



PHOTO ALAN ROTH
 Protesting student massacre, Mexico City, Oct. 8. See page 8.

Nat'l convergence in St. Louis, Ferguson

People resist police terror

By **Monica Moorehead**
 St. Louis

An unprecedented weekend of mass resistance took place in St. Louis, Ferguson, Clayton and other parts of Missouri on Oct. 10-13. Many actions demanded an end to police terror and for real justice for Michael Brown, John Crawford III, Vonderrit Myers Jr. and countless others who have lost their young lives at the hands of the police.

Initiated by local activists united under the theme of Ferguson October, the extremely organized, creative, disciplined and inspiring actions — some planned, some spontaneous — reminded Missouri, the U.S. and the world that the police murder of 18-year-old African-American Michael Brown on Aug. 9 will continue to be a major catalyst for building a national movement against police abuse and occupation.

The four days of resistance included marches, rallies, civil disobedience, forums, picket lines, assemblies and cultural events that erupted throughout St. Louis County. One of the first protests took place Oct. 10 in Clayton at the office of Robert McCullough, the county district attorney. McCullough comes from a cop family and is currently conducting the grand jury investigation to



Continued on page 6
 Justice for All march, St. Louis, Oct. 11. Read more on pages 6-7.

Ebola & failure of for-profit medical care

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

Oct. 13 — With the death of Thomas Eric Duncan in the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas on Oct. 8, the political dynamics of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak have taken on wider dimensions.

Nina Pham, a nurse who was providing care for Duncan, has tested positive for the virus and is being treated in Dallas. Hospital officials say she was wearing protective gear while working with the deceased victim.

Relatives of Duncan say he was not given proper attention at the hospital, which turned him away on Sept. 25. When he was finally admitted three days later, his health had deteriorated to the point where he was placed on breathing and dialysis machines.

The case of the Dallas nurse represents the first known transmission of EVD in the United States. In Spain, a nurse was reported in critical condition after treating a priest flown from Liberia to Madrid for hospitalization. He later died.

The Texas hospital has been defensive in responding to criticism surrounding Duncan's care. Public pressure

forced the facility to release Duncan's medical records. Based on information provided by the Associated Press, Duncan should never have been refused admission to the hospital on Sept. 25, particularly after informing personnel that he had recently travelled from Liberia, the center of the deadliest outbreak of Ebola since it was first recognized in 1976.

Impact of spreading outbreak

According to the World Health Organization, over 4,000 people have died from EVD since March. Most fatalities have occurred in three West African states: Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Conakry. WHO reports that 8,400 have fallen ill with EVD over the last seven months.

Data on other cases are based on projections from health care departments and hospitals in the West Africa region. It is safe to say that tens of thousands more in this region could be infected if the outbreak is not halted. And millions have already been impacted socially and economically.

Reduced growth rates are anticipated in the three most impacted states. Mining, tourism and transportation are already showing substantial revenue losses.

Strikes demand safety measures and protocols

Workers are demanding action from their bosses in private industry and government. Labor organizations representing health care workers and service employees have spoken out forcefully against what they see as a lack of concern for those on the frontlines of the fight against EVD. Burial workers are insisting they be given the information and protective gear needed to safely dispose of victims.

Liberia has been the hardest hit in the EVD outbreak, with more than 2,300 deaths reported. On Oct. 13, Liberian nurses threatened to strike, demanding protective gear and more pay for working in hazardous conditions. The Health Workers Association, representing 10,000 employees, of whom 1,000 provide services in Ebola wards, accused the Liberian government of intimidating workers to make them return to their jobs. (Associated Press, Oct. 13)

The government in Monrovia said a strike would further hamper the health care system's capacity to provide treatment for patients. Many people have been turned

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Seattle protesters tell Biden: 'No more war!'

Demonstrators in Seattle protested the wars against Iraq and Syria when Joe Biden visited the city on Oct. 9. The U.S. vice president was speaking at a Democratic Party fundraiser at the Washington State Convention Center. Biden was also targeted for past U.S. crimes of war, occupation, sanctions, genocide and ecocide against both countries. The demonstration was sponsored by the International Action Center and endorsed by Seattle Answer.

— Jim McMahan



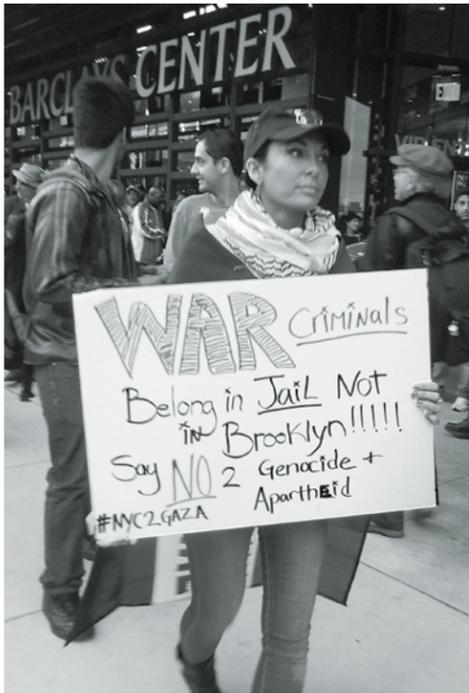
PHOTO: JACK SMITH

Slam dunk for Palestine

Protesters, including many from the Jewish community, voiced support for Palestine outside Brooklyn's Barclays Center on Oct. 7, when the Israeli basketball team Maccabi Tel Aviv was there to challenge the Brooklyn Nets.

Previously, on Aug. 11, a large multinational force of people had protested Zionism at the same venue because its namesake, Barclays Bank, profits from arms sales to Israel. These forces returned on Oct. 7 to chant to those attending the evening game, "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has got to go!" and "Palestine — slam dunk! Stop the occupation!"

Fliers distributed by activists with Jewish Voice for Peace explained their protest stating that "a basketball game should not be used as a context for paying tribute to an army and soldiers who have been involved in war crimes." The flier also quoted former National



Basketball Association player Etan Thomas: "It sends the wrong message, especially coming off the heels of the slaughter of more than 2,000 Palestinians last month. Friends of IDF, at their VIP celebration at the Barclays Center prior to the game, will 'honor' twelve wounded soldiers from the recent Gaza conflict. Are they also going to honor the hundreds of innocent Palestinian civilians — mostly women and children — who were massacred?"

Later there was a struggle when Palestinian flags were raised at the game — and so many cheers when the Brooklyn Nets beat the Israeli team!

— Report and photo by Anne Pruden

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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

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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 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:

workers.org/wwp

National Office
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@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

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

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
312.229.0161
chicago@workers.org

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

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

Huntington, W. Va.
huntingtonww@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
619.692.0355
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

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

Philadelphia's public education nightmare

By Scott Williams
Philadelphia

All five unelected members of the School Reform Commission voted to cancel the School District of Philadelphia's contract with the more than 15,000 teachers, nurses, librarians, counselors and other members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers. This Oct. 6 vote was a sneak attack at a virtually unannounced meeting.

The SRC's immediate pretext was to save approximately 1.4 percent of the budget by forcing teachers to pay for their own health care. This effectively cut district teacher pay by \$43.8 million. The PFT contract's cancellation, however, was about more than saving pennies on the dollar. It also furthered corporate "education reform," including busting unions, limiting democracy and privatizing public education.

Racism, austerity and no democracy

The PFT's contract expired last summer. Because the SRC's starting offer cut teacher pay 15 percent and trampled workers' rights, 21 months of negotiation went nowhere. Following already heavy cutbacks that included 5,000 district staff layoffs, closed 23 schools in 2013 and ended seniority rules for hiring and firing, one might expect drastic actions by PFT's teachers.

But Pennsylvania law makes the PFT the only union without the legal protection to strike. In 2000, after the district's attempt to privatize the entire district and the PFT voted to strike, the legislature passed this anti-union law. This same law also created the five-person unelected SRC. The law has been untested since it was passed in 2001, so how officials will enforce it to stop a strike re-

mains unclear.

Now the SRC oversees all 300 public schools in Philadelphia. Eighty-six of these are charter schools, operated by private management groups that notably lack public accountability even though charters get much more per-pupil funding than traditional public schools.

Some 85 percent of all students in Philadelphia's school district are people of color, and 87 percent are classified "economically disadvantaged." Denying Philadelphia communities any control over their school district thus amounts to a racist attack on poor people's democratic rights. This is just like in Detroit, where the 80-percent African-American city suffered severe budget cuts under emergency manager Kevyn Orr.

In Philadelphia, the SRC has been working methodically to destroy public education. The Boston Consulting Group, formerly led by Mitt Romney, designed the SRC plan. This plan originally called for closing over 64 public schools, laying off thousands of teachers and other support staff, and outsourcing over 4,000 unionized jobs.

The BCG, a notorious outsourcing firm worth billions, was earlier brought in to bust unions at Chrysler, General Motors and school districts such as New Orleans, which now has no traditional public schools.

The SRC has strong connections to the Philadelphia School Partnership, a strong pro-privatization group whose board of directors includes corporate executives from Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse and connections with other banks.

In 2012, the SRC lobbied to have the unilateral right to impose any contract terms on the teachers and support staff of the schools. This effort failed.

Earlier in 2014, over 40,000 people in



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia students walked out of classrooms in May 2013 to protest the proposed elimination of all extracurricular programs in the city's public schools. Thousands of students from 27 high schools and middle schools took to the streets, chanting, "No ifs, no buts, no education cuts" and "No education, no life."

Philadelphia signed a petition for a referendum on whether to abolish the SRC. Should this referendum pass, however, it will not be legally binding.

Wall Street banks robbed Philly schools

In 2003, Wall Street banks lobbied for Pennsylvania and other governments to allow municipalities and school districts to agree to "debt swap" agreements. Since the Federal Reserve began lowering interest rates in 2003, these agreements kept school districts and local governments locked into fixed interest rates much higher than current market rates.

