



Mumia supporters say:

Stop gag order on prisoners!

By **Betsey Piette**
 Philadelphia

At a time when more and more convictions are being reversed and prisoners released because of improper, racist and even criminal actions by prosecuting attorneys, some of it exposed through DNA evidence, the state of Pennsylvania is rushing through a gag order to keep prisoners from being able to speak out to the public, especially when the prisoners are political, like Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Protests are being organized to say no to this outrageous attack on freedom of speech.

On Oct. 16, the Pennsylvania Legislature fast-tracked the "Revictimization Relief Act" to give unlimited discretion to district attorneys, the state's attorney general and crime victims to silence prisoner speech by claiming that such speech causes victims' families "mental anguish."

Introduced as HB2533 and SB508, amendments to the state's existing Crime Victims Act, the RRA was rushed through just before the Legislature adjourns for the year. Gov. Tom Corbett will sign it in Philadelphia on Oct. 21 at the very spot where radio journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal was shot and arrested 33 years ago.

This politically charged legislation was introduced on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police and its allies after they tried, but failed, to stop Pennsylvania political prisoner Abu-Jamal from delivering his Oct. 5 commencement address to Goddard College in Vermont. Students at Goddard collectively chose Abu-Jamal as their commencement speaker and the administration supported the invitation.

This new law would deny the school the right to hear from its alumnus, Abu-Jamal, who earned his Bachelor of Arts degree there in 1996 while on death row.

The RRA would deny prisoners' rights to free speech under the First Amendment by allowing for the filing of civil lawsuits to prevent their speaking, reaching the media or recording radio commentaries. Media outlets that disseminate prisoners' voices could also be targeted with punitive monetary damages under the act.

Pennsylvania State Sen. Daylin Leach called this law "the most extreme violation of the First Amendment imaginable." (philly.com, Oct. 17)

In seeking to silence the legally pro-



Protesters confronted Gov. Tom Corbett as he signed the "Muzzle Mumia Act" in Philadelphia Oct. 21 with signs and chants, loud enough to drown out his speech. Read more at workers.org

tected speech of prisoners, the state also damages the public's right and freedom to know at a time when more attention is being focused on mass incarceration, police brutality and an unjust legal system. It is an attack on a freedom that must be guarded, especially when government officials do not agree with the content of speech they hear.

While aimed at silencing Abu-Jamal, the law would impact all prisoners in Pennsylvania jails as well as former inmates. It will also hamper campaigns like the one that won the release of political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz from decades of solitary confinement.

This latest effort to silence the movement on behalf of Abu-Jamal and against mass incarceration comes on the heels of growing militarization of civilian police forces that came to light during demonstrations against police brutality in Ferguson, Mo.

Increasingly, the very forces charged with upholding the law are the ones most often violating it.

In a comment about the RRA on Prison Radio, Mumia Abu-Jamal stated: "I welcome Gov. Corbett's signature on an

unconstitutional bill that proves that the government of Pennsylvania — the executive and the legislature — don't give one whit about their own constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nor the U.S. Constitution. It proves that they are the outlaws."

While seriously underfunding public education in Pennsylvania, Gov. Corbett has spent billions on constructing new prisons and millions more for legal fees to unsuccessfully defend previously passed legislation that also violated constitutional rights. The RRA is expected to face legal challenges as soon as it is signed.

Prisoners' rights activists and supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal will be confronting Corbett when he comes to Philadelphia to sign the bill on Oct. 21.

On Oct. 22, which is also a national day of actions against police brutality and mass incarceration, a press conference denouncing the bill and announcing preventive actions will be held in Philadelphia, followed by street actions and an evening town hall.

A number of groups have signed onto a call in response to the bill. For the full statement, visit tinyurl.com/mpk5qae. □

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Solidarity caravan in Texas

Memorial for GI union leader

A memorial meeting for Andy Stapp, who died in September, will be held on Nov. 1 in New York. As an active-duty GI at Fort Sill, Okla., Stapp first attracted the ire of the Army brass in 1967 when he was court-martialed for "refusing an order" — the order to surrender his anti-war literature to the military authorities.



Andy Stapp

He was put out of the Army in 1968 — but not until after he had begun to organize a union of active-duty service members, men and women. The American Servicemen's Union took a stance against the Vietnam war, racism, sexism, the lack of democracy in the military and the saluting and sir-ring of officers. The

newspaper of the ASU eventually reached U.S. soldiers, sailors and air force personnel all over the globe.

Former ASU members and anti-war activists will be joining in the celebration of Stapp's life, as will his comrades at Workers World, students and fellow educators who knew him as a history teacher over the last three decades, as well as neighbors and relatives.

The memorial will be held at SEIU 1199 United Healthcare Workers East, 310 West 43rd St. (near 8th Avenue), 7th floor, and will start at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. All are welcome.

— Deirdre Griswold

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Vol. 56, No. 40 • Oct. 23, 2014
Closing date: Oct. 14, 2014
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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

Supreme Court upholds racist Texas ID law

By Chris Fry

Once again the right-wing majority of the U.S. Supreme Court has made an outrageous attack on the hard-won democratic rights of Black and Latino/a people. On Oct. 18, they let stand the Texas voter ID law, the most draconian and restrictive voter ID law in the country.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissented. Ginsburg wrote a strongly worded seven-page document denouncing the

decision:

“The greatest threat to public confidence in the elections in this case is the prospect of enforcing a purposely discriminatory law, one that likely imposes an unconstitutional poll tax and risks denying the right to vote to hundreds of thousands of eligible voters,” Ginsburg states. (houstonchronicle.com, Oct. 18)

This decision comes one week after a federal district court found the Texas law to be unconstitutional. Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos presided over a nine-day tri-

al of the Texas law. In a detailed 143-page document, she found that the Texas law amounted to a poll tax and was therefore unconstitutional. She ruled that the Texas law could disenfranchise 600,000 voters, mostly Latino/a and Black.

In the past, Texas has had restrictive voter identification regulations. But those had been blocked under Section 5 of the 1965 federal Voting Rights Act, which required states with a history of discrimination to obtain federal permission before changing voting procedure.

But in 2013, the Supreme Court struck down Section 5, paving the way for the right-wing Legislature and governor to enforce this ID law.

Only seven forms of identification, including concealed handgun licenses, can be used to get a Texas voter ID. Other forms of identification, including college IDs, social security cards and those from federally recognized Native tribes are not allowed.

The Texas law requires a birth certificate to obtain a voter ID. The cost typically for this is \$22, although if there are changes necessary because of name changes due to marriage or other reasons, the cost goes up. And many people would need a two- to three-hour round trip to a government office to obtain the voter ID. Although the state does offer a \$2 or \$3 birth certificate version for voters, it has done nothing to make that option known to the poor communities. That is why the federal district court ruled that this law amounted to a poll tax.

In response to this ruling, Natasha Korgaonkar of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, stated, “This battle isn’t over yet. We are committed to ensuring that the upcoming November 2014 elections be the last ones tainted by this discriminatory measure.” (houstonchronicle.com, Oct. 18)

Underneath reactionary vote

Why did the Supreme Court, always at-

tuned to the wishes of Wall Street, uphold this racist Texas law? After all, the Civil Rights activists had fought for decades, enduring beatings, fire hose attacks, and even outright lynchings at the hands of cops and the Klan, to win the right to vote for oppressed people. Why must now that right be taken away?

The “public” explanation by the Supreme Court is that they did not wish to make a “last-minute” change to the Texas voting procedures. Of course, that is absurd. It is far more disruptive to the voting process to block people’s right to vote rather than allowing them to do so.

No, the real reason lies deep within the capitalist system itself, locked in the grip of an economic crisis that it cannot overcome.

Mired in a jobless recovery after the Great Recession, with no prospect of economic growth and expansion, the banks and corporations that rule over the political landscape are resorting to more and more austerity measures, cutbacks, the squeezing of surplus value from the labor of low-wage workers here and abroad, to maintain their parasitic sway.

Mindful that this creates fierce public resentment and growing resistance, they have chosen to erode every hard-won democratic right, especially those of the oppressed communities, in order to prevent any challenge to their dominion. Even the right of choosing between candidates who for the most part are thoroughly loyal to the capitalist system is now too much of a threat to them. It could be used as a tool by a defiant public to organize itself into a vital force for fundamental change. That is what the bankers, their politicians and their courts fear.

Along with police and vigilante murderers, the imprisonment of millions of oppressed and poor youth, the deportation of millions of undocumented workers and their families, this voter ID threat must be met by the determined struggle of an united multinational working class. □

Solidarity caravan reaches Texas

Oct. 20 — The “National Caravan in Solidarity with the Children and Families on the Mexico and Texas Borders” is now concluding its multi-city trip, which began in New York City on Oct. 10 and is ending today in McAllen, Texas. The school bus, filled with caravanistas, has received warm welcomes at every stop along the way.

Caravanistas have met with immigrant rights, civil rights, faith-based, community and social justice activists throughout their journey — in Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Durham, N.C.; Atlanta; Jackson, Miss.; and several Texas cities, including Houston, San Antonio, Laredo and Brownsville.

The caravan is fundraising to help the South Texas Human Rights Center install water stations for migrants. It also aims to redefine the upsurge of Mexican and Central American migrants — tens of thousands of children and families



Brownsville, Texas, Oct. 19 protest.

detained at the border — from a “humanitarian” crisis to a major refugee crisis.

Caravanistas are raising awareness about and organizing against federal and state governments’ abusive and inhumane measures against migrants, including deportations and detentions. Opposing militarization at the

U.S./Mexican border is also a key issue. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has called out the National Guard, and military personnel are staffing checkpoints as far as 100 miles from the border.

In Brownsville on Oct. 19, more than 100 protesters voiced opposition to the enormous number of deportations and growing militarization of the border.

Eyewitness reports by caravan participants will be published in upcoming issues of Workers World.

— Kathy Durkin

Philadelphia

No to ICE

Erika Almiron, director of immigrant rights’ organization Juntos, spoke at an Oct. 16 press conference on the latest attacks by Immigration Customs Enforcement against the immigrant community in Philadelphia.

Six months ago, Juntos won a historic victory in this city on what are called ICE “detainers” or holds — written demands from ICE that require state authorities to hold someone until ICE takes them into federal custody. On April 16, 2014, Philadelphia Mayor Nutter signed an executive order limiting the cooperation of the city’s Police Department with ICE. No longer can the police hold an undocumented immigrant awaiting deportation by ICE unless the federal government shows a warrant.

Since then, 200 municipalities across the U.S. have passed similar orders.

Although this has been a welcomed relief to thousands of undocumented workers, a report entitled “Destructive Delay” released by Juntos, in cooperation with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, shows the human cost of postponing immigration reform at the federal level. These costs include new tactics used by ICE. Now that many cities have



adopted noncooperation with the immigration agency, ICE is using other ways to detain undocumented immigrants in order to satisfy their deportation quotas.

For example, when undocumented workers are arrested on non-immigration charges, ICE picks them up as they leave jail on bail or gets deportation orders from outside the city. These trends have been occurring not only in Philadelphia, but in cities across the country.

Juntos states that until thorough immigration reform is passed, there will not be justice for the immigrant community. Says Almiron: “Our community has been asked to wait for President Obama to act on relief from deportations until the time is politically right. We are asked to wait to reform immigration policies that he himself has called ‘inhumane,’ and meanwhile, ICE agents are again eroding trust between communities and local government with new tactics that violate our civil and human rights.”

Juntos says it will keep fighting until these abuses stop, and immigrants and their families feel secure once and for all.

— Report and photo by Berta Joubert-Ceci

Justice for Jennifer Laude!

A rainy New York City rush hour didn’t deter over 50 Filipino-American activists, transgender people and supporters, who rallied outside the Philippines Consulate on Oct. 15, chanting “We say no to the VFA! Fight transphobia every day for Jennifer Laude!”

