



Burkina Faso

Mass uprising ousts neocolonial ruler

PHOTO: TELESUR



Hundreds of thousands of Burkinabes reject neoliberal ruler after 27 years.

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

Nov. 3 — Hundreds of thousands of people in Burkina Faso have forced the longtime imperialist-backed leader, President Blaise Compaore, to resign amid mass demonstrations and rebellions in several cities across the West African country. Compaore took power in a French-supported coup on Oct. 15, 1987, against revolutionary Pan-Africanist and socialist leader Capt. Thomas Sankara.

Several political parties and movements that are seeking to reclaim the legacy of Sankara were very much in evidence during the unrest that reached a crit-

ical point on Oct. 30, when thousands stormed the parliament building and set it alight. The legislative body was set to vote on a motion to extend the 27-year rule of Compaore, who, although coming out of the military, had run for office repeatedly as a civilian candidate.

Compaore sought to reassert his authority by refusing to formally resign from the presidency until the evening of Oct. 31. General Honore Traore announced after the rebellion on Oct. 30 that he was assuming power and dissolving parliament.

Immediately people in the various opposition parties began to object to the leadership of Traore. The following day, Nov. 1, yet another military leader emerged, claiming to be in charge.

This time it was Lt. Col. Isaac Zida, the deputy commander of the elite presidential guard. Media reports emanating from Burkina Faso said the military had endorsed Zida's leadership. After meeting with foreign diplomats on Nov. 3, Zida said that the military would hand over power to a civilian transitional authority that is acceptable to the people of the country. Many say there could be more violent unrest if Zida does not move swiftly in this regard.

Masses call for return to civilian rule

The opposition forces called for a major mobilization on Nov. 2 to demand that Zida relinquish power. Thousands took to the streets and later gathered outside RTB, the national television station, in the capital of Ouagadougou.

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WORKERS WORLD

this week

New York City forum topics

Migrant caravan, Garifuna oppression, Mexican students

The New York branch of Workers World Party sponsored an Oct. 30 forum featuring the ongoing struggle of migrants, especially women, youth and children from Central America. Participants included several members of the National Solidarity Caravan who had traveled in a bus to Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Durham, N.C.; Atlanta; Jackson, Miss.; Houston; and other cities near the Texas/Mexico border. The trip's goal was to bring broader attention to the plight of migrants and their families forced to leave their homelands to seek better jobs.

Speakers included Ramiro Funez, a Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) organizer, who explained why the caravan cannot be separated from other important struggles like fighting police brutality and imperialism; supporting women's and lesbian-gay-bi-trans-queer rights; and more.

Pablo Blanco, a Pace University student and Garifuna cultural activist, gave a brief history of Garifuna oppression and its relationship to the current migration of Garifunas from Central America to the Bronx in New York City. The Garifunas are people of African descent who are based in Honduras.

That country suffered a right-wing coup in 2009, which resulted in the slaughter of 25,000 activists and progressives there. Blanco also spoke about the horrific treatment of Garifuna women in the U.S. The Immigration and Custom Enforcement forces many of these women to wear ankle chains to monitor their movement while they languish in shelters.

Both Blanco and Funez participated in the caravan. Along with the International Action Center, the May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights and IFCO/Pastors for Peace helped to raise \$1,000 for water barrels that the caravan delivered to Falfurrias, Texas. Many migrants die from thirst every day attempting to cross the Texas border. Access to water is a life-and-death issue for them.

Lorena Patiño, from the MORENA Mexican political party, spoke about the disappearance of 43 protesting students from the city of Ayotzinapa. So far the Mexican government has ignored demands for news of their whereabouts, dead or alive. A possible general strike later in November is being discussed in Mexico in solidarity with the students.

The three talks can be heard at workers.org.
— Story and photo by Monica Moorehead

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WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Profit system spreads misery

Time to expose capitalism, fight for socialism

By Fred Goldstein

The time to openly attack and expose capitalism and advocate for its opposite, socialism, has not been this ripe since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The capitalist system is transparently rotten to the core and taking a huge toll on the lives of workers — whether employed or unemployed. The devastation in the African-American, Latino/a and other oppressed communities is extreme.

There are numerous studies by banks, ruling-class think tanks, universities and so on giving a partial picture of how bad things are. Even in the upper echelons of the rich and their thinkers, there is deep concern about the actual deterioration of economic and social conditions — because they fear eventual rebellion.

Of course, this anxiety among those who have the real information is not at all reflected in the propaganda machine of big business, which continues to talk up the economy. For example, in the last quarter the economy is supposed to have grown at 3.5 percent. Unemployment, they tell us, is going down and hiring is on the rise.

Talking up economy, playing down reality

Here are some of the things the publicists of the rich do not dwell upon:

Economic inequality is at obscene levels. Mass suffering is increasing as the stock market reaches new highs — despite its ups and downs. Working-class debt of all types goes up as bank profits soar.

Trillions of dollars have been poured into the banking system to bail out the rich, even as millions of workers are under water and live from paycheck to paycheck — if they are fortunate enough to get a paycheck.

The so-called decline in the unemployment rate is because workers have dropped out of the work force by the millions. Millions more are working at low-wage jobs, are forced to work part time or are working two and three jobs just to make ends meet.

All television networks, mainstream newspapers and major politicians of the two big business parties tell us the system is basically sound and “we” are “coming back” from the capitalist crisis of 2007 to 2009. This is a smokescreen designed to conceal the fact that the “comeback” is only for the rich. The masses of people not only have not “come back” but are living with hardship on a daily basis.

Half of those in cities are ‘economically insecure’

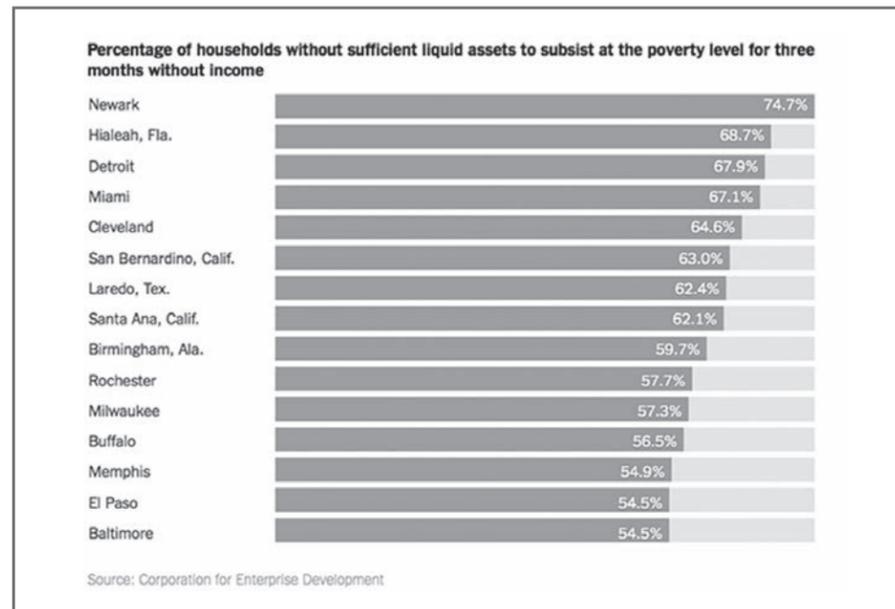
According to a sweeping survey conducted by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, nearly half the people in major U.S. cities are living in a state of economic insecurity.

The survey asked: “If you lost your job or had a bad accident, how long would your savings last?”

The answers, according to a report in the Sept. 17 New York Times, showed: “Nearly half of all households in major cities don’t have enough money saved to cover essential expenses in an emergency.”

“For many Americans, living without any cushion can lead to financial disaster. This nerve-racking financial insecurity has come to characterize life in cities across the country.

“In Newark, for example, three-quarters of the population does not have



enough money to meet basic expenses for three months at the federal poverty level, about \$6,000 for a family of four. The absence of assets that can be quickly converted to cash — like stocks, bank accounts or retirement accounts — is why the study calls these people ‘liquid asset poor.’ Other cities where more than half the population has nearly no financial leeway include Detroit at 68 percent, Miami at 67 percent, Cleveland at nearly 65 percent, as well as Laredo, Tex.; Birmingham, Ala.; Milwaukee; Buffalo; and Memphis.”

This survey was conducted for the banks. While it undoubtedly understates the situation, the figures show that the profit system is grinding the people down.

This survey does not include widespread rural poverty, which in many ways is even worse because support resources are scarcer, transportation costs are higher, and jobs are even harder to get. It is harder to conduct surveys where the population is dispersed.

Half can’t raise \$400 in an emergency

Last year the Federal Reserve Bank did an extensive study showing that half the population could not come up with \$400 to meet an emergency car repair, doctor’s bill, etc., without borrowing money or selling something. (“Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2013”) The same study showed that 60 percent of the people did not have enough savings to last three months if they lost their job, were injured, etc. This condition was much worst in African-American and Latino/a communities.

As for the so-called decline in the unemployment rate, 6.3 million workers have dropped out of the work force, according to official statistics. These are among the “missing workers.” If they were counted, the unemployment rate would be 9.6 percent. Over 90 million people in the U.S. are not in the labor force.

So the population has clearly not “come back” from the economic crisis.

Studies don’t mention profit system as cause

What these studies leave out, and what the working class needs to know above all, is that the problem is the capitalist system of wage slavery — and the solution is socialism.

For example, student debt now exceeds \$1.2 trillion. People in their sixties are still paying on their debt, while the new generation has become indentured to the banks because education is so expensive and the system of student loans is harsh and unjust.

The students know this. But they also need to know that it is because of the capitalist system, in which the banks are powerful rulers who dictate legislation, fees, interest rates, penalties, etc. This is the financial core of capitalism — the so-called “free market” profit system. The privately owned, profit-making banks are so powerful that the only way to put an end to their blood sucking is to get rid of them and the profit system itself.

It is not only student debt but mortgage debt, auto debt, credit card debt, payday loan debt and many other kinds of robbery of workers’ wages that weigh down the population.

Communists must expose the system

The struggle against capitalism and for socialism requires that communists bring explicit knowledge of the system of exploitation to the workers and the movement. That is essential to the struggle for socialism. Understanding the enemy is a basic necessity for working-class leaders.