In 2002, investigative reporters discovered that this was part of a series of scams big banks have carried out since 1991. This one became known as the LIBOR scandal. It transferred billions of dollars from public treasuries to the coffers of Wall Street bankers.

As a result, the Philadelphia School District paid \$276.4 million in 2014-2015 or 9 percent of its yearly budget just to pay interest to these same banks that had received trillion-dollar bailouts from taxpayer money earlier.

The city of Philadelphia has already attempted to sue to get back some of this money stolen from students and

teachers. The SRC could do this too or just stop paying the banks, leaving enough money to avoid all budget cuts. But the pro-big-business SRC members have ignored these possibilities for months now.

The way forward: united struggle

With no pay raises for two years, which is an effective pay cut of \$2,862 the first year and \$5,725 for the second year (Working Educators blog), each teacher has lost \$8,587. For the over 13,000 teachers that's an estimated total pay cut of \$110 million. Meanwhile, fewer teachers and support staff mean bigger classes and more work. In some schools only teachers are available to clean bathrooms.

So how could the PFT stop this? Like other public sector unions, the PFT needs community support. The PFT's Caucus of Working Educators (WE) aims to connect rank-and-file unionists with parents and the community. Inspired by the 2012 Chicago public schools strike, WE is looking for ways to galvanize public support for public education and connect the struggle of students, teachers and support staff to the broader challenges facing the working class in a period of austerity.

Students have been a strong pillar of support for teachers. Two days after the district cancelled the contract, students at three high schools walked out. In the past three years, major walkouts have brought out thousands of students to fight for a quality public education.

No politician can guarantee the future of public education. Only students, teachers, parents and the community united in a struggle against the SRC, the corporate reformers and the banks will guarantee the human right to education for all students in Philadelphia.

Matty Starrdust contributed to this article.



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On the Picket Line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Atlantic City casino workers protest health care rollbacks

As many as 700 UNITE-HERE Local 54 casino workers at Trump Taj Mahal blocked off the Atlantic City Expressway, chanting “No health care, no peace!” on Oct. 8. The workers were protesting attempts by Trump Entertainment Resorts, which owns the Taj Mahal, to roll back workers’ hard-won pension plans and health insurance benefits. The casino, which filed for bankruptcy in September, has threatened to close down Nov. 13 unless the union agrees to massive concessions and unless city and state governments provide bailouts in the form of tax breaks and subsidies. The protest blocked traffic on the expressway and caused massive gridlock during the late afternoon rush hour. More than two dozen workers were arrested.

“We’re sitting down to stand up for our health care coverage,” said Charles Baker, a cook at the Taj Mahal since it opened in 1990. “We fought too long and too hard for this coverage to give it up. Most of our members are 45 or older, and this is the time in our lives when we need health care coverage the most.” (cnsphilly.com, Oct. 8)

Alabama Mercedes-Benz workers form union

As of Oct. 3, hourly workers at Daimler Auto Group’s Mercedes-Benz plant in Tuscaloosa, Ala., can sign membership cards to join United Auto Workers Local 112. The newly formed local announced plans to provide paths to permanent employment for the plant’s more than 1,000 temporary workers, as well as to improve working conditions in the factory. A key point for the UAW is that the Alabama plant is the only Daimler auto factory without worker representation in the company’s global works council. UAW President Dennis Williams noted that the UAW already represents nearly 7,000 workers at other Daimler plants in the U.S.

The UAW’s efforts to unionize the Mercedes-Benz plant are similar to its strategy at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., where Local 42 was established in July. The UAW will not work toward a union election at the plant. Rather, it will get a majority of the workers to sign membership cards, which Daimler will then have to recognize. (Reuters, Oct. 3)

Adjunct instructors at U.S. colleges join unions

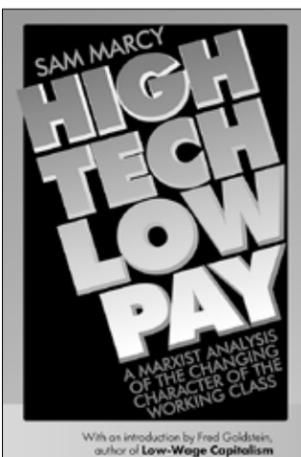
Adjunct professors at California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Oakland are the latest in a long series of adjunct teaching staff to unionize as part of the Service Employees’ Adjunct Action campaign. Adjunct instructors at Vermont’s Champlain and Burlington colleges filed to join SEIU on Oct. 3; they will soon vote on union representation. SEIU now represents more than 21,000 adjunct teachers across the U.S.

Adjuncts, who work part-time or on a temporary basis, comprise the majority of teaching faculty in U.S. colleges and universities. Despite logging the majority of teaching hours, adjuncts are typically denied tenure and benefits and are subject to high job insecurity. Median pay for adjuncts, according to a 2012-13 report by the American Association of University Professors, was about \$2,700 per three-credit course. SEIU Adjunct Action aims to organize workers to fight for better working conditions — and learning conditions — in colleges and universities across the country. (Inside Higher Ed, Oct. 6; Adjunct Action, Oct. 3)

Women restaurant workers report high level of sexual harassment

A new study conducted by the nonprofit Restaurant Opportunities Centers United and Forward Together, “The Glass Floor: Sexual Harassment in the Restaurant Industry,” reveals that of the 11 million people who work as tipped employees in restaurants, women experience sexual harassment at alarmingly high levels. They account for the single largest source of sexual-harassment charges filed by women with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission — a rate five times higher than that in the general female workforce. Two-thirds of women surveyed reported harassment from management, and more than 80 percent reported harassment from customers and co-workers. Transgender restaurant workers experience sexual harassment as much as three times more than other restaurant workers. (rocunited.org, Oct. 7)

Although the federal minimum wage for most jobs is \$7.25 an hour, the special category for “tipped wage” workers remains, since 1991, at \$2.13 per hour for restaurant workers. Customer tipping is supposed to make up the majority of the workers’ income. Wait staffs are routinely forced to suffer in silence, for fear that reporting sexual harassment will result in retaliation from both customers and management. (msnbc.com, Oct. 7) Women’s rights activists and restaurant workers are rallying at New York’s City Hall on Oct. 14 to demand an end to sexual harassment of women restaurant workers. □



High Tech, Low Pay
A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein, author of *Low Wage Capitalism* and *Capitalism at a Dead End/El Capitalismo et un Callejón sin Salida*



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

Books are available online and at stores around the country.

Another protest hits Staples



Cindy Heyward, American Postal Workers Union Philadelphia local recording secretary, led chants.

A Staples store in Center City, Philadelphia, was picketed Oct. 7 by members of the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. The postal workers and community groups were picketing as part of a national campaign to boycott the office supply store because of its refusal to stop turning its store counters into quasi-post offices. They were joined by members of the Communications Workers of America, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, the American Federation of Government Workers and other unions.

On Oct. 10, APWU President Mark

Dimondstein called for the resignation of Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe, saying he is on “a rampage to cut, cut, cut” and has no plan to save the United States Postal Service, which shed 37,400 jobs in 2013 alone and is projected to eliminate approximately 169,000 jobs by 2022. (Politico, Oct. 10)

The replacement of postal clerks earning living-wage jobs with Staples clerks earning poverty wages is privatization and an attack on all union workers and community activists fighting for the right to wages and benefits adequate for a decent standard of living.

— Story and photo by Joe Piette



Herman Ferguson (right) protests for Mumia Abu-Jamal’s freedom Harlem, N.Y., 2008.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Herman Ferguson, iPresente!

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

His name was Herman Ferguson, and if you’re not dialed into the Black Nationalist Movement, the name may not ring a bell of recognition.

But to those aware of the Black Power Movement of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, Herman Ferguson’s life, role and commitment ring like a bell in the night.

For Ferguson — often accompanied by his wife and comrade, Iyaluua Nehanda — joined Black groups that supported the fight for freedom. He joined several, but perhaps few had more historical significance than his joining of both the groups formed by Malcolm X after his painful break from the Nation of Islam: the Organization of African American Unity and the Muslim Mosque, Inc. He met Malcolm in the late 1950s, when he was still in the Nation, and became a staunch supporter thereafter.

In 1967, he and fellow members of the Jamaica Rifle and Pistol Club [in Queens, N.Y.], were arrested and charged with the planned assassination of two prominent Civil Rights leaders. After a conviction a year later, Ferguson fled the U.S., and he and his wife began a life in Guyana [three years later], working in the field of education.

They stayed there for 19 years and lived good lives. Ferguson could have retired with a government pension under his assumed name, “Paul Adams,” for he spent many years as an officer of the

Guyana Defense Force.

But the call of home only got louder with time.

Ferguson said he missed his “family,” his “childhood friends” and “the Movement.”

His wife, Iyaluua, said, “I don’t think people really understand the nature of exile.” She explained, “Exile is death.”

So, Herman Ferguson and his wife returned to the U.S., where he knew a jail cell awaited him. But he did so, in part, because the weather had changed, in that the release of top-secret Cointelpro files revealed FBI skullduggery against Black and anti-war activists. Also, several prominent Black Panther figures [like the late Black Panther Party minister of information, Eldridge Cleaver] and the Weathermen [a white anti-imperialist group] had returned to the States.

He did three years, got out and hit the ground running, working on behalf of other imprisoned revolutionaries by organizing, speaking out and building support for such efforts. He and his wife gave deep and broad support to the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, headquartered in New York.

For over 50 years he fought for the same ideas and principles that Malcolm supported: Black Nationalism, popular self-defense and Black self-determination.

Now, after 93 years of life, Baba Herman Ferguson has returned to the ancestors. □

Jeralynn Blueford: 'The community is grieving'

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Two and a half years after the death of her son by the gun of Oakland Police Department officer Miguel Masso, Jeralynn Blueford and Adam Blueford are still struggling to make sense of this tragedy and find justice for their son, Alan Blueford. Workers World sat with Jeralynn Blueford on Oct. 7 to hear her views on the anti-police brutality struggle and how she has found her role in it.

