



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

Garner injustice widens uprising

By Monica Moorehead
 New York City

Dec. 8 — For millions, it was both horrifying and shocking news. But for other millions it was indeed horrifying but not unexpected. It was the announcement that white killer cop, Daniel Pantaleo, would not be indicted by a 24-member Staten Island, N.Y., grand jury for the July 17 videotaped, illegal-chokehold murder of 43-year-old Eric Garner, an African American. This decision, made public on Dec. 3, has ignited an unprecedented massive anti-police uprising across the U.S.

Garner could be heard on the video, saying, “I can’t breathe” at least 11 times as he was being grabbed around the neck by Pantaleo, with at least five other police officers pulling his hands and arms behind his back and pressing his head to the pavement, ultimately causing him to go into cardiac arrest.

This ruling came just 10 days after the Nov. 24 announcement that another white killer cop, Darren Wilson, would not be indicted for the shooting death of 18-year-old unarmed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9. Black youth, many of them survivors of racial profiling by the police, began a heroic rebellion for more than a week in Ferguson against this lynching. As the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine so eloquently stated in August, Ferguson had become “an emerging intifada.”

The Ferguson rebellion helped to expose to the U.S. and the world the role of the police in this country as occupiers of communities of color armed to the teeth with highly militarized tanks, tear gas and rubber bullets. Once pro-cop District Attorney Robert McCulloch announced the non-indictment, outraged people took to the streets not only in Ferguson and the St. Louis area but throughout the country, chanting Brown’s last words: “Hands up, don’t shoot!” Since the Staten Island ruling, that chant has been expanded to Garner’s last words: “I can’t breathe!”

The non-indictment of Pantaleo and the fact that the murder of Garner was viewed by millions of people has only added more fuel to the firestorm of protests in large and small cities and towns. Not only are people taking to the streets in the hundreds and even thousands on a daily basis but they are becoming more and more organized, mainly through social media, with the theme of making the “comfortable uncomfortable.”

This new organization has taken on a “no business as

Continued on page 5

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Shut down police terror, capitalism!

PHOTO: AMEHAYA



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO



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Above, clockwise from top: Shutting down Verrazano Bridge in NYC, Dec. 8; Children in Occupied Palestine and Chicago; in Foley Square, NYC, Dec. 4.

Below: Hundreds “die-in” in Philadelphia, Dec. 7.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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'Homrich 9' face charges for stopping water shutoffs

Dec. 8 — Nine Detroit activists were arrested in July for stopping trucks from leaving their yard to shut off thousands of poor people's water. The nine are known as the "Homrich 9," after the company hired by Detroit's emergency manager to carry out water shutoffs of tens of thousands of people behind in their water bills by as little as \$150.

Eight of the nine faced a pre-trial hearing today on the misdemeanor charges. In a press conference before the court appearance, the activists, joined by dozens of supporters, told the press that they had no choice but to take direct action to safeguard the health and safety of those being shut off and of the community as a whole.

Monica Patrick, one of the nine, stated that Judge Steven Rhodes in the Detroit bankruptcy trial ought to have challenged the \$537 million that the Detroit Water



Department paid out to the big banks in order to get out from shady "bond swap" deals, rather than taking money from retirees' pensions to pay off bank debt.

Other speakers declared that mass water shutoffs, mainly against poor people in the African-American community, were a form of violence not unlike the police murders being protested from coast to coast.

— Report and photo by David Sole

Protest in solidarity with Palestine

Protesters marched with signs in front of the RE/MAX International headquarters in Denver to raise awareness that this U.S.-based global real estate corporation was selling Palestinian West Bank property to Jewish-only settlements that have displaced thousands of Palestinian families in the West Bank in violation of international law.



RE/MAX profits from Israel's relentless theft of Palestinian land by selling and renting homes in the occupied West Bank exclusively to Jews. The Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions (BDS) campaign not only wants to raise awareness of but financially target such companies to prevent their support by U.S.-based businesses.

The Dec. 2 protest came in response to a call from the Palestinian people, including over 170 political parties, unions and organizations, for people of conscience all over the world to launch boycotts, and initiate divestment and sanctions against Israel.

The call for BDS includes targeting products and com-

panies that profit from the violation of Palestinian human rights. Israel has denied the fundamental human rights of Palestinians, including life, freedom, equality, respect and self-determination, through ethnic cleansing, racial discrimination and military occupation.

Members of different organizations supported the protest, including Jewish Voice for Peace, Friends of Sabeel and the organizing group — University of Colorado BDS. Protesters were stopped from entering the building but they sent letters explaining why they were protesting to the CEO of RE/MAX with a representative of the company.

Other companies which are being targeted as profiting at the expense of the Palestinians are Soda Stream, Hewlett Packard and Caterpillar. Many churches and organizations have divested from these corporations to keep them from profiting at the expense of the Palestinian people.

— Report and photo by Viviana Weinstein

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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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Fast food workers strike in 190 cities

By Kathy Durkin

December 4 was a phenomenal day for fast food workers. They shut down the grills, closed the cash registers and walked off their jobs, joining their brothers and sisters in a one-day strike in 190 cities. It was the eighth and most far-reaching strike day so far since fast food workers began their walkouts two years ago in their fight for a \$15 hourly wage and a union.

Joining those employed by big chains, like Burger King, McDonald's, Wendy's and Taco Bell, were Walmart workers and, for the first time, convenience and dollar-store workers. Home care providers protested in 24 cities. More good news: Workers from 10 major airports joined the strike, also a first.

The strikers showed great courage. Without labor union protection, they are risking their jobs to fight for their rights and those of other low-wage workers. Their bravery and militance are a boost to all working people — organized and unorganized.

This strike day was the largest action thus far in the nationally coordinated campaign launched by organizations, including the Service Employees union. Each action has brought more workers in more cities into the streets. As they feel their power in united actions, the strikers attract more solidarity and inspire other workers to participate. December 4 marked the biggest labor protest in years.

Millions of fast food and other low-wage workers are Black and Latino/a. Most earn the \$7.25-an-hour federal minimum wage or a few cents more, even with raises. Most work two or three jobs to provide for their families, often staying in the same dead-end jobs for years. The fight for \$15 is vital to their survival.

Meanwhile, their corporate employers rake in megaprofits. The fast food industry alone rakes in \$200 billion annually — by superexploiting their workforces. Big companies enjoy bigger profits than ever, while the workers' portion shrinks.

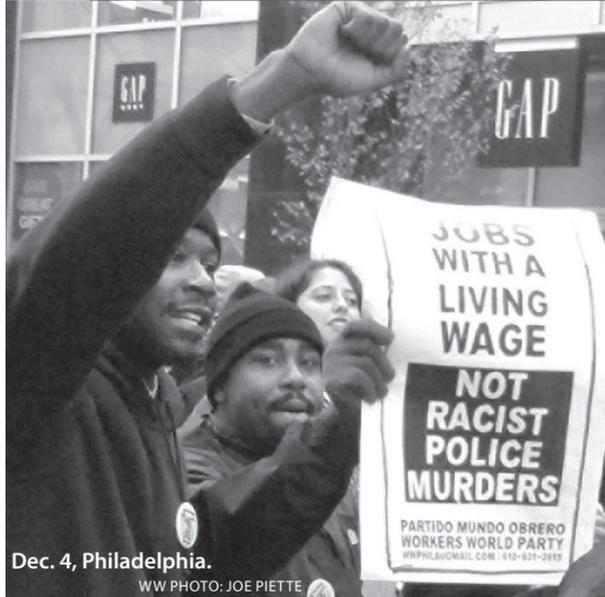
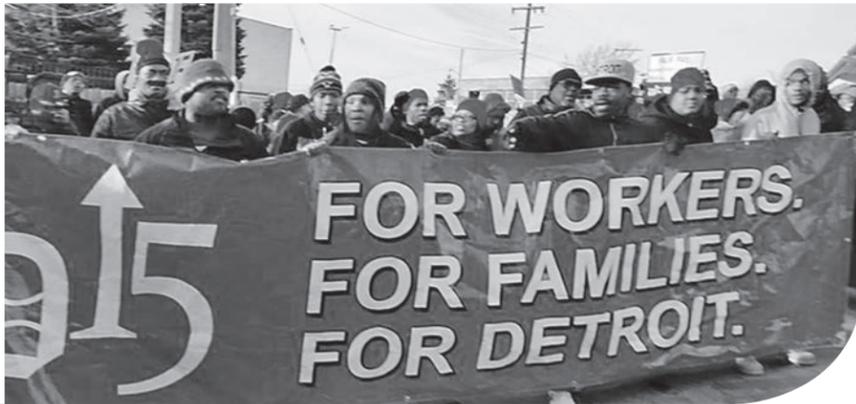
Highlights of Dec. 4 strike

Many demonstrations connected the low-wage workers' struggle to the movement against racist police terror. Marchers denounced Michael Brown's killing in Ferguson, Mo., and Eric Garner's in New York City.

Protesters from the We Deserve Better Workers Assembly took to the streets in downtown **Baltimore**, chanting, "Hands up! Give workers \$15 and a union!" The march ended at Jimmy John's restaurant where workers walked off the job.

Atlanta protests included one at a Kentucky Fried Chicken and another across from a McDonald's near Atlanta University Center. Dozens of fast food workers participated, with home care providers and members of the Service Employees, American Federation of State, City and Municipal Employees, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, postal workers, Teamsters, Georgia Standup, Moral Monday, Jobs with Justice and 9 to 5. Spelman College students came, along with faith-based and civil rights leaders.

The group took over part of the KFC parking lot, then marched to a Family Dollar store. Chants demanded higher wages in addition to "Hands up! Don't



Dec. 4, Philadelphia.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Dec. 4, Detroit.

WW PHOTOS: KRIS HAMEL



Dec. 4, Buffalo, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

shoot!" The International Action Center banner read, "Support Fast Food Workers' Fight for \$15/Hour and the Right to Join a Union!" Passing motorists showed support.

Philadelphia fast food workers and supporters urged McDonald's customers to eat an alternative free breakfast on tables outside the store. Strikers urged Center City store workers to walk out; some did. A march ended with a rally outside McDonald's. As they passed police, marchers chanted, "Hands up, don't shoot!" in memory of Michael Brown.

Fast food workers marched, rallied and chanted for \$15 an hour and a union at fast food eateries on **Buffalo, N.Y.**'s Main Street. Families, community groups and union members joined the actions, organized by the Coalition for Economic Justice. Signs were in hot demand, which connected the fast food workers' struggle and the anti-racist fight for justice.

