot of bad publicity for the city that it doesn’t need right now.” The judge admonished Latimer that the water shutoffs are “a problem affecting this bankruptcy” and that the city “has to do much, much better” to advise residents of their options and impending shutoffs.

“If your report is accurate,” Rhodes told Latimer, “it sounds like efforts are needed to help residents maintain their water services. That’s a solvable problem. Mr. Orr needs to come up with a much more aggressive plan to solve that problem.”

Rhodes ordered Latimer to appear in court on July 21 with EM representatives to “report on what initiatives the water department is taking.” The water shutoffs being addressed in bankruptcy court was top news for the day, with radio and television reports including interviews with Hamel and retirees. □

Syracuse was specifically targeted in the July 18-19 national demonstrations called against both the migrant children and immigration amnesty by Americans for Legal Immigration, a well-known anti-immigrant group.

Local immigrant-rights organizer Aly Wane said he was “proud of Syracuse for showing up” at short notice and in numbers to defend the children and the struggle for immigrant rights.

He also noted he was conflicted that the children were to be detained while both Democratic and Republican parties try to fast track the children’s deportation rather than work to connect them to family and friends in the U.S.

Wane is a publicly declared undocumented person, originally from Senegal, and a member of the Syracuse Peace Council. The SPC was the sponsor of the supportive rally.

— Story & photo by Minnie Bruce Pratt

MILWAUKEE

Special to WW

Members of Voces de la Frontera, its youth arm Youth Empowered in the Struggle, and their allies confronted anti-immigrant racists at various locations in Milwaukee on July 18. Voces and YES called their counterprotests “Defend Refugee Children: Stop Anti-Immigrant Hate.”

On July 18 and 19, anti-immigrant activists held demonstrations across the country, including in Wisconsin, against immigrant child refugees fleeing extreme violence in Central America because of policies created, supported and funded mainly by banks and corporations in the U.S. and the government that protects them.

At a highway overpass in Milwau-



PHOTO: OCCUPY RIVERWEST

kee over a busy interstate expressway, pro-immigrant and pro-children forces confronted and drowned out the racists and hoisted progressive signs and banners demanding refugee status for the children from Central America, especially Honduras, where U.S. imperialist meddling is responsible for the 2009 right-wing coup. □

U.S. PROTESTS IN SOLIDARI

By Workers World paper staff

As people of conscience around the world condemn the genocidal Israeli invasion of Gaza, protesters inside the U.S. are among those raising their voices for an immediate end to the Zionist war offensive. Many are well aware of — and angry about — the fact that U.S. taxpayer dollars fund Israel's weapons of mass destruction and that the U.S.-backed policy toward the Palestinians is what spurs on the terrorist actions of the racist Israeli apartheid state.

Many of these protests were part of the July 17-25 national week of coordinated actions demanding "Stop the War on Children! From Gaza to the U.S./Mexican border!" initiated by Al-Awda NY — the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; the May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights; the International Action Center and the People's Power Assembly.

Demonstrations took place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Washington, D.C., Boston, as well as in other cities and areas large and small across the country. In Window Rock, Ariz., members of the Navajo (Diné) Nation rallied and marched in solidarity with Gaza. (Navajotimes.com, July 17)

Here are reports on some of the actions that Workers World Party and other organizations took part in across the U.S.

More than 10,000 people marched in **CHICAGO** on July 20 to condemn Israel's murderous assault on Gaza. The protest began with a die-in of young people who held the names of Palestinian civilians killed in the Israeli onslaught. The names of all the dead — over 400 at the time — were read.

The marchers filled the streets for 10 blocks with a sea of Palestinian flags. "After two weeks of protesting, this is the largest protest in Chicago and the largest in the country so far," said Hatem Abudayeh, of the U.S. Palestine Community Network, who co-emceed the rally.

In **NEW YORK CITY** hundreds of mostly Arab youth arrived in Times Square on July 17 just as the news ticker above them announced that the Israeli military had begun the ground invasion of Gaza. The demonstration was one of a series of almost daily protests in Midtown Manhattan and quickly it began swelling to thousands.

The rally was unique among the week's actions because it linked together two crises destroying the futures of millions of young people. The demonstration was called under the slogan "Stop the war on children, from Gaza to the U.S./Mexican border."

Numerous Latino/a organizations linked the massive dislocation caused by past U.S. wars to the crisis of tens of thousands of dislocated refugee youth today on the U.S.-Mexican border with the U.S.-supported racist policies of Israel. Every speaker raised their total solidarity with Gaza under such a brutal military offensive.

On July 18 in **BUFFALO, N.Y.**, about 1,000 people — mainly Arab youth — mobilized in solidarity with Palestine. Speeches demanded an end to the occupation of Palestine, to cease all U.S. aid to Israel and to stop the current massacre on Gaza, part of ongoing genocide against Palestinians.



Chicago

PHOTO: MATT MCLOUGHLIN

Participants expressed support for the brave Palestinian resistance with placards saying "Resistance is a right!" and "Salute the resistance in Gaza!"

The huge crowd repeatedly circled Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo, while cars sporting Palestinian flags also circ-

led on the street surrounding the square. Then, when the crowd advanced across the street to the wide steps of City Hall, they occupied the full width of the sidewalk and street in front as well as covering the steps. The police were then forced to halt all vehicular traffic in the square.



New York

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD



Buffalo, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: GARRETT DICEMBRE

The protest marked the first day of ground assaults by Zionist occupation forces into Gaza. Just two days before, the U.S. Congress had approved over \$350 million in additional military aid to Israel. In the first half of 2014 alone, the U.S. has already supplied over \$3 billion to Israel.

In **ATLANTA**, chants of "Israel out of Gaza now!" echoed off the buildings as Palestinians and others protested in front of the Israeli Consulate on July 18. For the third week, the demonstrators took to the streets. The lead 40-foot banner in the colors of the Palestinian flag stated "Israel, Can You See Us Now" while other signage demanded "No U.S. funding for Israeli occupation" and "Self-determination for Palestine."

Hundreds demonstrated in front of Atlanta's CNN headquarters on July 5 and July 12 to decry the media's uncritical coverage of Israel's continued violations of international law and apartheid-like system in the occupied territories.

Palestinian and Arab women are playing a leading role in organizing the actions each week. Young people in general provide the energy and nonstop chanting. More actions are planned at CNN and the Israeli Consulate in the coming week.