Together with Mollie Costello, Blueford has developed the Alan Blueford Center for Justice (ABC4J), which she describes as "a place to help heal the community." Located near downtown Oakland on Telegraph Avenue, she described ABC4J: "We do a lot of different outreach. It's a meeting space for activities around issues such as mass incarceration. Every first Friday, we open our doors to the public to share art exhibits, photos. We have live music — it's all conscious awareness rap music and singing. In May, on the second anniversary of Alan's death, we did the 'Use Your Heels to Heal Celebration' walk around Lake Merritt, and for his birthday last year we did 'Feed the People.'"

Blueford described: "I know I can't get Alan back, but the pain that I experience is still very deep and hurts a lot. The only time I feel better is when I'm helping people. To keep Alan who he was, still alive. He was a servant of people, working in his high school with disabled youth."

Blueford told how she was "inspired by Sabrina Fulton, Trayvon [Martin]'s



WW PHOTO BRENDA RYAN

Mollie Costello, left, and Jeralynn Blueford demand justice on the Poor Peoples March in May 2013.

mother, at the 'Circle of Mothers' event organized in May by Fulton. It was a weekend of women empowering women to transform change in their communities." Blueford said she was inspired by seeing mothers come together. "Although we were grieving, we were able to unite and share and love one another. It empowered me to want to do more."

WW: Is this how you conceived of your upcoming 'Helping Hearts to Heal Conference'?

Jeralynn Blueford: Yes, we came up with the idea to have a panel of mothers to share experiences of what we lost, to come up with questions we need answers to and see what solutions are put forward. The purpose of the conference is to reclaim our power as mothers, families, as a community, to transform change. We have to make our community better. ...

There's no hope in our communities. I remember the hopelessness I felt among the youth, when handing out flyers in Fruitvale. They already know about the police, who take oaths to protect and

serve, but their actions and mindset are to shoot to kill. They don't question people anymore, they come out with their guns blazing.

'A long, long fight ahead'

WW: Is the conference just for mothers?

JB: The conference is open to all to allow grieving and develop unity as we've all suffered losses. The community is grieving. The conference will focus on education, inspiration and celebrating the lives of lost loved ones. The sessions will include a mothers' panel; discussion on the law and suing for police reports; and a celebration for the announcement of the Alan Blueford Foundation.

The mothers' panel will include Dinial New, who lost two sons, ages 13 and 19, in January; Wanda Johnson, Oscar Grant's mother; Krystal Brow from Florida, who lost her husband; Rosemary Duenez, mother of Ernest Duenez Jr.; and Val Greenoak, mother of Jessie Hamilton.

WW: How have the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, affected you?

JB: What went on in Ferguson made me relive everything that happened to my Alan. As I looked into Mike Brown's mother's eyes, I saw a reflection of myself. I know she has a long, long fight ahead. She'll need strong faith and a strong support system, and a belief in the healing part, because you need all that to fight. I plan on going there. ... I've sent my love and prayers for her and her family, but the real struggle happens when everyone stops coming, news stops reporting. That's when I plan to go and meet with her, share some of my experiences and be of any kind of help that I could possibly be to her.

I made a pledge at the mothers' conference: 'This is my story. I cannot change my story. My job is to stand on my story, not in my story.' What I thought my life would be and what's happened are totally different. Alan was always proud of me. Whatever I do from here on, it is really imperative that I make him proud. I feel like I'm healing. I was filled with sadness and grief and anger. I'm trying not to remember the tragedy, but remember the life!

The 'Helping Hearts to Heal Conference' is on **Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The \$10 registration includes lunch. It will be held at the Center of Hope Community Church at 8411 MacArthur Blvd., in Oakland.

Later, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the 'Love Not Blood Campaign' is holding a related event, the 'Cost of Injustice — from Ferguson, Florida, Georgia, Chicago to Oakland,' at the Eastside Arts Alliance, 2277 International Blvd., in Oakland. □

State tries to silence Mumia

By Betsey Piette

More often than not, college commencement speakers are corporate CEOs, bankers or politicians. Yet, on Oct. 5, graduates of Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt., had the rare opportunity to be addressed by a speaker of their choosing: Mumia Abu-Jamal, a school alum and world-renowned political prisoner.

Dr. Herukhuti (H. Sharif Williams), co-chair of the Undergraduate Programs Institutional Review Board, explained that Abu-Jamal, "a member of the millions of people incarcerated in the U.S.," completed his degree while sitting on death row and "represents something incredibly important in the context of our commencement ceremony."

"The fact that Mumia is a polarizing figure does not make our choice of him as a commencement speaker problematic. ... [T]hat we still live in a society in which we cannot engage in thoughtful discussion about what makes him polarizing without people resorting to death threats, hyperbole, smear campaigns and naked opportunism is what is problematic."

This was not Abu-Jamal's first college commencement speech. In 1999, he addressed graduates of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., and he was commencement speaker at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 2000 — despite being held in solitary confinement on death row.

However, the Fraternal Order of Police denounced Goddard's decision and protested in Philadelphia during the graduation. Nevertheless, graduates, their families and faculty stood their ground and heard Abu-Jamal's prerecorded video

address. (prisonradio.org)

Pennsylvania Corrections Secretary John Wetzel acknowledged that prisoners have a constitutional right to phone access and admitted that the state could not prohibit the speech from happening. However, on Oct. 6, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, along with other right-wing politicians, district attorneys and FOP members gathered in Harrisburg, the state capital, to introduce legislation designed to silence Abu-Jamal and other prisoners.

Their "victims' rights bill" would give judges the power to grant "injunctive relief" to "prevent those convicted of violent crimes from causing their victims 'mental anguish.'" It would allow individuals who object to what is being said to initiate a gag order against individual prisoners.

Bill would restrict free speech

Andrew Hoover, legislative director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, responded that the bill could restrict free speech rights of all prisoners, even after release. Hoover noted, "The legislature doesn't have the power to punish speech it doesn't like." (Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 7)

Abu-Jamal is an internationally celebrated, award-winning African-American radio journalist and author of eight books and hundreds of columns and articles written while imprisoned. He is a former Black Panther Party member and one-time president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists.

Prior to his incarceration, Abu-Jamal's writings and commentaries challenged Philadelphia's attacks on the MOVE organization and exposed the Philadelphia Police Department's racism, brutality

and corruption. He helped to lay the foundation for Philadelphia being one of the two cities whose police departments were indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice for brutality and corruption.

That Abu-Jamal was a thorn in the

side of the administration of then Mayor Frank Rizzo, previously head of the Philadelphia Police Department, is seen by many as the basis for his 1981 frame-up and conviction for the murder of a white

Continued on page 10

False alarm

'Heresy is another word for freedom of thought.'

— Graham Greene

The "Great Pretenders" are at it again with their "the sky is falling" routine. Both the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police and key members of the Pennsylvania State Legislature are sounding a false alarm against Mumia Abu-Jamal, using the boy-who-cried-wolf syndrome to generate support because the world-renowned freedom fighter and journalist accepted an invitation on Oct. 5 to address the graduating class of Goddard College in Vermont by telephone! Mumia is a Goddard graduate.

Graduating students like Kevin Price and his classmates made the courageous decision to invite Abu-Jamal to make the address, which had the college administration's approval. Goddard has a well-earned academic and intellectual tradition of encouraging students to think for themselves.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and state Rep. Mike Vereb are now leading the charge for enactment of a law that would seek to ban Abu-Jamal from future communications of this type.

Having failed, miserably, in totally

dissuading the world court of public opinion to abandon the belief in Abu-Jamal's innocence, the FOP continues to work hand in glove with some of Pennsylvania's top lawmakers in maintaining the lie about this gallant journalist and freedom fighter's guilt.

Forensic evidence that scientifically points to Abu-Jamal's innocence in the murder of former police officer Daniel Faulkner has been bluntly suppressed for more than three decades! Brother Abu-Jamal's "only" crime is his refusal to be subdued and the endurance of his expansive political beliefs and philosophy in defiance of more than 30 years of false imprisonment. He remains an uncompromising symbol of righteous resistance!

The arguments against Abu-Jamal are sheer fakes and must continue to be strongly rejected at every turn! The struggle to free this extraordinary human being will not rest until that is done.

History fights at the side of Mumia and has, long-ago, absolved him!

Henry Hagins

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC)

Letter to WW

ST. LOUISIS, FERGUSON, MILWAUKEE

PEO



Wearing glasses, center, Leslie McSpadden, Michael Brown's mother, leads Ferguson march.



Oct. 11 rally, St. Louis.

WW PHOTOS: MONICA MOOREHEAD

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determine whether police officer Darren Wilson will be indicted for Brown's murder. Brown's family and their supporters have been demanding that McCullough recuse himself from this investigation — due to his well-documented bias against Black people — and be replaced by an independent special prosecutor.

One of the culminating activities that occurred on Oct. 13 was the dramatic unfurling of a banner in the stands during the pro-football game between the St. Louis Rams and the San Francisco 49ers. The banner read: "Rams fans know that Black lives matter on and off the field."

"Black lives matter," "No justice, no peace," "Stop killing our people" and "Arrest Darren Wilson" were major demands for many of the protests. The largest mass action took place on Oct. 11 when 3,000 people took to the streets of St. Louis in a Justice for All march. Delegations representing labor, youth and students, community groups and the political movement all came together with a common sentiment: Enough is enough, as the racist war against youth of color worsens. The march ended in a park in front of the famous St. Louis Gateway Arch, which ironically is the exact site where at one time kidnapped Africans were sold during slave auctions.

Speakers, many of them young and African American, stated that they have spent more time in jail for protesting than Darren Wilson has for killing Brown. Links were made between police brutality and the need for union jobs and decent education for young people.

Solidarity between the Palestinian people in Israeli-occupied territories and Black communities being occupied by police was echoed by several speak-

ers. It was publicly acknowledged that #FergusonOctober was the most retweeted site in the world that day, numbering over 91,000 tweets.

The families representing Brown and Myers thanked the marchers for their support.