Laude, a transgender Filipina woman, was found strangled in a hotel room in Olongapo City, Philippines, on Oct. 11. A U.S. Marine suspected of her murder is being held by Pentagon authorities aboard a Navy ship.

“We are outraged that another innocent life has been taken away because of the ongoing infestation of U.S. troops who have no right to be in the Philippines in the first place,” said BAYAN-USA Chair Bernadette Ellorin at the rally.

She went on to say, “We are equally incensed that the U.S. whisked the suspect Marine away and is holding him aboard an American ship, rather than turning him over to Philippine authorities. This shows how the U.S. has no respect for Philippine sovereignty or our country’s legal system.”

Some 660 U.S. military personnel are permanently stationed in the Philippines



under the 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement and another 1,500 are there now participating in war games. As with other places where U.S. military personnel are stationed around the world, crimes against women are commonplace.

“This insult to Philippine sovereignty is no surprise, given the history of U.S. militarization in the Philippines.

It also exemplifies exactly why Filipinos are opposed to the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. Instead of rushing to implement the EDCA, [President] Aquino should stand up for Philippine sovereignty for once by ensuring that the Philippines asserts complete jurisdiction over Jennifer’s case,” Ellorin explained.

The October 15 action was called by the BAYAN Queer Caucus, GABRIELA New York and Barangay New York-LGBTQ Pin@ys, and supported by TransJustice of The Audre Lorde Project, the New York City Anti-Violence Project, the International Action Center and others.

—Story and photo by Greg Butterfield

Philadelphia

Thousands protest attack on public education

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

The battle of Philadelphia students and teachers has intensified in the wake of the shocking Oct. 6 School Reform Commission decision to cancel its collective bargaining agreement with Philadelphia public school teachers.

The largest rally so far in the 15-year-long battle for education funding took place on Oct. 16, in the midst of talk of a general strike. Some 85 percent of all students in Philadelphia's school district are people of color, and 87 percent are classified as "economically disadvantaged."

Over 3,000 students, parents and members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, and many other unions shut down Broad Street outside the school district headquarters. Afterwards, angry activists disrupted a SRC meeting, chanting and shouting down pro-business speakers.

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers lawyers filed a motion for a preliminary injunction in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court on Oct. 17 to prevent the school district and the SRC from instituting health

care changes which would cost each teacher thousands of dollars. The union also filed a legal brief before Commonwealth Court saying the matter belongs not in that court, but in the Court of Common Pleas, the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board or a labor arbiter. They also filed a motion for an expeditious hearing before the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, challenging the unilateral changes made by the SRC and its bad-faith bargaining practices.

Considering a general strike

Over 50 area labor leaders signed an Oct. 16 letter condemning the SRC's "effective destruction of collective bargaining." The public letter was released following meetings on Oct. 9 and Oct. 12 in which Philadelphia labor officials debated whether to ask members of all area unions — laborers, electricians, communications workers, janitors, nurses, bus drivers, city employees — to walk off their jobs in protest of the SRC's anti-labor actions. (Read the entire letter at tinyurl.com/pyaxfrc)

Jerry Jordan, the PFT president, told the closed door gathering that he wanted to exhaust legal remedies first. Other

union officials wanted to wait until after the Nov. 4 gubernatorial election. Most local union officials have pinned their hopes on Democratic Party candidate Tom Wolf, who says he supports returning Philadelphia's schools to local control.

Even if Wolf is voted in, as expected, adequate funding for Philadelphia's students still faces huge hurdles. Besides a corporate-friendly state Senate and House, this city's Democratic mayor and city council have failed to stop massive state cuts in education funding, dozens of school closures, the transfer of 30 percent of students and resources to charter schools, thousands of school layoffs and the deaths of two students directly related to the elimination of school nurses. The necessity for mass rallies and direct action such as a general strike will unquestionably continue into 2015.

When Henry Nicholas, president of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, raised the need for a general strike at the huge Oct. 16 rally, the crowd responded loudly with applause and chants. Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Richard W. Bloomingdale announced: "A city-wide strike [is] still on the table. ... We have to take this moment and turn it into a movement." (tinyurl.com/n6ljseb)

The question of the day is whether school staff employees, teachers, students and parents, and other city workers (organized and unorganized) can persuade fellow workers and any labor officials who may be reluctant, that the time for a general strike is now.

History of General Strikes

Philadelphia was the site of the first general strike in U.S. history in 1835. Begun by 300 longshore workers, they were quickly joined by 20,000 leather dressers, printers, carpenters, bricklayers, masons, house painters, bakers and others. Workers' demands included wage increases and a shorter workday, as well as increased wages for women workers and a boycott of any coal merchant who pressured workers to work more than ten

hours a day. When city public works employees joined the strike the city agreed to a ten-hour work day. The factory owners of Philadelphia followed suit. The success of the strike inspired workers in other cities to strike against the 12-hour-day and the 10-hour-day soon became the standard nationwide until the struggle for the 8-hour-day erupted in the late 1880s.

Another general strike in Philadelphia was organized in 1903 by textile workers. Demands included reducing the workweek to 55 hours and the elimination of child labor. Renowned labor leader Mother Jones increased support for the strike by leading a children's march from Philadelphia's City Hall to President Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay, New York City, but the strike by over 100,000 workers eventually failed to sway the wealthiest 1% then. A federal child labor law was not upheld by the Supreme Court until 1941. And that law continues to allow child labor in the agricultural industry to this very day.

In 1910, the Philadelphia Rapid Transit trolley company fired 173 workers — all members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America — and replaced them with scabs from New York City. For 57 days, workers battled in the streets, organizing demonstrations and a general strike before forcing the PRT to the bargaining table.

In 1981, in the longest strike in PFT history, a 51-day conflict was resolved only after the Philadelphia Central Labor Council threatened a general strike. The added leverage was successful in forcing the district to cut back its list of concession demands.

Contrary to the claims of the mainstream press since then, the PFT's contracts are not responsible for school funding shortfalls. Globalization's severe reduction of working-class wages, racist government housing policies, unending war spending, and cuts in taxes for corporations and the wealthy — these have been among the most important factors

Continued on page 6

Youth shut down anti-union film

At an Oct. 15 public event, members of the Philadelphia School Reform Commission screened the film "Won't Back Down" before an audience of students and parents. The film is a notorious union-busting propaganda piece aimed at generating support for pro-privatization "parent trigger" laws, which give parents the "power" to charterize underfunded public schools.

Led by the Philadelphia Student Union, some two dozen students in attendance successfully shut down the screening, chanting, "Won't back down! Philly is a union town!" and "Hey, hey, ho ho! The SRC has got to go!"



PHOTO: PHILADELPHIA STUDENT UNION

Videos taken at the demonstration show newly appointed SRC member Sylvia Simms shouting back at the students, "You all must go to failing schools!" and "You belong in jail!"

— Matty Starrdust

On 10th anniversary

Meeting celebrates Million Worker March Movement

By Cheryl LaBash and Monica Moorehead
Long Island City, Queens, N.Y.

Founding members of the Million Worker March Movement held a 10th commemorative anniversary meeting Oct. 16 at Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, Queens, N.Y. The guest of honor was Clarence Thomas, national co-chair of the MWMM and a long-time, rank-and-file leader of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10, from California's Bay Area. Charles Jenkins, president of the New York City chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, emceed the program.

MWMM leaders expressed their solidarity at the event with Jerome Thompson, who shared his experience of being fired by Cablevision in Brooklyn for attempting to organize a union.

The meeting reviewed some of the important contributions that the MWMM has made to the struggles of working and oppressed people here and worldwide. These include helping to revive May Day at Union Square in New York City in 2005 and supporting the one-day country-wide



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

From left to right: Chris Silvera, Larry Holmes, Brenda Stokely, Clarence Thomas, Charles Jenkins and Sharon Black. All were either coordinators or organizers for the 2004 MWMM rally.

general strike led by millions of immigrant workers on May Day 2006.

The MWMM debuted on Oct. 17, 2004, when some 10,000 workers gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had declared war on poverty 36 years earlier. Trent Willis — a young African-American Bay Area longshore worker — had come up with the idea of organizing the Million Worker March Movement, which relit the spark of conscious working-class struggle with a program that is even more relevant today.

The MWMM call declared: "The time

has come to mobilize working people for our own agenda. Let us end subservience to the power of the privileged few and their monopoly of the political process in America."

Their multi-issue program demanded universal single-payer health care; protection and enhancement of Social Security with guaranteed pensions; cancelling corporate "free trade" agreements; and an end to privatization, contracting out of labor and deregulation of industry. It demanded workers' right to organize and the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, the Patriot Act, the Anti-Terrorism Act and all such repressive laws.

The MWMM called for slashing the military budget, recovering public funds from war profiteers, and increasing taxes on the corporations and the rich, while prioritizing the building of schools, financing public schools' arts programs, and funding an army of teachers to end illiteracy. Rebuild the cities, it said, with affordable housing to end homelessness.

It also called for an end to the criminal-

ization of poverty and the prison-industrial complex, enforcing civil rights and granting amnesty to all undocumented workers. The call stressed that mobilizations must be held to protest racism and discrimination. Democratize the economy and the media and open the books of the Pentagon and intelligence agencies, it said. The MWMM also demanded an emergency program to restore the environment and end global warming.

Although many in the labor officialdom at that time considered such a march to be a good idea, it was 2004, a presidential election year. They chose instead to subordinate the needs of working women and men to the upcoming capitalist elections, channeling resources and energy away from independent action.

However, thousands of workers overcame these obstacles. From coast to coast, they traveled to Washington to mobilize in their own name, the name of the independent working class. This voice grows stronger today in the fight for a \$15 per hour minimum wage and a union, and in the struggles against police killings and mass incarceration. □

Behind stock market swings

World capitalist slowdown looms

By Fred Goldstein

Oct. 19 — A global capitalist slowdown has sent world stock markets into decline, from Wall Street to London, Berlin and Tokyo. This slowdown is a sure sign of world capitalist overproduction, and should be of deep concern to the working class.

In the U.S., the stock market just had its fourth consecutive week of losses. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged for four days. Brokers and speculators sold off stocks wildly until the bloodbath finally stopped on Friday, Oct. 17.

The main reason the slide stopped was that two Federal Reserve Bank presidents, James Bullard of St. Louis and John Williams of San Francisco, made statements to the effect that the Federal Reserve Board should reverse its announced policy and instead continue its program of buying Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities. The Fed program of printing money, which has pumped trillions of dollars into the banking system since August 2008, is scheduled to end this October. The Fed's gravy train for Wall Street has driven stock prices high, despite anemic economic growth. That gravy train is about to be over.

Fears of new global recession

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a compilation based on 30 large corporations that represent huge amounts of capital. Other stock indexes in the U.S., Europe and Asia also saw sharp declines and wild swings.

This decline also comes as a reaction to the reported slowdown of the European capitalist economy as a whole, especially of the big capitalist powers on the continent — Germany, France and Italy. Japan, the second-largest economy in the imperialist world, is also slowing. In addition, the Brazilian and Russian economies are losing steam and China's growth is beginning to slow.

All technical explanations by financial pundits and journalists aside, the countries facing slowdowns are all areas where U.S. big business exports massive amounts of goods and services. And they are all areas of investment for U.S. capi-

Bankers, brokers, hedge fund managers and other gamblers are selling off stocks because they fear a threat to their future profits. Their fear of a global recession ahead is a danger signal to the workers.

tal. Any slowdown in these strategic markets threatens to further aggravate the stagnating condition of U.S. capitalism.

In the year 2013, the U.S. exported close to \$2.3 trillion of goods and services. This was up from \$700 billion in 2009, the year the capitalist "recovery" began.

It used to be that German and Japanese imperialism were dependent on exports while the U.S., with a home market of over 300 million people, did not have to rely on selling abroad to keep its economy going. But now exports have tripled because selling abroad is the only way for the U.S. capitalist class to ease its crisis. Consumption by the workers and oppressed in the U.S. has been down because they haven't had money to spend. In other words, the home market is saturated.