The truth is that the corporate industrialists, who are financed by the banks and merged with them, oppress and exploit workers for profit. It is a law of the system. The corporations and businesses own the economy — the factories, the

hospitals, the big box stores, etc. Workers own only their ability to work and the few personal possessions they have been able to accumulate in a lifetime of labor.

And the bosses completely dominate the political system. No promises or urging by capitalist politicians to create jobs, lessen inequality, etc., will turn the bosses around. They are guided by their own profit interests.

Workers are dependent on the bosses to live. They must sell their ability to do a job of some type to a capitalist, day after day, month after month, year after year. If the bosses won’t hire them or business falls off, then the workers are out of luck. They work at the will of the owners.

Workers get paid just enough to live, or nowadays even less than that. The wealth they create above and beyond the value of their wages goes into the pockets and vaults of the bosses. The more they can get from the workers, the more they can produce with fewer workers, the more profits they make.

The masses are suffering from the law of the maximization of profit, which drives capitalism.

That is why the bosses put in automation software and robotic production. That is why they outsource jobs to non-union sweatshops in low-wage countries. That is why they won’t pay benefits.

They want to lower their labor costs by laying off workers and then extracting more out of the workers who remain on the job.

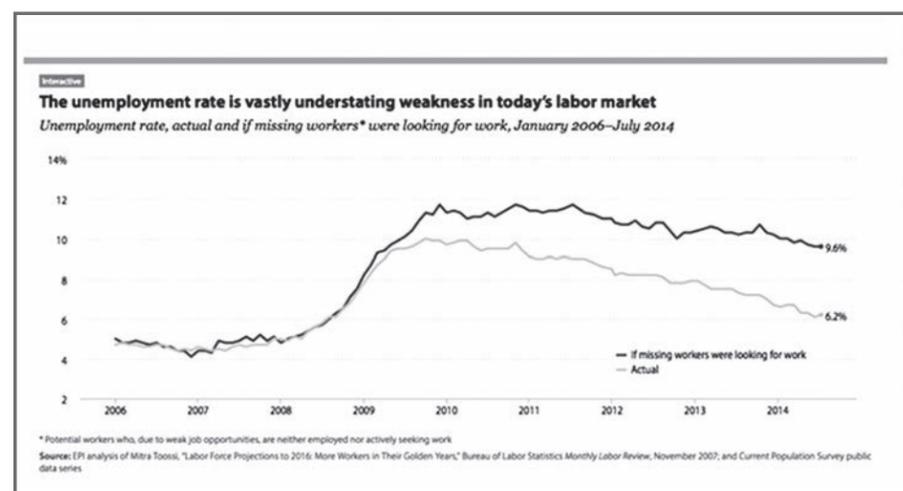
And they can only do this because they own the means of production, transportation and services.

Under capitalism, the working class is totally dependent on the bosses. This is why the unemployment rate won’t go down. This is why wages are permanently low. And this is why half the population, and probably more, live in a state of economic insecurity and worse.

The fightback against the capitalists and their drive to extract more and more unpaid labor from the workers must be escalated. But in the long run, the working class and the oppressed must eliminate their dependence on the capitalist class by getting rid of them and their system. Only when there is a socialist revolution and workers take over the economy in order to run it for human need and not for profit will we be able to escape the capitalist nightmare.

There is a great deal more that communists must explain. The roots of racism, sexism, bigotry and oppression of all types. The persecution and scapegoating of undocumented immigrants. The drive to militarism, intervention and war. The deceptive character of capitalist politics.

True class consciousness means understanding the enemy class and all of its treacherous features. □



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

lowwagecapitalism.com
Available online and at stores around the country.

Los Angeles

My experiences working on \$15 an hour initiative

By Sara Benjamin
Los Angeles

I've had the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles for the "\$15 Minimum Wage" campaign, which includes a ballot initiative that demands a livable minimum wage of \$15 an hour for the city of Los Angeles, to take effect immediately after it's passed. The campaign also supports the struggle of low-wage workers for a union.

I support this initiative because I am a part of the working class. I have been a victim of wage theft from big corporations that profit and continue to get rich off my labor, my cheap labor. Many people, including me, find themselves scratching for funds or working a second or part-time job.

In Los Angeles, over 60 percent of the low-wage workers are Latino/a, African American and/or women. In populations like this, it is not unusual to see a widespread lack of extracurricular activities for youth and families, with no or poor health care, homelessness and a weak economy.

Since low-income families spend most of their wages directly on food, shelter and transportation, any increase in their wages would immediately boost the local and city economy by putting money back into businesses.

The ruling class spends less of their high incomes on these items not because they don't need them but because they have so much money. There is no anxious need to spend the last of the little funds they have, like many workers who live paycheck to paycheck. So in the end, you have the majority of workers of color and women, who are the most underpaid, spending the most money consuming products. Is this fair? No.

As a Baltimore native, I know first hand

the consequences of a city and government that do not safeguard their workers. Wages are low, jobs are minimum-wage, prices are increasing and education is inadequate. The gap between the rich and the poor is the biggest it has ever been.

Over the last 30-plus years, everything except wages has gone up. Child and health care, housing and especially the price tag for a college degree have skyrocketed while the wages have stayed stagnant. The minimum wage in 1963 could buy you more than the minimum wage can buy you today. This is mind-blowing.

The workers create profit through their labor but do not directly benefit from their labor. Instead, they are left with poverty wages and stress as to how they will survive.

This makes it hard for the working class to thrive. Mothers aren't able to spend adequate time with their children because of their work schedules. As a mother of a five-year-old daughter, I know it is important to provide her with enrichment opportunities; most mothers want the same but fall short of providing them.

While supporting the Los Angeles \$15 minimum wage ballot initiative I was able to work with the LA Workers Assembly, which initiated and sponsors the initiative. I spent ten days helping John Parker, the coordinator and main proponent of the ballot initiative ordinance, collect signatures, but more importantly, informing and educating people on the benefits of demanding a livable wage.

A report titled, "Effects of a Fifteen an Hour Minimum Wage in the City of LA" by the AFL-CIO, used the Fair Labor Standards Act as a criterion to determine that \$15 an hour is the minimum necessary to live and survive in Los Angeles. Asking a worker to accept anything less is



Sara Benjamin with her daughter Imari

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

like asking them to "almost" get by.

Mayor Eric Garcetti made his own proposal when hit with the pressure of thousands of workers around the country and state being proactive and fighting for \$15. In fact, the LA Workers Assembly was inspired by the many fast food and Walmart workers demanding a livable wage. Initiatives have passed in San Francisco; Santa Fe, N.M.; Washington, D.C.; and Seattle, and Los Angeles is hoping to be next to also significantly raise the wage.

The mayor's proposal of \$13.25 by 2017 or other proposals of \$15.25 by the year 2019 are unacceptable. We, the working class, need \$15 now, not tomorrow or in two or three years but now.

Outreach to oppressed youth, students

While we were getting the petitions out we also got youth registered to vote as well since people have to be registered voters in order to sign the petition. I spent a good amount of time at Los Angeles Trade and Technical College during the school's Club Mixer Day.

I set up a booth with John to get people talking and signing for this initiative. On Oct. 23, I was a special guest in two of Dr. McClain's sociology classes. I talked to students about the initiative and also answered questions. This was important and the most rewarding part of my work with the Assembly because

it provided clarity to the students and also got the word out by word of mouth.

The majority of the student body at LATTC is Latino/a or African American. You tend to see more low-income workers attending a two-year college. Many work multiple jobs to pay tuition. Lots of questions were asked like: "What if I already make \$15 an hour?" and "What about small businesses?"

I said that overall, \$15 may seem like a lot, but when it comes to surviving, workers are only asking for the basics, the least possible amount needed and since we are a class of people that hold so much power in labor, \$15 is fair. With any amount, inflation is possible but things have already gone up. Why not the wages?

Even inflation is not an overnight process. In section 20.02 (b) of the LA \$15 Minimum Wage Ballot Initiative, the minimum wage increases annually based on that year's inflation. This initiative protects inflation from robbing our wage increase. So in the end, we all win. The workers making poverty wages get an increase and so do the workers already making the minimum of \$15 based on inflation.

Small businesses are also protected in this initiative. Section 20.01 defines what a small business is and gives that company two years to adjust their wage increase. In the end, higher wages for the working class equals a better standard of living, more money to put back into local businesses whether small or big. The fight for \$15 an hour is an important one, and I am glad to have been a part of it. All power to the people!

Go to laworkersassembly.org for more information and to get involved with the campaign. □



Workers World Party Conference will be held at 45-35 Van Dam Street, Long Island City, NY 11101
Near the Queens Plaza stop on the E, M and R subway lines.

Prisoners Strike on Day of the Dead

By Jim McMahan
Tacoma, Wash.

Demonstrators protested migrant detention and deportations on Nov. 1, the Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos — the Latino/a counterpart to Halloween — in Tacoma. The four-day occupation outside the NW (immigrant) Detention Center was greeted by news from inside that 200 prisoners had just gone on hunger strike to protest brutal conditions.

The prisoners' organization, Colectivo de Detenidos, had called the strike. These prisoners are continuing a struggle they have waged all year with numerous hunger strikes. Prisoners have been tortured by means of lack of medical care, along with other abuses.