John Crawford was fatally shot at a Walmart store outside Dayton, Ohio, on Aug. 5. A student activist from Ohio stated to cheers that in response to the grand jury not indicting the cop who fatally shot Crawford, the Beavercreek Police Station was recently shut down by activists. On Oct. 13, three Walmart stores were shut down in St. Louis and Ferguson by activists chanting, "I am John Crawford/We are John Crawford." The action, mobilized by the Organization for Black Struggle, resulted in arrests inside and outside the stores.

Ferguson march led by Brown family

Just hours after the march in St. Louis, an estimated 1,000 people gathered in Ferguson for a brief vigil at a memorial set up at the exact place where Michael Brown had been gunned down in the Canfield Gardens apartment complex. Brown's mother, Leslie McSpadden, and other family members helped lead a militant march down West Florissant Avenue, a flashpoint for the Aug. 10 uprising, to the Ferguson Police Department located on South Florissant Road.

As we were marching in the streets, a multitude of drivers honked, their fists outside their car windows, to express solidarity. Residents came out of their houses to give the "Hands up, don't shoot" salute, which has become a clarion call for this struggle.

The protesters were met by armed police blocking the entrance to their for-

ress. But no amount of force could intimidate the marchers from getting right in the faces of the majority-white police force, chanting "Arrest Darren Wilson!" and "Hands up, don't shoot!" We then sat in the street for several minutes in an act of civil disobedience.

Following the march, hundreds of the same protesters went back to St. Louis to express their outrage at the killing of 18-year-old Vonderrit Myers Jr. by an off-duty police officer on Oct. 8. Myers was shot at 17 times and was hit at least six times. Countering the account by the police that Myers had a gun, eyewitnesses say he had just bought a turkey sandwich. The protest ended at the Quik Trip gas station in The Grove section. When an estimated 50 protesters held a sit-in there, they were attacked with pepper spray and other forms of violence by the police. At least 10 people were arrested.

Moral Monday Oct. 13: 'No business as usual'

Progressive clergy and faith-based people started day-long actions of civil disobedience on Oct. 13 in the tradition of Moral Monday protests that took place in North Carolina. There, hundreds were arrested over the past year challenging the ultra-right-wing, racist, anti-worker policies of the state government.

In addition to the shutdown of the three Walmart stores, 400 people marched from a local church to the Ferguson Police Department, where 10 people, mainly clergy, were arrested. Individuals took turns lying down on a symbolic chalked outline of Brown's body. The police allowed his body to remain in the street for at least four hours after the murder on Aug. 9.

Participants from Missourians Organization for Reform and Empowerment and Fer-

guson October protested outside a fundraiser for Steve Stenger, the County Executive candidate known for close ties to supporters of Darren Wilson and DA McCulloch.

Despite a downpour, a coalition of labor and community members were arrested after blocking the street in front of Emerson Electric. This Fortune 500 company, based in St. Louis, had revenues of \$24.6 billion in 2013, while the average per capita income in Ferguson last year was \$21,000.

"We are calling attention to the economic injustice we live with in Ferguson," said Jermaine Arms of Show Me \$15. "Justice for Mike Brown means justice for all of us. This should be a moment where we all take responsibility for the conditions that his death exposed. Businesses and corporations based in Ferguson and St. Louis should promote fair employment and contribute to the well-being of our community."

Millennial Activists United, a youth group, occupied two floors of Plaza Frontenac, an upscale shopping center in downtown St. Louis, where they engaged in a call-and-response choir demanding justice for Michael Brown.

Brittany Ferrell, a spokesperson for MAU, stated: "Young people are being killed by police in the streets of Ferguson. We came here today because we cannot continue with business as usual in the face of such injustice. Whether it's the elected officials of our cities, the local police or places like Plaza Frontenac — we will continue to sound the alarm and demand justice for the family of Mike Brown. This needs to stop."

Youth Activists United protested at St. Louis City Hall to demand that Mayor Francis Slay, the Board of Aldermen and Police Chief Sam Dotson make sweeping police reforms. Protesters were arrested attempting to unfurl banners from a balcony.

Youth Activists United are demanding:

Body cameras must be worn by ALL police officers who have any interaction with the public; a civilian review board be chosen by the citizens, not by mayoral/police-approved appointees; removal of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from the 1033 Program, a federal law that allows for the militarization of local police; and independent investigations of all police shootings resulting in fatalities, starting with Vonderrit Myers.

All quotes can be found at fergusonoctober.org, where summaries and video clips of many of the activities are also located.



At Ferguson police station.



Oct. 11 rally, St. Louis.

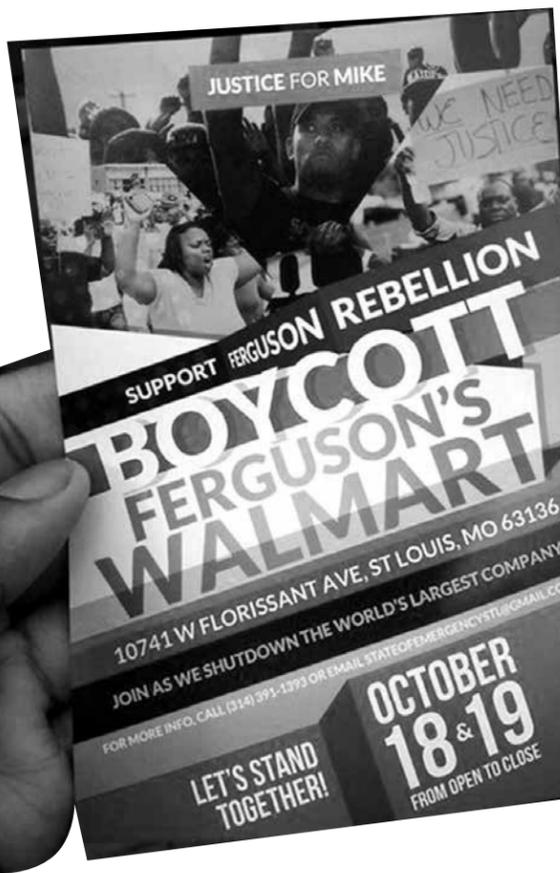
WW PHOTOS: MONICA MOOREHEAD

PEOPLE RESIST POLICE TERROR



Community and labor united on Oct. 11 march, St. Louis.

WW PHOTOS: SHARON BLACK



Dream Defenders traveled from Florida to Ferguson.

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Protesters: 'Charge killer cop!'

By Workers World Staff

Protests continue in Milwaukee to demand justice for Dontre Hamilton, a 31-year-old African-American man shot 14 times and killed by police officer Christopher Manney on April 30. After five months and repeated protests by the Hamilton family, their attorney and community supporters, Manney has still not been charged with any crime by Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm.

On Oct. 10, the Coalition for Justice sponsored another rally and march beginning at Red Arrow Park, the location where Hamilton was killed by Manney. Protesters demanded DA Chisholm charge Manney with at least homicide. The coalition sponsored a call-in day to Chisholm's office Oct. 6, and is asking supporters of justice to continue contacting the DA's office: call 414-278-4646 and/or email da.milwaukee@da.wi.gov.

For more information and updates about the struggle for justice for Dontre Hamilton and other victims of police terror, go to facebook.com/justicefordontre and www.wibailoutpeople.org. □



Milwaukee protest, Oct. 10.

JOE BRUSKY PHOTOGRAPHY

Bolivia, with its people, moves forward

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

It was the most amazing act to avenge the 1492 criminal invasion of the Americas by Christopher Columbus. That Oct. 12 landing led to the decimation and genocide of Indigenous nations and the colonization of millions of people. This Oct. 12, more than five centuries later, the country with the largest percentage of Native people in the hemisphere affirmed its rightful place in history.

On this Day of Indigenous Resistance, which Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez officially instituted in 2005, Evo Morales, the first Indigenous president of the plurinational state of Bolivia, won for the third consecutive time the highest government post.

All day there was a festive atmosphere. Except for emergency vehicles, traffic is forbidden to circulate on election day, turning the streets into gathering places for families, full of music, food and young people playing soccer.

Washington's role in Mexican massacres

By Deirdre Griswold

On Oct. 2, 1968, just 10 days before the opening of the Summer Olympics, held that year in Mexico City, police and soldiers gunned down students gathered in a plaza in the Tlatelolco section of the capital. Students said up to 400 were killed; the government admitted to only 30. No official accounting has ever been made.

This year, scores of students in the Mexican town of Iguala who were preparing for a commemoration of the Tlatelolco Massacre met a similar fate. The media say that on the night of Sept. 26-27, police and drug cartel assassins attacked the students, killing at least six and abducting 43 others.

Since then, mass graves have been discovered with the charred and mutilated bodies of many of the missing. The search for more is ongoing.

This horrendous atrocity, while not given the coverage it deserves, is being reported on in the U.S. media, but merely as a reflection of the corruption and brutality of Mexican officials and the drug lords. Period. No mention is made at all of the role the United States has played in both corrupting and impoverishing Mexico.

But this is exactly what people in the U.S. need to know, because the Mexican people need our solidarity in their struggle to gain justice and true sovereignty.

First of all, the brutality of the U.S. government in relation to Mexico is never mentioned. But the U.S. had a big hand in the attack on the students that produced the Tlatelolco Massacre.

In 1968 there was widespread anger everywhere at both the U.S. war in Southeast Asia and the rampant racism at home. Washington was expecting demonstrations during the Olympic Games. To its dismay, U.S. athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos gave the Black Power salute from the podium as they received their medals.

The U.S. government had been in touch with Mexican authorities for months before the games. Much later, in 2003, the National Security Archive in Washington published documents from the CIA,

People started gathering early in Plaza Murillo of La Paz, waiting in front of the presidential house, celebrating with music, chants and fireworks. They knew, even before the Electoral Tribunal's formal announcement, that victory was certain. Predictions showed Morales would win with an approximately 40-point lead over his nearest opponent, right-wing neoliberal Samuel Doria Molina of the Democratic Unity party.