In order to keep the system going, the capitalists have to go abroad. And globalization of capital has made this dependence on exports by all the bosses more and more pronounced.

According to the National Export Initiative report by the federal government on May 13, increasing exports "will help the U.S. economy continue to rebalance from one mostly driven by domestic consumption to one increasingly engaged with the 95 percent of customers who live outside our borders. ... Exports have driven nearly a third of U.S. economic growth since mid-2009, and now account for nearly 14 percent of our economy."

That is why the U.S. government forced "free trade" agreements on Mexico, Canada and Central America and is now trying to force the capitalist world to join its Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. These organizations are designed to clear the way for the giant multinational corporations to invade other countries, force open their markets and demolish all national obstacles to exports and investment.

"Rebalancing," as the NEI report puts it, means finding ways to sell at a profit

abroad while tens of millions of people in the U.S. live with unemployment, underemployment, low wages, hunger, poverty and economic insecurity.

This same NEI states that 11.3 million jobs depend on exports — up 1.6 million since 2009. The government claims to have created 8 million jobs since 2009. That would mean that 20 percent of those jobs depend on exports.

That is just one reason the stock market gyrations must be of concern to the workers.

What stock sell-offs mean for workers

Financial wheeling and dealing on Wall Street may seem remote. It appears to be of concern only to the rich. But in fact the bankers, brokers, hedge fund managers and other gamblers are selling off stocks because they are fearful about a threat to their future profits.

Their fear of a global recession ahead should be a danger signal to the workers. The losses of the rich in a renewed recession will still leave the bosses sitting pretty, but the losses to workers will mean jobs, unions, pensions, benefits (of those fortunate enough to have them) and perhaps survival.

The International Monetary Fund, the principal world organization of finance capital, issued a World Economic Outlook report on Oct. 7 that lowered its estimate for world economic growth in 2014. The head of the IMF characterized the world economy as "weak" and "brittle" and described Europe as in danger of sliding into a third recession. (Wall Street Journal, Oct. 7)

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development — thoroughly misnamed — comprises the 18 biggest capitalist countries. It declared that the eurozone's leading indicators had fallen for three straight months, a development it said points to "growth losing momentum."

The leading indicators, reported the Wall Street Journal, "follow a series of data releases that have intensified concern that the eurozone's biggest economy may struggle to grow at all in the third quarter. Figures released Tuesday showed industrial output in Germany fell 4.0 percent in August. The figures came a day after a surprise decline of 5.7 percent in manufacturing orders for August, also the sharpest since January 2009, when the world was mired in financial crisis." (WSJ, Oct. 8)

World capitalist overproduction and scramble for markets

Not just the U.S., but all capitalist countries — Germany, Britain, France, Japan — operate along the same patterns. The corporations produce more and more commodities and services at faster and faster rates. They all try to pay the lowest wages possible. Thus they expand production while shrinking the market at home. To get out of this contradiction, they scour the earth for customers abroad. Then over-exporting takes over.

The competition for market share, which begins at home, gets transferred to a struggle for market share abroad because the masses of workers here are too poor to buy all that they produce. Globalization of capital has greatly intensified this process.

In a contracting world capitalist economy, the corporations are going to cut each others' throats in order to steal the shrinking number of customers from their capitalist rivals in the export race.

When international and domestic markets can no longer absorb the huge quantities of sales, then profits fall, workplaces close and workers are either laid off or put on part time. That is what happened when 7.5 million workers in the U.S. were laid off for 18 months during the last crisis.

Wall Street sees the handwriting on the wall. It is trying to protect the interests of the rich parasites who live off the wealth created by the workers.

The workers must likewise move to protect their own class interests and organize to put the burden of any new crisis on the backs of the bosses — where it belongs. □

Youth march against capitalism at World Business Forum

By David Card
New York

The capitalist class held an event at New York's Radio City Music Hall on Oct. 7-8 called the World Business Forum. Five thousand of the richest CEOs and bankers met there to share their experiences in how to slash benefits, lower wages and bust unions.

Outraged by this display of vast wealth in a time of prolonged crisis for the working class, Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST), a militant youth organization, decided to cut to the heart of the issue and called for a march against the entire system that allows for such crimes — capitalism itself.

Young revolutionaries from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore met in Columbus Circle before the march with signs, banners and flags. Notable were several flags from the former Soviet Union and even one from the anti-fascist group Union Borotba, which is currently fighting in eastern Ukraine. Some protesters held up images of Che Guevara to honor this revolutionary international-

ist on the anniversary of his death. Some signs read, "The real enemy is on Wall St.!"

Carried out as a people's class on Marxism and anti-imperialism in the streets, the march traveled to eight different locations around Midtown Manhattan, including statues of Simon Bolivar and Jose Marti, Chase Bank, Fox News and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Activists spoke out about national liberation struggles in Latin America, represented by the statues of Simon Bolivar and Jose Marti. These two are heroes in their countries, Venezuela and Cuba, respectively, and offer inspiration for revolutions against imperialism.

Chase Bank, one of the largest private banks in the world, is an icon of finance capital and thus a natural target for the march. Speakers discussed the role of the imperialist banks, how they have come to dominate the capitalist economy, subordinating all other industries and causing wars.

Supporting the banks in their drive for



PHOTO: DESIRÉE J. DELOACH

wars to secure profits are the corporate news outlets and media. Among the most jingoistic and reactionary of these is Fox News. Interestingly, their headquarters is only one block away from Chase's own headquarters, illustrating who they really take their orders from. Speakers denounced wars of aggression and the hypocrisy of so-called freedom of the press under capitalism, while underscoring the need for socialist revolution.

The institution of the Catholic Church, represented by St. Patrick's Cathedral, has for centuries been a bastion of misogyny and homophobia. Activists spoke out

the issues of reproductive rights, the inequality of women in the church, and the church's history of violence and bigotry against lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer people.

At the conclusion of the march, activists converged on a rally held by the New York People's Power Assembly in front of Radio City Music Hall. Demands were raised for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and a union for all workers, as well as rights for immigrants and an end to police terror.

The young revolutionaries who took part in the march were energetic and determined to end this criminal capitalist system and build a better world. When protesters were taunted by bankers at Chase, they stood defiant and laughed. They knew that for each protester on that day there would soon be 10,000 more, and they wouldn't only be holding signs and chanting. They would be seizing those very same banks, taking back all the wealth that had been stolen, and building a new world based on human needs, not capitalist greed. □

Police officer who fatally shot Dontre Hamilton is fired

By Workers World Staff

As a result of almost six months of repeated protests organized by the Coalition for Justice and their allies, Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn announced at a press conference Oct. 15 that Christopher Manney, the cop who shot Dontre Hamilton 14 times, killing him instantly, has been fired. Hamilton family members were not invited to the press conference and were not allowed in when they arrived.

Despite many dozens, perhaps hundreds, of lives — the majority Black and Brown — having been taken by Milwaukee police, this is perhaps the first firing of a police officer for killing someone in

this city in more than 45 years. (jsonline.com, Oct. 20)

Since Manney filed for duty disability retirement two days before his firing, he is eligible for possibly 75 percent of his full pay; a special board will rule on this.

Meanwhile, Manney has yet to be charged with any crime whatsoever by Milwaukee District Attorney John Chisholm. Thus, while claiming a victory with Manney's firing, coalition members and allies immediately demanded full justice and called for a protest the next day, Oct. 16, at Red Arrow Park where Hamilton was killed by Manney.

"Dontre's constitutional rights were violated," declared Nate Hamilton, in front of the Milwaukee Police Department's 1st

District building during the demonstration. "His freedom was infringed upon. This officer, Christopher Manney, took my brother, so now we have no other choice but to stand up and make sure that justice prevails, not only for my brother, but for our city and our community."

The Coalition for Justice has issued a call for a 6 p.m. mass meeting Oct. 22 at All Peoples Church, 2600 N. 2nd St. in Milwaukee. It states in part:

"It has been almost six months since this murder took place, and Dontre's killer is yet to be brought to justice. We have recently learned that this officer has been fired from his duties for violating Dontre's constitutional rights and breaching protocol. While the firing of this killer

cop brings the family and the community one step closer to the justice we demand, we believe there are still other measures that must be taken to ensure that we get justice for our community."

The coalition is demanding DA Chisholm charge Manney with at least homicide. Coalition organizers are 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 on the Dontre Hamilton "No Justice, No Compromise" fightback and other struggles against police terror, contact #NoJusticeNoCompromise, facebook.com/justicefordontre, and wibailoutpeople.org/.

Justice denied for 7-year-old Aiyana Jones

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

Detroit police officer Joseph Weekley remains unscathed after a second attempt to prosecute him ended in a mistrial on Oct. 10. Weekley killed 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley Jones during a raid at the wrong residence in a two-family house on Detroit's eastside during the early morning hours of May 16, 2010.

Weekley was charged with involuntary manslaughter and reckless discharge of a firearm in 2011. A trial took place in 2013 but ended in a deadlock among jury members.

The more serious charge of manslaughter was dismissed by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Hathaway during the second trial. She declared there was not enough evidence to continue prosecuting Weekley for this charge. The firearms charge is a misdemeanor.

Weekley and other police officers were accompanied by a cable television crew filming for a program on homicide investigations. A flash grenade was thrown through the first-floor window where Ai-



Aiyana Stanley Jones

yana and her grandmother Mertilla Jones were sleeping.

Aiyana was hit by the grenade and burned, and then, seconds later, shot in the head by Weekley, using a MP5 subma-

chine gun. The officer claimed that Mertilla Jones had grabbed his gun, causing it to go off and strike the child.

Jones, the grandmother, denied Weekley's story and told him so directly on the stand during the second trial. Immediately, Weekley's defense lawyer filed a motion for a mistrial. Jones was later admonished by Judge Hathaway for what she described as an "outburst" on the witness stand.

Efforts were made by the corporate media to put Mertilla Jones on trial. Many in the community believe this played a role in precipitating the dismissal of the more serious felony charge.

Wayne County prosecutors, having failed twice to win a conviction against Weekley, did not immediately say whether they would seek another trial. Dominika Jones, Aiyana's mother, spoke out after

the trial, saying that it has not been possible to win justice in the case.

Another family member, Londell Fields, said: "I don't understand how we can go through this again and have all this evidence brought forth and there not be a verdict either way. I don't think it's fair because he's a police officer that he gets to get away with this again. That's wrong to me." (Detroit Free Press, Oct. 10)

Role of federal government

The two failed attempts to prosecute Weekley do not mean that he cannot be charged with federal civil rights violations against Aiyana Jones and her family.

Police knew there were children in the home due to surveillance the day before the raid. That the raid was carried out in the wrong apartment points to negligence on the part of the police.

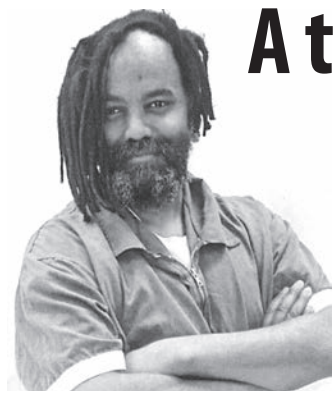
The killing of Aiyana Jones represented the apex of a series of police killings of civilians in Detroit during the 1990s through the current period. The city was placed under two federal consent decrees in 2003 after a three-year Department of Justice investigation determined that gross violations of civil rights had oc-

curred in the use of deadly force and that deplorable conditions were prevalent in the precinct lockups.

Despite the federal investigation and pledges by the city of Detroit to honor the commitments made to the DOJ, the police killings of civilians continued. During the city's current period of emergency management and forced bankruptcy, the occupation forces of the state have discharged the two federal consent decrees, claiming Detroit police and the city to be in compliance with the 2003 consent decree goals.