Midwest rallies

Hundreds of people, mostly Black youth, carried out a militant march and speakout at two McDonald's restaurants in **Detroit**. Over a dozen squad cars, a police bus and a surveillance tower did not deter demonstrators from taking the street. They marched across busy Van Dyke Avenue, up to the tower and the cops, chanting, "Hands up, don't shoot!" Protesters then marched to another McDonald's on Eight Mile Road, where low-wage workers spoke about why they were striking and their struggle to feed their families and survive on the minimum wage.

A diverse crowd of fast food workers and their supporters in **Rockford, Ill.**, demanded a livable wage, paid overtime and the right to organize. Workers from there and the surrounding area rallied at many McDonald's locations. They pledged to strike until their demands were met. Chicago's passage of a \$13/hour minimum wage has given workers renewed confidence in a victory, though it's still short of what they deserve.

Demonstrators observed a moment of silence for victims of racist police brutality at a rally at Rockford's Unitarian Uni-

versalist Church.

Home care providers and other low-wage workers joined large actions in **Madison, Milwaukee** and elsewhere in the state. Wisconsin Jobs News supported them. Sponsored by RaiseUp-MKE, hundreds of multinational low-wage workers marched to and through the Bayshore Mall in Milwaukee, where workers are superexploited in poverty-wage jobs. They rallied in the rotunda, calling out, "Hands up, don't shoot!"

California: Fight for 15!

Several protests took place in **Los Angeles**. A multinational group of about 1,000 people, many young, rallied at a downtown McDonald's, then marched to City Hall for another rally. The Service Employees union mobilized. When a speaker announced a moment of silence for victims of police violence, everyone raised their hands in solidarity.

LA Workers Assembly placards as-

serted, "Jobs with a Livable Wage, Not Racism and Police Murder." People eagerly signed their petition to put the \$15/hourly wage on the ballot. Many will join the Dec. 11 car caravan from LA's Harriet Tubman Center to McDonald's Regional Headquarters in Long Beach, Calif., to fight for \$15.

Community activists, fast food workers, members of OUR Walmart and unions, including SEIU, rallied at the Fruitvale BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) Plaza in **Oakland** and marched to McDonald's. A few hundred people briefly took it over, as others rallied outside. Some workers walked out.

These brave strikers are setting an example for all workers; their struggles must be supported.

Article contributors include Sharon Black, Tommy Cavanaugh, Ellie Dorritie, Kris Hamel, Terri Kay, Dianne Mathiowetz, John Parker, Joe Piette, Heath Tschetter and Maggie Vascassenno.

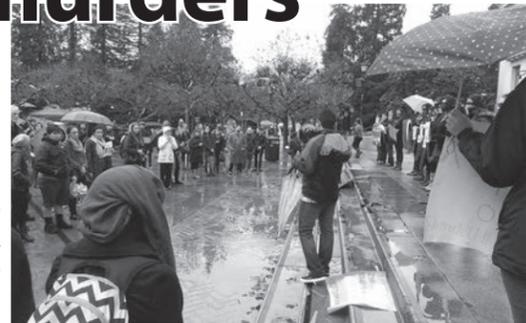
In Mexico and U.S.

Berkeley students 'tired of murders'

By Dave Welsh and Terri Kay
Berkeley, Calif.

Over 100 students and supporters gathered at Sproul Hall at the University of California here on Dec. 3 to call attention to the role of the U.S. government in the disappearance of 43 students from a teachers' college in Ayotzinapa, Mexico. The Mexican government has admitted that the police in Iguala, the town where the students disappeared, had turned them over to local druglords on orders of the mayor.

The Berkeley demonstration also addressed the many other murders that have happened in Mexico, especially since the North American Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. destroyed the livelihoods of many farmers and workers while enriching those in power.



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

A number of Berkeley students stood in front of the hall wearing black masks with dollar bills taped over their mouths. They held signs reading "100,000 killed by the narco gobierno [druglord government]" and "UC Berkeley con [with] Mexico — #USTired2." UStired2, the national hashtag for the day, stands for those in the U.S. who are tired of police murders, as in Ferguson, Mo., and elsewhere. The names of all 43 disappeared students were read out one at a time, as the crowd responded "presente." □

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Minn. janitors strike on 'Black' Friday

Joining other strikers on "Black" Friday, Nov. 28, contracted janitorial workers who clean big-box stores in the Twin Cities area walked off the job at more than 50 retailers to declare, "Enough is enough." At least 150 janitorial workers and community allies held a rally at a Minneapolis shopping center demanding living wages and safer working conditions. The workers have seen their wages plummet over the past several years while their workloads have nearly doubled. Fifteen years ago, many retail janitors earned an average of \$10 to \$11 an hour, while today wages hover just above the federal minimum wage at \$7.50. Many workers have to work seven days a week to provide for their families. The strikes were organized by Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (Center for Workers United in Struggle) as part of its ongoing effort to unionize the workers. (Workday Minnesota, Nov. 28; ctul.net)

San Francisco retail workers win bill of rights

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to pass a package of legislation known as the "Retail Workers Bill of Rights" on Nov. 25. This bill, the first of its kind in the U.S., aims to end a host of unfair, discriminatory scheduling practices that have long plagued workers at major retailers within city limits. The legislation, which is expected to be signed by Mayor Ed Lee, mandates that employers post schedules two weeks in advance or else pay a penalty to employees who are made to come into work on shorter notice. The legislation is designed to promote full-time employment by requiring employers to offer more hours to part-time employees before hiring additional workers and to prohibit discrimination against part-time workers with regard to pay rate, promotions and paid time off. (retailworkerrights.com, Nov. 26)

Wage theft rampant in Calif. and N.Y.

A new U.S. Labor Department study exposes that between 3.5 and 6.5 percent of all wage and salary workers in California and New York — more than 300,000 each month — are paid less than the federal or state minimum wage, with an estimated 2 million workers affected nationwide. The study, based on 2011 data, showed that \$20 million to \$29 million is cut from workers' paychecks each week, lowering workers' income in New York by 36 percent and in California by 49 percent. That means the bosses steal more than a third and nearly half of low-wage workers' income in these states each week! Who takes the brunt of this? Primarily youth and women. Violations are rampant — no surprise — in the restaurant and hotel industries, followed by educational and health services, and retail and wholesale — all industries where low-wage workers have been protesting for at least two years. (New York Times, Dec. 4)

Pregnancy disability case goes to Supreme Court

Even though the federal Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 was supposed to protect women workers' rights when they become pregnant, a case against United Parcel Service was heard by the Supreme Court on Dec. 3 brought by a woman who was laid off by UPS without pay when her doctor recommended she be given lighter duty. Women's rights groups rallied outside the court to support Peggy Young's case. The National Partnership for Women & Families pointed out that nearly half of the national workforce is women and nearly two-thirds of all breadwinners are women. (aflcio.org/blog, Dec. 3) Stay tuned.

Support New England telecom workers' strike

Two thousand employees of the New England telecommunications giant FairPoint have been on strike since Oct. 17 to protest the company's continuing efforts to outsource union jobs, and cut wages and benefits. Despite promises made by FairPoint to create 675 new jobs as a condition of its 2008 acquisition of Verizon Northern New England's operations, FairPoint has eliminated almost 900 jobs. When contracts with the Communication Workers and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers expired in August, the company moved to freeze workers' pension benefits, increase health care premiums and end retiree health care entirely. Nearly two-thirds of FairPoint's 3,200 workers are represented by a coalition of IBEW Locals 2320 New Hampshire, 2326 Vermont and 232 Maine, as well as CWA Local 1400 New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. The workers are supported by a wide array of community members and labor activists, including the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751. For more information and to learn how you can help the strikers during the holidays, visit fairnessatfairpoint.com. □

Ethnic Studies won for Los Angeles public schools



Jefferson Azevedo

Part I of an interview **Jefferson Azevedo** of *Workers World* conducted with **Ron Gochez** of *Unión del Barrio* in Los Angeles after a popular struggle won a district-wide Ethnic Studies program.

Workers World: Ron, can you please let us know about yourself and what struggles you've been involved with.

Ron Gochez — By profession, I'm a history teacher in Los Angeles. I'm also a member of *Unión del Barrio*, which is a community-based organization, and we do work in different areas. I am fortunate enough to teach some Ethnic Studies classes. I teach Latin-American history, Mexican-American studies, and I also teach African-American studies, but of the 94 high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, only 19 offer that subject.

It was important that all of the students of all of Los Angeles had the opportunity to take this class. That's why a few months ago, different members of *Unión del Barrio* and other people that we spoke to thought it was important to start a campaign so that the LAUSD would make Ethnic Studies an actual requirement for graduation. That would mean that every single high school would offer these classes and that students would have to take at least one semester of some Ethnic Studies class to graduate.

We thought this plan would be supported on the School Board and we knew we could get support from the community, students, parents and other educators. On Nov. 18, we felt that we had done as much work as possible to get Ethnic Studies and, luckily for us, we had the right combination. We feel this was really historic because Ethnic Studies people have been fighting for it for many, many decades and now Los Angeles Unified is the biggest school district in the country that makes it a requirement to have Ethnic Studies.

WW: What is the importance of Ethnic Studies in the schools?

RG: The majority of the curriculum, the majority of the history that is taught and the textbooks they use now are very Eurocentric. Nearly all the content is either about Europe itself or about European-Americans on this continent. Contributions of people of color, of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latin Americans and many others are simply left out or whitewashed from history. Many students from many different ethnic groups really feel left out.

If students feel that their people have not contributed to society, have not done anything important, that really leads to a condition of self-hatred when the students have no pride in themselves. Then they are more prone to do things that will hurt themselves or their own community.

That's why having Ethnic Studies is a life-changing experience for many people. Students who before were not engaged in their education, when they take classes like African-American stud-

ies or Latin-American studies and they start learning about their culture, their history, their roots, they all of a sudden become engaged in their education.

They see why they should care. They don't just do well in their Ethnic Studies classes: studies have shown that students in Ethnic Studies classes do better in their grades in other classes. They have higher test scores on the standardized testing, they have a higher graduation rate than students who don't take Ethnic Studies classes, and they also have a higher rate of going to college.

This has a tremendous impact on students because it gives them the pride and the self-worth to understand why they need to go to college so they can help their families, help their communities. We really believe that when a person has pride in themselves and in their community, it's very difficult for them to do things that will hurt their own communities like drugs, gang-banging, any kind of violence against their own community.

They will have a historical understanding of why, instead of hurting each other, we're supposed to help each other so we can better ourselves and society. Ethnic Studies is really important, and we think it's going to keep kids out of prison. It's not a perfect solution — I don't want to romanticize it — but it offers the space where students can address the issues that are never addressed in chemistry, in world history, in biology, etc.

WW: In the L.A. School District what is the percentage of students of color? And in higher education?