In **MILWAUKEE** on July 19 some 500 people rallied in front of the Federal Building and then marched to the office of U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who just OK'd U.S. taxpayer funds for Israel. Demonstrators temporarily took the street,

SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF GAZA

but then mounted police pushed families and other protesters back onto the curb.

The crowd marched back along Wisconsin Avenue for a final rally at the federal building. Reflecting on the turnout of so many families with multiple generations present, Azmi Aladdin said, "My grandchildren will still be protesting years from now, but someday we will be free."

In downtown **RALEIGH, N.C.**, on July 19, hundreds of Palestinians, their families and supporters — including many youth and students — came out to denounce the U.S.-Israeli bombing and invasion. Demands included an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from Gaza and that the U.S. stop funding Zionist Israel.

IN TUCSON, ARIZ., about 50 people gathered in blazing heat on July 18 during evening rush hour to demand an end to the U.S.-funded Israeli assault. The demonstration brought together activists from Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, the International Action Center and other groups. Passersby and traffic responded with honks, raised fists and waves of support.

In **PHILADELPHIA**, for the second week in a row several hundred Palestinians and their supporters demonstrated July 18 outside the Israeli Consulate. The midday rally confronted a smaller pro-Israel demonstration across the street until finally taking over all four corners and blocking traffic. The rally ended with a march through Center City.

In **RHINEBECK, N.Y.**, a small town in the Hudson Valley, a half dozen people came to show solidarity with Gaza and were joined by another nine supporters, people who had been shopping at the nearby farmers' market. "Free Gaza" and "Stop the killings" were among the signs held.

Philadelphia



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

John Catalinotto, Garrett Dicembre, Fightbacknews.org, Sara Flounders, Diane Mathiowetz, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette and Paul Teitelbaum contributed to this article. WW managing editor, Kris Hamel, wrote the introduction to this round-up.



New York

WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS



Raleigh, N.C.

WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER



Rhinebeck, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN



GAZA Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediac. Here is the story of the most heroic resistance since 1948 to unrelenting Israeli oppression and violence designed to drive Palestinians from their homeland.

— Ramsey Clark

gazaresistancebook.com

Available from major online booksellers

Hamas' conditions for ceasefire

The Alternative Information Center describes itself as "an internationally oriented, progressive, joint Palestinian-Israeli activist organization, located in Beit Sahour and Jerusalem." As of July 20, a group of more than 200 Israelis had sent a letter to the European Council, European Commission and the European Parliament calling on the EU to pressure Israel to accept Hamas' terms of truce. And it had also gathered 725 Israeli signers as of July 21 on a Hebrew/Arabic online petition supporting Hamas' conditions as a basis for immediate and direct negotiations.

According to media reports, these conditions are:

- Withdrawal of Israeli tanks from the Gaza border.
- Freeing all the prisoners who were arrested after the killing of the three youths.
- Lifting the siege and opening the border crossings to commerce and people.
- Establishing an international seaport and airport, which would be under U.N. supervision.
- Increasing the permitted fishing zone to 10 kilometers.
- Internationalizing the Rafah Crossing and placing it under the supervision of the U.N. and some Arab nations.
- International forces on the borders.
- Easing conditions for permits to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque.
- Prohibition on Israeli interference in the reconciliation agreement.
- Re-establishing an industrial zone and improvements in further economic development in the Gaza Strip.

The AIC adds: "We are all appalled by the death and destruction in Gaza. Yet, this is not simply a tragedy; this is a policy. It can and it must be changed. It is in the power of political leaders and peaceful nations. We urge you to act immediately so that Israel ceases all violence against the people of Gaza, ends the siege and takes action toward a just peace."

For more information, see the AIC website at tinyurl.com/lgm6cys. □

We are all Gaza!

Continued from page 1

way — the impact of the Israeli army's murders. On July 21, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said: "We are deeply concerned about the consequences of Israel's appropriate and legitimate effort to defend itself." (aljazeera.com, July 21)

Kerry claims he is rushing to the Middle East to stop the fighting. In reality, he is rushing to the Middle East to try to impose a pro-imperialist cease fire on Hamas and the people of Gaza.

This is the goal of Israel's deliberate targeting of Palestinian civilians — to punish Palestinians in Gaza to such a degree to enable Israel to impose a ceasefire on its own terms, which includes further weakening Hamas' ability to govern, if not to outright remove Hamas from office.

Hamas has given its terms for a ceasefire, which includes Israel's lifting the blockade, opening the border with Israel and Egypt, and releasing Palestinian prisoners.

The U.S. and Israeli governments also want to end the unity agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

The "crime" of Gaza's people is that they elected Hamas to represent them in 2006. For this their homes, hospitals and mosques are now being bombed and their children killed.

Children killed in front of media

From July 8, the first day of bombing, civilians have been the targets. Whole families, a disabled center and ambulances have been deliberately hit. The impunity with which the Israeli government has killed noncombatants, including children, was made clear on July 17. On that day fire from an Israeli ship killed four Palestinian cousins, ages 9 to 11. These children were playing soccer on an empty beach right in front of the hotel housing the international media, so the murders were witnessed by many reporters.

The first shell killed one child, and the other three began to run. As they were running, there was a direct hit on them and the children were blown apart. (Democracy Now! July 17)

This occurred on a "completely empty beach except for the four children," who were "very, very clearly visible from a distance," said a reporter from France 24.

Pulitzer-Prize winning New York Times photographer Tyler Hicks explained on Democracy Now! that Israel has "a very sophisticated military and they can see what's going on, whether



Palestinian girls amid rubble in Gaza after Israeli air strike.

from a drone or a ship. They know what they are hitting. It's pretty hard in my opinion to mistake grown men, Hamas militants, for children no more than 4 feet high, wearing beach clothes, scattering from the initial explosion. ... especially given the 30-second window between the first explosion and the second that killed three of the boys ... the next 30 seconds should be enough to assess whether these are children or civilians or actual Hamas militants."

Civilians redefined as 'legitimate military targets'

It is further telling that the Israeli military's response was to call the deaths of the four children a "tragic outcome," not a "tragic mistake."

In fact, the Israeli military has invented a whole scenario for declaring Palestinian civilians "legitimate military targets." This includes a propaganda poster campaign on Twitter that claims that Hamas hides weapons in mosques, schools, hospitals and Palestinian homes, even under bomb shelters, thereby justifying their bombing. "The attempt is to transfer civilians into collateral damage, people who can be killed without violating international law," explained Nicola Perugini in his article, "On 'human shielding' in Gaza." (Al Jazeera, July 18)

Other Israeli military Twitter posters read, "Israel uses weapons to protect its civilians. Hamas uses civilians to protect its weapons. Hamas puts Palestinian civilians in the line of fire."