Nonetheless, Aiyana Jones was killed during the period of the federal monitoring imposed by the DOJ investigation. The degree to which any actual improvements were made in police-community relations remains subject to public opinion.

The DOJ must prove to the people within the African-American communities in Ferguson, Mo.; St. Louis; New York; Detroit; and around the country that it is concerned about the lives of the people. As in Ferguson, where police officer Darren Wilson remains free in the shooting death of Michael Brown, the circumstances of these incidents strongly suggest they are not accidental or coincidental. □



By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Taken from an Oct. 7 audio recording at prisonradio.org

At first glance, the communities of Ferguson, in Missouri, and of Gaza, in the Israeli occupied territories, share virtually nothing in common.

One is situated in the richest country on earth. The other sits on ancient lands, lands that are constantly shrinking under the occupation.

One is predominantly African-American; the other is populated by Palestinian Arabs. One is ostensibly free; the other is largely under the military control of a foreign power.

A tale of two oppressed communities

What unites these two communities is the commonality of oppression, for both experience the ubiquitous presence of armed outsiders, whose job, it seems, is to make their lives miserable.

Ferguson, Missouri — where the overwhelming majority of the population is Black — lives under a predominantly white administration that cares little for that community. It is a living snapshot of an affront to democracy.

Gaza — where the majority of the population is Muslim and Christian Arabs — lives under the constant threat of military occupation and control of every aspect of Gazan life.

Oh, and yes, oppression kills.

In both societies, racism against the inhabitants takes on stark and undeniable violence against the people. There, special repression is reserved for the young.

We saw that in Palestine, where children were targeted by Israeli police for horrific violence, beatings and even killings.

Ferguson burst on the media scene af-

ter the ugly shooting of a teenager named Mike Brown.

As for Palestine, generations have lived shattered lives, especially since 1948, when the League of Nations (later to become the United Nations) ceded Palestinian lands to the newly constituted state: Israel.

Through land theft, guerilla raids and terrorist attacks, the Palestinians have been whittled down to their miserable present — modern-day Bantustans where they are living on the shredded margins of their ancestral lands. Like the Indians of U.S. memory, they live in the equivalent of reservations; the worst land theft.

As the recent Gaza-Israeli war showed us, the Zionists place no value on Arab lives.

The Zionist state was built on Europe's bad will, for although under the trusteeship of Britain, they offered other people's lands — not an acre of their own.

That bad seed has sprouted into the horror of today.

Two communities; one oppression. □

Phila. public education

Continued from page 4

leading to school funding shortfalls. The culprits are city, state and federal administrators who refuse to challenge these capitalist policies — not workers fighting for wages and benefits.

During the 1998 Transit Workers Union Local 234 strike — the seventh work stoppage since 1975 — South East Pennsylvania Transit Authority executives threatened to hire scab replacements. In response, the Philadelphia AFL-CIO pledged to call a general strike and organize a march of a million labor unionists if scabs took over strikers' jobs. SEPTA officials quickly responded that those plans had been "postponed indefinitely." Dozens of rallies and roaming picket lines were organized over the 40-day strike, which ended in victory for the transit workers. (tinyurl.com/pb6emwc)

Underfunding has denied the right to an education to the children of tens of thousands of Philadelphia's workers. History has shown that the use of a general strike can be an effective tool in the battle against those in power. □

Why isn't there more global aid to fight Ebola?

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

Oct. 20 — Several United States congressional representatives have called for a ban on travel into the U.S. from the three West African states which have been the most severely impacted by the recent Ebola Virus Disease outbreak. These proposals demanded that President Barack Obama prohibit travelers from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia from entering the U.S.

Obama, along with many corporate interests, has rejected a travel ban. The corporate press have reported that the EVD outbreak has reportedly killed in excess of 4,500 people, infected more than 9,000, and all three West African states and others in the region have experienced significant losses in humanitarian assistance, trade and tourism.

Congressional hearings on the Ebola outbreak have degenerated into nonproductive discussions — ignoring measures that emphasize the need to attack the disease and bring about its eradication.

Defend health care workers

Officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have tried to place blame on two Ebola-stricken nurses, Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, for not following protocols in treating Thomas Eric Duncan, who is the first Ebola patient diagnosed in the U.S. But they have been refuted by National Nurses United through demonstrations, daily press releases, interviews and media conferences. The NNU sees safety of health care workers as a critical issue.

Administrators at St. Joseph Hospi-

tal in Orange, Calif., publicly criticized nurses there, saying they were stoking fear among patients and other employees when they petitioned management to implement basic medical guidelines for handling Ebola cases. The facility's nurses are not officially represented by the California Nurses Association, a NNU affiliate.

The NNU noted in an Oct. 17 press release, "St. Joseph RNs were appalled at management's reaction to their petition. First, the hospital allowed supervisors, and other RNs who don't do direct patient care, to stage a protest on hospital property with signs saying 'shame on CNA for preying on fear.' Second, the hospital administration issued a statement to the press — without responding to employees' concerns — claiming they are 'prepared to deal with infectious diseases' and attacking the nurses' union for using 'scare tactics' to 'address labor issues.'" (nationalnursesunited.org)

Despite the calls for travel bans and other measures that would stigmatize West African expatriate communities, the relatives, workers and students who had contact with Duncan have come out of the 21-day quarantine period without contracting EVD. The first contacts were cleared on Oct. 20, and another round of contacts should be cleared by Nov. 7.

No further cases have been announced since nurse Vinson's diagnosis in Dallas. She is being treated at a specialized unit at Emory University Hospital, while Pham is in a similar unit at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

October 20 reports speculated about the health status of Pham's fiancé, who is being monitored for EVD symptoms. His employer issued a statement saying

he has not been diagnosed with the disease, and his fellow employees were not endangered, reported the International Business Times.

The struggle in West Africa continues

In West Africa, Senegal and Nigeria successfully isolated and eliminated Ebola in both those countries. Senegal reportedly had only one case, even though it shares a border with Guinea-Conakry, one of the most severely affected states.

"On Friday [Oct. 17], [World Health Organization] officials declared that the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Senegal was over" and noted in a press release that Senegal's approach was "a good example of what to do when faced with an imported case of Ebola." WHO noted, "The government's response plan included identifying and monitoring 74 close contacts of the patient, prompt testing of all suspected cases, stepped-up surveillance at the country's many entry points and nationwide public awareness campaigns." (Associated Press, Oct. 20)

Early in October, Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan declared the country Ebola-free. WHO agreed with this assessment. WHO's director in Nigeria, Rui Gama Baz, called it "a spectacular success story" at a press conference in the political capital of Abuja on Oct. 20 "The outbreak in Nigeria has been contained." Nonetheless, he warned in the same AP article, "We must be clear that we only won a battle. The war will only end when West Africa is also declared free of Ebola."

Nigeria's outbreak began in July, when a Liberian-American development consultant, Patrick Sawyer, collapsed in the Lagos airport. Many believed he had traveled to Nigeria to seek health treatment. He eventually died there. Nigeria later reported eight deaths and nearly 20 cases. Schools were closed throughout the country until the nation's health system decided the threat had subsided.

Focus should be on fighting disease, global aid

Other countries, such as Liberia, remain in the grip of the outbreak. This West African state has had more than 2,200 EVD deaths since March. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's "Letter to the World" appealed for international assistance to treat patients and to eradicate the disease there. The current situation "requires a commitment from every nation that has the capacity to help — whether that is with emergency funds,

medical supplies or clinical expertise. We all have a stake in the battle against Ebola. It is the duty of all of us, as global citizens, to send a message that we will not leave millions of West Africans to fend for themselves." (BBC, Oct. 19)

The Obama administration has deployed troops to Liberia, ostensibly to assist in building field hospitals. However, this is part of a general escalation of military interventions in West Africa through the U.S. Africa Command.

On Oct. 17, Guinea's President Alpha Conde emphasized on Ebola Deeply ("a collaborative news and information platform designed to tell the full story of the Ebola outbreak") the need for education about the virus' transmission and the significant role of traditional leaders in the battle to eliminate the disease. He rejected the imposition of travel bans related to the most severely impacted states, saying that the place to fight EVD is in West Africa itself.

"My message is clear: we need to fight on three fronts," said Conde. "First, we must address the acute health crisis by containing the virus until it is gone. Second, after we have vanquished the virus, we must make sure it doesn't come back. However, the underlying solutions are clearly related to the overall development of Guinea and the entire region," Conde stressed. "That's why we also need to invest in our health-care systems. Third, we must stop the economic contraction that the virus has caused."

These objectives will be difficult to achieve in light of the prevailing international division of economic power and distribution. The most severely impacted West African states are largely dependent on the capitalist markets to sell strategic minerals and natural resources, such as gold, bauxite and rubber as their principal means of generating foreign exchange.

Until Africa can retain the wealth produced by its land and people, there will be no long-term solutions to the problems associated with providing health care and social services to the majority of working people, farmers and youth. Lessons can be learned from socialist Cuba, which has been able to produce medical personnel and a health care system that is lauded internationally — despite having endured at 55-year U.S. blockade.

Cuba is on the frontlines in West Africa combating the Ebola pandemic. The Cuban health workers are setting a sterling example for underdeveloped and developed states to emulate. □

Nurses' union demands gov't mandate to contain Ebola

By **Kathy Durkin**

National Nurses United, a union and professional organization with 185,000 members, was contacted by nurses at the Texas Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas where Thomas Eric Duncan was treated for Ebola.

The nurses criticized the hospital administration for not having a protocol in place to deal with this virulent disease, for not training or preparing them to deal with Ebola patients, and for not protecting health care workers from getting sick.

The NNU has publicly defended the two health care workers, Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, who have been stricken by Ebola. The organization has praised nurses who have castigated the hospital's actions in the crisis, including Brianna Aguirre, a courageous whistleblower and sole family breadwinner, who could face reprisals because the hospital's nursing staff is not unionized and, therefore, has no union protection.

The NNU has issued a petition to "Tell President Obama and Congress to protect health care workers, patients and the public from Ebola." It can be read in full and signed at the National Nurses Union website, where there are additional statements about this health crisis.

The petition reads, "On behalf of registered nurses and other health care workers across the United States, we understand that the only way to adequately confront the Ebola crisis, that the World Health Organization has termed the most

significant health crisis in modern history, is for the [U.S.] President to invoke his executive authority to mandate uniform, national standards and protocols that all hospitals must follow to safely protect patients, registered nurses, other front-line health care workers, and the public.

"Every health care employer must be directed to follow the Precautionary Principle and institute optimal protocols and personal protective equipment for Ebola that meets the highest standards used by Nebraska Medical Center, or a higher standard."

These protocols include full-body hazmat suits; powered air-purifying respirators; at least two registered nurses caring for each Ebola patient, with more nurses as needed; and continuous interactive and updated training of nurses, especially those where "state-of-the-art disease containment is occurring."

The petition emphasizes, "The Ebola pandemic and the exposure of health care workers to the virus represent a clear and present danger to public health. ... [W]ithout these mandates to health care facilities, we are putting registered nurses, physicians and other health care workers at extreme risk. They are our first line of defense."

It concludes: "[N]ot one more patient, nurse, or health care worker should be put at risk due to a lack of health care facility preparedness," and nothing short of a presidential mandate, where "optimal safety standards apply, will be acceptable to the nurses of this nation. We demand protection for all health care workers." □

'Ebola deaths facilitated by imperialism'

Following is an edited statement issued by the World Federation of Trade Unions' Secretariat in Athens, Greece, on Oct. 15. Read entire statement at workers.org.

The Ebola epidemic that has struck mainly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea of West Africa and threatens the entire world has killed thousands of people and caused panic to millions of others.

As high level officials of the World Health Organization confess, the epidemic has severely expanded over the last weeks and 70 percent of the people affected die because of the lack of proper health care facilities.

This epidemic brings into the forefront in the most tragic way the chronic and deep wounds in the African continent caused by colonialism, by the continuous

plundering of the wealth-producing resources and by the high public debts that keep African states and their economies enslaved to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and monopoly cartels.