RG: In the Los Angeles Unified School District, more than 90 percent of the students are students of color. The majority are Latinos and then African Americans, then Asian Americans. The majority of the students in Los Angeles Unified will for the first time be required to learn about themselves. We think that it's a historic victory that will affect students at a national level. San Francisco, now, wants to pass Ethnic Studies as a requirement and many other districts across the country — we believe — are going to want the same.

Higher ed is different. When we look at what is called the school-to-prison pipeline, a lot more of our young people are going to prison than to university. At least, for Mexicanos, or Chicanos, here in this country, out of every 100 who start public school, about two will end up graduating from university. We think that Ethnic Studies will help increase those numbers by opening their eyes to the possibilities of something else.

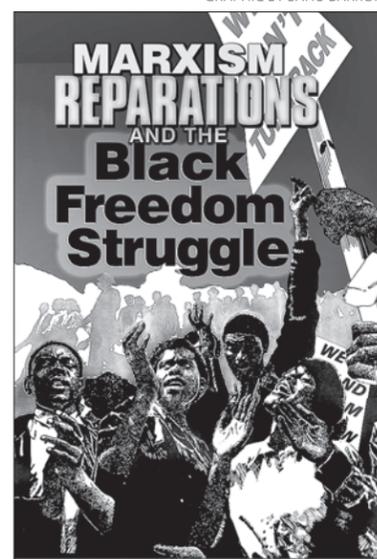
I have students who say: "I'm so interested in learning about my culture, now, that I want to take Chicano studies in college; I want to take different classes."

Next: How the movement won Ethnic Studies in Los Angeles.

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

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Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker
 Available at all major online booksellers.



GRAPHIC BY SAHU BARRON

Justice for Tamir Rice!

By Martha Grevatt

Dec. 8 — With the police killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice on Nov. 22, Cleveland has become, like Ferguson and Staten Island, a particular place associated with a widespread systemic problem. The news of young Rice's murder came out near the time of the grand jury decision not to indict Darren Wilson in the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson.

In Cleveland, mass anger at the police erupted with the Ferguson announcement, with 500 mostly young protesters blocking traffic on Public Square and then on the interstate highway. For two weeks in a row Monday night marches on City Hall have been followed by demonstrations inside City Council chambers.

Rice was killed in broad daylight on a Saturday afternoon, in a park across from the city's Cudell Recreation Center. The Cleveland Division of Police had received a call that a male was brandishing a gun in the park. The caller stated, in information reportedly not relayed to the officers called to the scene, that the gun might be fake and the individual was likely a juvenile.

Police tried to suppress the surveillance camera footage "out of respect for the family," but Rice's parents wanted it seen. Now the facts are widely known. Officers Timothy Loehmann and Frank Garmback drove up to Rice and before Garmback even stopped the car, Loehmann exited the vehicle and immediately fired two shots into the youth. The "gun" — a toy replica that shoots plastic pellets — was in the holster; Rice posed no threat to anyone. But once again, the CDP's "pattern or practice" of excessive brutality

sent a sixth-grader to an early grave.

It has since come to public light that Loehmann, a CDP rookie, had been forced to resign while working in the suburb of Independence, Ohio, because of his use of deadly force.

Report: Excessive brutality in Cleveland

Police and elected officials are feeling the heat, not only over Rice's murder but also that of Tanisha Anderson earlier in November. Her family called 911 three times for medical assistance related to Tanisha's mental health, asking for an ambulance. Instead, police came and implemented a "takedown" maneuver, forcing Tanisha to the ground. She stopped breathing and was left outside in the cold until the ambulance arrived, at which point she was pronounced dead.

Rice's killing was one week shy of the second anniversary of the killing of Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell. Over 100 police chased the two from the west side of Cleveland to the east side suburb of East Cleveland — outside their jurisdiction — while firing at the vehicle Russell was driving. Once they had the car stopped and surrounded, the cops fired 137 shots into the car, killing the unarmed pair. Police claimed they heard gunfire from the vehicle, but in fact the noise was the engine backfiring.

This double murder prompted the federal Department of Justice to conduct a 21-month investigation of the CDP. While Rice's parents were burying their son, the DOJ released its scathing report, which has been widely reported. A key shortfall of the report is that it makes no mention of the racist nature of these and other killings of African-American residents. What

is crystal clear, however, is that this is not a case of a few bad apples on the force.

The investigation uncovered a pattern of "unnecessary and excessive use of deadly force, including shootings and head strikes with impact weapons; the unnecessary, excessive, or retaliatory use of less lethal force, including tasers, chemical spray and fists; excessive force against persons who are mentally ill or in crisis, including cases where the officers were called exclusively for a welfare check; and the employment of poor and dangerous tactics that place officers in situations where avoidable force becomes inevitable and places officers and civilians at unnecessary risks." The numerous cases of excessive force were deemed "in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution" which prohibits unreasonable search and seizure.

The few cases cited in the report are presented as typical rather than exceptional. They include firing shots at fleeing suspects in moving vehicles and shooting at a crime victim fleeing a house where he had been held, as well as several cases where suspects were punched, tasered and pepper-sprayed even after being handcuffed. The report revealed culpability throughout the CDP; the pattern went all the way up the food chain, from officers to supervisors to the various investigatory bodies. The mayor-appointed civilian review board was deemed ineffective and even complicit.

Organizers demand accountability

The organizers of the recent protests are demanding that the CDP's Internal Affairs Department and all of its bogus



investigatory bodies, along with the current civilian review board, be disbanded. They want a new, elected review board. They want Loehmann and Garmback fired along with Safety Director Mike McGrath. They want the killers of Tamir and Tanisha indicted. They want what the DOJ found systematically lacking: accountability.

Young activists have organized themselves as the New Abolitionist Association. They are working in coalition with Peace in the Hood, Black on Black Crime Inc., Imperial Women, the Carl Stokes Brigade, Puncture the Silence, Workers World Party, the International Socialist Organization, the Guide to Kulchur Bookstore and others.

The new movement in Cleveland is "mostly young people, college age," Donnie Pastard, a longtime Cleveland activist and member of the Carl Stokes Brigade, told Workers World. Her group is named for the first African-American mayor of a major U.S. city. "There is a new spirit of protest," said Pastard. □

Garner injustice widens uprising

Continued from page 1

usual" orientation as manifested in walkouts from high schools, college campuses, even elementary schools and off the job to shutdowns and blockades of bridges, tunnels, highways, interstates, malls and stores. There was even a disruption of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on Nov. 27 that became a major news story.

On Dec. 4, over 120 actions took place in 40 states in response to the Garner ruling.

The cases of Brown and Garner have helped to elevate the reality of the heinous war against Black and Brown people, especially youth. In the U.S., at least one Black youth is killed every 28 hours by the police. Just in the past several months and weeks, this war has claimed the lives of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland; Akai Gurley in East New York, Brooklyn; Ezell Ford in Los Angeles; John Crawford III in Beavercreek, Ohio; and Romain Brisbon in Phoenix — and many more. Protests linking these local police murders with Brown and Garner continue to take place in these cities.

Deep impact of Brown and Garner

The struggle to win justice for Michael Brown and Eric Garner has evolved into a powerful catalyst to fight back against every aspect of police terror from stop-and-frisk to mass incarceration, beatings and outright murders. It is very rare that police officers who carry out such atrocities are arrested or indicted as the Brown, Garner and Crawford cases have shown. In 179 cases of grand jury hearings involving New York police over the

past 15 years, only three have led to indictments, and no cops did jail time. (NY Daily News, Dec. 8)

This anti-police uprising has permeated every sector of U.S. society. There are too many examples to mention here, but probably the most visible sector has been youth. Not only do young people constitute the largest numbers of protesters everywhere, but youth of color are in the leadership of many of these protests locally and nationally. There are white youth, many from the Occupy movement, who are standing in anti-racist solidarity with oppressed youth. And then there are just ordinary people, who have never attended a protest in their lives, who have gone from being bystanders to active participants, especially after seeing the Garner video.

In New York City since Dec. 3, there have been die-ins and disruptions in the thousands almost everyday in the busy hubs of transportation, most notably Grand Central Station. There have been shutdowns of major portions of the West Side Highway and the Holland and Lincoln tunnels. A sizable number of those stuck in traffic have expressed solidarity with the demonstrators by honking their horns or giving high-fives to those carrying signs and banner.

Today, protesters shut down the largest bridge in New York City, the Verrazano Bridge, in one direction for seven minutes with huge signs reading, "Eric Garner #ThisStopsToday Mike Brown." The seven minutes represent the amount of time that the police and Emergency Medical Service workers did not attempt to resuscitate Garner.

Yesterday, in Long Island, N.Y., hun-

dreds shut down the Sunrise Highway.

On Dec. 7, hundreds of protesters shut down the toy gun department at Toys-R-Us in Times Square to protest the killings of Rice and Crawford, who were shot by cops while holding toy guns. Apple and Macy's stores in midtown have also been shut down.

The #ThisStopsToday coalition has put out a public call for 11 days of action to take place Dec. 10-20 to "escalate the urgency of the crisis of police violence and lack of accountability, and to help move this moment into a movement-building period to secure concrete wins for our communities." A citywide march called by #MillionsMarchNYC will take place Dec. 13 at 2 p.m., starting at Washington Square Park. A national march demanding that the federal government indict killer cops is scheduled on the same day in Washington, D.C., led by families directly stricken by police violence.

High-profiled athletes and performers take a stand

On Nov. 30, five members of the National Football League's St. Louis Rams' receiving corps came out onto the field with their hands up to show solidarity with the Ferguson community. On Dec. 7, more Rams had "I can't breathe" emblazoned on their shirts, wrist bands or cleats, including offensive guard Davin Joseph, tight end Jared Cook and receiver Kenny Britt. Reggie Bush, Detroit Lions' running back, wore an "I can't breathe" warm-up shirt on Dec. 7, along with Cleveland Browns' cornerback Johnson Bademosi.

Former National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player and Chicago



LeBron James wore an "I can't breathe" warm-up shirt on Dec. 8.

Bulls guard Derrick Rose wore an "I can't breathe" warm-up shirt on Dec. 6.

Tom Thibodeau, the Bulls' coach, defended Rose, saying his actions have to do with "justice" and "equality."

And four-time MVP and two-time NBA champion LeBron James wore the same T-shirt before a Brooklyn Nets/Cleveland Cavaliers game Dec. 8. This attracted national attention while a protest, including a die-in of many hundreds, took place outside the Barclays Center, home to the Nets. One of James' teammates, Kylie Irving, wore the same shirt, as did several Nets members like Deron Williams and Kevin Garnett.