The reality is that this population of 1.7 million people is trapped in this 25-mile-long strip, with nowhere to go,

while it is bombed and shot by the fourth most powerful military in the world. As Israeli soldiers advance with air cover, Tel Aviv claims it warns people to leave. But where would they go? Israel and Egypt control the borders, and will not allow the population to leave Gaza, which is surrounded by concrete walls and fences.

And Israel, which claimed the ground invasion was to find and destroy tunnels dug by Hamas and the Palestinian resistance on the border in Eastern Gaza, now has its troops advancing in the West. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Palestinians are moving away from the borders and into an already-crowded Gaza City.

U.S. Senate vilifies Hamas, backs Israel

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent passed a resolution backing the Israeli invasion and "Israel as it defends itself." The Senate vote was on July 17, the same day the Israelis killed the four Palestinian children on the beach. The resolution, which vilifies Hamas, calls on Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to "dissolve the unity governing arrangement with Hamas and condemn the attacks on Israel."

Ironically, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the words that accurately describe the Obama, Kerry and U.S. Senate statements: "They laid the diplomatic foundation that has given us the international credit to operate." (New York Times, July 21)

Israel justifies its war crimes in Gaza by demonizing Hamas. But Palestinians on the West Bank, which is governed by the Palestinian Authority — which Isra-

el claims to prefer — fare little better than their relatives in Gaza. While Palestinians in Gaza face Israeli bombs and troops, Palestinians on the West Bank face the Israeli version of the Ku Klux Klan. Armed ultra-right settlers, many immigrants from the U.S., terrorize and murder the population there and serve as the advance guard for Tel Aviv's theft of Palestinian land. A group of the settler Israelis confessed to kidnapping and burning to death 16-year-old Muhammad Abu Khudair, a Palestinian teenager in Jerusalem.

U.S./Israel seek to obliterate Palestinian identity

U.S./Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people predate Hamas' 1987 founding. Every Palestinian leadership has been demonized and assaulted by Israel since it stole Palestinian land in 1948. Hamas' missiles and tunnels and the deaths of three Jewish Israelis in the West Bank are all pretexts for a long and carefully planned murderous assault.

The reality is that over the decades, Israeli attacks have been aimed at those who profess Palestinian identity. It is this very identity which Israel seeks to obliterate because the very existence of a people calling themselves Palestinian exposes as a lie Israel's claims of legitimacy for its settler state. This is why this war against Gaza is genocidal in character. This is why the bottom line of this assault — made possible by the U.S. — is ethnic cleansing.

The U.S. and Israeli governments may believe they can deal a decisive blow to the aspirations of the Arab people and tighten their hold on Middle Eastern oil by defeating the Palestinians. But this will not happen. The Palestinian people remain strong and defiant, as they have since their country was stolen in 1948. Their courage in the face of overwhelming odds has sparked demonstrations around the world in solidarity with Palestine.

Here in the U.S., we can show solidarity by cutting through the media distortions, exposing the real intentions of the U.S. and Israel, and increasing pressure on the Obama government to end all aid to Israel and get out of the Middle East.

We are all Gaza! □

Ukraine junta terrorizes civilians as U.S., media distort facts, blame rebels for plane tragedy

By Greg Butterfield

July 21 — A civilian passenger plane is rerouted over a war zone. The plane crashes mysteriously in rebel-held territory. Within hours, the rebels and an “enemy” government are blamed for deliberately downing the plane and killing everyone aboard.

Welcome to the Reichstag fire, 2014 edition.

In February 1933, fire engulfed the German Reichstag (parliament) in Berlin. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, appointed chancellor weeks before, blamed communists and the Soviet Union, based on the forced confession of a young immigrant.

The fire became a pretext for mass roundups and executions of communists, socialists and trade unionists. The Nazis staged a show trial of leftist leaders.

Today, we have the tragic crash of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 in the Donetsk People’s Republic, the deaths of nearly 300 passengers — and a rush to judgment by Washington, its European allies and the corporate media, though no investigation has been held and what evidence there is suggests a very different scenario.

The far-right junta in Kiev, Ukraine, immediately declared that rebel forces in Donetsk had shot down the plane on July 18 with weapons supplied by Russia.

Within a day, U.S. President Barack Obama joined the chorus, declaring that Russia and the rebels were guilty. Newspaper headlines shout condemnation, declaring Russian President Vladimir Putin “evil” and the anti-fascist uprising in southeast Ukraine his “thugs.”

The question which needs to be asked — and will not be asked by the big business media — is: Who stands to gain from this tragedy?

Who gains from plane tragedy?

The Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics and Russia had no motive to down a civilian aircraft flying over Ukraine.

On the contrary, this is a serious blow to their efforts to break through the information blockade of the U.S. and Europe, and to get a hearing from international bodies about the war crimes the Kiev regime is carrying out against civilians in southeast Ukraine.

Some progress had been made in that regard, through the hard work of anti-fascist activists like Sergei Kirichuk of Union Borotba (Struggle). Forced into exile by Kiev, Kirichuk has crisscrossed Europe, speaking to activists and left parlia-

mentarians, helping to inspire solidarity networks and raising the resistance perspective in the European Parliament.

The plane’s downing closely followed Putin’s successful Latin America tour — culminating in the BRICS summit, where Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa declared their intention to set up an alternative for developing countries to the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Further, just a day before Flight MH17 crashed, the Donetsk people’s militia set back the Ukrainian military’s campaign to encircle the capital city of Donetsk. Kiev’s forces had to retreat or face capture. (ITAR-TASS, July 17)

Similarly, the volunteer militia in neighboring Lugansk repelled Ukrainian army attempts to enter their capital twice in a single week, on July 13 and July 19.

Now these hard-fought victories are jeopardized in the tidal wave of hypocritical condemnation by Kiev and its Western backers.

Ukrainian President Peter Poroshenko, who heads a far-right regime of neo-liberal politicians, oligarchs and outright fascists, has already called for the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics to be declared “international terrorist organizations” following the crash.

Silence on war crimes in Donbass

While global media focus on the plane crash — casting blame without evidence — they have been silent about Kiev’s war crimes.

Kiev’s shelling killed 19 people and wounded 101 in the city of Lugansk and surrounding suburbs and villages July 16 through 18. Mortar and artillery struck homes, schools and medical facilities, as they have throughout the area of tactical operations, in scenes reminiscent of the Israeli siege of Gaza. Ukrainian Grad rockets destroyed the Lisichansk refinery and knocked out the city’s water system and electricity on July 18.