Crucial problems that in extraordinary conditions such as the one today can create an explosive atmosphere are: poverty, malnutrition, the lack of basic health care infrastructure and social welfare, the limited access to a system of public and free education capable of eradicating illiteracy and the effects of prejudices and superstitions, the slums that continue to exist being a disgrace for humanity and a danger to public health, the militarization and the state violence that are the answer of the panicked state mechanism. □

Cuba, Ebola & the Cuban 5



Left to right: Fernando González Llort, René González Sehwert, now in Cuba. And still unjustly held in U.S. prisons, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez. 16 years is too long. Join the struggle to send them home to their families.

By Cheryl LaBash

Revolutionary leader and former Cuban President Fidel Castro's Oct. 17 reflection, "Duty calls," explains Cuba's urgent mobilization of medical personnel "to combat the brutal epidemic outbreak in Western Africa." (See accompanying article on this page.)

He notes that calling on highly qualified staff to fulfill a risky task "is something far more difficult than sending soldiers to fight and even die for a just political cause."

This effort surpasses by many times the mission against terror undertaken by the Cuban 5 in the early 1990s, but the willing self-sacrifice to take on a complicated and risky task to save the lives of others is the same.

Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and Gerardo Hernández, who remain in U.S. prisons after 16 years — along with their comrades René González and Fernando González, who served their full, unjust sentences and returned to Cuba — appeared to renounce the revolution they love in order to infiltrate the violent, Miami-based thugs bombing Cuban hotels and restaurants.

Their efforts, however, thwarted an airline explosion, revealed a boatload of explosives docked in the highly populated Miami River area and protected their vulnerable homeland while it struggled to restructure its economy after losing its primary trading partner, the Soviet Union. This extremely painful, imposed restructuring process did not close even one hospital or school.

At the same time, Cuba managed to expand its free, prevention-oriented health care system by instituting a neighborhood-based family doctor-and-nurse program which covered more than 98 percent of its population by 1999. By 2010, Cuba's physician-to-patient ratio was 1 to 150, more than double the 1 to 400 ratio existent in the U.S. in 2011. (data.worldbank.org/country/cuba)

The corporate media, including "The Hill," a Washington-based publication focusing on U.S. political news in the country's capital, are headlining Fidel's statement, "We will gladly cooperate with the U.S. staff in this endeavor, not in the pursuit of peace between the two states which have been adversaries for so many years, but, in any case, for world peace,

which is a goal that could and should be pursued." (tinyurl.com/qgdkzr2)

Cuba's principled internationalism that puts human life first is nothing new. The media haven't noted that August 2015 will be the tenth anniversary of Cuba's offer to send 1,586 fully equipped, disaster-trained medical personnel to the hurricane flooded New Orleans.

Rebuffed by the U.S. federal and state governments, many of the Cuban personnel then set up medical facilities to serve earthquake survivors on the hillsides of the Himalaya mountains of U.S. ally, Pakistan. Nor are the media noting that U.S. students are presently training in Cuba to be doctors, to return, upon completion of their studies, to practice medicine in their underserved U.S. communities. □

Fidel Castro on Ebola crisis: 'Duty calls'

By Fidel Castro Ruz

The following statement, written by the former president of Cuba on Oct. 17, can be found at the *Granma* website at tinyurl.com/nstntk2.

Our country did not hesitate one minute in responding to the request made by international bodies for support to the struggle against the brutal epidemic which has erupted in West Africa.

This is what our country has always done, without exception. The government had already given pertinent instructions to immediately mobilize and reinforce medical personnel offering their services in this region on the African continent. A rapid response was likewise given to the United Nations request, as has always been done when requests for cooperation

have been made.

Any conscious person knows that political decisions which involve risks to highly qualified personnel imply a high level of responsibility on the part of those who call upon them to fulfill a dangerous task. It is even more difficult than sending soldiers, who have also done so as their duty, to combat and die for a just political cause.

The medical professionals who travel to any location whatsoever to save lives, even at the risk of losing their own, provide the greatest example of solidarity a human being can offer, above all when no material interest whatsoever exists as a motivation. Their closest family members also contribute to such missions what they most love and admire. A country tested by many years of heroic



Left: In 2005, 1,586 Cuban doctors wait, ready to assist Hurricane Katrina survivors. Above: The first debt-free U.S. graduates of Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine.

struggle can understand well what is expressed here.

Everyone understands that by completing this task with maximum planning and efficiency, our people and sister peoples of the Caribbean and Latin America will be protected, preventing expansion of the epidemic, which has unfortunately already been introduced, and could spread, in the United States, which maintains many personal ties and interactions with the rest of the world. We will happily cooperate with U.S. personnel in this task, not in search of peace between these two states which have been adversaries for so many years, but rather, in

any event, for World Peace, an objective which can and should be attempted.

Monday, October 20, at the request of several countries in the area, a meeting will take place in Havana with the participation of important authorities who have expressed the need to implement pertinent measures to prevent the spreading of the epidemic, and combat it in a rapid and efficient manner.

Caribbeans and Latin Americans will be sending a message of encouragement and of struggle to the rest of the world's peoples.

The hour of duty has arrived. □

Haiti mourns loss of trial as 'Baby Doc' dies

By G. Dunkel

Any Haitians with a progressive bone in their bodies regretted Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's Oct. 4 death. They would have preferred a trial in open court to expose his corrupt, grisly and extensive brutality to the world — especially to younger Haitians born after Duvalier was forced to flee to France in 1986.

Of course, the reactionaries currently in charge of the Haitian government have a different opinion. President Michel Martelly, once a card-carrying Tonton Macoute by his own admission, said in a Tweet: "On behalf of the entire government and people of Haiti, I take this sad occasion to extend my sincere sympathies to his family, his relatives, and his supporters across the country."

The Tonton Macoutes, officially the National Security Volunteers, were paid only with their impunity to rob, rape, brutalize and steal, as long as they were loyal to the Duvaliers, father and son.

The U.S. government remained silent when François ("Doc") Duvalier had his 19-year-old son Jean-Claude anointed to succeed him as president-for-life in January 1971, and kept quiet when he became president three months later. Its silence

was seen as assent.

Washington had suspended military aid and training to Haiti in the 1960s, responding to the notorious corruption and brutality of his father. But when a fire broke out in the Haitian armory in the National Palace in 1973, the U.S. rushed to restore the heavy weapons that had been destroyed and resumed military aid to Haiti. (Haïti-Liberté, April 2013)

When a massive and militant uprising against Baby Doc's regime began in 1985 and grew in intensity in 1986, the U.S. government chose to cut its losses and preserve its options. The U.S. Air Force flew a C-130 to Port-au-Prince and allowed Baby Doc and his wife to drive their BMW onto the plane. There was no interference with what Duvalier had stowed in the trunk. The C-130 then dropped them in the south of France to enjoy the estimated \$600 million to \$800 million they had stolen from Haiti.

Duvalier was out of the picture, but Duvalierism was preserved. The gang formerly around Baby Doc remained basically intact. Washington didn't loosen its ties to the repressive apparatus François Duvalier had built and consolidated with his ideology of noirism, a form of cultural nationalism promoting the Black ruling

class. The Haitian people had a victory to celebrate. While the uprooting, the "de-choukag" in Creole, removed notorious local Macoute leaders, it failed to reach the main leaders. Jean-Claude was always available, if need be.

Treatment of President Aristide

Compare the treatment of Jean-Claude Duvalier with what the U.S. dished out to Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In 2004, during the second coup he faced as president, the U.S. kidnapped him and his family, forced them onto a plane with a suitcase for their clothes and flew them to the Central African Republic, one of the poorest and most isolated countries in the world.

Seven years of struggle brought into the streets tens of thousands of people, who risked attacks from Haitian cops and the U.N. Minustah force that has occupied Haiti since 2004. Finally, Aristide was allowed to return in March 2011 from South Africa. This was after President Barack Obama called South African President Jacob Zuma and asked him to keep Aristide in South Africa.

A few months earlier, in January, Jean-Claude Duvalier had returned to Haiti, a move that CNN called a "surprise," but whose obvious purpose was

to boost the presidential candidacy of Michel Martelly, an open Duvalierist. Martelly's place on the ballot had been guaranteed by the open and direct intervention of then Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Fanmi Lavalas, Aristide's party and indisputably the most popular party in Haiti, had been kept off the ballot because it very likely would have won.

The Haitian government had opened up judicial procedures against Jean-Claude Duvalier, but they quickly ran out of steam when Martelly became president.

What is keeping Fanmi Lavalas off the ballot now is that the Haitian government has charged Aristide with serious crimes, no matter how bogus or improbable the charges are. While Duvalier was alive, the government ignored his real crimes, making it politically difficult for the Martelly regime to proceed full-bore against Aristide.

Now that Baby Doc is removed from the scene, political analysts in Haiti expect the attacks on Aristide and Fanmi Lavalas to intensify. At the same time, progressives in Haiti are demanding that the state bring charges against officials in the Duvalierist government. □

In Ukraine and Donbass

Class contradictions come to the fore

By Greg Butterfield

As we go to print: After a massive Ukrainian missile attack on a chemical plant in Donetsk Oct. 20, Prime Minister Alexander Zaharachenko declared the Minsk ceasefire terminated. Pavel Gubarev regained consciousness on Oct. 14. He remains hospitalized and his ability to contest the elections for prime minister of Donetsk is unclear. Elections in the Donetsk People's Republic will be held on Nov. 2.

October 8 is the Day of the Heroic Guerrilla, honoring the sacrifice of Latin American communist revolutionary Che Guevara. It is also the date of the founding congress of the Communist Party of the Donetsk People's Republic, held in the capital city of Donetsk.

About 100 people attended the founding meeting, including parliamentarians, anti-fascist activists, trade unionists and members of the people's militias, representing an initial 1,000 members.

The Communist Party becomes the first registered political party established in the newly independent Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics of the Donbass mining region, formerly part of southeastern Ukraine.

The Communist Party of the DNR is headed by Boris Litvinov, who also chairs the Donetsk Supreme Soviet, the young republic's parliamentary body. At a news conference announcing the party's founding, Litvinov said it will participate in elections to the Supreme Soviet, currently scheduled to take place on either Nov. 2 or Nov. 9. (Lenta.ru)

Litvinov noted that this is the first step in establishing a United Communist Party of the People's Republics — a project supported by a wide array of pro-communist forces, not only in Donbass but in other areas of southeast Ukraine that hope to join the people's republics.

Groups participating in this movement include former members of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Union Borotba (Struggle) and the Workers' Front of Lugansk. In addition are many unaffiliated activists and members of the volunteer people's militia, including some who belong to Russian communist organizations.

"The communists stood at the cradle of the revolution in southeast Ukraine — the uprising against the fascist coup [in Kiev]," said Litvinov in an interview published by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

"Although we have formed two People's Republics, and the process from our point of view is irreversible, the state originated in a political vacuum. Although the whole revolution was based on the ground of leftist ideas, it lacked a powerful political party which could become the ideological core and driving force behind this movement.

"In our view, the Communist Party must become one of the leading political forces in the construction of the DNR ... Therefore, on the eve of the elections, it was decided to create the Communist Party. ... Everyone is expecting a left turn, the movement of our country in the direction of socialism."

In Ukraine, anti-communist witch hunt

The contrast with events in the Ukrainian capital couldn't be starker. In Kiev, an anti-communist coalition of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and fascists illegally seized power last February with Washington's support.

The rump parliament there recent-

ly supported a proposal by the openly neo-Nazi Svoboda Party to vote Oct. 14 on a measure formally banning "communist ideology" in the former Soviet republic.

The vote will take place amidst campaigning for early parliamentary elections called by the junta for Oct. 26. All the pro-coup political forces are jockeying for position to be the most anti-communist and pro-war against the Donbass republics and Russia.