Grammy award-winning singer John Legend and his spouse, model Chrissie Teigen, paid for a fleet of food trucks to provide free food for hungry protesters at Lincoln Square in New York.

A July 29 YouTube featuring dozens of Broadway performers protesting the death of Garner in front of a New York Police Department substation in Times Square has been reshown on Twitter.

International protests in solidarity with Mike Brown and Eric Garner have been organized, including in the Occupied Territories in Palestine, New Delhi, Paris, Melbourne, Tokyo, London, Hannover, Germany, various cities in Canada and even in Anchorage, Alaska, in the U.S. □

FIGHT CONTINUES AGAIN

Protests erupt after Garner injustice

By Workers World Staff

Black, Brown and white youth came out in great numbers and took the streets behind African-American leadership after the announcement that no charges would be brought against any of the cops responsible for the death of Eric Garner on Staten Island, N.Y. Tens of millions of people had seen the killing on video.

On Dec. 3 — and in even larger numbers on Dec. 4 — protests across the country involving as many as 200,000 people disrupted automobile, bus and rapid-transit traffic. This happened in dozens of cities across the United States.

The massive show of solidarity in the streets, along with expressions of support even from motorists caught in big traffic jams, increased the confidence of the young demonstrators. As a result, in many places they pushed through or around police blockades to shut down highways and intersections. And the protesters vowed to continue actions indefinitely.

Following are several reports from WW contributors.

Thousands on Dec. 3 raised their voices outside the seasonal tree-lighting ceremony at Rockefeller Center in **New York**. They ran into a phalanx of violent cops who blocked them. Protesters then marched to Times Square and Columbus Circle; another group shut down the West Side Highway.



DETROIT

WW PHOTO: JERRY GOLDBERG

The next night 10,000 people gathered in Foley Square north of City Hall in downtown Manhattan. Led by the families of victims of the police, a few thousand demonstrators occupied and shut down the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges. Thousands unable to fit on the bridge marched up Broadway against traffic, turning left on Canal Street to head for the Holland Tunnel. At various times during the night of Dec. 4, the tunnel, the West Side Highway, the FDR Drive, the two bridges and numerous intersections were blocked.



NEW YORK

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

In **Philadelphia**, several hundred people held a die-in at 4:15 p.m. at the 30th Street Amtrak station, lying or sitting down in the station concourse for four-and-a-half minutes, representing the four-and-a-half hours that the body of Mike Brown, the unarmed teen shot and killed by a cop, had lain unattended in the streets of Ferguson, Mo. Protesters then marched through Center City to challenge the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, with constant chants of “No justice, no peace” and “Shut it down for Mike Brown.”

Nearly 2,000 people, mostly youth, showed up in **Baltimore** at a Dec. 4 demonstration called by the People’s Power Assembly. This protest had many Black students and a large show of solidarity from white students and youth. The demonstrators chanted anti-racist slogans at the Christmas tree-lighting festivities after marching from downtown. The cops were much more aggressive than at earlier demonstrations. Mounted police used horses in an attempt to herd and disrupt the demonstration. The PPA and the youth refused to back down, holding two separate assemblies where people could speak out.

On Dec. 5 in **Oakland, Calif.**, protesters spent another night in the streets, blocking both lanes of I-880 and closing the West Oakland Bay Area Rapid Transit station. This followed several nights of street actions, including closing the Fruitvale BART station on Dec. 4.

In **Atlanta**, demonstrations went on all week, starting Dec. 1 when U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder was shouted down at a community speakout at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. Aurielle Lucier, the

19-year-old founder of #ItsBiggerthanYou, denounced the police actions in Ferguson and the numerous police killings in Atlanta in recent years. She consistently raised the experience of Black, Brown, undocumented, queer and trans communities at the hands of police — and called it genocide.

Many in the crowd showed by their comments that the youth had clearly analyzed and rejected the “pacification” strategy of officials. They chanted, “You can’t stop the revolution!” and “We will not be silenced.”

On Dec. 4, hundreds marched for two hours in midtown Atlanta, blocking streets and holding a die-in in a major intersection. Police blocked their way to an interstate ramp with squad cars, effectively stopping traffic on the highway. Protests also took place at many Georgia universities.

It was no lunch-time-as-usual in the heavily patrolled, privatized Campus Martius Park in downtown **Detroit** on Dec. 4. Some 100 people, including observers who joined in, defied private cops and staged a die-in in honor of Eric Garner and against police terror and murder. The park and its large ice rink, all decorated for the holidays, are under the control of business mogul Dan Gilbert, representing the banks’ takeover of the city under the auspices of emergency management and federal bankruptcy.

Reports from Imani Henry, Betsey Piette, Sharon Black, Dianne Mathiowetz and Jerry Goldberg; edited by John Catalinotto.



PHILADELPHIA

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Justice for O’Shaine Evans, killed by SFPD

By Terri Kay Oakland, Calif.

Yet another vigil was held Dec. 7, this one by the family of O’Shaine Evans, who was killed by Officer David Goff of the San Francisco Police Department on Oct. 7. Evans was shot multiple times. Born



in Jamaica, he was living in Oakland with his mother, while training to be a boxer.

The family is demanding release of the police report, autopsy and surveillance videos. They want an explanation of why the family wasn’t invited to a town hall meeting held by the SFPD on the shooting. They also want an independent investigation of O’Shaine’s death, including the events leading up to the shooting, and answers to why his mother wasn’t

allowed to identify her son’s body.

The vigil, chaired by Jeremy Miller, program director at the Idress Stelley Foundation, was held in solidarity with other families who have lost loved ones to police murder. They called for an end to racist police murder, from San Francisco to Ferguson, Mo.

Cadine Williams, O’Shaine’s sister, spoke angrily at the vigil. She said that she can no longer say, “Hands up, don’t shoot,” after learning how Mario Romero had his hands up when he was fatally shot by a barrage of police bullets from the guns of Vallejo, Calif., police on Sept. 2, 2012. “Fists up, fight back!” is what Williams now says. The crowd threw up their fists in approval, repeating her chant. □



LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY (N.Y.)



STOP RACIST KILLER COPS

Anti-racist demonstrations still strong

By Workers World Staff

Dec. 8 — Demonstrations expressing outrage over the police killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner continued over the Dec. 6-7 weekend and into Dec. 9. The most frequent chants at most protests were “Black lives matter” and “I can’t breathe.”

At the University of California, **Berkeley**, on Dec. 4, the California Black Student Union held a four-and-a-half-hour occupation of the Golden Bear Café, directly across from the Sproul Hall Administration building on campus. On Dec. 6, the 50th anniversary of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement, cops made several arrests, and shot tear gas and even rubber bullets into the crowd. On Dec. 6 and 7, demonstrators started at the campus gates and zig-zagged through the streets, demanding “Shut it down for Michael Brown!” and all Black and Brown youth who have been targeted and killed by the police. Each time the police tried to stop the large swell of protesters, the crowd took off in another direction.

On Dec. 7, an even larger crowd of younger people took to the streets. Blocked from the police station, demonstrators headed to City Hall where they held a rally on the steps. The crowd of 3,000 marched from Berkeley to Oakland to stop traffic on the 580 freeway. Police again used tear gas and force to stop the protesters from taking over the freeway ramps. Groups of demonstrators supported each other getting on and off the freeways.

In nearby **Oakland, Calif.**, militant, largely youthful crowds, predominantly white, but often led by youth of color, angrily marched through the streets all week, usually starting downtown at Oscar Grant Plaza. On Dec. 5, after leaving the area around police headquarters, they marched onto the I-880 off ramp at Market and 6th Street, where they shut down freeway traffic in both directions. Then they marched to the West Oakland Bay Area Rapid Transit stop, where the BART police hastily stopped them by dropping heavy metal gates, shutting the station for at least half an hour.

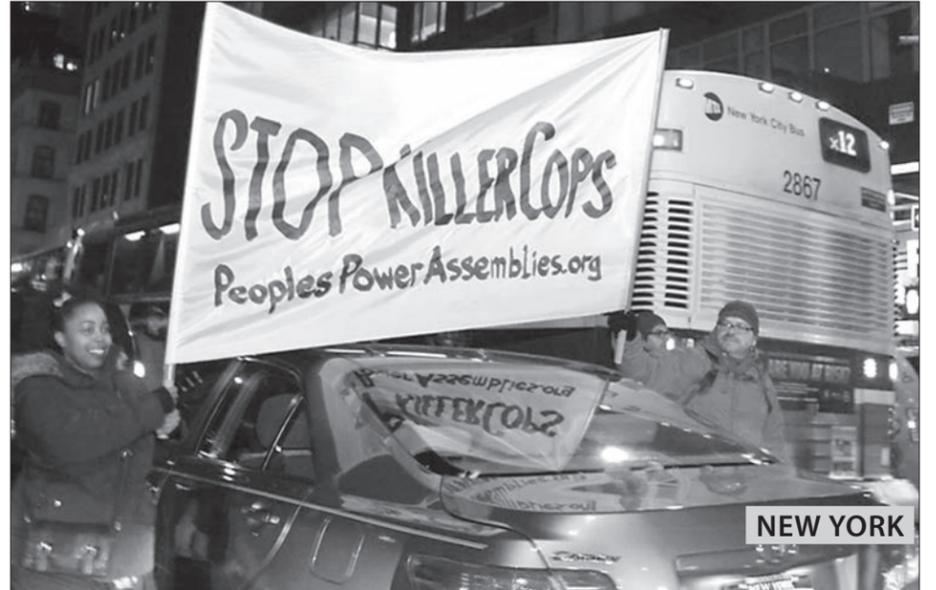


WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Demonstrators in **Buffalo, N.Y.**, took to the streets all over town on Dec. 4 and 5. They blocked intersections where they dropped to the ground and observed four-and-a-half minutes of silence in memory of Brown. Students from Buffalo State and the University at Buffalo organized together for a march that took the streets, and other marches, rallies and die-ins drew increasingly large crowds.

Over 500 people rallied and marched in **Amityville, Long Island, N.Y.**, a working-class Black, Latino/a and white village. The multinational crowd listened to young activists in a Long Island Railroad parking lot. Speakers recounted the long history of police murders of young African-American men. The demonstrators shut down Sunrise Highway, the main thoroughfare of Suffolk County. Some carried signs calling for justice for 20-year-old Kyle Howell, a young Black man from Westbury, N.Y., who was brutally beaten by three Nassau County Police at a traffic stop last April. Howell had been charged with assault, but the incident was caught on camera and a judge dismissed the charges against him. Howell's family is now suing the Nassau County Police Department.