Independent journalist Harriet Salem, who spoke with the Red Cross in Lugansk on July 21, tweeted that they were trapped in a basement office under heavy shelling from the Ukrainian army. The Red Cross reported 44 people killed July 19-20.

Since the beginning of June, 250 civilians have been killed and 850 wounded in Lugansk, according to a report issued by the Special Monitoring Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on July 19, ex-

cluding civilians killed “in close vicinity of combat zones outside of the city and casualties among combatants.” (ITAR-TASS, July 19)

Why is Kiev blocking investigation?

Repeated pleas by the governments of Donetsk and Russia for a speedy international investigation of the crash site have been ignored. Although the site is overrun with journalists, after four days no international investigative team had arrived.

By July 21, after guarding the crash site for several days in preparation for the expected international delegation, the Donetsk militia was forced to gather up the human remains and put them in refrigerated train cars to stave off complete decomposition. (RNS)

“Several dozen experts are currently in Kiev,” Donetsk Prime Minister Aleksander Borodai declared July 19. “Can they please come here faster? We are surprised and frankly angered that we have to keep the area untouched while we are waiting for them so long.” (RT.com, July 20)

Yet the headlines of U.S. media blare that the Donetsk rebels are obstructing the investigation.

Could the delay be because the evidence so far, though not definitive, suggests the Ukrainian military’s possible responsibility for the plane’s destruction?

Kiev and Washington charge, with no evidence, that militia attacked the airliner with a Russian-supplied Buk ground-to-air missile system. The rebels are only known to possess one Buk battery, captured from the Ukrainian military. Military experts doubt that the militia has the additional equipment necessary to operate it, much less successfully target a plane at 33,000 feet.

Journalist Robert Parry — awarded the George Polk Award for National Reporting in 1984 — asked: “What did U.S. surveillance satellite imagery show? It’s hard to believe that, with the attention that U.S. intelligence has concentrated on eastern Ukraine for the past half year, that the alleged truck of several large Buk anti-aircraft systems from Russia to Ukraine and then back to Russia didn’t show up somewhere.” (CommonDreams.org)

Ukraine, however, does have an operational Buk system, which eyewitness reports — and a U.S. intelligence source cited by Parry — placed in the region on July 17.

On July 21, the Russian military released radar data and satellite photos

indicating that a Ukrainian SU-25 fighter jet tailed the airliner. Kiev must explain why a military fighter was tracking a civilian flight, the Russian Defense Ministry said. (RT.com)

“The key, one undisputed fact we have is that the Ukrainian authorities changed the flight path of MH17 on July 17 and moved it more than 200 miles north — right into a war zone and the very space where Kiev was carrying out, that very day and during that critical moment, combat missions with its air force,” notes political and military analyst Vladimir Suchan.

Washington has a history of using such tactics to escalate a war fever. Consider the 1983 crisis over the shooting down of Korean Airlines flight 007, deliberately rerouted in violation of Soviet airspace to gather intelligence on Soviet air defenses. The Ronald Reagan administration used this incident to bolster its arms buildup against the USSR.

U.S. escalates war danger

Only Kiev and Washington stand to gain from the Malaysian Airline tragedy, using it to further demonize their enemies.

If the airliner was downed by the Donetsk militia — and there is no evidence to suggest they did, or even had the capability — then it was a tragic mistake, not deliberate.

Mistakes do happen in war. The Donetsk militia is composed of volunteers, mostly workers with limited or no prior military experience. Even armed liberation movements with many years of experience have made deadly errors.

While what actually happened is important, what’s most critical is to fight against Washington and Kiev’s propaganda drumbeat. U.S. big business parties and their Ukraine clients are using the tragedy to isolate and terrorize Donbass’ people and prepare steps against Russia.

The breakup of Russia, the incorporation of its skilled workforce, technology and natural resources into the imperialist orbit, and its elimination as a potential rival has been Washington’s long-term strategy since the fall of the Soviet Union. But the introduction of a pro-NATO, Nazi-dominated regime on Russia’s border is a leap forward for them.

Whoever shot down MH17, the U.S., the EU and the right-wing junta in Ukraine are responsible for the ongoing war crimes in Donbass — and for jeopardizing a civilian airliner. □

Fidel Castro on Ukraine and Gaza

Fidel Castro writes a regular column for Granma. The Havana newspaper is named for the ship that in 1956 carried the revolutionary leader and his band of courageous young fighters to Cuba to launch an armed struggle that liberated the island from the bloody dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and his U.S. backers. Below is his commentary of July 18.

This morning the cables were full of reports about the unheard-of news that a Malaysia Airlines passenger plane had been hit at an altitude of 10,100 meters as it flew over Ukrainian territory, along a route controlled by the war-hungry government of chocolate king Petro Poroshenko.

Cuba, which has always stood in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and in

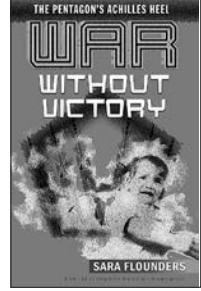
the difficult days of the Chernobyl tragedy provided medical care to the many children affected by the accident’s harmful radiation, and is always willing to continue doing so, cannot refrain from expressing our repudiation of the action of the anti-Russian, anti-Ukrainian and pro-imperialist government.

At the same time, coinciding with the Malaysian aircraft crime, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the nuclear state, ordered his army to invade the Gaza Strip, where, over the last several days, hundreds of Palestinians have died, many of them children. The president of the United States supported the action, describing the repugnant act as legitimate defense.

Obama does not support David against Goliath, but rather Goliath against David. As is known, young men and women from the Israeli people, well prepared for productive work, are being exposed to a death without honor, without glory. I am not aware of the Palestinians’ military strategy, but I know that a combatant prepared to die can defend even the ruins of a building, as long as he has his rifle, as the heroic defenders of Stalingrad demonstrated.

I only wish to express my solidarity with the heroic people who defend the last sliver remaining of what was their homeland for thousands of years.

— Fidel Castro Ruiz



WAR Without Victory

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

— Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government

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WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Malaysian airline crash: U.S./EU to blame

The world is shocked and dismayed that in the midst of a civil war in Ukraine, provoked by United States and European Union imperialism, 298 people have died in the crash of a Malaysian airliner on July 18 in the war area.