Communist Party of Ukraine members who had been elected to their seats were banished from parliament under a law signed by oligarch President Petro Poroshenko in July. A case brought by the Interior Ministry to ban the Communist Party on charges of "separatism" and "terrorism" is currently being heard before a Kiev court.

October 14 has special significance for the far right. It is the anniversary of the founding in 1942 of Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera's Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which carried out ethnic cleansing and anti-communist massacres during the World War II German occupation of Ukraine. The red-and-black flag of today's violent fascist gang Right Sector is based on the UPA banner.

That day is expected to see violent actions by neo-Nazi gangs across Ukraine, especially in the embattled cities of the southeast, where fascist National Guard battalions retreated after their humiliating defeat by the Donbass people's militias in August.

"Tomorrow there will be a pogrom in Kharkov," Ukraine's second-largest city, declared the independent newspaper Verb on Oct. 13. "The initiators of the so-called 'March of Heroes' ... were the Azov Battalion and the Social-National Assembly. ...

"Local monuments to Lenin have already been demolished as hindering the current regime's efforts to inculcate 'new European values.' It is possible that targets of the ultra-right on Oct. 14 will be the mayor's office, the regional committee of the Communist Party, and the Orthodox churches.

"Activists of the Resistance, who went underground, urged supporters not to conduct activity on the streets of Kharkov Oct. 14 and not put themselves in danger. ...

"Neither the local authorities nor the police are trying to relieve the tension or defuse the disturbing atmosphere in the city," Verb reports. "The demolition of the monument to Lenin in the central square was followed by similar acts of vandalism in other areas of the city and the region. Police officials encouragingly wink at the ongoing destruction of monuments."

Assassination attempt on governor

Pavel Gubarev, a leader of the anti-fascist resistance in Donetsk popularly known as the "people's governor," was seriously injured in an assassination attempt on the night of Oct. 12. Gubarev's vehicle was attacked and run off the road. He suffered a brain trauma in the ensuing crash and was shot in the hand. His driver escaped with a mild concussion.

As of the evening of Oct. 13, he was hospitalized in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, unconscious and breathing with the aid of a ventilator. (Rusvesna.ru)

Gubarev had been scheduled to formally announce his candidacy for the post of prime minister of the DNR. He is challenging current Prime Minister Alexander Zaharachenko, whose reputation has been tarnished by his signing of the lop-sided Minsk Accords with Ukraine, brokered by the Organization of Security

and Cooperation in Europe and the Russian Federation.

On Oct. 10, Zaharachenko announced that the DNR had signed an agreement with Kiev on territorial demarcation that would leave some cities, including Slavyansk, Kramatorsk and Mariupol, under Ukrainian military occupation. (Verb, Oct. 10)

The demarcation agreement was criticized by the Supreme Council of the Donetsk Supreme Soviet, said Litvinov. The council passed a resolution noting that "negotiations with the authorities of other states and international organizations [must be] guided solely by the Declaration of Sovereignty of the People's Republic of Donetsk." The declaration includes the following: "The territory of the republic cannot be changed without the consent of its citizens." (NovorosInform.org)

Gubarev is closely allied with Igor Strelkov, the former DNR defense minister who was removed from his post in August along with other leading "hardliners" in Donetsk and Lugansk in exchange for Russian humanitarian aid. He is probably the only political figure who could seriously challenge Zaharachenko at this time.

Strelkov, Ghost Brigade commander Alexey Mozgovoy and other militia leaders, voicing the opinions of many ordinary militia fighters and Donbass residents, have openly criticized the Minsk Accords, which they say have given the Ukrainian military "breathing room" to regroup and rearm after the people's militia reportedly had them on the run in late August.

They note that Ukrainian forces have

violated the ceasefire continually since it was inked in early September, with an average of eight civilians being killed each day in the Donetsk capital region. The militias expect that open hostilities could resume at any time — before or after the Ukrainian elections.

They also say the snap elections called by Donetsk and Lugansk officials do not offer sufficient time for other political forces to organize and register their candidates. Some have called for a three-month delay in the elections for prime ministerial posts and the Supreme Soviet.

In this tense situation, when contending class forces in the Donbass republics are measuring each other under wartime conditions, anti-fascists have cautioned against provocations by U.S. imperialism and the Ukrainian junta. They note, for example, the hush-hush visit of U.S. State Department official Victoria Nuland, one of the architects of the coup, to Kiev on Oct. 6. (RIA Novosti, Oct. 7)

Katerina Gubarev stated after the assassination attempt on her spouse: "Now the media and the Internet spread mass speculation and outright lies. Enemies of the DNR and Novorossia try to use any excuse to sow discord between the commanders and political leaders of the country.

"On the eve of the first democratic elections in the country, it is first of all the work of former Donetsk oligarchs and the Ukrainian government. They could not beat us by force, and now attempt to split us. Anyone who spreads panic in the networks, and supports the unfounded accusations by taking sides, gives grist to the mill of Kiev fascists." (Novorossia.su) □

Workers reject austerity in the streets

Europe

By G. Dunkel

The grumbling about austerity in Europe, ordained and enforced by Germany, grew louder this week at a meeting of Western Europe's political leadership in Milan, Italy.

Most of the large countries there, other than Germany, were openly worried about falling into a deflationary trap that could wipe out their very weak recovery from the 2008 financial crisis, turn their growth into decline and send unemployment into double digits.

While the political leaderships of the big countries in Western Europe want a more expansive economic policy, they are happy to have the wages of their workers under strict control.

Workers in both England, which is not in the eurozone, and Germany, which most definitely is, struck this past week for economic justice, that is, the raises that are their due.

England

For the first time in 30 years, 400,000 workers of the National Health Service walked out for four hours on Oct. 13. They then carried out a "work-to-rule" job action for the rest of the week.

The NHS provides medical and hospital care to the people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, that being England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Workers — those needed to handle medical emergencies — were allowed to cross the picket lines.

UNISON, one of the nine unions which

jointly called the strike in England, explained the anger that led to the walkout on its website: "For the first time in the history of the independent pay review body, the government has chosen to ignore its recommendation of 1 percent pay rise for all NHS staff." (unison.org.uk)

Over one-third of all NHS workers don't make enough to support their families and their pay hasn't been keeping up with inflation for the past five years.

Workers in Scotland got the raise that the pay review board recommended and those at the bottom of the pay scales got a bit more to bring them over the living-wage level. Consequently, there was no strike in Scotland.

For the rest of the United Kingdom, further actions are being planned if the government maintains its position.

Germany

There were major strikes on the German railroad, run by a state-owned company called Deutsche Bahn, on both Sept. 1 and Oct. 7. The strikes were called by the German train drivers union (the GDL) to get a 5 percent raise and reduce the workweek for train operators from 39 to 37 hours.

Another strike Oct. 14-15, for the most part shut DB down. Reports say that only one-in-three long-distance trains ran and almost all the regional trains were disrupted. (The Local, Oct. 15)

The most recent strike was prompted by the government's and DB's effort to "force" the GDL "into an agreement with

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WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Ebola, Cuba and capitalism

It is impossible to ignore that the capitalist for-profit system is the greatest obstacle in the effort to control the Ebola epidemic. Capitalism has sown abject poverty and malnutrition, dismantled existing public health systems, crushed human solidarity, based the development of vaccines and cures on their profit margin and weakened human ability to survive diseases.

The major outbreak of Ebola in parts of West Africa is already wreaking havoc in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The appearance of individual cases in Europe and the United States has aroused widespread awareness that this threat involves all of humanity and needs a worldwide effort, organized with the maximum of international solidarity, to bring it under control and find an eventual cure.

To this end we salute the example offered by socialist Cuba in offering 461 volunteer medical personnel to work in Africa alongside local caregivers and other international personnel, including from the United States.

The working-class movement here should organize to make sure that the resources of the United States and the other imperialist countries are made available to those on the front lines attempting to treat those with Ebola and to prevent the spread of the epidemic. We should also stay organized to prevent the imperialist governments from controlling how these resources are used.

A look at the U.S. reaction to the Ebola crisis exposes all the fault lines of the capitalist system and U.S. racism.

The appearance of one case of Ebola in Dallas led to a string of errors and illustrated the absence of any functional public health system. Medical personnel had no serious guidance and training in how to handle a possible Ebola case. Neither training nor equipment was adequate.

When nurses aiding the patient were infected, the medical authority, with typical boss arrogance, blamed nurse Nina Pham. But these errors stemmed from management procedures. Then, instead of issuing clear orders for exposed medical personnel barring travel, the authorities blamed nurse Amber Joy Vinson after she traveled, although she checked first.

Pham and Vinson were frontline heroes and should be honored as such. Instead they were vilified.

By continually changing their story, the Dallas and national health authorities' incompetence facilitated the role of rightist political elements. These rightists, from Fox News to the Senate, exploited the public's growing fear in order to push their reactionary, racist and xenophobic programs and stir the most irrational responses.

One community college near Dallas even barred people from West Africa from enrolling, regardless of their lack of contagion. Parents pulled their children out of a Mississippi middle school when they learned its principal had traveled to Zambia, an African nation untouched by Ebola.

Washington's way of "aiding" the West African countries is to send 3,000 troops. Apparently the Pentagon is the only government agency in this militarized country capable of mobilizing on a

large scale. This dubious contribution in effect embeds the Pentagon in Africa via AFRICOM, a recent goal of U.S. imperialism. Despite the size of the U.S. effort, its costs are miniscule compared with what the Pentagon spends on wars around the world.

Allegedly this Pentagon contingent will build field hospitals and treatment centers and deliver materials. It is unclear how many troops are medical personnel, what training they have to avoid contagion, and how they will be repatriated. They are not volunteers, but have been ordered into the hot zone.

By contrast, Cuba selected 461 doctors and other medical personnel, women and men, out of 15,000 volunteers, based on their prior experience in disaster relief in Haiti, Pakistan or elsewhere in Africa. These volunteers received further training at the Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute, near Havana. The 165 Cubans already in Sierra Leone are going through 15 days of additional training there.

The Cubans' courage and solidarity do not prevent them from taking every step of their preparation seriously. The current protocol for anyone entering Cuba from the affected region is that the individuals will spend 21 days at Pedro Kouri to assure they are not infected.

In his message on the important mission to West Africa, Fidel Castro wrote: "The medical staff that is ready to go to any region to save lives, even at the risk of losing their own, is the best example of solidarity that human beings can offer, particularly if they are not moved by any material interest. (Granma, Oct. 19)

"We all understand that in fulfilling this task with maximum preparation and efficiency, we would also be protecting our people and the brother peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, by avoiding the spread of the virus, since it unfortunately has entered and could further spread in the United States, a country with so many personal links and exchanges with the rest of the world."

Cuba's splendid history of international solidarity — whether with military aid for liberation struggles or medical humanitarian aid — is based on its socialist system and its absence of profit motive. □

EUROPE

Workers reject austerity

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the rail operator's own in-house union, the EVG, a move which would see the GDL lose its independence to Deutsche Bahn and the EVG," according to a statement by the GDL. (thelocal.de, Oct. 15)

The EVG claims a membership of 250,000 and joined in the criticism of the strikes. GDL has a membership of 20,000 and is trying to represent 17,000 DB workers in customer service and other nonoperational functions.

The pilots in Lufthansa's low-cost subsidiary, Germanwings, struck for 12 hours on Oct. 14 against attacks on early retirement plans. □

Big troubles for apartheid Israel

By Deirdre Griswold

When Israeli planes and artillery were bombarding the people of Gaza this summer, the ratio of death and destruction was so skewed against the Palestinians that many people sympathetic to their cause around the world must have wondered how the Gazans' indomitable resistance could produce tangible results against such a formidable military power.

Well, it has. Their enormous sacrifices were not in vain. Not at all.

Israel is in trouble, as more and more facts show. The racist settler state is losing people and talent, even though the U.S. has pumped up not only its armed might but its economy for decades, viewing Israel as though it were an unsinkable aircraft carrier protecting the Middle East interests of imperialist oil companies and their banker allies.