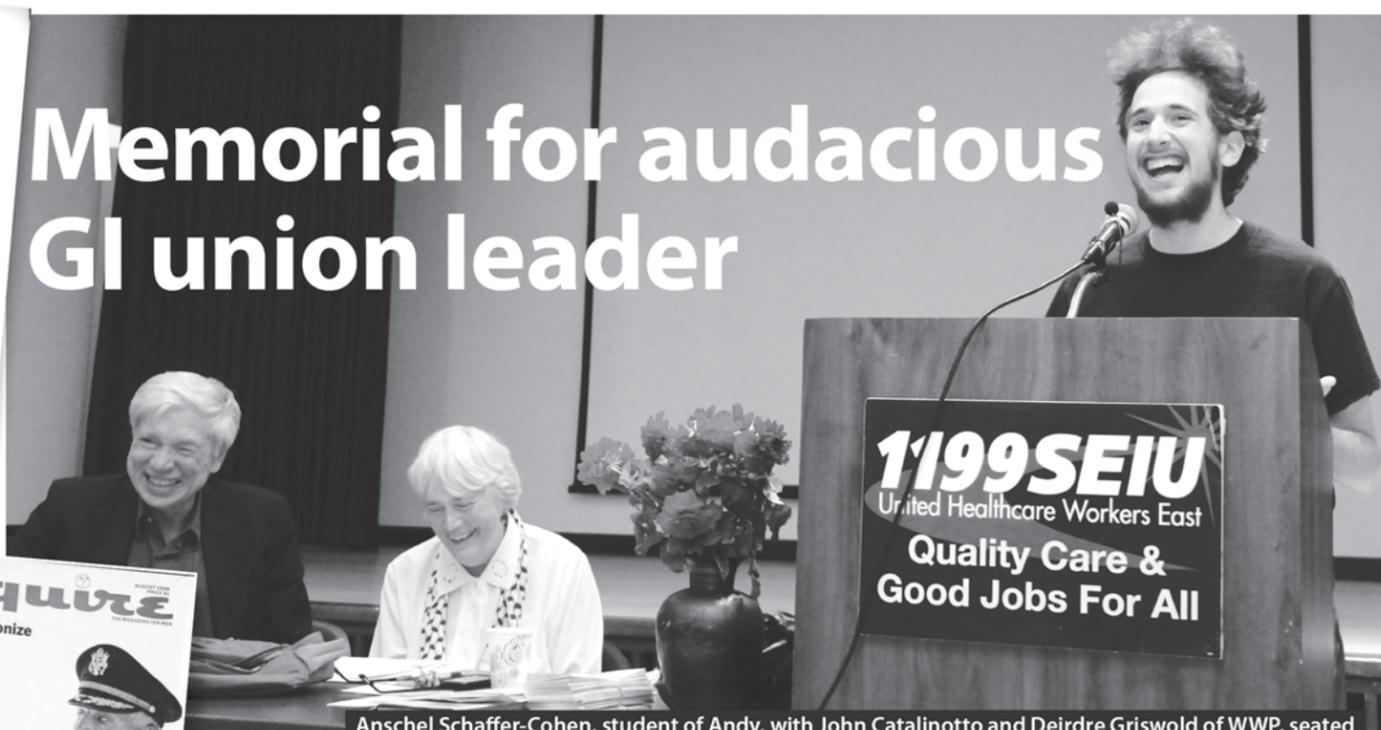
NWDC Resistance/Resistencia organized the solidarity action in front of the prison. It included a Day of the Dead procession with demonstrators carrying coffins marked with the name of the prison private contractor, Geo. There was a House of Horrors the same size as a solitary confinement cell.

During the protest, there were family-friendly activities for families and other loved ones visiting prisoners those days. □

Memorial for audacious GI union leader



Andy Stapp, Esquire 1969



Anschel Schaffer-Cohen, student of Andy, with John Catalinotto and Deirdre Griswold of WWP, seated



Exec. Vice Pres. 1199 SEIU Estela Vasquez



Exclusive! The Plot to Unionize the U.S. Army



By Deirdre Griswold
New York

The memorial for Andy Stapp on Nov. 1 turned into a reunion of members and supporters of the American Servicemen's Union, which he had headed, as well as of his comrades in Workers World Party, long-time acquaintances from near and far, family members and former students who thought him the best and funniest history teacher in the world.

As people arrived, they were greeted by a stunning collage of photos and images showing various aspects of Stapp's life, including the historic August 1968 Esquire magazine cover story, "Exclusive: The plot to unionize the U.S. Army."

The meeting was serious, revolutionary, passionate and rollicking as some two dozen people took the podium to give their memories of this former GI. Stapp, who died this September, had gladdened the hearts of multitudes of soldiers, sailors and marines who refused to fight the Vietnamese people and who applauded his audacious organizing against the Army officer corps.

Not lost in the sometimes raucous nostalgia about army life and the stockade was the connection to today's wars. They are products of the same imperialism that tried, and failed, to subdue the Vietnamese, but has since killed and maimed millions of people in dozens of countries, including U.S. veterans now suffering high rates of suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The ASU vets told how the amazing steadfastness of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam had led to the almost total erosion of discipline in the autocratic U.S. Army, often with hilarious results.

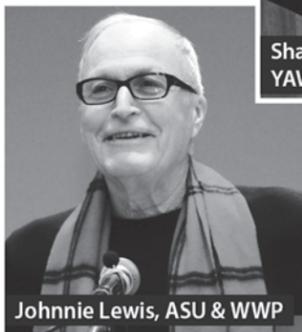
Another prominent theme was the ASU's strong stand against sexism and racism, which laid the basis for militant solidarity among the enlisted soldiers at a time when the government wanted to



Julio Escalante, friend



Sharon Eolis, YAWF & WWP



Johnnie Lewis, ASU & WWP



Monica Moorehead, WWP



Kitty Stapp, Andy's daughter



Larry Holmes, ASU & WWP



Mike Gill, ASU & WWP



Joyce Chediak, Camp McCoy 3, WWP



Fred Goldstein, WWP



Terry Klug, ASU



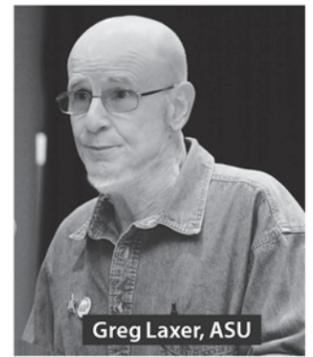
Pete Perkins, ASU



René Imperato, ASU & WWP



Dee Knight, draft resister & WWP



Greg Laxer, ASU

use its troops against the Black rebellions at home. The GI union supported these freedom struggles and the soldiers who refused to carry out the military's illegal and unjust orders.

Messages were read from former ASU members who couldn't be there, including Richard Wheaton, one of the

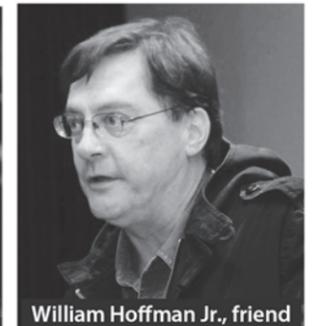
founders of the union, and Eddie Oquendo, an African-American draft resister who went to Fort Sill, Okla., to attend Stapp's second court-martial.

The memorial was held, fittingly, at a union headquarters — the large auditorium at 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, which graciously extended the time for the meeting to four hours to accommodate all those who wished to speak.

Plans are underway to post online the story of Andy Stapp, including a film of the memorial, other historic visual material, messages sent to the meeting and eventually e-copies of his book, "Up Against the Brass." People in the audience contributed to this project. Readers



Yotam Marom, student of Andy



William Hoffman Jr., friend

WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN AND G.

who would like to donate and inspire today's youth with what is possible in the struggle to end imperialist wars should contact Deirdre Griswold Stapp at griswold.d@gmail.com or write to Deirdre Griswold Stapp, c/o Workers World, 147 West 24th St., 2nd floor, NY, NY 10011.

For more information about Andy Stapp's life and struggles, Google "Workers World Andy Stapp" or go to workers.org.



A political victory

Charges dropped against Trayvon Two

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Hannibal Abdul Shakur and Tanzeen Doha were arrested during protests during the summer of 2013 in downtown Oakland, after the notorious George Zimmerman verdict was announced, where he was acquitted for the Feb. 26, 2012, murder of Trayvon Martin. At an Oct. 10 pre-trial readiness conference, the Oakland prosecutor finally admitted that they had “insufficient evidence” to go to trial, putting forth a motion to drop the remaining charges. Workers World interviewed Hannibal Shakur about their legal and political victory.

WW: How were you originally arrested?

Hannibal Abdul Shakur: When Zimmerman was acquitted there were a series of protests and rallies I was attending in Oakland. At one of those marches I was snatched by the Oakland Police Department. I was taken to the police station, then to the hospital, and from the hospital I was taken to the County Jail at Santa Rita. I found out at the hospital that they were charging me with vandalism and claiming I had broken a window.

WW: How did this become a felony charge?

HS: It's my understanding that the felony was determined by the DA based on the value of the window, exceeding \$4,000. Tanzeen was arrested separately. One police officer went after him and claimed that he had broken a window, and a different one went after me. There were four or five others arrested for vandalism, with one charged with assault on a cop.

We were arraigned separately at first. The DA combined Tanzeen and I as co-defendants. Even though we were at the same march, for us two to be made co-defendants, excluding everyone else who had been arrested, was something



Hannibal Abdul Shakur

Tanzeen Doha

we found suspicious. Tanzeen had already been released on bail, but when they combined our cases, they bumped Tanzeen's charge to a felony, raised his bail and issued an arbitrary warrant.

WW: I witnessed the pre-trial hearing last spring for you and Tanzeen, when they were still pressing the felony charges, and from the witnesses your lawyer, Walter Riley, presented, it was obvious that the DA had no case then. The charges were dropped from felonies to misdemeanors by the judge over the prosecutor's objection, but he insisted on pursuing the charges at that time. Why do you believe he did, despite the clear lack of evidence?

HS: There's been a lot of pressure on the DA to clamp down on protesters. They're looking for a scapegoat to make them think organizing marches isn't worth it. One of the discouragements for corporations to invest in developing these areas is there's such a history of protests here. It represents an uncertain financial future for corporations who want to come in and advance capitalism.

We have such a mobilized community: students, workers, even different churches and mosques. The movement keeps the rapid development at bay, because there are community ties holding things together. They want certain individuals. Get those individuals who inspire people

with a political analysis and offer a platform for people to unify.

We were an intersection of some different communities in the spaces we build in. We've been very outspoken about the fact that these are international issues; these are human rights issues; these are issues of class and issues of economic exploitation — the results of this global capitalist system that we're dealing with.

We're both Muslims. We believe there's something we're accountable to that's bigger than the world that we're living in. We're not afraid of the unjust system. It's powerful and massive, but still we find ways to resist and triumph, despite the position the system has placed us in in this society.

The thing that's special about us is we're people who believe in working together, sacrifice and commitment for a better world for all of us. In the case of Trayvon Martin, this is a young man who could have gone on to do anything. We know he had a high GPA, and with a young person there's no way to predict what they're going to manifest. He could have developed a car that didn't need fuel or some new treatment for heroin addictions. I like to imagine that he would have done something great, because it was possible. The only thing that stopped him is this man who took it upon himself to decide whose life has value and decided to end his life.

WW: Despite the victory, the original arrests and the long period of these charges being held against you, they were at some significant costs to the two of you, weren't they?