In **Boston**, nearly 10,000 protesters organized by Black Lives Matter marched on the State Capitol after disrupting Mayor Marty Walsh's Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 4. They then moved to the steps of the State House, where several were arrested, including march organizers, who were pinned to the ground by state police. The throng then broke into several separate marches. One group marched on the JFK Federal Building in Government Center, while another swarmed onto an onramp to Interstate 93, blocking the entrance. All the while people never stopped



NEW YORK

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

chanting, “I can’t breathe, I can’t breathe” and “Black lives matter!”

In **Philadelphia**, traffic was disrupted after the National Football League's Philadelphia/Seattle game on Dec. 7 by a die-in at the middle of a main intersection outside the stadium. POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild) organizers held a half-hour rally before calling the crowd into the streets, where hundreds of participants lay down on the cold asphalt for four-and-a-half minutes.

Demonstrations and die-ins are popping up in **Atlanta** with at least four taking place on Dec. 6, including a noon march and rally in suburban Marietta and a die-in that afternoon. There was a banner drop at a Southeastern Conference football game. On Dec. 7, high-school youth initiated and held a die-in in front of Macy's in the Lenox Mall. Ebenezer Baptist Church hosted another community speak-out the evening of Dec. 8. The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement has called for a Peoples Assembly on police terror in January.

In **Milwaukee and Madison, Wis.**, on Dec. 6, cops arrested 14 protesters from Occupy The Hood, among others, including three visitors from Ferguson, Mo., who were attempting to block Interstate 794 in Milwaukee. On Dec. 4, the Coalition For Justice sponsored a speak-out at the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission meeting to demand justice for Dontre Hamilton, killed by police. To sign a petition

demanding justice for Hamilton, go to tinyurl.com/olskxh4.

Demonstrations have been held in **Seattle** every day since the Brown and Garner decisions. On Dec. 6, more than 3,000 people marched, starting from Garfield High School in the Black community and organized and led by Black students. Protesters marched downtown to the police headquarters, holding rallies at three main intersections along the way. Several people were arrested trying to lead the protest onto the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

Terri Kay, Gil Ross, Judy Greenspan, Ellie Dorritie, Heather Cottin, Gerry Scoppettuolo, Joe Piette, Dianne Mathiowetz, Wisconsin WW Bureau, and Jim McMahan reported. John Catalinotto edited.

WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE



BUFFALO, N.Y.



AMITYVILLE, LI, N.Y.



WW PHOTO: G DUNKEL



BERKELEY, CALIF.

PHOTO: GIL ROSS

Reflections on Ferguson

Below are excerpts from an article by **Lou DeJesus** of Buffalo, N.Y., about her trip to St. Louis and Ferguson, Mo., on Oct. 11-12. This African-American activist traveled there to join the struggle for "Justice for Michael Brown," killed by police on Aug. 9. The full article is at tinyurl.com/pvcsch9

We arrived in St. Louis early on Oct. 11, the day of the community march and rally. We headed to the march location, where easily a few hundred were already gathered. We stationed ourselves in sight of a giant "Hands Up Mike Brown" puppet. ...

We were among thousands, multiple marching bands, exuberant youth, babies being pushed in strollers, signs declaring solidarity from Vermont, Chicago, HB-CUs [historically Black colleges and universities], communists, socialists, Jobs With Justice, too many organizations to count. The chants, call-and-responses, drumming, singing were tremendous. ...

We had a chance to see the beauty of the city ... an extravagant display of attractions — while unemployment among people of color, especially youth, remains at shocking levels.

Directly across from the Ferguson Police Station, we met 72-year-old Walter Rice, a Vietnam veteran and resident for more than 40 years. Mr. Rice has sta-

tioned himself here for days, with a lawn chair and poster, quietly protesting. From him, we learned about the history of this city, first next to and now engulfing most of the first incorporated Black city in Missouri, Kinloch. Free Blacks had lived here for generations after settling during the great American westward expansion. ...

He talked about conversations with the mayor after the brutal murder of Michael Brown, watching the increased militarization and aggressiveness of Ferguson and St. Louis police. He told us about literally placing his body between tanks and young protesters of color ... asking [police] how they could respond to legitimate protest with such brutality. He wept constantly as he spoke ... with quiet tears that rolled down his brown cheeks. We hugged ... and agreed that there is a time to grieve and a time to fight back.

The fierce protective reverence for the memorial itself has to be noted. Down the middle of the street is a row of candles,

mementos ... ordered carefully. I added a locket and ribbon, a gift from my deceased fiancée, a fellow sojourner added a rock from Lake Erie ... her personal talisman.

We were humbled to offer these tokens in an effort to show our love and respect for Michael, his family, his friends and his community. They have offered themselves up ... for over 70 long days and nights, by the hundreds, to police violence and national scrutiny, to demand that racist police killings stop here and now.

'We're marching all night long!'

We had the honor of taking part in the nightly march from Canfield to the Ferguson police station. Hundreds marched, and hundreds more rode behind, honking and chanting. Neighbors ... came out on their lawns to dance, clap and chant. ...

We arrived in front of the Ferguson Police Station to find 400 plus people chanting, "We're young, we're strong, we're marching all night long!" and "Hands up, don't shoot!" We were asked to sit in the street and rose to a moment of silence. The chanting went on for nearly two hours.

The larger mass was directly confronting row upon row of police officers in full riot gear (complete with a tank), shouting that they were not there to protect and serve, not a part of this community. ... Officers stood unmoving. ... Scores of other officers were quietly blocking off Ferguson's streets, forming the cage of blue that would later force the breakaway marchers

into stopping at the QuikStop, where a peaceful sit-in would result in 19 arrests.

Two of my comrades had been arrested during that sit-in. Fueled by Twitter ... we learned about a night of kettling, pepper spray, batons, abuse, confrontation and resistance. We ... hit up Twitter to get supporters calling the police station demanding answers. ...

How proud I am to have stood shoulder to shoulder with Black and Brown people that know firsthand the brutality of the racist policing system. They know that the cameras won't roll forever, and that ... they will be a community among too many facing violence that will never make the headline news — and have chosen to face the beast head on.

White comrades and supporters are accepting the challenge to fight racism, taking to the streets of their hometowns, declaring ... "Not to act is to act."

The protests in Ferguson show it is literally true that the power of the people doesn't stop. The people of Ferguson and freedom fighters all across the country and the globe have ... said "Not one more!" not without a fight. ...

This moment ... is decisive; masses of people whose strongest qualification is determination have proudly chosen to dedicate themselves ... to the fight against racism. More and more Black and Brown people, in numbers growing daily, are dead serious that until there is justice there will be no peace. □



Philadelphia, Dec. 2.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Town hall meeting builds resistance

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

"What the next steps in building resistance to police brutality will be" was the topic of a historic town hall meeting here on Dec. 2, as around 400 people filled the sanctuary at the Calvary United Methodist Church. The event was organized by the Ferguson to Philly Emergency Response Network.

The gathering included many organizers of and participants in protests held a week earlier, after the announcement that a grand jury in St. Louis County, Mo., had failed to indict former Ferguson police officer, Darren Wilson, for the murder of Black teenager Michael Brown.

It was diverse in a multitude of ways, not only in ethnicity and age — and including students, workers and community members — but also for the number of activist groups that turned out to work together. These included the International Action Center, which hosted the meeting; the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Black Lives Matter; the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement; Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST); People Utilizing Real Power (PURP); MOVE; Workers World Party; the Black Youth Project; Food Not Bombs; National Moment of Silence Philadelphia; the Party for Socialism and Liberation; 15Now Philadelphia; Decarcerate PA; Sankofa Community Empowerment; Students Organizing for Unity and Liberation (SOUL); the Up Against the Law Collective; Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower & Rebuild; plus students from Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, Haverford College and Swarthmore College.

The event was co-chaired by Charlotte

Harris from the IAC, Gabriel Bryant from Sankofa Community Empowerment, and Temple University students Paul Cange and Sabrina Sample, both from PURP. Representatives of the Philadelphia Student Union, Youth United for Change, SOUL and FIST all spoke.

Delphine Matthews with the group Direction Voice and Light described how police in Chester, Pa., murdered her son, Frank McQueen, in June 2014. Community organizer Diane Johnson described bringing people on her West Philadelphia block out for an impromptu rally on Nov. 24, when she heard about the Ferguson verdict. Taylor Johnson from Black Lives Matter recognized the number of clergy in the room giving their support.

After the initial open mike session, participants broke into working groups to take up plans for future protests, outreach, media, demands and messaging, legal support, education and healing. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Dec. 16.

Describing the meeting on Facebook, Keon Liberato with the group Put People First PA wrote: "Tonight's town hall meeting on Ferguson reminded me of the absolute necessity for rebuilding our various movements in a way that each of the movements of the oppressed social classes in our society and world can feed off each other and reinforce each other. We need to rebuild the labor movement, we need to rebuild the revolutionary liberation movements, from Black Liberation to Palestinian Liberation. We need to rebuild our revolutionary feminist movement. All of these movements ... their revolutionary side needs to be rebuilt in with the others in mind. Only together with the strengths of each united can we stop the looming disaster ahead of us." □

Operation restore trust?

By **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

Taken from an audio column at prisonradio.org

Dec. 2 — The flames of Ferguson have eaten their fill, and its eerie glow has cast light on how impotent is the Black political class, who cannot solve a problem that is a bane of Black existence.

Usually, when they speak, they seem to be ventriloquists, who mouth the words of white politicians, drowning the deep concerns of their constituents in an ocean of empty words.

Now, a collection of prominent officials have announced their intention to seriously tackle the issue of police abuse in Black communities, from the U.S. president on down.

Politicians, police officials, clergy and community organizers are part of a coterie of people who have come together to restore trust between cops and the African-American community.

When I saw [on TV] this reference, my head swiveled: "Restore trust?"

We wonder when was there ever trust in the first place?

The cruel, painful history of relations between police and the people is one of predation — not trust.

Notably, Black police officers are part of this discussion, but are we to make note of the fact that, throughout many communities, over many years, they were forbidden to arrest white people?

Police are stationed in Black neighbor-

hoods not to "serve and protect" Black people, nor their property.

They are there to control Black mobility and to discipline Blacks, for fear they'll pose a threat to white wealth, life or property. Period.

That's real talk — not these phony fairy-tale discussions about "restoring trust."

For what trust can exist between the oppressors and the oppressed?

Nor can body cams be the great solution that its supporters propose.

Recall that cameras caught, with crystal clarity, the brutal cop beatings of Rodney King in LA and, before him, Delbert Africa in Philadelphia.

Despite these captures on camera, both cases were thrown out; one by a jury; another by a judge. So much for cameras, huh?