Part of its problem comes from the isolation that Israelis now feel in the world, as people on every continent were outraged by the inhumanity of Israel's relentless destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, water facilities and children by a military that boasted of its ability to "pinpoint" its targets.

But the Israeli ruling class is also feeling the economic consequences of trying to sustain a hated settler state. It is not viable because it must spend huge sums to impose its domination on the Palestinian people, whose ancestors have lived there since long before the idea of the Zionist project was even conceived.

The exodus of middle-class Jews from Israel in search of a better life recently drew the attention of the New York Times, which has always been rabidly pro-Israel. It noted that many thousands of Israelis with skills have moved to Germany seeking higher wages and lower prices. (Oct. 16) Some young people have also left to avoid compulsory military service.

Israel's economic growth rate has plunged from a high in 2007 of more than 6 percent to just above 1 percent toward the end of the recent war. (The Economist, Aug. 30) Reflecting this dim prognosis, the Bank of Israel on Aug. 25 cut its main interest rate to 0.25 percent, a historic low.

Of course Israel is also feeling the squeeze of a global capitalist economy in the doldrums. That not only affects Israel directly, but also makes the big, rich imperialist countries that have bankrolled it reluctant to hand over limitless amounts of money, pressed as they are by economic turmoil at home and around the world.

Perhaps as a reflection of this, the British Parliament on Oct. 13 broke ranks with the other Western imperialist governments and voted to recognize a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The struggle of all Palestinians for the right to live in their homeland and determine their own destiny is far from over. But Palestinians and their supporters around the world are optimistic that there is light at the end of the many tunnels dug in Gaza to break out of Tel Aviv's imprisonment of the people and the land. □

The FBI came looking for me

To the editor,

I am writing to let everyone know that the FBI visited my father today with the intention of questioning me about my trip to Syria as an international election observer for the 2014 Syrian presidential elections. In June 2014, I visited Syria with the objective of learning the truth about the situation there. (See article at tinyurl.com/ourqr4g)

This trip was entirely legal and well-documented. I visited, along with observers representing 32 countries. Many were members of Parliament and representatives of local governments in countries such as Bolivia, Brazil and Uganda. Since then, I have reported on my trip in public meetings at the United Nations, as well as in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany, N.Y., and in Philadelphia where I live.

Since 2007, I have been a committed anti-war activist with many organizations, including Students for a Democratic Society and the International Action Center. The FBI mentioned me as an activist with FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together), in which I am one of the national coordinators.

Why is the FBI coming after me? The FBI's attempt to question me is not only an attack on me. It is an attack on anyone who chooses to travel the world and seek a perspective that is not represented by the corporate media. The U.S. depends on misinformation and huge lies to perpetrate its crimes abroad. Yet the FBI has picked the wrong person, since I have strong friends and allies across the U.S. who will stand with me in the fight against unjust government repression.

This visit is a continuation of the FBI's attack on anti-war and international solidarity activists. The FBI has been attempting to charge 24 anti-war and international solidarity activists with "material support of terrorism." They are being targeted and face potentially long jail sentences. Take a moment to look at the StopFBI.net site for the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, the organization that has fought to defend these 24, as well as Palestinian activist Rasmia Odeh. This is a strong example of the political fightback that is needed to defend activists from government repression.

These activists are not alone in their treatment. Since 2001, hundreds of Muslim men in the U.S. have been victims of entrapment, harassment and false imprisonment, simply for their religion.

I strongly encourage all of my friends, co-workers and family members to look at the Center for Constitutional Rights' booklet entitled "If an Agent Knocks." (ccrjustice.org/ifanagentknocks). See StopFBI.net for resources on what to do if the FBI comes to your door. Most importantly, you should never agree to speak to the FBI without a lawyer present — and you really should never speak to the FBI. You can simply say, "I do not wish to speak with you. I will have my lawyer contact you," and then close the door.

If the FBI visits, do not become fearful or silent. Let other people know immediately and speak out against government surveillance and intimidation. If you do not have a lawyer and you or a family member is contacted by the FBI, contact the National Lawyers Guild immediately — and

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Three years after NATO bombings

Libya war continues by proxy

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

On Oct. 20, 2011, the leader of the North African state of Libya was brutally assassinated in the city of Sirte. Colonel Moammar Gadhafi had been leading a struggle to defend his country from a war of regime-change coordinated and financed by the United States and NATO.

Three years after the overthrow of his Jamahiriya system of government in Libya, social conditions inside the country are by no means stable. Various factions, most of whom were utilized as ground troops by the Pentagon and NATO to supplement their aerial war against the country, remain locked in mortal conflict for control over the oil-rich state.

Competing sources of political power backed up by armed militias exist in the two largest cities: Tripoli, the capital, and Benghazi in the east where the counter-revolution against Gadhafi began. Areas in the south of the country, often in sympathy with the previous Jamahiriya system, have armed themselves against the U.S.-installed regimes in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, two regional states that participated in the imperialist-engineered war against Libya, have been carrying out periodic airstrikes against alleged "Islamist" strongholds in various locations in the east and west. Also, the former renegade general and longtime CIA asset, Khalifa Haftar, has mounted a bid for power utilizing sophisticated weapons and air strikes.

Oil production affected by conflict

For several months earlier this year, oil production in Libya was down considerably. Conflicts between various labor or-

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contact other activists who have dealt with government intimidation before.

As soon as this happened, I called Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, to discuss our strategy to stop this FBI repression. We decided to make a clear statement as public as possible. We will not be silent as the government attempts to attack those who choose to speak out against unjust U.S. foreign policy. In fact, we will use any attack on my freedom to continue to build a movement against government repression. It is in this spirit that I am writing today.

As the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The bombs in Vietnam explode at home." With U.S. wars escalating in Syria, Iraq and beyond, we see that these wars have only caused massive devastation for the people of the world, while bringing in huge profits to a few.

Meanwhile, billions of dollars are taken away from public education and jobs, as the government has trampled on our basic civil liberties. As the activists in the Committee to Stop FBI Repression have done, I will continue to fight unjust U.S. wars against people across the world, as I demand full funding for human needs and an end to the aggressive destruction of our basic civil liberties.

I am not certain what will happen next. While I do have legal help, I hope you all will also stand with me in case of any further attempt at government repression by the FBI.

Another world is possible.

Scott Williams
Oct. 17, 2014

ganizations, in addition to clashes among the militias, resulted in the decline of barrels-per-day extraction to almost nil.

A dispute over who could actually sell Libyan oil on the international market was eventually addressed by the U.S. It sent a naval warship to reclaim cargo traded by entities in the country that had not been endorsed by Washington. Subsequent efforts aimed at resolving the disagreements have still not cleared the way for a consistent boost in production.

Unrest has recently erupted again over which political group claiming authority in Libya will control the proceeds from oil sales. The two parties that control the capital of Tripoli and are often labelled "Islamists," as well as a "government in exile" in the eastern city of Tobruk, all say they are entitled to the revenue generated from the oil trade.

With a decline in global oil prices during October, the struggle over the control of oil in Libya has prompted the attention of the Wall Street Journal. Efforts by five Western countries designated by the United Nations to reach a political settlement in the Libyan quagmire have failed. Consequently, the major imperialist powers are concerned about the supply of oil and the role of Libya in the process.

"In a joint statement late Saturday, France, Italy, Germany, the U.K. and the U.S. said they supported the U.N.-sponsored peace talks and a cessation of hostilities," noted the Wall Street Journal on Oct. 19. "The five governments condemned the violence by Islamist group Ansar al-Shariah, voiced concern about the attacks of the renegade general and said they were ready to sanction those threatening Libya's security."

The newspaper went on to point out, "Libya is normally one of Europe's largest oil suppliers, but disruptions since the fall of strongman Moammar Gadhafi in 2011 have reduced its contribution to the continent's oil supply." Even the main organ of international finance capital has to openly acknowledge that the Pentagon-NATO policy of regime-change in Libya has disrupted oil supplies to the European continent.

The so-called moderate group based in Tobruk, led by Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani, sent its own oil minister, Mashallah al-Zawie, to Turkey to participate in an industry conference held in Istanbul. Al-Thani dismissed Central Bank director Sadiq Kabir and claims to have control of the revenue from oil sales. But the rival Libya Dawn group, which took over Tripoli in August, is contesting al-Thani's control of the state.

Nonetheless, the Wall Street Journal reported that "officials at NOC [the state-owned National Oil Co.] and at the central bank subsidiary which receives payments from oil buyers said revenues had continued to flow to its Tripoli-based accounts. Mr. al-Kabir also remains in office, they said."

Such confusion over which entity controls Libyan oil could very well hamper the country's future production and exports projections. Libyan oil officials say production is now 850,000 barrels a day, an increase of 40,000 barrels over earlier in October. This suggests that some facilities have boosted their output. In contrast, operations at oil fields in eastern Libya have been interrupted by labor unrest, led by workers seeking jobs at the facilities.

The present situation in Libya is the direct result of the 2011 war of re-

gime-change led by the CIA, the Pentagon and NATO. U.S. policy is designed to overthrow all the sovereign and anti-imperialist governments throughout Africa and the Middle East.

Consequently, the outcome of the current situation in North Africa and the Middle East will be critical in the future course of imperialist militarism worldwide. Obviously, the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Syria and Libya have prompted massive destabilization of these societies, including a vast increase in internally displaced persons and refugees.

During the years of Jamahiriya-Gadhafi rule, Libya was the most prosperous state in Africa. Now it is a major source of instability in the region. Aerial bombard-

ments by Egypt and the UAE will only further the generalized sense of lawlessness and terror.

Only the Libyan people themselves, united around a political program of national unity and genuine sovereignty, will be able to reverse the current malaise. Plans being discussed to intervene in Libya with thousands of NATO troops under the rubric of the United Nations would heighten anti-Western sentiments already prevalent throughout the country.

Washington and Wall Street are driven by an insatiable hunger for profits in shaping their policy toward Africa and the Middle East. Their interventions will only breed more anti-U.S. consciousness and mass resistance to imperialist control. □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO ★

FERGUSON: el pueblo se levanta contra terror policial

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caras de la fuerza policial mayormente blanca, gritando ¡"Arresten a Darren Wilson"! y ¡"Manos arriba, no disparen"! Luego nos sentamos en la calle durante varios minutos en un acto de desobediencia civil.

Después de la marcha, cientos de los mismos manifestantes regresaron a St. Louis para expresar su indignación por el asesinato de Vonderrit Myers Jr., de 18 años de edad, por un policía fuera de servicio el 8 de octubre. A Myers le dispararon 17 veces, alcanzándole por lo menos seis disparos. Contra argumentando la versión de la policía que decía que Myers tenía un arma, testigos oculares dicen que acababa de comprar un emparedado de pavo. La protesta terminó en la gasolinera Quik Trip en la sección de Grove. Cuando unas/os 50 manifestantes protestaron sentándose allí, fueron atacadas/os con gas pimienta y otras formas de violencia por la policía. Por lo menos 10 personas fueron detenidas.

Lunes moral del 13 de octubre

El clero progresista y personas religiosas comenzaron las acciones de un día de desobediencia civil el 13 de octubre en la tradición de los Lunes Morales, protestas que han tenido lugar en Carolina del Norte. Allí, cientos han sido arrestadas/os durante el pasado año al desafiar las políticas ultraderechistas, racistas, y anti obreras del gobierno estatal.

Además del cierre de las tres tiendas Walmart, 400 personas marcharon desde una iglesia local hasta el Departamento de la Policía de Ferguson donde 10 personas, en su mayoría clérigos, fueron detenidas. Individuos se turnaban para acostarse en un trazado de tiza simbolizando el cuerpo de Brown. La policía había dejado que el cuerpo de Brown yaciera en la calle por lo menos durante cuatro horas después de asesinarlo el 9 de agosto.