We at WW have no special information at this time — July 19 — about why the plane crashed. We know that Russia has no motive, and it has control of its military. We know that the Ukrainian military is poorly organized and subject to pressure from the murderous fascist forces that have been integrated into the state directed from Kiev; we know that neoconservative elements from the U.S. have strong influence in Washington's policy in Ukraine and its aggressive hostility toward Russia.

We also believe that the popular resistance forces in southeast Ukraine do not control weapons capable of shooting down a plane flying at that altitude, nor do they have any interest in shooting down a civilian airliner from Malaysia. Only U.S. and EU imperialism can gain and are trying to gain by exploiting the incident and using it against Russia.

President Barack Obama has already blamed Russia, saying that the cause of the shootdown was the war situation in Ukraine and claiming Russia caused that war.

We disagree completely with Obama's statement that Russian foreign policy is responsible for the war in Ukraine.

On the contrary, it is the aggressive policy of U.S. and EU imperialism that has created a war situation in Ukraine. The U.S. and the EU supported a coup in February that brought to power in Kiev a regime dedicated to bringing Ukraine under the influence of the International Monetary Fund and subjecting the Ukrainian workers to austerity — as has already been done in Greece, Spain and Portugal — and attaching Ukraine to NATO.

To carry out this coup the pro-West Ukrainian oligarchy has leaned on the support of openly pro-fascist forces, such as the Right Sector, who don't even shy away from identifying with the Nazi occupiers of Ukraine during World War II.

For the people of Ukraine, and especially the workers of the southeast, such a coup in Kiev could only raise resistance — a righteous and heroic, anti-fascist resistance based on the history of resistance to the Nazi occupation. The aggression from Kiev — which now includes the bombing of cities in the southeast, killing civilians and forcing tens of thousands to flee to Russia — makes such a civil war inevitable.

If the plane crash was actually a by-product of the civil war, it was not Russian foreign policy, but U.S./NATO imperialism — that set up a regime in Kiev filled with fascist sympathizers and forced the people of the southeast Ukraine to resist — that is responsible.

Stop the U.S./EU intervention in Ukraine! Long live the resistance! □

er economic and civil rights.

Fighting the right wing to pass the ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted by Congress and signed into law in 1990. It is a civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. The ADA defines disability as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities." (ada.gov, section 12102)

The act gives similar protections against discrimination against people with disabilities as did the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex and national origin illegal.

The right wing attacked this law even before it was passed. Outright bigots, such as North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms, tried to stop the momentum for passage of the ADA. They whipped up a frenzy and fear around people with AIDS, who are protected by the ADA — some might be working in food service. So Helms and others tried to add to the ADA draconian restrictions on food service workers that were unscientific about sanitation or what illnesses could be contracted from food handlers. But activists organized to fight back — and stopped this.

The ADA represented significant gains. But it is important to remember that, like any other piece of legislation, it reflects the strength of the class struggle at that time. The right wing was able to whittle away at some of the ADA's important provisions, and gutted much of Title 1 of the law, which prohibited discrimination in employment.

WW commentary

Microsoft announces massive layoffs

By Chris Fry

Microsoft founder Bill Gates established the Gates Foundation, a supposedly "nonprofit" enterprise that describes its mission this way online:

"We live in a globally connected, information saturated world. To thrive, our students need to learn in and out of school, in person and online, together and independently. Students need learning experiences that meet them where they are, engage them deeply, let them progress at a pace that meets their individual needs, and helps them master the skills for today and tomorrow." (tinyurl.com/k7l5pyr)

Not mentioned is that many companies linked to this enterprise reap huge profits selling exams, textbooks and other educational materials to schools. Also not mentioned is that jobs in high technology are increasingly hard to find.

Microsoft acquired Finland-based, high-tech Nokia Corp. last April. Finland boasts the best-rated education system in the world. Finnish students rate at the top of the list in categories of reading, math and science, according to the Huffington Post in 2012.

Despite all that, with a highly trained, superbly educated global workforce, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella announced on July 17 that 18,000 of its workers are going to be laid off, nearly 15 percent of its total work force. Operations in Oulu, Finland, as well as in San Diego; Dongguan and Beijing, China; and Komarom, Hungary, will be shedding workers immediately and over the next six months. Layoffs will also happen at Microsoft's home city of Redmond, Wash.

These layoffs involve both software developers and hardware production workers.

Two-thirds of the workers Microsoft is laying off have been employed by its newly acquired subsidiary, Nokia, a manufacturer of mobile phones. Many are cheaper, and less profitable, than the newer "smartphones," hand-held devices that add computer capabilities to a mobile phone. At this point, the market for low-end mobiles is glutted, while Androids and iPhones are still finding plenty of buyers, especially in the wealthier countries.

In Marxist terms, there is "overproduction" of these phones and so Microsoft is doing what capitalists do: walking away from the workers whose exploitation has provided them with profits that they will now invest elsewhere to make even more money.

Microsoft is trying to get a larger share of the high-end, more profitable market with its own Windows smartphones. One such phone is the Nokia Lumia. But whether any of the workers laid off from Nokia's other divisions will be rehired to produce the Windows Phone is dubious.

In his book, "Capitalism at a Dead End: Job Destruction, Overproduction and Crisis in the High-Tech Era," Fred Goldstein quotes Martin Ford, owner of a software company on page 84: "While today jobs that require low and moderately skilled workers are being computerized, tomorrow it will be jobs performed by highly skilled and educated workers."

The ADA was won by fierce and protracted struggle by people with disabilities and their supporters. As with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the struggle now is to protect its gains, get it fully implemented and expand its scope. □

Indeed, this is already happening among information technology professionals, where jobs that once required college degrees are simply vanishing into the computer network."

On page 86, Goldstein quotes Karl Marx from the "Communist Manifesto": "Modern bourgeois society, with its relations of production, of exchange and of property, a society that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and of exchange, is like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells."

On the same page, Goldstein describes "the menacing and uncontrolled development of the profit system, described by Marx 160 years ago, in a deliberate race by the capitalists, large and small, to beat each other out by shedding workers."

What do the massive Microsoft layoffs tell to the millions of students and graduates saddled with huge education debt while they remain unemployed or working at starvation wage jobs?

What does it tell to the millions of oppressed Black and Latino/a youth facing huge obstacles even to obtain a quality education, much less a decent-paying job?

It tells them, and all the rest of us, that the computer technology revolution continues to unfold, and now is the time for a social revolution, one that will harness that technology to meet the needs of the world's population, not to fill the coffers of the vulture corporations and banks that destroy our livelihoods and rob our children of their future.