HS: The \$7,000 to \$8,000 paid to the bail bondsmen is lost. I've been fighting cancer since 2011. One of the most critical factors in wellness, in general, and

fighting a disease like cancer is to reduce stress. This has been like a noose around my neck for a year plus. It was creating all kinds of anxiety, hard for me to think straight and function. When they arrested me, they slammed me on the ground. I was in a holding tank (at Santa Rita), laying on a concrete slab for three days. In jail they don't observe religious practices — this was during Ramadan (fasting during the day). They only served food during the day. If someone tried to save something for me, it often had pork in it. By the time I got out, my condition was really intense. I had head and knee injuries, could barely walk, my neck had swollen. It took about a week for me to recuperate.

WW: What plans do you have, now that the case is over?

HS: Put back those pieces of our lives; those things that have been disrupted. There's something we're not satisfied with. We were protesting a miscarriage of justice. We adamantly believe that Zimmerman needs to be held accountable. There's a larger human rights issue, where if you're a certain color in this society, then you can be murdered and it's legal.

If someone stands up to say that your life has a value, then they'll be punished. The government is encouraging fascism by punishing people for standing up. Looking at Ferguson, as another clear example where young people are being punished for saying that Mike Brown's life has a value.

We have to make the bigger case in how this system is alienating us from life itself. That's a human rights case. We're dealing with an apartheid system, claiming to be a democracy. At the end of the day, they're working for the corporations.

In the end, they had to dismiss the charges, because they were no longer able to continue to fight against us. We just have to persevere, keep looking for ways to bridge communities and struggles, let people know their lives are worth more than \$7.50 an hour. □

By Gloria Verdieu
Oakland, Calif.

The “Cost of Injustice” event at the Oakland Eastside Arts Alliance was an evening of culture, art, healing and unity. This was a union of families whose children have been killed by the police or by Black on Black violence.

The Oct. 25 program started with libations, calling out the names of those whose shoulders we stand on and those whose lives were stolen by police violence, followed by poetry, spoken word, drumming, dance and music.

One of the many highlights of the program was when Cephus Johnson — “Uncle Bobby” — the uncle of Oscar Grant, Beatrice Dale and Elaine Brown took the stage. Dale called out the names of the parents of Ernest Duenez, Mario Romero, James Rivera and Oscar Grant, representing a few of the many families in Oakland whose lives have been stolen by the police. He also welcomed the parents of Kendrick Johnson of Georgia, and Marlon Brown and Jordan Davis of Florida.

There was also a representative from the Minneapolis-based Emmett Till Legacy Foundation who spoke for the family of Emmett Till.

Ron Davis, the father of Jordon Davis, and Wanda Johnson, the mother of Oscar Grant, had spoken last August at the



Families take stage at “Cost of Injustice” meeting in Oakland, Calif. on Oct. 25.

WWW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

85th meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva, Switzerland. Ron Davis said, “It is important for families to tell their own stories.”

The parents from Florida and Georgia shared their stories with the families of

Oakland.

Dinyal New, the mother of two sons who were killed within two weeks of each other — both victims of street violence — shared her story.

Other speakers included former Black Panther Elaine Brown; psychologist and

historian Dr. Wade Nobels; and Julius Edwards, a frontline soldier from Ferguson.

At the end of the program the families gathered together for a group picture.

This program was part of the “Love Not Blood Campaign.” □

WW commentary

By Lamont Lilly

LENNON LACY:

A new generation's 'Strange Fruit'

"The nineteenth century lynch mob cuts off ears, toes and fingers, strips off flesh and distributes portions of the body as souvenirs among the crowd."

— IDA B. WELLS,

"Lynch Law in America." Jan. 1900, pp. 15-24

Lennon Lacy did not hang himself; he was lynched! He did not commit suicide; he was murdered! Capturing the correct language is so critical in this case, which is probably why mainstream media have refused to cover it. The correct language reflects a history the U.S. would rather not share, while "lynching" is a word most Black folk would rather forget. The harsh reality is that Lennon Lacy, a 17-year-old Black kid from North Carolina was lynched just two months ago.

What happened?

It was on Friday, Aug. 29, that 17-year-old high school student Lennon Lee Lacy was found hanging from a wooden swing set in Bladenboro, N.C. His lifeless body was left dangling in thin air on a make-shift rope. His neck was visibly marked with dark abrasions from asphyxiation. A belt buckle imprint was found just below his right ear. There were lacerations on his face, arms and chest; bruises on his chin, cheeks and nose; a series of unexplained scratches on his scrotum; and an enlarged knot on the right side of his forehead.

The black Air Jordan sneakers Lacy was originally wearing were removed and replaced with a pair of sneakers no member of his family was able to recognize. Though Lennon's feet were a size 12, the white sneakers placed on his feet at his time of death were a size ten-and-a-half. Lennon's mortician, F.W. Newton, described the body as if he "had been killed in a barroom fight." (theguardian.com, Oct. 9)

As if Lacy's lynching was not enough, just a few days after he was laid to rest,

someone (or some group) dug a small hole on top of his grave. They also destroyed the floral arrangement that friends and family had placed at his burial marker, tossing the arrangement alongside the road 40 feet away. While

local authorities are suggesting suicide, the Black community is calling the Lacy case for what it is: a 2014 lynching.

Every reason to live

On the evening of Lennon Lacy's disappearance, his father, Larry Walton, was the last family member to see him alive. According to Walton, his son Lennon had every reason to live. His high school football team was scheduled to play their first game of the season later that evening. Lennon's dream was to play in the National Football League. He was a linebacker whose size, skill and work ethic basically guaranteed a scholarship to college. His performance in the classroom was equally stellar.

Local residents have spoken highly of Lennon's character, manners and overall demeanor. Lennon was also active in his church youth group, had no criminal record and no history of mental illness. His only "harm to society" was dating a white woman who lived nearby. Local residents were well aware of Lacy and 31-year-old Michelle Brimhall's "intimate interactions," which garnered a heaping of local gossip and disdain. Some things have not changed down South: the general attitude toward Black men dating white women just happens to be one of them.

Jim Crow and the Southern Confederacy

Bladenboro, N.C., is a small town of 1,746 residents located just outside of Wilmington, N.C. Nicknamed "Crackertown" by local Black residents, Bladenboro is 80 percent white and well known for its ingrained racism within the social order.

For those unfamiliar, Wilmington is the home of the 1898 Race Massacre, a two-day armed attack on Wilmington's Black middle class by white terror mobs. What that moment literally created was Jim Crow segregation — an oppressive and bloody end to Reconstruction and post-slavery progress.

Wilmington was also the site of the 1971 frame-up of The Wilmington 10 (who were finally pardoned by N.C. Gov. Beverly Perdue in 2013). Such history and close proximity means everything.

This history contributes to the political and social climate of the community. White supremacy was, at one time, the law in North Carolina. Many would argue it still is. Keep in mind that between 1882 and 1968 there were 86 Black folks lynched in this state — and those are just the lynchings we know of. Ironically, neighbors of the Lacy family had just recently been made to remove a sign in their front yard that read "N——s Keep Out."

Police botch investigation

Stating that local authorities have failed to conduct a thorough investigation in this case is an understatement. It has been reported that Lacy's fingernails were not properly swabbed for DNA testing. His hands, body hair and mouth were not examined either. Due to the presumption of suicide, Lennon's neighbors, friends and Michelle Brimhall, have not been questioned.

It is obvious the Bladenboro Police Department has not taken this matter seriously. A 200-pound teenager was found hanging from a swing set in the middle of a trailer park, and no one knows anything? No one should be surprised if the local police department was partly involved. It was not



long ago that police officers, sheriff departments and the Ku Klux Klan worked hand-in-hand to enforce white supremacy, particularly throughout the South.

Those learning of this case for the first time: Tweet, Instagram and Facebook it. Dig deep and research the history. Tell your friends around the world how a 17-year-old Black boy was lynched in North Carolina on Aug. 29, 2014. Tell the world how the U.S. is still racist and lackadaisical in the pursuit of justice for all. Tell the world how democracy does not really exist here. In the case of Lennon Lacy, tell the truth. Lennon Lee Lacy did not hang himself; he was lynched. He did not commit suicide; he was murdered.

"Our country's national crime is lynching. It represents the cool, calculating deliberation of intelligent people who openly avow that there is an 'unwritten law' that justifies them in putting human beings to death without complaint under oath, without trial by jury, without opportunity to make defense, and without right of appeal."

— IDA B. WELLS

Lamont Lilly is a contributing editor with the Triangle Free Press and organizer with Workers World Party in Durham, N.C. Follow him on Twitter @LamontLilly.

Alums charge 'apartheid' in higher education

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

A coalition of Cheyney University supporters filed a major federal civil rights lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. The suit charges that PASSHE's "separate but equal" education constitutes apartheid and is unacceptable. Filed Oct. 29, the suit seeks to end decades-long racial discrimination against the historically Black college.

Founded in 1837, Cheyney University was the first institution of higher learning for African Americans in the U.S. It is located 25 miles outside Philadelphia. Cheyney eventually became part of PASSHE along with the 13 other state universities.

The coalition, "Heeding Cheyney's Call," is a broad-based group that includes Cheyney alums, students, professors, staffers, retirees, and civic and religious leaders as well as elected officials. HCC first brought notice of its intention to file the suit in September 2013. This was around the 30th anniversary of the anticipated settlement of the original discrimination charge.

Its stated goal in 2013 was to remedy a long-standing policy of underfunding that had left the university with a \$14 million deficit. Meanwhile, the other 13 state universities, with predominantly white enrollment, enjoyed a collective budget sur-

plus of over \$100 million. HCC also cited a 60 percent drop in enrollment at the university from 3,000 in 1977 to 1,200 in 2013, as well as a lack of any new academic programs to encourage more students to enroll.

Cheyney students come from families with average household incomes of under \$40,000. More than 80 percent of them rely on financial aid. The HCC coalition called for a major revision of the state's funding-per-enrollment formulas that benefit larger schools. While the Commonwealth claimed they could not give Cheyney more money because there are not enough students, Michael Coard, an attorney for HCC, said, "There are not enough students at Cheyney because there is not enough money."