Participantes del grupo Misurenses Organizando para la Reforma y Empoderamiento y Octubre de Ferguson protestaron frente a un evento para recaudar fondos para Steve Stenger, el candidato para Ejecutivo del Condado, conocido por sus estrechos lazos con los partidarios de Darren Wilson y del fiscal McCulloch.

A pesar de un aguacero, una coalición de miembros sindicales y comunitarios fue arrestada después de bloquear la

calle frente al Emerson Electric. Esta compañía de los 500 de Fortune, basada en St. Louis, tuvo ingresos de \$24,6 mil millones en 2013, mientras que el ingreso per cápita promedio en Ferguson el año pasado fue \$21.000.

"Estamos llamando la atención sobre la injusticia económica que vivimos en Ferguson", dijo Jermaine Arms de Show Me \$15 (Muéstreme \$15 de salario mínimo). "Justicia para Mike Brown significa justicia para todos. Este debe ser un momento en el que todas/os nosotros tomemos responsabilidad por las condiciones que su muerte ha expuesto. Las empresas y corporaciones con sede en Ferguson y St. Louis deben promover empleos justos y contribuir al bienestar de nuestra comunidad".

Un grupo de jóvenes, Activistas Milenios Unidos (MAU por sus siglas en inglés), ocupó dos pisos de la Plaza Frontenac, un centro comercial de lujo en el centro de St. Louis, donde participaron en un coro de llamadas y respuestas para exigir justicia para Michael Brown.

Brittany Ferrell, una portavoz de MAU, declaró: "Los jóvenes están siendo asesinados por la policía en Ferguson. Hemos venido aquí hoy porque no podemos seguir como siempre ante tal injusticia. Ya sean frente a funcionarios electos de nuestras ciudades, la policía local o lugares como Plaza Frontenac — vamos a seguir sonando la alarma y exigiendo justicia para la familia de Mike Brown. Esto tiene parar".

Activistas Jóvenes Unidos protestaron frente al Ayuntamiento de St. Louis para exigir que el alcalde Francis Slay, la Junta de Concejales y el jefe de policía Sam Dotson hagan reformas extensivas de la policía. Las/os manifestantes fueron arrestados al intentar desplegar banderas desde un balcón.

Activistas Jóvenes Unidos exigen: que cámaras de cuerpo sean usadas por TODOS los agentes policiales que tengan cualquier interacción con el público; una junta civil de revisión elegida por las/os ciudadanos, no por personas designadas por el alcalde y aprobadas por la policía; eliminación del Departamento Metropolitano de Policía de St. Louis del Programa de 1033 — una ley federal que permite la militarización de la policía local; y la investigación independiente de todos los tiroteos de la policía que resultan en muerte, comenzando con Vonderrit Myers. □



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Papel de Washington en masacres estudiantiles en México

Por Deirdre Griswold

El 2 de octubre de 1968, a sólo 10 días de la apertura de los Juegos Olímpicos de Verano que se celebraban ese año en Ciudad de México, policías y soldados le dispararon a estudiantes reunidas/os en una plaza en la sección Tlatelolco de la capital. Las/os estudiantes dijeron que 400 personas murieron; el gobierno admitió sólo 30. Nunca hubo un conteo oficial.

Este año, veintenas de estudiantes en la ciudad mexicana de Iguala que se preparaban para una conmemoración de la masacre de Tlatelolco tuvieron un destino similar. Los medios de comunicación dicen que en la noche del 26 al 27 de septiembre, policías y sicarios del cartel de drogas atacaron a las/os estudiantes, matando al menos a seis y secuestrando otras/os 43.

Desde entonces, se han descubierto fosas comunes con los cuerpos carbonizados y mutilados de muchos de las/os desaparecidos. La búsqueda sigue.

Esta horrenda atrocidad, mientras no se le da la cobertura que se merece, se está informando en los medios de comunicación de EUA, pero simplemente como un reflejo de la corrupción y la brutalidad de las autoridades mexicanas y los señores de la droga. Y punto. No se menciona en absoluto el papel que EUA ha jugado tanto en la corrupción como en el empobrecimiento de México.

Pero esto es exactamente lo que la gente en EUA tiene que saber, porque el pueblo de México necesita nuestra solidaridad en su lucha por obtener justicia y su verdadera soberanía.

En primer lugar, la brutalidad del gobierno estadounidense en relación a México nunca se menciona. Pero EUA jugó un papel importante en el ataque contra las/os estudiantes que produjo la masacre de Tlatelolco.

En 1968 había una ira generalizada en todas partes, tanto por la guerra de EUA en el sudeste asiático como por el racismo rampante en este país. Washington esperaba manifestaciones durante los Juegos Olímpicos. Para su consternación, los atletas estadounidenses Tommie Smith y John Carlos dieron el saludo del Poder Negro desde el podio cuando recibieron sus medallas.

El gobierno EUA había estado en contacto con las autoridades mexicanas durante meses antes de los juegos. Mucho más tarde, en el 2003, el Archivo de Seguridad Nacional en Washington publicó documentos de la CIA, el Pentágono, el Departamento de Estado, el FBI y la Casa Blanca, que revelaban la enorme presión puesta sobre México para evitar cualquier protesta anti-EUA durante los juegos.

Seis días antes de la masacre, tanto el presidente Gustavo Díaz Ordaz y su jefe de seguridad aseguraron a Washington que "la situación pronto estaría bajo total



PHOTO: ALAN ROTH

control. ("Latin America's Cold War" Hal Brand, Harvard University Press) Las manos que tiraron del gatillo eran mexicanas, pero las órdenes de "hacer lo que sea necesario" procedieron de EUA.

El TLCAN y la pobreza rural

Desde esos días, la trayectoria de México ha sido aún más trágica. El TLCAN impuesto por EUA - el llamado Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte - que entró en vigor el 1 de enero de 1994, socavó totalmente a la población rural que ponía comida en su mesa y se ganaba un poco de dinero con la agricultura. El maíz barato estadounidense inundó México, lo que hizo muy feliz a los gigantes del agronegocio, pero obligó a muchas familias mexicanas a abandonar su tierra y emigrar, corriendo el riesgo de arrestos y hasta la muerte al cruzar la frontera.

Esta destrucción de la economía rural de México es lo que ha impulsado el sur-

gimimiento de los cárteles de la droga, cuyo mercado y conexiones están en EUA.

Los políticos mexicanos tienen buenas razones para temer a su poderoso vecino del norte. El Pentágono a finales del 2008 publicó un informe advirtiendo del inminente "colapso repentino" de México y amenazando que "cualquier descenso de México en el caos demandaría una respuesta estadounidense basada en las serias implicaciones solo por la seguridad nacional". (El Paso Times, 13 de enero 2009)

Así que, mientras los imperialistas crean las condiciones económicas para el surgimiento de los señores de la droga, usan luego su existencia como un pretexto para una posible intervención militar si las cosas no salen a su modo.

Las/os estudiantes mexicanos no son sólo víctimas. Son líderes políticamente conscientes en la lucha contra el imperialismo. Se merecen todo el apoyo y la solidaridad que les podamos dar. □

El pueblo se levanta contra terror policial

Por Monica Moorehead

Un fin de semana de resistencia masiva sin precedentes tuvo lugar en St. Louis, Ferguson, Clayton y otras partes de Misuri del 10 al 13 octubre. Muchas acciones exigieron el fin del terror policial y justicia real para Michael Brown, John Crawford III, Vonderrit Myers Jr. y muchos otros que han perdido sus jóvenes vidas a manos de la policía.

Iniciado por activistas locales unidos bajo el lema de Octubre de Ferguson, las acciones bien organizadas, creativas, disciplinadas e inspiradoras - algunas planeadas, otras espontáneas - hicieron recordar a Misuri, EUA y al mundo entero que el asesinato policial del joven afroamericano de 18 años de edad Michael Brown el 9 de agosto, seguirá siendo un importante catalizador para la construcción de un movimiento nacional contra el abuso y la ocupación policial.

Los cuatro días de resistencia incluyeron marchas, manifestaciones, desobediencia civil, foros, piquetes, asambleas y eventos culturales que surgieron a lo largo del Condado de St. Louis.

Una de las primeras protestas tuvo lugar el 10 de octubre en Clayton frente a la oficina de Robert McCullough, fiscal del distrito del condado. McCullough viene de una familia de policías y en la actualidad lleva a cabo la investigación del gran

jurado para determinar si el policía Darren Wilson será acusado por el asesinato de Brown. La familia de Brown y sus partidarios han estado exigiendo que McCullough se recuse de la investigación - debido a su sesgo bien documentado contra los negros - y sea reemplazado por un fiscal especial independiente.

Una de las actividades culminantes el 13 de octubre fue el dramático despliegue de una pancarta en las gradas durante el partido de fútbol profesional entre los St. Louis Rams y los San Francisco 49ers. La pancarta decía: "Los aficionados de los Rams saben que las vidas de los negros importan tanto en el campo de juego como fuera".

"La vida de los negros importa", "Sin justicia no hay paz", "Dejen de matar a nuestra gente" y "Arresten a Darren Wilson", fueron las principales demandas en muchas de las protestas. La acción de masas más grande tuvo lugar el 11 de octubre, cuando 3.000 personas salieron a las calles de St. Louis en una marcha de Justicia para Todos. Delegaciones representando trabajadoras/es, juventud y estudiantes, grupos comunitarios y el movimiento político se unieron con un sentimiento común: Ya basta, ya que la guerra racista contra los jóvenes de color empeora. La marcha terminó en un parque frente al famoso Arco de Entrada

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a St. Louis donde, irónicamente, es el mismo lugar donde en tiempo de la esclavitud, las/os africanos secuestrados eran vendidas/os en subastas como esclavos.

Las/os oradores, muchas/os de ellos jóvenes y afroamericanos, dijeron que han pasado más tiempo en la cárcel por protestar, que Darren Wilson por matar a Brown. Se conectó la brutalidad policial con la necesidad de empleos sindicalizados y educación para las/os jóvenes.

La solidaridad entre el pueblo palestino en territorios ocupados por Israel y las comunidades negras ocupadas por la policía aquí fue reiterada por varios oradores. Fue públicamente reconocido que #FergusonOctober era el sitio más re-tuiteado ese día, con más de 91.000 tuits.

Las familias representando a Brown y Myers agradecieron el apoyo de las/os manifestantes.

John Crawford fue matado a balazos fuera de una tienda Walmart en Dayton, Ohio el 6 de agosto. Un estudiante activista de Ohio dijo entre aplausos, que en respuesta a la falta del gran jurado acusar a la policía por disparar fatalmente a Crawford, la Estación de Policía de Beavercreek fue cerrada por activistas. El 13 de octubre, tres tiendas Walmart fueron cerradas en St. Louis y Ferguson por activistas gritando: "Yo soy John Crawford/somos John

Crawford". La acción, organizada por la Organización de Lucha Negra, resultó en arrestos dentro y fuera de las tiendas.

Marcha de Ferguson encabezada por familia Brown

Horas después de la marcha en St. Louis, unas 1.000 personas se reunieron en Ferguson para una breve vigilia en un monumento creado en el lugar exacto donde Michael Brown había sido asesinado en el complejo de apartamentos Canfield Gardens. La madre de Brown, Leslie McSpadden, y otras/os miembros de la familia ayudaron a liderar una militante marcha por la Avenida West Florissant, un punto del levantamiento del 10 de agosto, hacia el Departamento de Policía de Ferguson que se encuentra en el South Florissant Road.

Mientras marchamos en las calles, muchas/os conductores tocaban la bocina con puños fuera de las ventanillas expresando su solidaridad. Las/os residentes salían de sus casas para dar el saludo de "Manos arriba, no disporen" que se ha convertido en el toque de clarín de esta lucha.

Las/os manifestantes fueron recibidos por policías armados que bloqueaban la entrada a su fortaleza. Pero no había fuerza que pudiera intimidar a las/os manifestantes para llegar justo en las

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