Doria Molina had been the chief of the Economic Bureau from 1991 to 1993 under President Jaime Paz Zamora, both of whom were responsible for the implementation of disastrous privatizing policies.

With most votes counted, the Electoral Tribunal announced soon after 8 p.m. that "Evo," as he is popularly called, had won with more than 60 percent of the vote, making a second electoral round unnecessary.

Shortly after the announcement, Evo addressed the crowd from a balcony with a short but eloquent speech. He thanked

the Pentagon, the State Department, the FBI and the White House, all of which revealed the enormous pressure put on Mexico to prevent any anti-U.S. protests during the games.

Six days before the massacre, both President Luis Echeverría and his security chief assured Washington that "the situation will be under complete control shortly." ("Latin America's Cold War," Hal Brand, Harvard University Press) The hands that pulled the triggers may have been Mexican, but the "do whatever is necessary" orders came from the U.S.

NAFTA and rural poverty

Since those days, Mexico's trajectory has been even more tragic. The U.S.-imposed NAFTA — the so-called North American Free Trade Agreement — which went into force on Jan. 1, 1994, totally undermined the rural people who had put food on the table and earned a little cash by farming. Cheap U.S. corn flooded Mexico, making agribusiness giants very happy but forcing many Mexican families off the land and into the emigration pipeline, where they risked arrest and even death crossing the border.

This destruction of Mexico's rural economy is what has fueled the rise of the drug cartels, whose market and connections are both in the U.S.

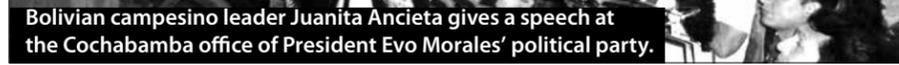
Mexican politicians have good reason to fear their powerful neighbor to the north. The Pentagon at the end of 2008 issued a report warning of Mexico's imminent "sudden collapse" and threatening that "any descent by Mexico into chaos would demand an American response based on the serious implications for homeland security alone." (El Paso Times, Jan. 13, 2009)

So, while creating the economic conditions for the rise of the drug lords, the U.S. imperialists then use their existence as a pretext for possible military intervention if things don't go their way.

Mexican students are not just victims. They are politically conscious leaders in the struggle against imperialism. They deserve all the support and solidarity we can give them. □



In his victory speech in La Paz, Morales dedicated his victory to Fidel Castro and the late Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez.



Bolivian campesino leader Juanita Ancieta gives a speech at the Cochabamba office of President Evo Morales' political party.

the people and the social movements, including the Bolivian Workers' Central (COB), for this "peoples' victory," dedicating it to Fidel Castro and Hugo Chávez and to all the peoples and governments fighting against capitalism and imperialism.

The Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), the party of Morales and Vice President Álvaro Linera, had won in eight of the nine departments in Bolivia. Only in Beni, part of the famous "Half Moon" that has been the stronghold of the right-wing opposition, did the opponent win, with 49 percent of the votes compared to 43 percent for the MAS.

It was the first time that the MAS won in Santa Cruz department, site of many confrontations with the rightist opposition in the past.

Morales reminded people that two opposing programs had competed for leadership. His nationalization program defeated Molina's privatization plan. Morales also discussed the feeling of freedom from U.S. imperialism brought about by the sovereign decisions to end collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and to stop U.S. interference by expelling its ambassador for intervening in Bolivia's affairs. His speech was interrupted many times by people chanting "Evo! Evo! Evo!"

The people governing

That simple chant confirms the correct direction of Morales' government, as he said towards the end: "We govern by obeying the people." How true. Bolivia now is an example of how to integrate popular movements into the government and, therefore, into the decisions that will move the country forward.

His government is a block of Indigenous people, peasants, workers and other peoples' movements. The Indigenous people are 62 percent of Bolivia's population, who for the first time are making decisions on how the country is run. They are not merely being represented.

Afro Bolivians for the first time have representation and voice. Women and youth have exercised their power. There is even a new youth formation, "the Evo Generation," who are youth supporting the process and pushing it forward.

The recognition of many sectors has

been enormous under Evo. Prisoners exercise their right to vote in prison and even help organize the procedure. Bolivians living abroad in 33 different countries for the first time were able to vote for president and vice president.

Advances under Evo

The living standards have increased due to many social programs. Morales initiated the "National Development Plan for a Bolivia with Dignity and Sovereignty, Productive and Democratic, to Live Well under the Democratic and Cultural Revolution." (Telesur, Oct. 13)

In the 10 years with Morales as president, Bolivia has turned around from the poorest country in South America into what even the World Bank confirms is the country with the first or second largest economic growth in Latin America. During the last eight years, there has been an average of 5 percent growth per year in gross national product. Meanwhile, international reserves have grown from \$1.7 billion in 2005 to \$15.4 billion in Sept 2014. (Telesur, boliviadecide) Poverty decreased 13 points in the five years from 2005 to 2010.

Much of this is due to Bolivia's nationalizing of its resources, particularly gas and oil, on May 1, 2006. While 80 percent of the profits were sent out of the country before, now, with state ownership, the income reverts to the people in the form of social programs. The wealth is now redistributed among the population.

The result is subsidized housing and other programs to benefit seniors as well as school programs for school-age children, which decreased the rate of school dropouts from 7 percent to 1.4 percent in seven years. Literacy is now 96.2 percent, and maternity care is vastly improved.

Beyond the social programs, Bolivia is advancing with what Morales calls its "Dare to Dream Big" approach. The government focuses attention on technology research and development, initiating educational programs for its advancement, makes free software available and facilitates providing special well-equipped laptops for students.

In December 2013 with the help of People's China, Bolivia launched the communications satellite Túpac Katari, which has helped reduce telephone and other communications charges. The government aims to intensify this trend. □

Mexico killings protested

Dozens of people picketed the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco on Oct. 8 and spoke angrily about the Sept. 26 killings of six teacher education students (normalistas) by the municipal police of Ayoctzinapa in the state of Guerrero, Mexico, and the kidnap of 43 other students.

Unmarked graves were discovered Oct. 4 with more than 28 charred bodies. Media reports indicate they may be the remains of the 43 arrested and kidnapped students. Witnesses and security

cameras indicate that the students were delivered by the municipal police to drug gangs to be killed.

Speakers at the rally pointed out the complicity of the U.S. government in creating the environment which led to this massacre, from the so-called war on drugs, the militarization of the U.S./Mexico border, the ramp-up of deportations and the ruinous North American Free Trade Agreement.

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Racism and Ebola in the U.S.

By Kathy Durkin

Thomas Eric Duncan died on Oct. 8 at a Dallas hospital from the Ebola virus. He had traveled to Dallas from his home country of Liberia to see friends and family members.

Duncan's family is asking why he did not receive optimal care from the first day he sought treatment at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, and are charging bias. They are posing troubling questions about his treatment.

Additionally, the Liberian community in Texas is inquiring if Duncan was treated differently "because he was African and not only that, he was Liberian," said Stanley Gaye, president of the Liberian Community Association of Dallas/Fort Worth. (ABC News, Oct. 9)

Why was Duncan discharged from the hospital on Sept. 25, after he first visited the emergency room complaining of severe pain and other symptoms? Why wasn't his statement transmitted to doctors that he had just arrived from Liberia, in Western Africa, the location of the deadly Ebola epidemic, where 4,000 have recently died?

Initially, hospital staff blamed computer glitches for why doctors did not know

Duncan's travel history. Records said he did not have Ebola symptoms. The hospital later stated that the electronic records were functioning correctly and that information was posted for the medical team, but did not explain the mistakes. Meanwhile, Duncan was supplied with antibiotics and discharged to a home inhabited by four adults and children.

Why did the hospital say that Duncan's temperature was 100.1 degrees during his initial visit, when medical records obtained by his nephew, Josephus Weeks, stated that his fever at that time was an alarming 103 degrees? High fever is an Ebola symptom.

Three days later, Duncan was rushed back to the hospital in an ambulance and was quarantined.

Duncan's family, their supporters and the Liberian community in Dallas say that not hospitalizing him immediately allowed him to get sicker. He reportedly was so ill on Sept. 25, the date of his initial hospital visit, that he left the hospital on a stretcher. Weeks said his uncle was "handled poorly, unfairly and an injustice was done." (New York Times, Oct. 11)

Duncan's discharge countered U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regulations requiring Ebola quaran-

time. Relatives said they called the CDC to report Duncan's illness.

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., Weeks, and Duncan's mother, Nowai Gartay, asked why he was not taken to specialty units at the Nebraska Medical Center or at Emory University Hospital, where the U.S. citizens stricken with Ebola this year were taken.

They ask why Duncan was not immediately put on an experimental drug after he was hospitalized. The other U.S. Ebola patients were given ZMapp, TKM-Ebola or brincidofovir. It is unknown if the drugs aided in their recovery, but Duncan's family asserts that he too should have been given medication immediately.

Weeks told CNN that he and his relatives had to push the hospital to file an application with the Food and Drug Administration to approve brincidofovir for Duncan. "Weeks and Jackson said they believe the hospital applied for permission to use brincidofovir only after Jackson gave out the hospital's phone number on his radio show last week and urged listeners to call in and complain," said CNN Health on Oct. 7, in an article entitled, "Dallas Ebola patient waited nearly a week for experimental drug; family claims bias."

The article states that the hospital



Thomas Eric Duncan

would not tell CNN the date they requested FDA approval, which is required to obtain experimental drugs from the manufacturer, to use brincidofovir. The agency says it gives permission within hours for Ebola drugs.

Even after Duncan's death, insensitivity continued. Duncan's mother, Gartay, said that the hospital did not tell her that her son had died when she called, only that she could not talk to him.