Who can trust a force that killed Black Panther leader Fred Hampton in his sleep? Who can trust an agency that bombed babies — Black MOVE babies — in Philadelphia in 1985?

How can you restore something that never existed?

Until systems change, until cops aren't the only ones who face grand juries, until they, too, can be sent to Death Row for killing children, talk about "restoring trust" is just that: talk. □

Unity against racism seen as protests grow

By Fred Goldstein

On Dec. 8, protests in cities across the country against police killings of Black people entered the sixth consecutive day. Whether it was Tampa, Miami and Atlanta or Berkeley, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Seattle; Austin, Houston and Tucson or Minneapolis, Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and dozens of other cities — the U.S. rulers have witnessed the most widespread and sustained demonstrations in decades.

Innumerable local demonstrations against particular police killings have happened in this country in the past. The shootings of Michael Brown, Oscar Grant, Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo and Trayvon Martin — by a wannabe cop — and the lethal chokehold on Eric Garner have led to many protests, but the list goes all the way back to Michael Stewart in 1983, Eleanor Bumpurs in 1984 and many more.

Not since the Black Panther Party targeted police as a national menace in 1966 and called for the right of self-defense has such an across-the-board mass condemnation of the police as a racist institution been seen, adding up to perhaps as many as 100,000 or more participating in the many protests.

The Panther Party at that time sent a powerful jolt of political energy and militant resistance to racist rule with their historic 10-point program, which was backed up in action by both armed street patrols and services like the children's breakfast program. However, their heroic struggle did not get the kind of united response we have seen since the Ferguson, Mo., rebellion this August.

Fighting slogans, militant tactics

Today Black people, especially youth, have come out in the tens of thousands in the streets in a determined effort to end police brutality and the killing of Black people under the slogan "Black lives matter." Following their lead, people of all nationalities, including tens of thousands of whites, mainly youth, along with Latinos/as and immigrants have poured into the streets in a show of unity against racist police killings. And they are taking their cue from Black leadership.

This new movement has stepped up the political attack on the entire state system of cops, grand juries, courts and the political authorities who support them. There have been many fighting chants. But the popular slogan "Eric Garner, Michael Brown, shut the whole system down!" is a menacing slogan to the ears of the ruling class, especially when it is shouted in unison from one end of the country to the other.

What the bosses and the authorities fear is that the slogan could evolve into demanding that the capitalist system itself be torn down.

It is not just the slogans but the spirit and the tactics that worry the authorities. Bridges, highways and tunnels have been blocked. Local trains have been held up. There have been disruptive demonstrations at shopping malls and in downtown areas. Traffic on busy streets and thoroughfares has been halted. Hallowed holiday ceremonies have been disrupted. And this has been done in city after city, day after day.

Solidarity and unity are in the air

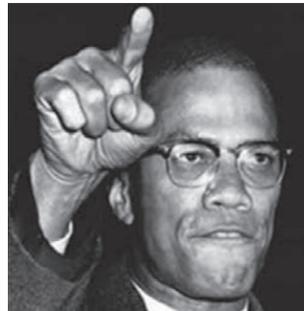
The strategists of the ruling class have surely noted the difference between today and the 1960s, when the Black Panther Party and other militant African-American organizations and other organizations of the oppressed, such as the Young



Fred Hampton



Ericka Huggins



Malcolm X



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Protesters in Ferguson with Michael Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, second from right.

Lords, the Brown Berets and others, were fighting police repression.

During that period the anti-war movement was massive, numbering at least a million activists. However, the broad masses of the political and largely white anti-war movement stood back while police repression raged.

The Panther headquarters in Oakland, Calif., was raided. Huey Newton, the founder of the party, was persecuted and sought asylum in Cuba. The treasurer of the party, Bobby Hutton, was shot dead with 12 bullets while surrendering to the police. The chairman of the party, Bobby Seale, and Panther leader Ericka Huggins were framed up on murder charges in New Haven, Conn. Leader Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were executed while asleep in Chicago. The FBI and J. Edgar Hoover, through COINTELPRO — a secret sabotage, frame-up and murder operation — engineered the murder of Bunchy Carter and John Huggins. In New York, 21 members of the East Coast Panthers were jailed for nine months and tried on frame-up charges. George Jackson was murdered in prison.

At the same time, the Nation of Islam was hounded; mosques were invaded, and Malcolm X was murdered in 1965.

Black workers who organized into the Revolutionary Union Movement in the auto plants were hounded. Many other African-American resistance organizations, such as the Republic of New Afrika, were attacked.

In contrast to today, white support for these struggling Black organizations during that period was limited to a section of the militant left that was ideologically committed to solidarity.

But now, many, many tens of thousands of white youth and adults have joined the Black struggle against racism in the streets. The African-American people, at least for now, no longer have to endure the police killings and beatings in isolation. The youth, both Black and white, have erupted into the streets out of outrage at the racist police atrocities. This is far beyond the traditional political movement, Black or white. It forms the basis of a future united resistance movement whose character is yet to be determined.

Militarization of police: network of repression

The militarization of the U.S. police forces in the last two decades must be viewed in light of present and future rebellions. As far back as the so-called "war on drugs" beginning in the 1970s, the police began their program of militarization, linking up with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Washington made available SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams and high-powered assault weapons to the cops.

After Sept. 11, 2001, under cover of the so-called "war on terrorism," the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security vastly escalated the military power of the police with billions of dollars worth of high-powered assault weapons and

training in military tactics — both crowd control and special operations assaults.

Since Barack Obama first took office, his administration through the Pentagon had, as of this June, given the police "tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines; thousand of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and aircraft. Police SWAT teams are now deployed tens of thousands of times each year, increasingly for routine jobs." Recruiting videos "feature clips of officers storming homes with smoke grenades and firing automatic weapons." (New York Times, June 8)

Homeland Security, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, doles out far more money to police departments than the Pentagon — more than \$34 billion since Sept. 11. It goes through two agencies, one which equips states (the State Homeland Security Program) and one which equips cities (the Urban Areas Security Initiative). For example, the state of Missouri received \$3.98 million from DHS, while St. Louis got \$3 million. (The Guardian, Aug. 20)

This has both military and political significance. The DHS trains state and local police in operations, tactics, strategy, technology and use of weapons. The Pentagon trains them in the use of other equipment.

This means that the cops are hooked into both the DHS and the Pentagon. Police departments and their leadership are absorbed into the networks of the military. They are part of a national apparatus of repression and spying. As such, the police have been elevated far above their old status of being a purely local band of oppressors and now coordinate with Washington, through DHS especially.

Ferguson rebellion put fear into authorities

Despite all the handwringing in the capitalist establishment and on Capitol Hill over the militarization of the police, this will not fundamentally change. If the measures of open military terror first seen on the streets of Ferguson have been pulled back for now, they are being held in reserve in anticipation of a future need for intimidation and repression.

What the authorities fear is that the masses in the communities will be swept into the movement against the cops, against poverty, hunger and unemployment, against abandoned education systems, lack of housing and health care, and general oppression. This is a recipe for much more powerful and deeper rebellion.

Another nightmare for the bosses is that the working class as such — which has been beaten down by layoffs, foreclosures, low wages and general austerity — should take its cue from the youth and swing into action.

The labor movement at all levels should get into the struggle against racism. It is in the profound interests of labor and the working class as a whole to show solidarity against the racist state — because this state is also the enemy of the workers in every

labor dispute, in every organizing drive and in every working-class community.

The Kerner Commission

After rebellions in Harlem, Watts, Newark, Detroit and other cities, which had begun in 1964, President Lyndon Johnson, on an emergency basis, appointed a blue ribbon commission in 1967 to investigate the uprisings.

The 11-member commission, representing both houses of Congress, business and all factions of the ruling class, except for the ultra-right, was called the Kerner Commission. It issued a much-heralded report which concluded that: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one Black, one white — separate and unequal."

The commission recommended a host of reforms in everything from jobs to education, housing, health care and welfare. If implemented in order to correct national oppression and achieve economic and social equality, it would have cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

Needless to say, the recommendations received no more than lip service. Thirty years later, after the rebellion in Los Angeles over the setting free of the cops who beat Rodney King — seen on videotape around the world — another commission was appointed, which showed that nothing had changed since 1968.

Today the capitalist system is in a far deeper crisis than it was in the 1960s. The ruling class is less inclined to make anything but cosmetic concessions, which will not change the suffering of the masses. Marxism shows that the state is an instrument of the capitalist class and the profit-making rulers will do nothing to weaken that state.

The capitalist establishment is on the defensive right now. It is posing as sympathetic to the protests against police killings. But the movement must not forget what happened to Occupy Wall Street. The OWS youth took the establishment by surprise. Big business media had to pretend to be sympathetic because the population was largely opposed to obscene economic inequality. By raising the slogan of the 1% against the 99%, OWS immediately became popular. But soon, the ruling class showed its true colors and repression took place in cities across the country.

The present movement is more widespread and will be harder to divert and repress. But no one should drop their guard for a moment and mistake the hypocritical sympathy of news anchors and columnists for anything other than a false facade, which will be cast aside if the capitalist establishment feels increasingly threatened by the mass movement in the streets.

Fred Goldstein is the author of "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End," which has been translated into Spanish as "El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida." The books are available at major online booksellers.

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Why unions need Black youth

The new youthful explosion demanding justice and battling police racism and terror is offering new life to the existing labor movement. We write “existing” to make it clear we are aware of its historic political weaknesses, especially with its predominantly white, male leadership at the highest levels. Hundreds of thousands of young people in the streets offer the opportunity for the labor movement not only to keep on existing but to grow.

Workers World newspaper reporters visited Ferguson, Mo., after Michael Brown’s killing. We spoke with African-American youth who were furious at the killer cops responsible for Brown’s death. They raised their need for jobs, for a living wage and — for labor unions. They want to join a union that will listen to them and fight for them.

Let’s make that clear. Despite their disappointment that unions were not reaching out to these young people, the Black youth saw union membership as a way to protect their interests on the job and to fight for higher wages, better benefits, etc. For the low-wage jobs they saw in their future, they knew a union was necessary for their survival.

That was the voice of a sample of the several thousands in the streets of Ferguson last summer. Now they are joined by hundreds of thousands more youth — Black, Brown and white — who are putting their bodies on the line in the struggle for justice against racist police repression and murder.

Workers World encourages class-

conscious union activists to reach out to your unions and bring them into this struggle with concrete solidarity. There are a few simple steps that could make a difference.

Open the doors of a union headquarters to the young people demonstrating in the streets. Create a safe haven for demonstrators to have hot tea or coffee, eat a slice of pizza and know that the union is on their side.