At the press conference held outside the Byrne Federal Courthouse in Philadelphia prior to filing the lawsuit, Sonny Harris, a retired Cheyney mathematics professor, charged that enrollment has since dropped to 1,000 students while the debt has risen to \$22 million.

Harris also noted that only two new buildings were constructed at the school



Attorney Michael Coard hits lack of funding for Cheyney U.

over the last 30 years while the lack of infrastructure improvements has left students without heat and running water in some buildings. Harris described Cheyney as the "stepchild" of the Pennsylvania university system.

In 1969, the precursor to the U.S. Department of Education ruled that Pennsylvania was one of ten states with a discriminatory system of higher education.

A civil rights lawsuit filed on behalf of Cheyney University in 1980 successfully charged the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with racial discrimination in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and other federal and state laws. It cited the state's unlawful and inequitable actions against the traditional Black university, compared to its treatment of traditionally white state-owned schools.

That lawsuit resulted in a binding agreement in 1999 with the Office for Civil Rights that funneled \$36.5 million to Cheyney for building and academic upgrades. However, plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed today charge that the Commonwealth has continued to maintain an illegal and racial "dual system" of higher education, to Cheyney's detriment.

Joseph H. Tucker, lead attorney on the lawsuit, explained that the group is not seeking a specific settlement amount but rather asking for equitable relief and for the federal government to force the Commonwealth to comply with their 1999 agreement.

"Separate but equal in education is not equal and it is not the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the U.S.," Tucker stated. "There needs to be parity through equity in the state education system." □

A look back to 1983

U.S. invaded, occupied Grenada

By Dolores Cox

October 25 was the 31st anniversary of the U.S. invasion, occupation and bombing of the island nation of Grenada. The country had become nominally independent from Britain in 1974, but then was ruled by a repressive, eccentric Grenadian, Prime Minister Eric Gairy, who was supported by the United States and Britain and had a brutal secret police force.

In March 1979, socialist Maurice Bishop, a New Jewel Movement party leader, took over Grenada in a bloodless coup. The U.S. granted asylum to Gairy, who then aired anti-Grenada radio broadcasts.

Bishop, a lawyer, was educated in London. Under Bishop's government, revolutionary programs were instituted to increase literacy, teacher training, jobs, social services and agriculture. The government provided free health care and milk for school children; it established free secondary schools and scholarships for study abroad. Bishop's administration build roads and improved transportation systems and public utilities. He invited small, progressive U.S. entrepreneurs to the island.

Bishop believed in self-determination. He developed local councils and organizations for the masses' participation to ensure grass-roots democracy, reflective of his desire to create "popular socialism." He aimed to build a self-sufficient country.

Bishop was inspired by Karl Marx and Bob Marley. He was also influenced by the U.S. Black Power Movement and "new left" politics.

Grenada supported the socialist countries and had good relationships with Venezuela, Mexico and Canada. However, Bishop's closest relationship was with Cuban President Fidel Castro. Cuba provided Grenada with volunteer construction workers, social workers, doctors, dentists, nurses, public health workers, teachers and about 40 military personnel.

Immediately after Grenada's reforms

were instituted, then-U.S. President Jimmy Carter's administration became hostile toward Bishop, warned Grenada about trading with Cuba, bugged the Grenadian U.N. mission, spread fear about travel and tourism to the country — which were vital to Grenada — and spread other lies intended to weaken Grenada's economy.

After Carter's administration, that of President Ronald Reagan invented more lies about Grenada, which the U.S. media perpetuated, such as that the Soviet Union had delivered helicopters, boats and supersonic fighter jets to Grenada's air force. However, Grenada had no air force.

The Reagan administration claimed that an airport being built in Grenada by Cuban workers was secretly meant for Russian and Cuban military purposes and showed what it called "spy photos." In fact, the airfield site was being enlarged to accommodate tourism via jet planes and to allow night flights.

The new airport, encouraged by the World Bank, was being built by a London firm, Plessey Airports, to civilian specifications. Plessey hired 500 Cubans to do the labor. The communications work was being done by a British transnational corporation and funded by Venezuela, Mexico and Canada.

U.S. plotted to destabilize Grenada

Since 1981, the C.I.A. had attempted to destabilize Grenada politically and economically. Two years before the 1983 invasion, U.S. forces staged a mock invasion of Grenada on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, using paratroopers, air and naval assaults, and almost 10,000 troops to invade a country whose total population was less than 100,000.

A struggle within the New Jewel Movement led to a coup against Bishop and his assassination on Oct. 19, 1983. Taking advantage of the situation, the U.S. invaded six days later, using as its pretext an alleged danger faced by U.S. medical students.

The London Observer reported,

"America admitted later that four civilian charter flights left Grenada's airport on Oct. 24, carrying American medical students." They were never in danger before the invasion; some chose to stay behind.

"Operation Urgent Fury" consisted of 7,600 U.S. troops, a huge force against Grenada's tiny army. At first, the U.S. government refused media access to Grenada. The British Guardian reported on Nov. 25, 1983, that the war lasted just one week and that U.S. forces had killed or wounded 400 Grenadians and 84 Cubans.

Later, as reported in the Guardian on Jan. 3, 1986, the U.S. trained a new, brutal police force and then replaced the interim government.

Reagan claimed that Grenada was a Soviet-Cuban colony, aiming to "export terror" and "undermine democracy." Days before the U.S. invasion, on behalf of Grenada's government, Cuba notified the U.S. that it would "cooperate in solution of the problem without violence or intervention." Cuba received no reply, reported the Guardian on Oct. 23, 1983.

There was widespread bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for the invasion. While a United Nations Security Council vote to condemn the invasion was vetoed by the U.S., the U.N. General Assembly voted against the invasion by a large margin. Even U.S. allies strongly criticized the U.S. actions.

The U.S. perceived Grenada as a threat because it was an English-speaking country and could influence the U.S. Black population. The government had refused economic domination by the U.S. and its corporate interests. If small, poor Grenada continued its pro-socialist development, it would set a bad precedent for other "Third World" countries, reasoned the imperialists.

Precedent set for U.S. "regime-change" strategy

Grenada was an important precedent for regime change by U.S. military intervention. It was a warning to the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

The U.S. had used the same strategy of propaganda and demonization in the 1960s to overthrow the leader of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, and other independent leaders.

U.S. propaganda about the need to establish its military forces to "protect the people" and "stabilize foreign governments" is now a ploy to expand NATO and the European Union, to increase Western influence in Ukraine and other countries, and to instill hatred toward China, Libya and Syria.

Other justifications for the invasion of Grenada were that the U.S. needed to prove its military strength and to show a quick victory after its monumental defeat in Vietnam and after U.S. forces intervening in Lebanon's civil war were attacked just days before the U.S. hit Grenada.

Grenada's economy declined after the U.S. invasion. Mass organizations were dismantled, labor unions were reorganized, and more than half of the Cuban medical personnel were expelled. Investment and tax codes were revised to favor foreign investment; cooperatives and state enterprises were sold to private interests. Billboards that had inspired the people to work for justice, equality, development and national sovereignty were replaced by those promoting U.S. consumer products.

The quality of life deteriorated. While 60 percent of the population were under age 25, no pediatricians remained on the island. No psychiatrists were available — the U.S. had bombed the mental hospital, killing patients and staff. The U.S. arrested and expelled most foreign doctors and teachers. Civilians were held in jail for months without charge. The navy confiscated the only radio station, and the press was censored.

Corruption is now a serious problem in Grenada. Government officials have awarded contracts for public works to foreign investors with criminal ties, who've set up offshore banking operations without oversight, following the neoliberal orthodoxy dictated by the White House. □

HAITI

Cancelled elections spark big protests

By G. Dunkel

If you don't hold elections, you can't lose them. This maxim, which the Duvalierist dictatorships upheld for decades in Haiti with the full faith and connivance of the U.S. government, is being applied by the current government of President Michel Martelly.

According to Haitian law, elections for the senate and municipal governments should have been held three years ago. President Martelly, who is currently touring France and Germany, had promised to hold these elections on Oct. 26 and then abruptly canceled them a few days before that.

In response, tens of thousands of people in Port-au-Prince, as well as Aux Cayes, Petit Goâve and Cap-Haïtien — the largest cities in Haiti — came out into the streets, waving their voter cards and demanding the resignation of Martelly and his government. They want the constitution and their democratic rights respected.

In Port-au-Prince, the demonstration started from St. Jean Bosco, the church that was destroyed when former President Jean Bertrand Aristide was its

pastor. Demonstrators chanted, "We demand the immediate resignation of Martelly," "Martelly is a vagabond. He should not be president of Haiti. He was imposed on us by the international community. No matter what, Martelly must go!"

The cops, accompanied by a justice of the peace with prepared warrants, arrested Rony Thimotée and Biron Odigé,

two leaders of the Patriotic Front for Respect of the Constitution (FOPARC). FOPARC was one of the principal march organizers. Besides the two FOPARC leaders, the cops grabbed 20 people in Port-au-Prince, three in Aux Cayes and 20 in Petit Goâve.

The cops used tear gas and pepper water to break up the demonstrations. Pro-

tests were held on Oct. 27 and 28 outside the prison where the demonstrators were held, according to Haiti-Liberté.

Martelly not only faces growing diplomatic and economic problems, but the growing popular resistance to his regime could cause Washington to lose confidence in his ability to control Haiti and abandon him, threatening his rule. □

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WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD
Ferguson, Mo., Aug. 26, 2014

New Yorkers ACT-UP against Ebola

Johnnie Stevens
New York

Some 100 activists rallied here outside Bellevue Hospital in a protest organized by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power on Oct. 30. The theme was “ACT-UP against Ebola.”

Demonstrators showed solidarity with people worldwide who have the Ebola Virus Disease. They strongly opposed New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s order to automatically quarantine anyone who has been in direct contact with Ebola patients in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Instead of spreading panic and misinformation, protesters called upon these officials to support the countries fighting this virulent disease.

On Oct. 24, the two governors announced their new policy mandating that anyone who arrived from the three Western African nations at Kennedy and Newark international airports would be automatically quarantined for 21 days if they had been near Ebola sufferers. This included health care workers who provided medical treatment in the region. Due to public pressure, Gov. Cuomo modified his

policy to allow at-home quarantine on Oct. 25.