There are charges of racism in the hospital's treatment of Duncan. His family says his care was at best "incompetent" and at worst "racially motivated." (wgntv.com, Oct. 11) Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, who is African American, stressed that Duncan's nationality and lack of insurance "prevented him from getting better treatment." (newsmax, Oct. 9)

Duncan's poor treatment and subsequent death demonstrate the need for a health care system that guarantees the best treatment for all, regardless of income, insurance or immigration status. One based on human need — not profits — with compassion, respect and dignity for patients, their families and communities. □

Solidarity caravan heads to U.S./Mexico border

By Kathy Durkin

Historic Riverside Church in New York City was the location for the send-off on Oct. 10 of the "National Caravan in Solidarity with the Children and Families at the Mexico and Texas Borders." The enthusiastic crowd of nearly 100 supporters cheered on caravan organizers and participants, jumping to their feet several times during the program.

The Solidarity Caravan is being organized by immigrant rights, faith-based and other community, social justice and progressive activists, and labor unionists. Their school bus is traveling to 12 cities on its way to the militarized border town of McAllen, Texas. As of Oct. 13, the caravan had stopped in Philadelphia; Baltimore; Washington; Durham, N.C.; and Atlanta.

The caravan received a warm welcome at its first stop in south Philadelphia on Saturday, Oct. 11, at a breakfast and discussion organized by Juntos, a Latino/a immigrant rights community organization. Relatives of undocumented immigrants currently facing deportation were among the speakers. Philadelphia area activists hopped aboard the caravan bus for a brief solidarity action prior to its departure.

A press release issued on Oct. 13 by caravan coordinator Teresa Gutierrez and Bill Chandler, executive director of the Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance, announced that on Oct. 14 there will be a meeting in Jackson, Miss., with civil rights activists to discuss the shared struggle for human rights for migrants, immigrants and all oppressed people in the U.S. There will also be a memorial service dedicated to the city's late mayor, Chokwe Lumumba, an internationally known human rights leader.

On Oct. 15, the caravan will leave for Houston, and then continue on to San Antonio the next day. Stops are also planned for other cities in the state: Laredo, Brownsville, and finally, McAllen. There, the caravan will join with U.S., Mexican and Central American activists from human rights, faith-based and social justice organizations to protest the increasing militarization of the border and the enormous human cost of migration.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has called in the National Guard, so there are now military personnel staffing checkpoints 100 miles from the border.

A major goal of the caravan is to redefine the upsurge of Mexican and Central American migrants from being simply a humanitarian crisis to its reality as an unprecedented Central American refugee crisis, which this year alone has led to the detention at the border of more than 65,000 unaccompanied children and 60,000 families. It will raise awareness of and mobilize against federal and local governments' inhumane measures in dealing with the refugee crisis and the broken



Solidarity caravan stops in Philadelphia, Oct. 11.

WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

immigration system.

This is the worst refugee crisis in the U.S. in more than 30 years, say caravan organizers, with the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of children and families from their homes. They are

fleeing organized crime, paramilitary violence and destruction of their local economies due to the imposition of free trade agreements under the auspices of the U.S. government.

Betsy Piette contributed to this article.

Ebola & failure of for-profit medical care

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away from hospitals and clinics due to lack of beds and trained personnel.

Hundreds of health care workers, including doctors and nurses, have been infected. Others have refused to come to work because of the dangers associated with treating infected patients.

The impact of EVD has also been felt in Liberia's armed forces. Nine soldiers have already died from the disease. "Following the death of the soldiers, and for fear of the further spread of Ebola in the army, regular daily training, a core activity of the military, has been suspended indefinitely. 'We no longer train, neither do we receive visitors, nor are we allowed visits outside of the barracks,' a soldier lamented when the Daily Observer toured the Kesselly Barracks over the weekend." (Daily Observer, Oct. 12)

In Guinea, a private clinic that served much of the city's elite, including many expatriates, stopped accepting new patients after a woman there showed symptoms of Ebola.

The British government's resumption of commercial flights to Sierra Leone was

cancelled on Oct. 13. The decision not to fly into London's former colony drew protests from the government in Freetown and from humanitarian organizations such as Doctors Without Borders.

"It's extremely difficult to get much-needed staff into the region, and at a time that we need more people on the ground than ever, this is very unhelpful," said a spokesperson for the medical group. The freight transport company Redcoat said that its scheduled Oct. 17 flight was to have carried four tons of humanitarian assistance, including 1,000 protective gear suits essential for treating infected patients. (Guardian, Oct. 13)

In the U.S., a demonstration by Delta Airlines cabin cleaners at LaGuardia airport in New York on Oct. 9 and a press conference by the National Nurses United three days later highlighted the failure of the travel and health care industries to provide basic safety information, training and protective gear.

People before profits!

Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion, had suggested that the infection of the Dallas nurse was a result of not following medical protocols issued by the health care establishment. NNU leaders took exception to this. They said that no official medical protocols have been issued to the 185,000 health care workers they represent. (nationalnursesunited.org) Frieden later retracted his statement, but the damage had already been done.

Decisions regarding health care treatment, workplace safety and insurance coverage in the U.S. are made largely by private firms that profit to the tune of billions of dollars every year. The lack of adequate health insurance or no coverage at all is a direct result of the capitalist economic system.

The underdevelopment of the states in West Africa is a direct result of the legacies of slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism. Until the needs of the people are placed before those of the corporations and international financial institutions, there will be ongoing periodic outbreaks of infectious diseases that will impact broad segments of societies throughout the world. □

WORKERS WORLD editorial

War weary before it starts

Senator John McCain, the militarist spokesperson for the Republican opposition to President Barack Obama, had this terse comment on the president's war on the Islamic State: "They're winning, and we're not," McCain told CNN on Oct. 12 and called for ground troops.

Joint Chiefs Chair Gen. Patrick Dempsey, who had already left the door open to advocate for using U.S. ground troops, told ABC's "This Week" on Oct. 12 that to put a "no-fly zone" in Syria would involve hundreds of U.S. aircraft and cost as much as \$1 billion a month.

Obama may be the CEO of the most powerful oppressor state in the history of humanity, but to wage this "war on the Islamic State," he's holding a weak hand. Washington's current strategy is to avoid risking the lives of U.S. youth. The "boots on the ground" — soon to be bodies under the ground — are supposed to come from regional allies.

Obama has a problem: None of the allies want to take casualties fighting the Islamic State.

He has another problem: Hardly any working people in the United States, and especially people of color, say U.S. youth should be fighting in Iraq and/or Syria. And no one, outside of McCain and Dempsey, is volunteering to go. Come to think of it: those two are volunteering other people to go fight ISIS.

When the U.S. opened its war against Vietnam more than 50 years ago, ruling-class warmakers could count on the official veterans' groups — the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars — to support their adventure. In those days U.S. capitalist society was providing a good living for a large sec-

tion of the working class, with plenty left over for guns. This built them a strong base of support, especially among a privileged sector of anti-communist union leaders.

Now, after the earlier experience in Vietnam and the more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, you hardly hear from those veterans' groups. You do hear from Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War. They say: "Stay out of Syria! Stay out of Iraq!"

Meanwhile, U.S. capitalism is providing only austerity, cuts in social programs, economic stagnation and lower wages for the workers. The once-patriotic union leaders are disillusioned. Even before Obama's war on Iraq and Syria has started in earnest, a war weariness pervades the U.S. population.

Aware of that premature war weariness, Obama and the Pentagon have planned the battle relying on drones, smart bombs and rockets fired from massive warships. No U.S. boots on the ground. They would like to maneuver with their various allies and enemies in the region to smash the Islamic State — and then maybe take on Syria. Dempsey and McCain say it will take more than that.

In prior historic situations, a negative mood alone was incapable of stopping an imperialist state on the speedway to war. Fighting today's war drive requires action, protests, even strikes. Let's not wait for the painful costs of war to stir us to activity. If the ruling class hasn't the good sense to stop this militarist adventure, let us prepare the ground for the uprising that will stop them for good. □

State tries to silence Mumia

Continued from page 5

police officer, Daniel Faulkner. Millions worldwide helped launch a campaign that resulted in his death sentence being overturned in 2011, after he had spent 29 years on death row.

This is not the first attempt of the state to silence Abu-Jamal. In 1996, after the Peoples Video Network aired "The Prison-Industrial Complex," an interview with Abu-Jamal, the Pennsylvania State Prison Authority ruled that no prisoner in the state could be taped for television or radio. In 1997, Temple University, threatened with funding cuts by then Gov. Tom Ridge, canceled all Pacifica Radio programming on its station, WRTI, because Pacifica's "Democracy Now" program planned to air Abu-Jamal's commentaries. In 1999, Abu-Jamal successfully challenged the state's attempt to prohibit him from writing after he published his first book, "Live from Death Row."

Abu-Jamal challenged Goddard graduates to question and seek answers to a world where "massive wars can be launched by rumors and innuendo; where the material interests of corporations are superior to the interests of working people, and remember — corporations are people — so sayeth the Supreme Court; and where the ecological threats to fresh-water supplies,

clean air and the environment in American cities pose new challenges that seem beyond arcane."

Abu-Jamal's case illustrates why prisons exist and who profits from them. Any attack on Mumia Abu-Jamal is an attack on all prisoners of this rotten system, whether confined behind prison walls or living in "general population" outside.

A fuller version of this article can be found at workers.org.

Mexico killings protested

Continued from page 8

The families of these young people, students, teachers and many other groups in Mexico have condemned what happened and are demanding justice. There are many actions being called throughout Mexico and around the world. Demands at the San Francisco rally included "Justice for the fallen students!" "They took them alive, we want them back alive!" "Trial and punishment for those responsible!" and "Stop the cooperation of local, regional and national governments with elements of organized crime!"

— Report by Terri Kay

Hong Kong protests

Role of U.S.-funded

By Sara Flounders

In 1997, the 99-year British lease was scheduled to end on the British colony of Hong Kong. In 1984, China signed an agreement with Britain on the future status of Hong Kong. It was called the Hong Kong Basic Law.

In order to avoid instability and closing of the foreign investment flowing through Hong Kong, the Chinese government, while insisting on the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty, agreed to guarantee capitalist relations there for 50 years under an agreement called "One Country, Two Systems," an idea originally proposed by Communist Party General Secretary Deng Xiaoping.