For more on Fred Goldstein's book go to: www.LowWageCapitalism.com

Disability rights

Continued from page 2

\$10,000 a year; no insurance companies would cover them. ACT UP waged a successful direct action campaign aimed at Burroughs Wellcome (now GlaxoSmithKline), AZT's manufacturer, demanding that the company stop its profit-gouging and lower the price — to keep people alive.

"We demand solidarity, not charity"

During the 1990s, there was much organizing to confront the nauseating media portrayals of people with disabilities. There had been mobilizing against those perceptions a long time before then, but during that decade, this issue got more visibility.

One focus was the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, held every Labor Day to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The telethon highlighted children with leg braces and crutches, called "Jerry's Kids."

In 1991, people calling themselves "Jerry's Orphans" organized picket lines in Chicago outside media outlets that showed the telethons. They exposed them as media spectacles, which presented the bourgeois view of charity, instead of solidarity. The class view of charity means those with more financial means toss a few pennies or crumbs to people far below them, ones whom they deem as "worthy." If they don't see them as "worthy," they don't toss any crumbs at them.

These telethons were targeted because they presented people with disabilities as needing pity and charity — rather than accessible public transportation, housing, employment opportunities, and oth-

Forum on Disability Rights in the Age of Austerity

Saturday, AUG. 2, at 1 p.m.

1199 SEIU Healthcare, 150 Mt. Vernon St.
300, 2nd fl. Boston, Mass.

A commemoration of people with disabilities, whose collective struggle on July 26, 1990, won the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We choose to hold our forum in Boston to mark the 40th anniversary of the largest civil rights demonstration to take place since the 1963 March on Washington. In 1974, buses carrying African-American children to schools in South Boston and other white neighborhoods were stoned. A picture was flashed around the world of a Haitian man being dragged off a porch by a racist mob. But 20,000 people said "no" to racism and segregation in Boston on Dec. 14, 1974.

The disability liberation movement was inspired by the civil rights and liberation movements of people of color, women and LGBTQ people. We have a long way to go. Fighting for access to public accommodations, demanding at least a \$15 an hour minimum wage for everyone, including people with disabilities, and taking on struggle after struggle has won some, but not enough victories. While the banks get bailed out, the unending cutbacks imposed upon working people challenge us in many ways.

Join us at our first Boston People's Power Assembly. Sponsored by the People's Power Assembly and the International Action Center. Email zackysdad@comcast.net or call 617-276-2365. □

WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA



By John Catalinotto

Often the corporate media use the term "international community" to give weight to an opinion that is really the opinion of a handful of imperialist heads of state — from the U.S., its major NATO allies and Japan. Since the Israeli assault on Gaza began, the real international community is coming out into the streets, sometimes defying police violence, to show its solidarity with Gaza and Palestine and protest.

These protests and their acceptance by many others in their regions showed the growing support for the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel, and growing solidarity with Palestine.

Thousands came out in **Istanbul, Turkey**, at 1:30 a.m. on July 18 to besiege the Israeli Consulate, facing water cannons wielded by police. Pro-Palestinian activists waving Turkish and Palestinian flags chanted, "Hail to the resistance from Istanbul to Gaza!" "Murderer Israel, get out of Palestine!" and "Strike, strike, Hamas! Strike against Israel!" (Russia Today, July 18) Another demonstration in **Ankara**, the capital, attacked the Israeli Embassy, fighting with police to do it.

The French government took the extraordinary step of outlawing pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Despite threats of prison and fines, organizers estimate that up to 10,000 people attended a rally in central **Paris**. In the city's northern suburb of **Sarcelles**, young demonstrators erupted in rebellion against the ban to show solidarity with Gaza. Police arrested 38 for their alleged participation in the protest. (RT, July 20)

On July 18, the Filipino mass movement organized a solidarity protest as a reaction to the Israeli attacks on Gaza. Even though the country is paralyzed after being hit by Typhoon Glenda, the movement managed to gather about 200 people, including trade unionists; health workers; international delegates from the U.S., south Korea, Cambodia and Belgium; human rights activists; and religious groups. During a short rally in the Mendiola area of **Manila, Philippines**, the speakers not only targeted the Israeli government but also underlined the role of the U.S.

Mass demonstrations took place July 17 in **Mumbai, Ahmedabad** and other Indian cities and in **Srinagar**, in Indian-ruled



Kashmir. People held protests outside the Israeli embassies in **Seoul, south Korea**, and **Beijing, China**. Thousands also demonstrated in **Indonesia's** capital, **Jakarta**, on July 18.

Demonstrations were held in **Cape Town, Johannesburg** and **Durban** in **South Africa**; in **Cairo, Egypt**; in **Rabat, Morocco**; and in **Tunis, Tunisia**, denouncing the Israeli assault and saying, as they did in Tunis, "We are all Gaza!" (Al-Jazeera, July 19)

In Europe, besides in France, mass demonstrations were held in **Athens, Greece**; **Belgrade, Yugoslavia**; **Vienna, Austria**; **Berlin** and **Frankfurt, Germany**; **Copenhagen, Denmark**; and **Stockholm, Malmo** and six other cities in **Sweden**, and then on July 19 at the Israeli Embassy in **Stockholm**. Mike Powers writes WW that with the corporate media trying to stir up anger for sanctions against Russia, lots of people in Stockholm are wondering, "What about sanctions against Israel?"

There were also demonstrations in **Brussels, Belgium**, and in cities all across the **Spanish state**, as we reported last week in Workers World. One of the biggest of the European demonstrations took place in **London, England**, where, according to the Huffington Post, some 15,000 people marched on July 19 in a march that gathered people from all over the island. There were also demonstrations in **Dublin, Ireland**.

Just as in the U.S., there were demonstrations to the north from **Montreal** in **Quebec** to **Vancouver, B.C., Canada**. In **Australia**, there were pro-Gaza demonstrations in **Perth, Canberra** and **Melbourne** on July 19 and in **Sydney, Brisbane** and **Adelaide** on July 20. More than 1,000 people held a similar protest in **Auckland, New Zealand**.

While the Israeli state still has the full backing of the major imperialist oppressors — the so-called international community — its war crimes in Gaza are diminishing the number of people who might previously have been misled. The organization "Jews Against Genocide," which includes Israeli Jews, held demonstrations in **Jerusalem** and **Tel Aviv** and before Israeli embassies and consulates in **Madrid, San Francisco**, Stockholm and Copenhagen — with more scheduled. They set aflame dolls covered in red paint before the Holocaust memorial museum on July 12.