Annette Gaudino, member of ACT-UP, said, “Governor Cuomo should be supporting New York State health care workers who go to West Africa to fight the disease, rather than spreading misinformation about transmission risks by mandating quarantines.” (actupny.com, Oct. 30)

Speaker Dr. Howard Grossman is recognized globally as one of the best and most knowledgeable primary care physicians treating HIV and AIDS today. Grossman replied to a question at the rally about Ebola patient Dr. Craig Spencer, who was hospitalized Oct. 23 at Bellevue, and about the nurses who are treating him. He noted that a New York Times article on Oct. 29 said that Bellevue health care workers are being disinclined to parties and some of their children are being told not to come to school. “I thank ACT-UP for coming here supporting health care workers,” he stressed.

ACT-UP presented a get-well card to Dr. Spencer, who had recently returned from providing medical care to Ebola-stricken patients in Sierra Leone. The message read, “We love you! Get well!”

After the rally, demonstrators marched



Protest in solidarity with people with Ebola and against stigma at Gov. Cuomo’s office.

PHOTO: ACTUPNY.COM

up the East Side to Gov. Cuomo’s office. They included members of Health Global Access Project (Health GAP) and the International Action Center.

Chants included, “Fight Ebola, not doctors!” The rally chairperson added a chant for nurse Kaci Hickox, “Nurses are not criminals!” Hickox had been involuntarily quarantined in a tent after arriving

at New Jersey’s Newark airport after caring for Ebola patients in Sierra Leone.

Civil liberties attorneys obtained Hickox’s release, and she returned to her home in Maine. She then won a legal challenge to Maine’s mandated quarantine and emphasized that policies for returning health care workers must be based on science, not politics. □

Cubans lead global response to Ebola epidemic

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Nov. 3 — Cuban health care workers have played a leading role on the African continent for decades. The revolutionary government views its work in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease as a manifestation of internationalism and solidarity with Africa.

Hundreds of Cuban health care workers have recently been deployed to Liberia and Sierra Leone, two of the three countries that have been at the epicenter of the recent, widespread EVD outbreak, where many heroic local health care workers have risked and given their lives.

In a surprising diplomatic twist, President Barack Obama’s administration noted the role of Cuban doctors and nurses in Liberia where they will work in a newly reconstructed treatment center. Samantha Power, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who often attacks and slanders Cuba, praised Cuba for its contribution to the fight against Ebola after her recent return from West Africa.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf inaugurated the first of 17 new Ebola Treatment Units that are being constructed with U.S. Agency for International Development funds. At the ceremony on Oct. 31, in Congotown near the capital of Monrovia, Johnson-Sirleaf expressed her gratitude to the countries that have contributed to the project so far.

Cuba aids international cooperation

Some of the Cuban doctors and nurses who were sent to help this West African country will work at a field hospital now being built at the former location of the Liberian Defense Ministry and connected to the ETUs. The Cubans will be responsible for running this facility, the largest of the ETUs in Liberia, housing 200 beds. The Cuban government has noted that their health care workers start working there on Nov. 3.

Ronald Hernandez Torres, a Cuban doctor now in Liberia, wrote on his Facebook page, “This unit has the best conditions for patient care and the best profes-



Cuban health care workers set off to join Africans in the fight to stop Ebola.

sionals from different countries working side by side.” (Huffington Post, Nov. 3)

Cuban health care workers have a long history of responding to natural disasters. In 2010, Cubans were first in establishing a field hospital in Haiti after the colossal earthquake. The Caribbean island-nation has also trained countless numbers of international medical personnel at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana.

Despite more than five decades of a U.S. blockade against Cuba, the revolutionary government is able to take a principled approach in cooperating with personnel sent by Washington in the battle against Ebola.

Granma published an article on Oct. 19 by former President Fidel Castro, saying, “We gladly cooperate with American personnel in this task [combatting Ebola], and not in pursuit of peace between the two states that have been adversaries for many years but, in any case, for world peace.”

EVD shifts in Sierra Leone to urban areas

In Sierra Leone, the growing outbreak of EVD has shifted from its rural eastern region to the urban areas, including Freetown, the capital. Another physician died in the country on Nov. 2. Dr. Godfrey George reported that he was not feeling well and was transported from his workplace at the Kambia Government Hospital in the north to Freetown where he died.

Four other doctors have died in Sierra Leone after treating EVD patients. These

deaths take a tremendous toll there, since it is Sierra Leone’s medical personnel who are on the frontlines in the battle against the disease.

Just four years ago, Sierra Leone had two physicians for every 100,000 residents. The country underwent a 10-year civil war — from which it is only beginning to recover — as well as decades of colonialism and neocolonialism.

A regional conference of the World Health Organization began in Benin on Nov. 3. The country, a former French colony in West Africa, has not reported any cases of the disease. International assistance in the campaign to defeat the Ebola outbreak was high on WHO’s agenda.

Epidemic sets back economic recovery

Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO director-general, stressed, “The Ebola epidemic has set back political stability and economic recovery in the afflicted countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.” It has taken a “heavy toll on frontline domestic medical staff.” (Associated Press, Nov. 3)

Guéckédou, a town in the southern part of Guinea, on the border with Sierra Leone and Liberia, is where this EVD outbreak is said to have originated. Anthony Banbury, envoy for the U.N. Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, said the number of cases in the area had decreased significantly.

“The first case of Ebola, in December 2013, was just down the road from here, so I was very interested and coming and

seeing the situation on the ground for myself. ... Happily, the number of cases in Guéckédou has gone down a lot,” commented Banbury. “Transmissions are declining and the number of cases” in the area are nearly zero. He said even though there are cases outside the town, “there’s been good progress made over these past months.” (U.N. News Centre, Nov. 1)

However, Elisabeth Faure, Guinea’s director of the World Food Program, who is also working in the field there, paints another picture of developments inside the country. She said that her agency is now helping to build Ebola treatment centers and is transporting medical personnel and equipment to these facilities.

“We’ve seen several waves, with the number of cases increasing and then declining and increasing and declining again,” Faure said. “But we’re now in a kind of third peak — by far the highest peak — with the highest number of cases since the epidemic started in Guinea.” (Guardian, Oct. 30)

Despite the international attention focused on the three African states most severely impacted by the epidemic, there are still not enough resources being directed to the most distressed areas. Solidarity and human rights organizations in the Western industrialized states must demand that these governments provide the necessary medical personnel, medications and protective gear critically needed to successfully fight and eradicate Ebola. □

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Racist injustice in Michigan

Workers World protests two government-inspired frameups taking place in Michigan this November and demand they be stopped immediately. One is a state charge against Black civil rights activist Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor. The other is a federal frameup of Palestinian-American activist Rasmea Odeh.

Reverend Edward Pinkney

Workers World has published articles for over a decade on what can only be described as racist, judicial vindictiveness toward Rev. Pinkney. On Nov. 3, a Berrien County jury in a courtroom in well-to-do St. Joseph, Mich., convicted this heroic leader of five felony charges of forgery.

Each fraudulent conviction count threatens a prison term of up to five years.

Reverend Pinkney had been under house arrest and tethered for six weeks this past spring, as well as denied his First Amendment rights to access the Internet or engage in his weekly radio broadcasts.

WW contributing editor Abayomi Azikiwe, also editor of the Pan-African News Wire, described in these pages: “Rev. Pinkney — a longtime Benton Harbor activist — has opposed the racism within the judicial and political structures in this southwest Michigan town and surrounding county. Similar to his persecution in 2007 and 2008 by authorities in Berrien County, prosecutors are saying that the leader of the Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizers group ‘forged’ dates on petitions for a recall election on May 6 against Mayor James Hightower.

“As a result of the criminal investigation and subsequent charging of Rev. Pinkney, the election to remove Hightower was stayed. In 2007, after Pinkney and others had organized a recall campaign against two city commissioners in Benton Harbor, he was charged with vote tampering, railroaded through the courts, placed under house arrest and later imprisoned for one year for exercising his right to free speech within the media.

“A national campaign in Rev. Pinkney’s defense during 2008 and 2009 brought about the Michigan Court of Appeals reversal of his three-to-ten-year prison sentence.

“Since 2010, Rev. Pinkney has been organizing against the wholesale political and economic dictatorship now in place in Benton Harbor and surrounding Berrien County.” (workers.org, June 13)

It appears officials in Berrien County have exacted retribution against this 66-year-old African-American reverend, his organization and his leadership in struggles against racism, corporate control, emergency manager takeover and other vital issues in Benton Harbor’s majority-Black community.

Though many took part in protests, rallies, meetings, packing the courtroom and other solidarity actions to support Rev. Pinkney, justice was denied.

Rasmea Odeh

Another kangaroo court case opened in Detroit on Nov. 4, the day after Pinkney’s conviction, with the trial of Rasmea Odeh in U.S. District Court.

A StopFBI.net brochure describes Odeh: “She is a leading member of Chicago’s Arab and Muslim communities, and her decade of service in the U.S. has changed the lives of thousands of people, particularly disenfranchised Arab women and their families. ... Odeh is a community icon who ... overcame torture by Israeli authorities while imprisoned in Palestine in the 70s, and is a proud reminder of the millions of Palestinians who have not given up organizing for their rights of liberation, equality, and return.”

As with Rev. Pinkney, the capitalist class and its state apparatus refuses to tolerate a strong leader from an oppressed nation — this time a Palestinian woman. So agents of the Department of Homeland Security [sic] came to Odeh’s home in the early morning of Oct. 22, 2013, and arrested her. She was indicted that same morning in federal court, charged with an alleged “unlawful procurement of naturalization.”

Now her trial is underway in a federal courthouse in Detroit, far from her home in the Chicago community.

Odeh’s lawyers successfully got one judge recused after his ties to racist apartheid Israel were exposed. Judge Gershwin Drain, however, has already shown his stripes. He allowed no demonstrations to take place outside the courthouse — claiming this would be “jury tampering” — because first-day jury pool members would see the protest as they entered the court.

Drain has put other restrictions on trial observers and has al-

Massive protests in Burkina Faso oust Compaore. What’s next?

Continued from page 1

The crowd attempted to enter the television studios but were prevented from doing so by the army. Soldiers later fired shots and one person was killed.

Reports indicated that opposition leader Saran Sereme was at the television station, where she stated that she and a leading general were prepared to head a transition team. Sereme later denied this claim and said she was brought to the location by force.

The army continued to emphasize on Nov. 3 that it does not want to maintain power but rather create the conditions for a smooth transition to civilian control. Nonetheless, opposition forces are demanding a rapid turnover to civilians to lead the country.