Hong Kong became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. In the agreement with British imperialism, the HKSAR would retain the status of an international financial center with free flow of capital. The Hong Kong dollar remained freely convertible.

The status of property rights, contracts, ownership of enterprises, rights of inheritance and foreign investment was all guaranteed. The agreement stipulated that Hong Kong's capitalist system itself and its "way of life" would remain unchanged until 2047. A network of private schools, universities and the large corporate media did not change hands. The Hong Kong Basic Law further stated that the socialist system and socialist policies would not be practiced in HKSAR.

Hong Kong bankers, financiers and industrialists were assured autonomy, except in foreign and defense affairs, where the People's Republic of China would have full say. It is this minimal control that Occupy Central is now challenging with the demand that Chief Executive Cy Leung must resign.

An antiquated judiciary based on British Common Law upholds the laws that defend the harshest private property relations. Small claims courts, landlord courts, labor courts, juvenile courts, coroners' courts and courts of appeals all enforce old capitalist laws, not the laws in place for the 99.5 percent living in the rest of China.

Hong Kong judges still wear British-style outfits, including wigs made of horsehair, with white gloves, girdles and scarlet robes added for official ceremonies.

The guarantee of unrestricted capitalism in Hong Kong for 50 years means that some of the starkest extremes of wealth and poverty exist side by side.

U.S. expands 'soft power'

Fearful of democratic change coming from the working class as soon as the British signed the agreement in 1984, the ruling class began to violate it, putting in place new political parties and organizations to operate after the return of the territory to China. After 145 years of appointed government, they pompously called for democratic change.

Three years before the 1997 handover of sovereignty, the British changed the constitution and set up district boards, urban and regional councils, and a legislative council. These top-down reforms were strongly opposed by the Chinese government as a violation of the agreement and a tactic to subvert its political system.

But more insidious than the official changes was the vast expansion of U.S. "soft power" in Hong Kong.

Last week, Part 1 of this article reviewed the support that the imperialist countries have given to the so-called Occupy Central movement in Hong Kong, even as they play down brutal repression in states allied to the West. It went over Hong Kong's history as a colony stolen from China by Britain in which the people had no democratic rights and the governor was appointed by London. Read the full article online at workers.org.

Part 2

Today more than 30,000 NGOs are registered in Hong Kong. They cover every aspect of life. (Social Indicators of Hong Kong)

The U.S. funds NGOs for political subversion through the U.S. State Department's U.S. Agency for International Development, which makes grants to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), National Democratic Institute (NDI), National Republican Institute, Ford Foundation, Carter Center, Asia Foundation, Freedom House, Soros's Open Society and Human Rights Watch, among others.

All these groups and many more fund projects that claim to be supporting and promoting human rights, democracy, a free press and electoral reform. This funding of social networks operates for the same purposes in Latin America and the Caribbean, throughout the Middle East and Africa, and in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

U.S. imperialism has not established democracy in any of its hundreds of interventions, wars, drone attacks, coups or global surveillance. But "promoting democracy" has become a cover for attacks on the sovereignty of countries all around the world.

Of course, religious groups and other states, especially those in the European Union, also fund political associations and social networks in Hong Kong and everywhere across the globe. A few of these groups may genuinely operate independently and provide aid to immigrant workers, help low-paid workers organize, or address housing and health needs of the most unrepresented in Hong Kong. But for the most part, the NGOs are a network of "civil society" organizations controlled by and for U.S. corporate power.

A growing number of articles in the Chinese press have connected the dots between the leaders of Occupy Central and the U.S.-funded NGOs.

According to China.org.cn, "Each and every 'Occupy Central' leader is either directly linked to the U.S. State Department, NED, and NDI, or involved in one of NDI's many schemes." (Oct. 6)

Occupy Central's self-proclaimed leader, Benny Tai, is a law professor who has received NDI and NED grants and was on the board of the NDI-funded Center for Comparative and Public Law. He attended many NDI-funded conferences. This is also true for another prominent Occupy Central figure, Audrey Eu.

Also, according to China.org.cn, "Martin Lee, founding chairman of Hong Kong's Democrat Party, is another prominent figure who has come out in support of Occupy Central. Just this year, Lee was in Washington meeting directly with Vice President Joseph Biden and Rep. Nancy Pelosi and even took part in an NED talk hosted specifically for him and his agenda of "democracy" in Hong Kong. Lee even has a NED page dedicated to him after he was awarded NED's Democracy Award in

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NGOs In 'war on ISIS,' the main enemy is at home

By John Catalinotto

1997. With him in Washington was Anson Chan, another prominent figure currently supporting the ongoing unrest in Hong Kong's streets."

A number of publications in the West are picking up on these exposés, including Counterpunch in "Hong Kong and the Democracy Question" and Global Research in "U.S. Now Admits It Is Funding Occupy Central in Hong Kong."

Even a Hong Kong poll showed that most of those making \$10,000 a year or less opposed the protests, while support was highest among people making \$100,000 a year or more.

Wall Street is not satisfied with the deep inroads that capitalism has made into China and is increasingly fearful of Chinese competition in global markets. The U.S. pressure for political liberalization in China is to promote further economic opening and further privatization of state industries.

U.S. and British imperialism hope to use Hong Kong as they did 150 years ago as a stronghold for pushing deeper politically into China. Today, however, they are not facing a backward feudal dynasty.

As U.S. corporate dominance in production and finance slips, the Asia pivot of the Obama administration means that the U.S. ruling class and its military apparatus has made the decision to become more confrontational toward Russia and China.

Opponents of U.S. wars and organizations defending workers' interests in the U.S. can play an important role by refusing to align with U.S. schemes aimed at overturning pro-socialist norms inside China and undermining Chinese sovereignty. □

The Turkish government decided Oct. 12 to permit U.S. fighter-bombers to launch attacks on Syrian targets from Incirlik Air Force Base near the Turkish-Syrian border. This decision marked the latest escalation of the U.S.-led "war on ISIS." It is a further step toward a major U.S. invasion into Syria and Iraq.

Meanwhile, two key battles are raging, with the Islamic State (also called ISIS or ISIL) forces on the offensive.

In Syria, Kurdish guerrillas in the Kurdish-majority town of Kobani at the Turkish border are defending the town against ISIS. The Pentagon announced that the U.S. carried out a half-dozen air strikes on Oct. 12, mainly against ISIS' heavy armor. ISIS has captured most of its weapons from U.S.-backed forces in the first place.

In Anbar province and at the Baghdad Airport in Iraq, the Iraqi army has been yielding ground despite heavy U.S., Dutch and other air support.

These wars involve a confusing array of state and guerrilla forces in battle against each other. With alliances, all temporary, changing so quickly, only a Marxist evaluation of the forces can even begin to make sense of them.

U.S. imperialism is main threat

The most important concept is that the gravest threat to the people of the region comes from U.S. imperialism, which is the lynchpin of world imperialism and the killer of millions in Iraq alone. No one should expect that U.S. intervention will liberate the region from ISIS or any other reactionary force.

The Turkish state is a regional capitalist power, a NATO member and an oppressor state. Besides exploiting its own working class and peasantry, the Turkish ruling

class oppresses the Kurdish people and nation within Turkey's borders. It thus considers the PKK (Workers Party of Kurdistan) its main enemy. Turkey's regime has supported the opponents of the Bashar al-Assad government in Syria, including ISIS.

The Arab monarchies — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the other Gulf states — are ideological soulmates of ISIS, and their ruling classes have funded and armed ISIS in the past. Now these oppressive tyrannies — which all depend on U.S. imperialism — have given lip service to joining the U.S. "coalition." Qatar and the UAE have flown a few bombing sorties into Iraq.

The recent change of government in Iraq still left the regime a client of U.S. imperialism. Its army and some of the militias have oppressed Sunni regions of the country and killed more civilians than ISIS has. Thus, many of the tribal fighters — not to speak of the guerrillas who were once officers in former President Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist army and have been resisting the U.S. client regime — consider the Baghdad government a more dangerous enemy than ISIS.

Who battles ISIS on the ground?

Syria and Iran — capitalist nations with exploited working classes — are both combating ISIS. But world imperialism has targeted these two states through military threats and economic sanctions while demonizing them. The two governments have fought back to survive and their resistance deserves internationalist solidarity.

The PKK and its sister party in Syria (YPG — People's Protection Units) are liberation organizations of the Kurdish nation. Both directly fight ISIS on the ground. So, too, do the Hezbollah guerrillas from Lebanon, who have successfully resisted Israeli invasions of their country in the past. However, the imperialists define all three groups as "terrorist."

The best way for anti-imperialists in the West to show solidarity with these fighters is to demand the U.S. State Department and the European Union stop

defining them as "terrorist" groups. A demonstration of tens of thousands of people, mainly Kurdish immigrants, in Dusseldorf, Germany, on Oct. 11 raised this as a main demand, along with freeing PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan after 15 years of imprisonment in Turkey.

Washington, to serve its own ends, has manipulated al-Qaida and other groups similar to ISIS in the past — most notably in Afghanistan and partially in Libya and Syria. But such groups created instability across North Africa, upended Libya and took over the Syrian opposition from U.S. puppets. Starting this June, ISIS threatened to drive the U.S. and its clients out of Iraq.

Despite its current clash with U.S. imperialism and its client states from West Africa to Pakistan, ISIS plays a thoroughly reactionary role throughout the region. Its reactionary — even medieval — viciously anti-woman and virulently sectarian program prevents and disrupts the development of an anti-imperialist front that would cross ethnic and sectarian lines. Only such unity can prevent imperialism from exploiting differences among the peoples and using them to divide and conquer.

The general secretary of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah, has called for such a united front of the peoples and nations of the region to fight ISIS and similar forces, which he considers dangerous enemies of the peoples. But, he said, they should not join President Barack Obama's imperialist "coalition," which he rightly considers a threat to the region and the world. (al-akhbar.com, Sept. 23)

For anti-imperialists in the West and especially in the United States, the most important thing is to oppose U.S. intervention in Iraq and Syria, even if the present manifestation of that intervention is to bomb ISIS targets. Senator John McCain has demanded ground troops. This could quickly become a U.S. ground war against Iraq and Syria.