Many individual unionists are participating in the demonstrations. But unions can also organize as unions, bringing union banners. In New York on Dec. 4, unionists in the hundreds from the Professional Staff Congress of the City University and hospital workers from 1199 Service Employees carried their banners in Foley Square and on the march. They set a good example for the labor movement to follow.

During the earlier Civil Rights Movement, we often saw banners of the United Auto Workers or the Transport Workers Union in the fight against racist segregation and for equal rights. Let’s see it again.

If the most class-conscious and anti-racist union members start to make this appeal, it can set in motion a new dynamic that shows “Black lives matter” to the union movement. This can attract the most heroic and politically advanced youths to the labor movement that needs them to survive and prevail. Show solidarity with Black youth against police terror and build the solidarity needed for a united, powerful and successful labor movement. □

Ferguson rebellion & history of resistance

In 1865, African captives were supposedly freed from the brutal bowels and vicious bondage of chattel slavery. In 2008, we were supposedly freed again when the term “post-racial” became a national trend. What our mainstream history books have forgotten to share with us is that African Americans were not freed in 1865. We were sold a façade that wasn’t even worth the damn receipt paper.

In the U.S. South, the Black Codes were enacted only one year after the Emancipation Proclamation. Aside from a few exceptions, African Americans were denied the rights to vote, to bear arms, to read, to write, to assemble in public, and to speak on political and social issues that pertained to their daily lives.

We were highly susceptible to illegal search and seizure at any time — be they paddyrollers, state militia or the slave patrol. However, in spite of such systematic restrictions, the Black masses have always found a way to resist and somehow carry on.

In the city of Wilmington, North Carolina (just three decades removed from the iron shackles of chattel slavery), African Americans had established their own churches, schools and community collectives — their own newspaper, elected officials and a thriving Black working class. Progress had indeed been made. That is not to say that conditions were not still difficult, but at least families could be whole again. With this general backdrop in mind, racists, white supremacists, and the most evil capitalists you could ever imagine tightened their belts.

In 1898, the city of Wilmington, a marker of Black progress, was forever changed when racist terror mobs conducted a two-day coup d’état — ousting locally elected Black officials and exiling the African-American community from their own homes and businesses.

Once a character reserved for racist ridicule, “Jumpin’ Jim Crow” became the Jim Crow laws. “Separate and unequal” became a federal mandate. And by the way, “federal” means the North and the South. While the



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Taken from a talk given by **Lamont Lilly** at the Nov. 15-16 Workers World Party national conference.

Ku Klux Klan raised hell in Georgia and Alabama, in the North it was employment discrimination, predatory lending, police brutality and in-

tentional confinement to the urban ghettos. They wouldn’t lynch in Harlem, Philadelphia and Detroit. They would simply make life so difficult that you wished you were dead.

This is the history the youth in Ferguson wear on their backs like winter coats. When I was there last month for the Weekend of Resistance, they talked about the long-suffering of the Montgomery Bus Boycott — the commitment of 365 days of walking to work in the hot sun and wet rain. Today marks 99 days of the Ferguson rebellion, and the organizers there are very proud of that.

There were two things that absolutely amazed me in Ferguson. If I had not been honored to see them with my own eyes, I would not have believed it.

The first key factor was Ferguson’s sense of urgency. When 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot down, the people moved immediately. When I say the people, I’m talking about St. Louis and Ferguson’s most oppressed communities — the “thugs,” the unemployed, the marginalized, the low-wage and fast-food workers.

They didn’t ask for a permit to assemble. They didn’t ask for permission from the old masters and big business owners. And they didn’t ask for allegiance from the NAACP, either.

They took it upon themselves to seize the moment, every minute, every second, every hour. And they are still there, every day. Some of the youth in Ferguson even withdrew from their college courses (mid-semester) so they could organize full time. I’ve seen them in action, comrades; they don’t take any days off. Now, that’s revolution!

As comrade Fred Goldstein said, when revolution becomes your flesh and bone and every breath — when resistance and fighting back becomes the very existence of who you are — that’s revolution.

The second factor that amazed me was their level of revolutionary organization. Contrary to public belief, the Ferguson Rebellion was, and still is, highly organized. The protests that are taking place throughout the Ferguson and St. Louis area aren’t just random demonstrations; they are well-executed strategies of making the comfortable uncomfortable.

No, the protesters there don’t have any tanks and tear gas; yet they are disrupting traffic. They’re showing up (or shall I say “turning up”) at symphonies and professional sporting events. They’re even protesting at malls now, and we know how the capitalists don’t like that. This kind of work requires true organization.

I witnessed first hand how organizers took over an entire block, directed traffic, provided medical care, fed the hungry and looked after small children, all while protesting. They had constant lines of communication via text and social media.

They had scouts who were scanning police radios and watching for police snipers from the roof. It reminded me of my time in the army. It is a well-oiled machine, except they were fighting for the oppressed.

Ferguson is the real deal, comrades, and we must support it. This rebellion has inspired the oppressed all over the whole world. The revolution is already here. If you didn’t know, you better ask somebody. □

Continued on page 11

Egypt

Military regime set to free Mubarak

By Gene Clancy

In 2011, a heroic mass revolution deposed U.S.-supported Egyptian dictator Gen. Hosni Mubarak. This uprising was an inspiration to poor and oppressed people all over the world. Its current assassins — which include the new military regime of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and U.S. imperialism — deserve the condemnation of all progressive and justice-seeking people everywhere.

In another travesty of justice, Egyptian courts on Nov. 28 dismissed all serious charges against the previous military dictator, Gen. Mubarak. These charges stem from the murder of 239 people protesting Mubarak’s regime in 2011. The same ruling cleared Mubarak’s interior minister and six other aides, while Mubarak and his two sons were also cleared of corruption charges.

Now not only has a new pro-imperialist military dictatorship replaced Mubarak, but he and his family’s cronies have been exonerated. Soon Mubarak is set to leave the prison hospital where he has been confined.

Since Egypt’s army took advantage

of popular antagonism to the Muslim Brotherhood government and led a military coup that deposed elected President Mohammed Morsi two summers ago, al-Sisi’s regime has become increasingly repressive and brutal. On Dec. 3, nearly 200 imprisoned protesters, members of the Muslim Brotherhood, were handed death sentences en masse. This was the third such mass sentencing in less than a year.

Despite occasional verbal barbs from the al-Sisi regime directed at the U.S., Washington has become increasingly supportive of the general. Not only does the U.S. supply the Egyptian army with billions of dollars in military and economic aid and weapons, but U.S. officials offer praise and diplomatic support. Secretary of State John Kerry praised al-Sisi for “restoring democracy.” Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton paid him a friendly visit, followed by Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright. That’s one former U.S. president and three former secretaries of state. (The Intercept, Dec. 3)

In late September, President Barack Obama met with al-Sisi and, accord-

ing to The Intercept, “touted the long-standing relationship between the United States and Egypt as a cornerstone of [U.S.] security policy in the Middle East.”

Al-Sisi showed his pro-imperialist posture during the recent genocidal Israeli invasion of Gaza, which killed over 2,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, including many children. The Egyptian government-controlled press blamed Hamas. Meanwhile, the al-Sisi regime closed the border crossings between Egypt and Gaza, strengthening the illegal embargo against the Palestinians.

Since he took power, al-Sisi has massacred thousands of protesters and jailed thousands more, including many journalists who simply reported on the carnage. Proof of the regime’s crimes were recently revealed in a series of audiotapes from the Egyptian top military brass by Mukameleen, an Arabic satellite channel. The individuals heard on the recordings included some of the major figures who were involved in the military coup and have ruled the coun-

NATO powers threaten re-attack on Libya

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

Recent reports claim that Islamic State camps have been set up in Libya, the North African country in chaos after the U.S./NATO-led bombing and ground war in 2011 ousted the Gadhafi government and destroyed Africa's most prosperous and stable state.

At present there are two identifiable centers of neocolonial power in Libya: the Islamic-oriented government based in Tripoli; and a more secular regime headed by Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Thani, which has been driven out of the capital and is meeting in a hotel in the eastern city of Tobruk. The ongoing divisions and internecine conflict have reduced Libya's production and export of oil, the country's largest foreign exchange earner.

In a recent statement by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Gen. David Rodriguez, the Islamic State has established training camps that house approximately 200 fighters. He indicated that at present the alleged bases have not engaged in military operations.

"It's mainly about people coming for training and logistics support right now," Gen. Rodriguez emphasized. "As far as a huge command and control network, we

have not seen that yet." (Reuters, Dec. 3)

Over the last six years, the presence of U.S. military and intelligence personnel has substantially increased. The military destruction of Libya was the first full-scale offensive operation on the continent coordinated by AFRICOM, which was conducted under the administration of President Barack Obama.

That a top Pentagon general mentioned the role of the Islamic State could signal the White House's renewed aggressive military posture toward developments in Libya. After his re-election for a second term two years ago, Obama announced that the Pentagon would deploy 3,500 additional troops in 35 African states.

Another report published by Australian.com on Dec. 6 said, "The U.S. is plotting to expand its military campaign to Libya after fighters loyal to Islamic State were seen training in the east of the country. A U.S. commander has acknowledged that discussions are under way in Washington about broadening the anti-Islamic State campaign to Libya."

This same article continued, saying when Gen. Rodriguez was "asked whether consideration was being given to targeting the militants there, he replied "That policy discussion is ongoing and we'll see how that goes."

Islamic State used to escalate imperialist war

The United States, its NATO allies and their surrogates in the Persian Gulf have escalated tensions in Syria and Iraq through bomb attacks against the Islamic State. Even though the U.S., Britain, France, Turkey and other imperialist client regimes have been supporting armed opposition groups in efforts to overthrow the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad, these anti-Assad organizations have remained divided and incapable of achieving their strategic objectives in Syria and Lebanon.

Earlier in 2014, the Islamic State seized large swaths of territory in northern Iraq, taking control of some oil fields and other key assets of the Iraqi government, which was largely a U.S. creation. The resumption of Pentagon/NATO air strikes against alleged Islamic State bases in Iraq and the Pentagon operations against purported bases in Syria on the border with Turkey have created hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons. These IDPs have sought assistance from the United Nations and other relief agencies.

Libya is facing its worst crisis since it gained independence from French and British administration in 1951 (Italian

colonial rule ended with Italy's defeat in World War II). Since the overthrow of the Jamahiriya government under Col. Muammar Gadhafi in 2011, the country has been a major source of IDPs and refugee problems in the region. Such an atmosphere impedes economic development and social reconstruction.

Aerial bombardments by U.S.-allied regimes in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, supplemented by Washington's local surrogates, will not serve to stabilize Libya and the region of North Africa. If the U.S. administration decides to resume air strikes inside the country, anti-Washington sentiment will accelerate among the population.