“The army does not want power. But the anarchy needs to stop. Any violation will be punished with the utmost energy,” said army spokesperson Auguste Barry, referring to the Nov. 2 shooting at the television station. (Reuters, Nov. 2)

Later on Nov. 2, after leaving the RTB studios, the crowd of thousands moved toward the Place de la Nation where disturbances on Oct. 30 resulted in the attacks on parliament. Military forces set up barricades to prevent demonstrators from getting close to the location that had been damaged by fire.

Burkina Faso emerges as major gold producer

Historically, the country of Burkina Faso, formerly known as Upper Volta, was an agricultural producing state. In recent years the production of gold and other mineral commodities such as granite, marble, phosphate rock, cement, dolomite and pumice has accelerated.

At present Burkina Faso is the fourth-largest producer of gold in Africa. There are at least six major mines in operation.

However, the revenue generated from the export of gold and other minerals is not being shared with the majority of workers, farmers and youth. The official unemployment rate

is 77 percent, and the country ranks 183 out of 186 on the index of living standards for the world’s nations.

One of the major firms involved is Orezone Gold Corporation, based in Ottawa, Canada. In a 2011 study by Orezone, it noted that Burkina Faso ranked sixth in the level of potential for mineral production, including gold. Orezone has been involved in the country since the late 1990s.

According to the report: “[Orezone] recognized the enormous potential of Burkina Faso 15 years ago when we started exploring the area. Although we have discovered more than 10 million ounces of gold to date and we expect to put new gold mines into production over the next few years, we believe we have barely scratched the surface in terms of its true potential. The results of this survey demonstrate the on-going commitment of Burkina Faso to creating a favorable investment climate for companies like Orezone Gold and we are delighted to work in this country.” (orezone.com, March 7, 2011)

The unrest inside the country has reportedly caused a suspension in gold production. Orezone issued a statement on Nov. 3 indicating that it is following the political situation closely in light of the economic interests it has in the country. “Orezone Gold Corporation has temporarily halted its activities in Burkina Faso until the political situation in the country has stabilized. All personnel are safe



Massive protests in Burkina Faso oust U.S.-backed Pres. Compaore

and accounted for.” (orezone.com, Nov. 3)

Legacy of Sankara still relevant

During the tenure of Capt. Thomas Sankara (1983-1987), the Burkinabe leader advocated the cancellation of the international debt which African states were obligated to pay due to the legacy of colonialism and neocolonialism. Sankara instituted policies which utilized local production of cotton and other commodities for internal consumption.

Since Burkina Faso is a landlocked state, it is essential that it develop trade links in partnership with neighboring African countries. However, the imperatives of the transnational corporations based in the imperialist states are to exploit the natural resources and labor of the African states, which does nothing to improve conditions for the majority of the population in those countries.

Sankara attempted to build mass organizations and Marxist study groups throughout the country. His efforts were undermined by France and its major ally at the time in the region, Ivory Coast, then led by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

In recent months unrest and strikes among the working class have increased in West Africa. In Ghana, to the south of Burkina Faso, a general strike impacting oil workers, educators and other public sector workers has prompted legal actions by the government to force the employees back on the job.

Burkina Faso still maintains close ties with its former French colonial power. Paris has used the country as a rear base for its operations against rebel fighters in northern Mali.

Both Ghana and Burkina Faso have been lauded for their increasing rates of economic growth. Nevertheless, if these profits from the production of gold and other strategic minerals are not shared with the people, the working class and youth will continue to demonstrate and strike in opposition to neocolonial rule. □

New York protest says

'Odessa, Donbass, we are with you'

Workers World New York Bureau

A sudden cold snap and whipping winds couldn't keep fired-up activists from protesting at the U.S. military recruitment center in Times Square on Nov. 2 to demand, "U.S. out of Ukraine!"

They came to remember the anti-fascists massacred by neo-Nazis at Odessa's House of Trade Unions six months before, and to stand in solidarity with the Donbass People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk on the day of their first elections since declaring independence from Ukraine.

Protesters called for an independent investigation of the Odessa massacre, an immediate halt to direct and indirect U.S. aid to the Kiev government of oligarchs and neo-Nazis, and an end to NATO expansion aimed at destabilizing Russia.

Officially, 48 people are said to have died on May 2, when fascist gangs bused into the multinational port city of Odessa attacked a protest camp set up by opponents of the U.S.-backed coup in Kiev. Armed neo-Nazis chased activists into the House of Trade Unions, and then set the building on fire. They shot people through the windows and beat to death others trying to flee the inferno.

Odessa anti-fascists believe that many more died than the official tally.

Echoing the chants of courageous mourners who earlier that day broke through police lines to reach the site of the tragedy in Odessa, the Times Square protesters chanted, "Odessa, Donbass, we are with you!"

Despite the sharp winds, passersby took leaflets and many stopped to listen to speakers.

Greg Butterfield, coordinator of the Ukraine Antifascist Solidarity Committee of the International Action Center, said: "We demand to know what the U.S. role was in the Odessa massacre. Both Democrats and Republicans in Washington have been deeply involved in every aspect of the far-right coup in Ukraine and the war against the people of Novorossiia," as the union of the people's republics is known.

"Just like in Ferguson after the police murder of Mike Brown, in Odessa the guilty have been protected while the survivors of the massacre are repressed," Butterfield said.

"After Congress and President Obama agreed to cut almost \$10 billion in food assistance to hungry families here, the U.S. turned around and pledged \$10



New York protest remembers Odessa's martyrs.

WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

billion in loans to the junta in Ukraine. There is a direct correlation between U.S. imperialist attacks on the people at home and abroad," he said.

The commemoration in Times Square was a truly international event, with activist-immigrants from Central America, Iran, Pakistan, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus rallying alongside those born in the U.S. Many held signs with photos of youths who died in Odessa and other recent young victims of U.S.-backed

fascism and bigotry, like Robert Serra, a Venezuelan socialist leader, and Jennifer Laude, a transgender Filipina.

At the end of the rally, the names of the known Odessa victims were read out. After a moment of silence, black balloons were released in honor of the anti-fascists who fell on May 2.

For more on the Odessa massacre, see Workers World's interview with survivor Alexei Albu of Borotba: tinyurl.com/nkc9n3w

Community-Labor Resolution: Stand with Odessa!

Workers World received this resolution, initiated by the International Action Center.

Join Ramsey Clark, Cynthia McKinney, José María Sison, Cindy Sheehan, Banda Bassotti, Marcha Patriótica and hundreds more.

Stop the cover-up of the Odessa massacre of trade unionists and anti-fascist activists!

Stop the U.S. Expansion of NATO!

Whereas, on May 2, 2014, at least 48 people were massacred by neo-Nazis in the Ukrainian port city of Odessa;

And, whereas those killed were anti-fascist and opposition activists, as well as trade unionists who opened the doors of the headquarters to offer protection;

And, whereas the House of Trade Unions was set ablaze by fascists who surrounded the building, destroying the labor headquarters;

And, whereas the culprits of the massacre, though clearly identifiable in numerous videos and photos of the events, have been sheltered by the government in Kiev, which came to power through a U.S.-backed coup and has received billions of dollars in direct and indirect aid from Washington; And, whereas the survivors of the massacre have been criminalized, forced into exile in the Ukrainian regime;

And, whereas the U.S. government

and U.S. corporate media have aided Kiev in covering up the truth about the May 2 massacre at the Odessa House of Trade Unions, while continuing to misrepresent the anti-fascist struggle in Ukraine and the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, and imposing sanctions and threatening war against Russia; And, whereas the crisis in Ukraine is the result of the U.S. drive to expand NATO on Russia's borders far beyond its original membership, through a U.S.-supported coup and the funding of right-wing and fascist groups in the Ukraine;

Be it resolved, We honor the labor and anti-fascist activists who died in Odessa on May 2, 2014, and will make their sacrifice known throughout our unions and communities;

We demand that the government in Kiev, our elected officials in Washing-

ton and the big-business media stop the cover-up of what happened in Odessa on May 2 and engage in truthful reporting on the civil war in Ukraine, the involvement of open fascists in the Kiev government and the underlying U.S. goal of NATO expansion;

We further demand that the Obama administration and the U.S. Congress immediately halt all financial and military aid to the Ukrainian junta, stop NATO military expansion in Europe, and restore food assistance and other desperately needed social programs for our communities.

Sign the statement here:
tinyurl.com/oueq7t

For a full list of signers see:
IACenter.org
No2NATO.org

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO ★

Ley anti laboral de Europa amenaza a trabajadores estadounidenses

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de todos los 25 millones de trabajadores de Italia son el blanco de las nuevas reformas. Lo que se sabe hasta ahora es que las nuevas reglas "de la 'reforma del mercado laboral' de Italia, será más fácil para los empleadores para contratar y despedir trabajadores - tanto a los trabajadores recién contratados permanentes, así como los trabajadores temporales.

"También se reducen los beneficios, la indemnización por despido y derechos cuando contratados inicialmente y sólo

lentamente los nuevos empleados se introducirán gradualmente a medida que adquieren la antigüedad en el trabajo. Según los informes, que límites en la capacidad colectiva de los trabajadores para negociar sobre salarios son parte de las nuevas 'reformas', aunque hacen falta detalles hasta el momento de que esto significará. Las reformas del [Primer Ministro] Renzi incluyen la reducción de los costos producido por la reducción de impuestos a los negocios. Recortes en los impuestos a las empresas por la mano de obra equivalentes a 32 mil millones

de euros forman parte de las reformas de Renzi. La disminución de los ingresos tributarios probablemente requerirá más reducciones de gastos del gobierno, asegurando así la continuación de las medidas de austeridad tradicionales".

En este momento los trabajadores italianos han amenazado con una huelga en contra de la ley. Con suerte, esta lucha se intensificará no sólo en una huelga en contra de la ley, sino contra el sistema capitalista de explotación en sí. Es el sistema de esclavitud asalariada la que mantiene a los trabajadores abajo.