Another people displaced by a settler-state, the Diné (called Navajo) people, held a protest in **Window Rock** on the Diné Reservation in Arizona on July 17 against "the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian region of Gaza and Navajo President Ben Shelly's partnership with the state of Israel outside the Navajo Council Chambers." (Navajo Times) □



Jakarta, Indonesia



Athens, Greece



Jordan



India



London, England

FRANCE

Thousands defy ban on pro-Palestinian protests

According to the French newspaper Le Monde, on July 19 between 6,000 and 8,000 people showed up at a banned demonstration in Paris to support the Palestinian resistance in Gaza. Their main slogan was "Israel is an assassin, Hollande is an accomplice." (Reuters, July 19) Demonstrations, likewise officially banned, also took place in Sarcelles, a small city north of Paris, and Nice in southern France and in a number of other cities where they weren't banned.

The previous Sunday, July 13, a pro-Palestinian march of 30,000 in Paris was brutally attacked by the Jewish Defense League. Minister of the Interior Bernard Cazeneuve used this attack as an excuse to claim the projected demonstration was "a threat to public order" and supported the decision of the prefect of police, the official in charge of the cops in Paris, to ban it.

Speaking from the former French colony of Niger, French President François Hollande said: "France cannot allow conflict to be imported. It cannot have demonstrations which confront each other, risking public disorder." (Libération, July 19)

A number of protesters told the semi-official television chain TV2 that the people of France have the democratic right to protest and march. Street protests and marches are a very important and normal part of French political life.



Both Libération and l'Humanité media outlets ran live tweets of the protest as it took off so it is possible to reconstruct what happened.

When the CRS [French national] riot police blocked the protest from marching, some of the protesters threw rocks and bottles, and the cops responded with tear gas and stun grenades. The cops used so much gas that the polluted air made it hard to breathe.

As the confrontations with the cops were becoming sharper and more intense, most of the families and left-wing political leaders left the march. The only party to officially call for the march on July 19 was the New Anti-capitalist Party, but leaders from most of the left parties were present.

Along with some Israeli flags, some cop cars and some other official vans were burned by the protesters. Libération reported 44 arrests and 17 cops injured.

— G. Dunkel

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Vol. 56, Núm. 29 24 de julio de 2014

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BIENVENIDA A
REFUGIADAS/OS

MO/WW FOTO: JOE RIEDE



Editorial

15 de julio de 2014

¡Apoyemos a Gaza!

Cuando la opresión hace de la vida un infierno para quienes la sufren, no puede haber ningún fin a su resistencia, cueste lo que cueste.

Esto es lo que el estado colonizador israelita y sus promotores imperialistas, especialmente la clase dominante de EUA, no tomaron en cuenta al tratar de apalear y oprimir al pueblo de Gaza hasta que éste no pudo más.

Pero millones de personas alrededor del mundo reconocen lo que está pasando en Palestina — cuyo mismo nombre es negado por el estado colonial de Israel. Sus corazones están con el pueblo de Gaza, que lo está sacrificando todo antes que someterse al implacable bombardeo por Israel.

Ellos saben que el dinero y las armas proporcionadas por el Pentágono han dado lugar a una lucha increíblemente unilateral. Para el 14 de julio, unas/os 172 palestinos habían sido matados por los ataques aéreos israelíes, 140 de ellos civiles. Una bomba mató a 18 miembros de una misma familia. Resultaron heridos miles más. Ni un israelí había muerto. [Nota editorial: Hoy, 22 de julio, la cifra de muertes palestinas ha alcanzado 530]

Sin embargo, la población de Gaza rehusa rendirse — demostrando una vez más su enorme solidaridad y valentía.

EUA e Israel habían hecho todo lo posible por desacreditar y desarmar a la organización militante Hamas, pero el pueblo de Gaza respondió a principios del 2006 con la elección de Hamas para dirigir el territorio.

Este último asalto israelí viene después del colapso de las muy promocionadas conversaciones entre Israel y la Autoridad Palestina, con la mediación del gobierno de Obama para supuestamente efectuar un “acuerdo de paz”, pero que no ofrece nada nuevo. Hamas y la Autoridad Palestina anunciaron el 2 de junio que habían formado un gobierno de unidad nacional abarcando a Gaza y Cisjordania.

En menos de 10 días, los ataques israelíes contra el pueblo palestino habían comenzado — usando como pretexto el asesinato de tres adolescentes israelíes. Aún se desconoce quién cometió ese crimen, pero mientras tanto, veintenas de adolescentes palestinos han sido asesinados por las bombas israelíes y uno fue linchado por vigilantes derechistas sionistas.

En ediciones de Workers World Mundo Obrero hemos informado sobre algunos de los actos de solidaridad con Gaza que se organizaron en EUA y alrededor del mundo. También publicamos un mensaje urgente de 17 organizaciones en Gaza, que esboza sus demandas de poner fin a la opresión que han sufrido bajo el gobierno israelí.

¡Ahora es el momento de actuar! ¡Viva Palestina! □

Desafiando racistas, grupo da bienvenida a refugiadas/os

Por Gloria Rubac
Houston

Cuando jóvenes activistas de Houston descubrieron que un grupo racista anti-inmigrante llamado Alto al Imán iba a estar de nuevo en un puente peatonal sobre una autopista de mucho tráfico, formaron el Comité de Bienvenida de Mujeres y Niñas/os.

Llegamos a las 6 am del día siguiente, una hora antes de que aparecieran ellas/os, y tomamos los mejores lugares para que el tráfico pudiera ver nuestras pancartas llenas de colorido para darle la bienvenida a cualquier menor de edad que llegara a Houston sin acompañamiento.

Dos racistas llegaron a las 7 am con una bandera negra de 20 pies de largo que decía solamente: DEPOR-

Tribunal de Quiebras aborda cortes de agua en Detroit

Por la Oficina WW/MO Detroit

El espectáculo de circo del Tribunal de Quiebras de Estados Unidos en el proceso de bancarrota municipal de Detroit tomó un giro inesperado el 15 de julio cuando la activista de la Coalición iMoratoria Ahora! (CMA) Kris Hamel, quien también es una de las editoras de WW/MO, le dijo al juez que él debía imponer una moratoria sobre los cierres masivos de agua y aliviar el sufrimiento de las/os residentes más pobres.