In this confusing war, many are saying, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." For anti-imperialists it is better to apply the Leninist slogan: "The main enemy is at home." □

Forum on war in Ukraine

By Terri Kay Berkeley, Calif.

As part of an international tour of a photo-documentary chronicle of the war in Ukraine and the suffering of people whose lives it has touched, people gathered in the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Hall to view powerful photos of peaceful civilians and forced refugees. The presentation included a slideshow narrated by Bill Bowers of the International Action Center.

The program was sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the BFUU, the IAC and the United National Anti-War Coalition. The photos were prepared by multimedia, international information agency Rossiya Segodnya photojournalists in Russia and Ukraine.

In the press release for the exhibit's opening in New York City, International Action Center activist Greg Butterfield stated: "As Washington and NATO continue to engage in provocative Cold War

rhetoric falsely blaming Russia for the civil war in Ukraine, this exhibit provides a timely antidote to the myths spread by major U.S. media."

"U.S. officials have portrayed the coup regime that came to power in Kiev, Ukraine, early this year as a beacon of democracy. These photos document a very different reality," asserted Butterfield. "War crimes are being committed daily by the Kiev government against its own citizens, with funding and political support from Washington. People in the Donbass region and throughout Ukraine are resisting a far-right regime dedicated to austerity and NATO expansion to Russia's border, a regime which includes openly pro-Nazi elements."

"Before we are dragged into a dangerous confrontation with Russia, poor and working people in the U.S. need to understand what our taxes are really paying for in Ukraine," concluded Sara Flounders.

The exhibit's next stop is outside of Ottawa, Canada. □

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Asesinatos selectivos tienen objetivo derrocar Revolución

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

En la mañana del jueves 2 de octubre, el pueblo bolivariano de Venezuela se despertó con la terrible noticia del asesinato la noche anterior de una joven pareja revolucionaria. Robert Serra, de 27 años, el diputado más joven a la Asamblea Nacional por el PSUV y su compañera María Herrera, fueron apuñalados en su hogar en la Parroquia de La Pastora, un vecindario de clase trabajadora.

El joven diputado era muy querido por su trabajo con las comunidades más pobres y las/os jóvenes. Era abogado y había fundado el Movimiento Avanzada Revolucionaria para unir a las/os jóvenes más militantes en la construcción de la patria socialista que Hugo Chávez había trazado como meta. Muchas eran las personas que lo identificaban como el futuro líder de Venezuela.

Serra era conocido por su abierta denuncia de la oposición derechista fascista ligada a los paramilitares colombianos y

al ex presidente Álvaro Uribe, lo que hizo inmediatamente pensar al pueblo que este había sido un crimen político. Esto fue corroborado más tarde por el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Justicia y Paz de Venezuela, Miguel Rodríguez Torres, quien en conferencia de prensa manifestó que según “los elementos clave para la investigación de su muerte y su compañera” arrojados inicialmente “no se trata de un hecho azaroso cometido por la delincuencia común. Estamos en presencia de un homicidio intencional, planificado y ejecutado con gran precisión” (AVN, 2 de octubre)

Ernesto Samper, expresidente colombiano (1994-98) y actual secretario general de la UNASUR dijo de la muerte de Serra: “es una preocupante señal de infiltración del paramilitarismo colombiano”. (AVN)

Contrarrevolución internacional y criminal

Desde su inicio, la Revolución Boli-

variana ha sido objeto de innumerables ataques que han ido desde el golpe de estado del 2002 y el sabotaje petrolero subsiguiente, hasta intentos de magnicidio contra Chávez y ahora contra Nicolás Maduro. Ni mencionar las guarimbas, las sucias campañas mediáticas, el acaparamiento de productos necesarios para el pueblo por parte de la derecha comercial, etc. Pero también amenazas y asesinatos de líderes y personalidades claves de la Revolución. Entre otros destaca señalar el vil homicidio en 2004 del fiscal Danilo Anderson quien investigaba sobre el golpe de estado y el sabotaje petrolero. Y más recientemente, la muerte en abril pasado del líder bolivariano Eliézer Otáiza, presidente del Concejo Municipal de Libertador. Dos años atrás, la misma escolta de Serra, el detective Alexis Barreto, también fue asesinado.

Serra había culpado a Uribe, gran colaborador de EUA y los paramilitares durante el reciente caso de los dos jóvenes derechistas venezolanos detenidos en Bo-

gotá y deportados a Venezuela por planificar actos violentos contra la Revolución. Había solicitado una investigación a fondo de éstos por traición a la patria. Manifestando: “para estos sinvergüenzas, asesinos, fascistas, no tiene valor la vida nuestra como revolucionarios, ni la vida de sus propios sectores, porque atentan contra ellos mismos, quiere decir que están dispuestos a volar las discotecas donde van sus propios muchachos para que el estallido social sea mucho mayor”. (Rebellion.org 6 de oct.)

Todo señala que la muerte de Serra y Herrera era parte de los planes del joven contrarrevolucionario deportado Lorent Saleh. En los documentos capturados se “enumeraban objetivos, y listas de personas vinculadas estrechamente al chavismo social y político, al que se nutre de la militancia barrial y que son los principales motores de la defensa del proceso revolucionario”. (Rebellion.org, 3 de oct.)

Pero no sólo está implicado el uribismo/paramilitarismo colombiano, las conexiones internacionales se extienden hasta España. En un artículo en AVN. info.ve, Carlos Fazio, escritor y profesor uruguayo del equipo editorial de La Jornada escribió el 2 de octubre, “La novedad, ahora, es la tercerización del caos, con el Centro Nacional de Inteligencia (CNI) de España en la tarea de subrogar las acciones de desestabilización encubiertas de la Agencia Central de Inteligencia (CIA) estadounidense, y la Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales (FAES), del Partido Popular del ex presidente del gobierno español José María Aznar como articuladora de una red internacional de think tanks y ONGs neo-conservadoras que impulsan un cambio de régimen en Venezuela”.

Menciona Fazio que se dieron una serie de conferencias en España durante junio y julio 2014 denominadas Campus FAES 2014 en la cual participaron Mariano Rajoy, jefe del gobierno español; los miembros del partido derechista venezolano Primero Justicia el diputado golpista Julio Borges y el alcalde de Chacao Ramón Muchacho, gestor de las recientes guarimbas; y María Corina Machado, fundadora de Súmate, agencia financiada por la AID de Estados Unidos.

Fazio continúa: “El CNI habría garantizado el adiestramiento y el financiamiento necesario para la ejecución de los nuevos planes subversivos en Venezuela, que estarían siendo coordinados en secreto en estrecha colaboración con el gobierno de Barack Obama y la CIA”.... “En síntesis, durante las conversaciones secretas del Campus FAES 2014, quedó lista la logística para una nueva fase de desestabilización subversiva, guerra sucia y terrorismo mediático de Estados Unidos y sus aliados europeos contra la Revolución Bolivariana de Venezuela”.

El pueblo, sin embargo, sigue en alerta [junto?] justo a las fuerzas del gobierno bolivariano. Durante el sepelio de Serra y Herrera el pasado viernes, una de las consignas gritadas era: “Justicia, la Revolución no se detiene”. □

Una invitación especial a la 56ª Conferencia Nacional 2014 del Partido Workers World- Mundo Obrero

Desarrollando perspectivas y estrategias para la lucha por el socialismo revolucionario

4 de octubre de 2014

Queridas hermanas y hermanos,

Nos gustaría extenderle una invitación especial para que asistan a la 56ª Conferencia Nacional del Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero el 15 y 16 de noviembre de este año.

¿Por qué es importante asistir? Estamos en medio de una creciente crisis mundial capitalista que ha desatado guerras imperialistas en Irak, Siria, Gaza, África y el mundo; que ha militarizado el terror policial racista aquí en este país. Ha traído empobrecimiento generalizado a la clase obrera y a los pueblos oprimidos a nivel mundial, muchas/os de ellos migrantes y mujeres.

Al mismo tiempo, hemos sido testigo de la heroica resistencia de los pueblos, especialmente de las/os jóvenes de Ferguson en Misuri, de Palestina, Latinoamérica y Ucrania — y el creciente movimiento de las/os trabajadores de bajos salarios en este país y en el exterior.

¿Qué mejor momento para que las/os socialistas revolucionarios nos unamos para discutir perspectivas y estrategias hacia la construcción de la lucha por el socialismo revolucionario?

En las palabras del Che Guevara: “La revolución no es una manzana que se cae cuando está madura. Hay que hacerla caer”.

Este encuentro le fortalecerá políticamente. Usted tendrá la oportunidad de hablar y reunirse con socialistas revolucionarias/os de todas las edades y nacionalidades de todo el país.

Prepárese no solo para escuchar, aprender y discutir, sino para regresar a su ciudad, región o comunidad, dispuesta/o a luchar por un futuro anti-capitalista y pro-socialista.

Es importante hacer planes lo más pronto posible ya que las/os organizadores de la conferencia deben hacer arreglos para el adecuado alojamiento, alimentación y cuidado de niñas/os.

La conferencia tendrá lugar en el Auditorio en la calle Van Dam núm. 45-35 y Thomson Avenue en Long Island City, Queens, NY.

Si usted no puede asistir a la conferencia, por favor ayude a patrocinar a través de sus donativos a quienes no dispongan de suficientes medios económicos para viajar, especialmente para las/os participantes más jóvenes y personas con bajos ingresos.

Esperamos verle el 15 y 16 de noviembre.

Solidariamente,

Larry Holmes

Primer Secretario del Partido Workers World-Mundo Obre-

Sharon Black

Miembro del Comité Nacional

Berta Joubert-Ceci

Miembro de la redacción, Periódico WW-Mundo Obrero