Toda la riqueza de la sociedad es creada por los trabajadores. Esta riqueza debe pertenecer a ellos colectivamente para ser utilizada para su bienestar. Los trabajadores no deberían tener que vender su fuerza de trabajo a los codiciosos, los jefes avariciosos año tras año por el derecho a ser explotado. La destrucción del capitalismo y el establecimiento del socialismo, un sistema basado en la necesidad humana y no la avaricia capitalista, es la única salida a largo plazo de esta pesadilla que estamos enfrentando. □



Un millón de trabajadores italianos marchan en Roma contra la ley de austeridad.



Ley anti laboral de Europa amenaza a trabajadores estadounidenses

Por Fred Goldstein
30 de octubre 2014

Un millón de trabajadores italianos marchan en Roma contra la ley de austeridad.

En una nota rara de acuerdo, el Wall Street Journal y Novosti, un diario ruso, están de acuerdo en el gran tamaño de la manifestación contra la austeridad por los trabajadores: 1 millón. Ese es el número de trabajadores italianos que marcharon a la Plaza de San Giovanni en Roma el 25 de octubre para protestar contra una nueva ley laboral forzada a través de la legislatura, el 9 de octubre por el Primer Ministro italiano Matteo Renzi.

¿Cómo afecta esta lucha la clase obrera norteamericana — y los trabajadores del mundo?

El capitalismo europeo se encamina hacia su tercera recesión desde el 2007. No ha sido capaz de recuperarse de la crisis económica con medidas de austeridad convencionales. Su nueva estrategia es de salir de esta crisis mediante la expansión de las exportaciones.

Pero, para poder ampliar las exportaciones y competir en el mercado mundial capitalista, los capitalistas europeos tienen que bajar sus precios para ser “competitivos”. Los trabajadores de los EE.UU. saben que cuando oyen a los jefes hablar de ser competitivos, eso significa reducir los salarios y beneficios, mientras aumentan los precios.

El Marxismo demuestra que la clase obrera es una clase mundial unida por la explotación común. El destino de una sección de la clase obrera es inseparable del destino de la clase obrera total -desde Johannesburgo a Bangkok, de Lima al El Cairo. Esta es la base del internacionalismo proletario comunista.

Si el régimen italiano logra empujar a través de su feroz ataque contra los salarios y los derechos de los trabajadores italianos, esta sentará las bases para que esto se extienda al resto de Europa y pondrá presión adicional sobre las condiciones de la clase obrera norteamericana también.

En un artículo en Workers World/Mundo Obrero de la semana pasada, mostramos cómo en la era de la globalización y la crisis económica capitalista de sobreproducción, cada clase dominante intenta salir de su crisis mediante la exportación -debido a que los trabajadores en el país no tienen suficiente dinero para comprar los bienes producidos. Por eso, los jefes van al extranjero. Se “matan” entre sí para conseguir los mercados extranjeros. Con el fin de mantener los costos bajos, estos intensifican sus ataques contra la clase obrera.

Si los capitalistas de Europa desafían a los capitalistas de EE.UU. bajando los salarios de los trabajadores europeos, los empresarios de aquí van a poner presión sobre los salarios estadounidenses ya deprimidos para cubrir la competición europea.

Ley anti-laboral y la estrategia de “crecimiento” en Europa

Los jefes y los gobiernos de Europa han estado gritando a pecho abierto sobre la

necesidad de generar “crecimiento” - lo que significa un crecimiento en las ganancias. Ellos han tratado de rescates gubernamentales, inyectado dinero en los bancos y recortes en los gastos públicos, entre otras cosas - todo para poner dinero en manos de los banqueros e industrialistas. Pero nada ha funcionado. De hecho, el capitalismo en Europa, como el capitalismo en todo el mundo, está en un callejón sin salida.

Los trabajadores en Roma, encabezados por la Confederación General Italiana del Trabajo, protestaban por la “ley de estabilidad”, un plan dirigido específicamente a los salarios de los trabajadores con empleos permanentes, lo que es parte de la nueva fase de la austeridad europea. El elemento central de la “ley de estabilidad” es “la reforma del mercado laboral.”

Las fases anteriores de la austeridad en Europa se han dirigido a gastos públicos en servicios sociales, la venta masiva de las instalaciones públicas a las empresas privadas, los recortes de pensiones y de prestaciones sociales, el gobierno y los despidos corporativos, y así sucesivamente.

Pero la sabiduría convencional de los financistas y gobernantes corporativos es que los salarios tienen que caer aún más y su libertad para despedir a los trabajadores debe aumentarse con el fin de luchar contra sus rivales capitalistas en los mercados de exportación y hacer inversiones rentables.

Este tipo de ataque a los salarios ya se ha llevado a cabo en España. En España se aumentaron las exportaciones, pero esto se hizo más fácil para los empresarios por el hecho de que la tasa oficial de desempleo de España era del 25 por ciento y el desempleo de jóvenes trabajadores era de más del 40 por ciento.

Italia, con la tercera mayor economía del grupo en la Euro Area de 18 miembros, es el siguiente país en la línea. El gobierno del presidente François Hollande

en Francia y sus amos capitalistas están viendo ataques de Italia sobre los trabajadores con atención, porque Francia se está deslizando hacia la recesión y está planeando su propia “reforma del mercado laboral.”

Todo esto se está haciendo bajo el látigo de la clase dominante alemana y el gobierno de la canciller Angela Merkel, junto con la presión constante del Fondo Monetario Internacional. Las cumbres del capital financiero tienen miedo de un colapso económico y están exigiendo que los gobiernos Europeos hagan pagar a los trabajadores para revertir la recesión.

Capitalistas de la Euro Area van contra salarios de trabajadores permanentes

Este desarrollo fue bien explicado por el escritor de economía, Jack Rasmus, en un artículo publicado en el informador, Counter Punch, el 21 de octubre. Rasmus muestra los números económicos que impulsan la nueva estrategia y cómo la crisis económica está amenazando a Francia y Alemania, las dos mayores potencias imperialistas en el continente europeo. Luego escribe sobre las explosivas cifras de desempleo.

“Quizás el mejor indicador de la profunda debilidad de la economía de la Euro Área hoy es su mercado de trabajo. En la región en general, el desempleo se ha mantenido constante en el entre el 11 por ciento y 12 por ciento durante más de cinco años. En Italia, más del 12 por ciento, Francia 10,5 por ciento, y España sigue siendo casi el 25 por ciento. Pero el panorama es aún peor de lo que estas estadísticas de empleo en general a menudo reportadas. Por ejemplo, las tasas de desempleo juvenil en Italia y España, están en un 45 por ciento o más. Y esos jóvenes que han sido podido obtener trabajos han sido en gran parte limitados a tiempo parcial y trabajo temporal. En Francia el porcentaje de los jóvenes en la

fuerza de trabajo de 15 a 24 años de edad que están empleados como trabajadores temporales ha aumentado a 59 por ciento. En Alemania un 52 por ciento, Italia un 54 por ciento y en España un increíble 65 por ciento sólo puede encontrar trabajo temporal, cuando pueden trabajar.

“Y no es sólo la edad de 15 a 24 trabajadores jóvenes. En Italia, el 70 por ciento de todas las nuevas contrataciones han sido trabajadores temporales. Trabajos temporales significa salarios más bajos, menos beneficios, menos seguridad en el empleo, y los “derechos” de los empresarios para despedir a voluntad. El alto desempleo crónico y la gran cantidad de puestos de trabajo temporales con bajos salarios se traducen en la compresión salarial en general, con pocas excepciones, para el resto de la clase trabajadora de la zona euro.

“Sin embargo, el objetivo de la austeridad ‘nuevo modelo’ ahora en la agenda de la Euro Area está diseñado para ampliar y profundizar la compresión salarial que mediante la introducción de lo que se llama ‘la reforma del mercado laboral. Además de la elevada tasa de desempleo y la contratación temporal, que continuará como una fuerza dual que ya deprime los salarios, la nueva tercera fuerza de la “reforma del mercado de trabajo” extenderá el corte de salario aún más, apuntando a la permanente clase trabajadora en Italia, Francia, y en particular, en otros lugares”.

Clase dirigente italiana prepara ataque contra trabajadores

Eso es precisamente lo que está pasando en Europa en general. En este momento, la vanguardia de la batalla se perfila en Italia.

Según Rasmus: “No todos los detalles son evidentes aún, pero algunos contornos son. Alrededor de una cuarta parte

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Retraso costoso para trabajadores de atención domiciliaria

Por Sue Davis

La ejecución del salario mínimo federal de \$ 7,25 por hora y las horas extras después de 40 horas de trabajo a la semana para más de 2 millones de trabajadores de atención domiciliaria, en su mayoría mujeres y entre ellas su mayoría son de color, no se aplicará plenamente hasta el 1 de enero del 2016. El programa fue programado para comenzar el 1 de enero de 2015.

Eso significa, dijo Jodi Sturgeon, presidenta del Instituto de Salud Profesional, que estas mujeres trabajadoras, entre los peor pagados en el país, “tendrán que esperar tanto como otros 12 meses para recibir las más básicas de las protecciones laborales, garantías que la mayoría de otros los trabajadores[estadounidenses]

damos por sentado “. (New York Times, 8 de octubre)

El Departamento del Trabajo anunció 7 de octubre que posponía la fecha de ejecución para el 30 de junio del 2015, y luego usar su “discreción” sobre la ejecución de esta para los próximos seis meses debido a que muchos estados se habían quejado sobre el pago de los salarios “superiores” y las horas extras.

Illinois dijo que horas extras para 10.000 trabajadores excedería los \$32 millones al año. California estima que costaría más de \$600 millones. Eso significa que estos trabajadores, que viven en la pobreza a pesar de que trabajan a tiempo completo han estado subsidiando a los gobiernos estatales con miles de millones de dólares al año.

¿Cómo sucedió esto? Cuando las leyes

federales sobre los salarios fueron escritos hace 40 años, los trabajadores domiciliarios fueron clasificados como “niñeras”, sin derechos laborales. Obviamente, tanto el sexismo y el racismo dictaban su estatus degradante y la subsiguiente pobreza. Incluso ahora, ya que se necesitan más y más trabajadores domiciliarios para cuidar a los envejecientes del boom de la natalidad de la década de los sesentas, la flagrante discriminación y la profunda injusticia continuará mientras los presupuestos estatales se consideren más importantes que los derechos y las necesidades de estos trabajadores.

Sólo el 1 por ciento del presupuesto federal para guerras cubriría el costo de los salarios y horas extras “Justicia demorada es una justicia denegada” - una desgracia nacional. □