La audiencia era para las/os objetores del “plan de ajuste” del administrador de emergencia (AE) de la ciudad que esboza profundos recortes en las obligaciones de salud y pensiones a las/os jubilados de la ciudad y el “reintegro” de los fondos de renta vitalicia de las/os trabajadores con el fin de pagar la supuesta deuda de la ciudad a los bancos.

De las más de 600 objeciones que fueron presentadas por las/os trabajadores, residentes y jubilados, se escogieron 100 objetoras/es para comparecer ante la audiencia y se les dio cinco minutos a cada una/o para dirigirse al juez Steven Rhodes. Como el plan de austeridad es esencialmente un hecho consumado según el AE y los medios de comunicación corporativos, muchas/os objetores no se molestaron en aparecer. Pero varias docenas testificaron mientras más de 100 espectadores observaban desde otro salón.

Testimonios conmovedores y desgarradores fueron presentados por las/os jubilados, sobre todo sobre el alto costo de su atención médica. Una paciente de cáncer dijo faltar a sus citas por el alto costo del copago, mientras que otro dijo que sus costos de atención de la salud han subido de \$152 a más de \$1.000 al mes, desde que los recortes draconianos en la atención médica entraron en vigor en marzo. Andrea Egypt organizadora de la CMA y trabajadora de la ciudad, también se dirigió al tribunal, diciendo que la situación en Detroit “es paralela a las medidas de austeridad impuestas a los trabajadores públicos en Grecia por el oficialismo, los bancos y las corporaciones”.

Cortes masivos de agua “vergüenza internacional”

Pero fue cuando Hamel subió al podio, que por primera vez los cortes de agua fueron llevados al caso de bancarrota.

“El Detroit Free Press informó que la oficina de [AE] Orr llamó los cortes de agua, ‘parte necesaria de la reestructuración de Detroit’. Hamel continuó diciendo que la agenda real es hacer al departamento de agua más atractivo a la privatización para las empresas rompe sindicatos como Veolia, conocida mundialmente por sus crímenes contra la humanidad, especialmente contra Palestina.

“Mientras a los habitantes más pobres de Detroit se les ha cortado el agua por deber \$150, a JPMorgan Chase, UBS, Loop Financial y Morgan Stanley se les pagó \$537 millones en cargos por cancelación de los intercambios

de intereses de los mil millones de dólares en bonos emitidos del 2010 - 2013. Estos bonos estaban destinados a financiar las reparaciones de la infraestructura, no para llenar los bolsillos de estos bancos. Mientras Orr ha cortado el suministro de agua a los pobres y aumentado las tarifas de agua, no ha dado un paso para recuperar este regalo a los bancos”.

Hamel desafió al tribunal: “Como usted ha declarado anteriormente, Juez Rhodes, la responsabilidad es de usted en estos procedimientos de quiebra. Depende de usted que se detenga la vergüenza nacional e internacional y el desastre humanitario de los cortes masivos de agua en Detroit. Usted debe prohibir inmediatamente estos cortes mediante una moratoria y ordenar a Orr que implemente un plan de accesibilidad real de agua para las/os habitantes más pobres.

“Y queda de usted ordenar a Orr y a sus compinches que paren de ayudar a los bancos que Jones Day lista como sus clientes y recuperen los \$537 millones pagados a los bancos en bonos de agua destinados al pueblo. Chase y UBS tienen un historial de fraude criminal con intercambios como estos en todo EUA.

Enjuiciemos a los bancos, no a los pobres, ya que en Detroit, la ciudad más devastada por años de fraude bancario y préstamos abusivos racistas, el pueblo está pagando a los bancos en lugar de ser al revés. Esto no es equitativo.

Cortes de agua: problema que afecta esta quiebra

El público aplaudió el testimonio y Rhodes exigió a la abogada de Jones Day que considere los cortes de agua. Su falta de conocimiento fue inmediatamente evidente y el juez le ordenó que trajera a la sesión de la tarde a un representante de la ciudad que pudiera hablar de la crisis y la forma en que la ciudad la está solucionando.

En la sesión de la tarde, Darryl Latimer, asistente director del departamento de agua, se presentó y fue interrogado severamente por el Juez. Pronto quedó claro que la ciudad no tiene un programa para facturas retirasadas de agua y que se necesita pagar un 30 por ciento para comenzar el “plan de pagos” que ofrece la ciudad.

“Su programa de cortes ha provocado no solo mucha rabia en la ciudad sino también muchas dificultades” dijo Rhodes, añadiendo, “Ha causado publicidad negativa para la ciudad que no necesita en estos momentos”. El juez advirtió a Latimer que los cierres de agua son “un problema que afecta esta quiebra” y que la ciudad “tiene que hacer mucho, mucho mejor” en avisar a las/os residentes de las opciones de planes de pago y de cierres inminentes.

“Si su informe es exacto”, le dijo a Latimer, “parece que se necesitan esfuerzos para ayudar a las/os residentes mantener sus servicios. Es un problema solucionable. El Sr. Orr tiene que hacer un plan mucho más agresivo para resolver ese problema”. □

TAR. Cuando fue informada la policía que los polos de la bandera estaban en violación de una ordenanza de la ciudad, el grupo pasó los siguientes 30 minutos desmantelando los polos. Helicópteros de la policía, del tráfico y de los medios de comunicación estaban sobrevolando.

Alrededor de las 8 am, llegaron más racistas y alzaron otra bandera con la consigna: “Los extranjeros ilegales están matando el futuro de América”.

Alrededor de las 9 am, oímos que racistas armados estaban en camino. Solo dos llegaron, portando armas grandes, pero era un poco intimidante porque al mismo tiempo, la gran cantidad de policías que habían estado allí durante horas parecía desaparecer. Irónicamente, uno de los hombres que llevaban armas llevaba una falda escocesa, por lo que era probable que él o su familia

fueran inmigrantes de Escocia. Sin embargo, llevaba un cartel que decía “Aseguremos nuestra frontera”.

La mayor parte de la mañana sobre pasamos en número a las personas contra inmigrantes y recibimos mucha atención debido a nuestros carteles.

El día antes, los ayuntamientos de Galveston y League City, ambos al sur de Houston, habían aprobado resoluciones rehusando las directivas federales para procesar y alojar a inmigrantes indocumentadas/os.

La demografía de Texas está cambiando y el estado ahora tiene una mayoría de personas de color, latinas/os y afro-americanas/os que en conjunto constituyen más del 50 por ciento de la población del estado. Puede ser que estos racistas fanáticos estén respirando su último aliento, ya que no solo están desinformados, sino que están siendo superados en número. □