A Dec. 5 bombing on the border with Tunisia, allegedly coordinated by long-time CIA operative and renegade general under Gadhafi, Khalifa Heftar, prompted the closure of the border between the two neighbors.

The actual history of imperialist intervention in Libya since 2011 has brought only disaster to the country and other people throughout the region. Any solution to the crisis in Libya and the North Africa region must be found within these states, without Western imperialist interference, which is at the root of the current crisis of underdevelopment and destabilization. □

Mass protests by Haiti's people

By **G. Dunkel**

Tens of thousands of Haitians have come out into the streets repeatedly in the last month. They demand that President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe leave office and that the 6,000 troops of the United Nation's occupation force, called Minustah, leave Haiti.

Port-au-Prince, Léogane, Petit Goâve, Cap-Haïtien, Fort-Liberté, Ouanaminthe and Aux Cayes — the largest cities in Haiti — have all seen huge demonstrations. The people demand electricity in their houses and clean water, especially since clean water will hinder the spread of the cholera that Minustah troops introduced into Haiti. Their children need lights to study by and water to wash and drink. Haiti needs development and jobs, houses, hospitals, schools and public sanitation systems.

The popular name for this mobilization is "Operation Burkina Faso," referring to the mass uprising that drove the French-backed dictator out of that country in October.

The U.S. government knows full well how the momentum of popular protests drove Jean-Claude Duvalier from power

in 1986 and Gen. Prosper Avril from power in 1990. On Dec. 2, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Pamela White convoked six parties that oppose the Martelly-Lamothe regime to a meeting at the headquarters of the Fusion Party of social democrats.

The most significant party invited, Fanmi Lavalas, along with a smaller party, turned down the "invitation," and some Lavalas militants joined a protest that greeted Ambassador White.

According to a video posted on YouTube, White's bodyguards were pushed around by the protesters, whose signs in English denounced the interference of U.S. imperialism into the internal affairs of Haiti. They did not assault White. Protesters indicated the only acceptable outcome of the meeting would have been for White to escort Martelly, Lamothe and Mi-



nustah to Miami.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is scheduled to visit Haiti on Dec. 12. It is widely expected that Kerry will announce the resignation of Prime Minister Lamothe at that time. This move will allow the U.S.-backed Lamothe to run for president in 2015 without all the ugly baggage

— corruption, drug dealing, repression and ostentatious waste — that Martelly would drag along.

The Haitian people have made it clear that they want neither Martelly nor Lamothe. They certainly don't want U.S. imperialism mucking around in their internal affairs. □

Mundo Obrero/ Workers World

Contra el estado racista

Continúa de página 12

("Una breve historia de la esclavitud y los orígenes de American Policing", por el Dr. Victor E. Kappeler, Eastern Kentucky University, 2014)

Policía es herramienta capitalista contra trabajadoras/es

Una vez que la clase obrera norteamericana maduró con la Revolución Industrial, se utilizaron estas fuerzas policíacas racistas y policías privados de las corporaciones para romper huelgas y combatir a los trabajadores que trataban de organizar sindicatos.

Sólo hay que recordar la represión de la huelga del ferrocarril de 1877 en la

que se distinguieron los trabajadores de San Louis; la masacre de Homestead de 1882 por Carnegie Steel; la supresión de la manifestación del 1º de mayo en 1886 en Chicago por la jornada de ocho horas; la masacre de Ludlow de 1914; la batalla de Bull Run en 1937 durante la huelga de brazos caídos en Flint; o la masacre en 1937 del Memorial Day de Chicago y la violenta represión de las huelgas de acero en otros estados. El Estado capitalista se reveló no sólo como racista, sino también salvajemente anti obrero.

Durante la era ofensiva anti obrera de Reagan, los sindicatos de todo el país fueron atacados por la policía, los rompehuelgas fueron escoltados a través de

los piquetes por la policía y las/os trabajadores fueron encarcelados y detenidos.

Esto demuestra lo peligroso que es la posición que el movimiento sindical está tomando con su posición de no apoyar la lucha de Ferguson. Es una traición a la solidaridad con la población oprimida que sufre de homicidios y brutalidad policial. Es también una traición a los intereses de los sindicatos y las/os trabajadores no sindicalizados, que tienen que saber que la clase capitalista mantiene este estado racista y que esta misma policía asesina será utilizada contra las/os trabajadoras de bajos salarios y todas/os los trabajadores en su lucha contra la austeridad y las políticas antisindicales. □

Mubarak

Continued from page 10

try ever since. They are heard not only openly conspiring and planning the coup against Morsi, but admitting that the trumped-up charges against Morsi had no merit. (Counterpunch, Dec. 5-7)

None of these events are surprising. Before he became head of the Egyptian army under Mubarak, al-Sisi attended the U.S. War College. He was chief of intelligence under Mubarak at the very time that protesters were being killed in Cairo's Tahrir Square. The news from Egypt is grim. It also makes it clear that the al-Sisi regime is an enemy of the people, as is U.S. imperialism. □



Oakland, California.

MO/WW FOTO: GIL ROSS

Contra el estado racista

Por Fred Goldstein

El movimiento nacional desencadenado el 24 de noviembre por el asesinato de Michael Brown en Ferguson, Misuri, alcanzó más de 170 ciudades. No tiene precedentes en su alcance, que va mucho más allá de este reciente asesinato al enfrentarse a las fuerzas de primera línea del estado racista capitalista: la policía. La policía es una fuerza de ocupación racista en todas partes donde haya una comunidad de personas oprimidas - negras, latinas, asiáticas, musulmanas o nativas. La policía es el objetivo universal del nuevo movimiento.

No importa lo que suceda después, las cosas nunca volverán a ser lo mismo. Ya bastantes decenas de miles han sido integradas en actividades militantes. Mucha ira e indignación se ha despertado, no sólo por Darren Wilson sino por la policía de Cleveland que mató a Tamir Rice, el niño de 12 años de edad, por tener una pistola de juguete y la policía de Nueva York que disparó contra Akai Gurley en un pasillo oscuro.

El Fiscal de Distrito de Ferguson Robert McCulloch, pro-policía y racista, descaradamente tornó el proceso del jurado al revés cuando lo utilizó para organizar un "juicio" de tres meses para exonerar al asesino Wilson sin que nadie que representara a Brown o a su familia estuviera presente.

El inevitable resultado de "No culpable"

Este resultado era inevitable. Todos los comentaristas de los grandes medios capitalistas lo sabían. Igual los políticos, desde la Casa Blanca para abajo, y las autoridades judiciales, del Departamento de Justicia para abajo. Pero no hicieron nada por detenerlo.

Los hechos eran conocidos. El padre de McCulloch era un policía que fue asesinado por un hombre negro. El hermano, el primo y el tío de McCulloch también eran policías. Su madre trabajaba para el departamento de la policía.

Si alguna vez pudo darse un conflicto de intereses, este fue el momento.

Por supuesto, los grandes jurados rutinariamente dejan libre a la policía. Los fiscales de distrito trabajan muy de cerca con la policía. Sólo que esta vez, a causa de la rebelión heroica del pueblo en Ferguson, la real y sucia maniobra del fiscal salió a la luz en la forma más escandalosa.

A pesar de estos hechos, y a pesar de las 70.000 firmas recogidas por el movimiento exigiendo la eliminación de McCulloch, el gobernador de Misuri Jay Nixon se negó a despedirlo. Nixon tenía la autoridad en virtud del Capítulo 27 de los Estatutos Revisados de Misuri, en concreto el párrafo 27.030, que permite al gobernador intervenir a través de la Procuraduría General del Estado.

Clase dominante repentinamente 'impotente' para intervenir

Peor aún, la totalidad de la clase dominante y el gobierno capitalista se encontraron repentinamente paralizados para evitar este inminente desastre que se venía desarrollando ante sus ojos durante tres meses.

Washington puede enviar tropas a Afganistán e Irak en desafío a la Constitución de EUA, pero súbitamente se quedó atascado en las llamadas barreras jurisdiccionales. El mismo gobierno que pudo entregar miles de millones de dólares de las/os contribuyentes para rescatar a los grandes bancos no pudo encontrar el poder para eliminar a McCulloch. El gobierno que ha deportado arbitrariamente a millones de trabajadoras/es indocumentados sin el debido proceso jurídico, no pudo encontrar una manera de conseguir el debido proceso jurídico para la familia de Michael Brown.

Ahora se enuncian lamentos en los medios noticieros capitalistas por columnistas, presentadoras/es y expertas/os hipócritas. Hablan de integrar a personas negras a la policía, más entrenamiento de la policía, más sensibilidad y mejora de las relaciones entre la comunidad y la

policía, hasta la saciedad. Todo para tratar de hacer a un lado la rebelión que se esparce tratando de mostrar solidaridad con las/os manifestantes.

Pero cuando se dio el momento, no alzaron su voz exigiendo la eliminación de McCulloch y el enjuiciamiento de Wilson. No hicieron nada para detener este desastre racista. Al contrario, pasaron su tiempo dando advertencias sobre los disturbios y haciendo eco al llamado por Nixon de la Guardia Nacional.

Naturaleza racista del estado

¿Qué hay detrás de esta hipocresía y doble discurso? ¿Por qué el establecimiento tomó el lado de la policía en un caso tan escandalosamente evidente de injusticia racista?

El resultado de este caso se basa en la profunda dependencia histórica de la clase dominante en su policía y el miedo a socavarles.

La definición científica del propio Estado, formulada por Carlos Marx y Federico Engels hace mucho tiempo y citado por V.I. Lenin en su obra "El Estado y la revolución", es la siguiente: "El Estado es un órgano de dominación de clase, un órgano de opresión de una clase por otra; es la creación del "orden" que legaliza y perpetúa la opresión. ... [Este] no consiste simplemente de hombres armados, sino también de materiales adjuntos, cárceles e instituciones coercitivas de todo tipo".

En la sociedad capitalista, el Estado es un instrumento de los capitalistas en busca de beneficios para reprimir a la clase obrera.

En EUA, el estado es también racista. El aumento de la encarcelación masiva de jóvenes negras/os y latinas/os demuestra esto claramente. Pero si hay alguna duda acerca de esto, no hay más que mirar a la Constitución de Estados Unidos, la que define a un esclavo afroamericano como tres quintas partes de una persona. O mirar a las leyes de Esclavos Fugitivos, que declaraban que un esclavo no tenía legalidad o derecho alguno en Estados

Unidos y por lo tanto, los esclavos fugitivos debían ser devueltos a sus amos. O la decisión Dred Scott de 1857, relativa a un esclavo fugitivo en Misuri, que fue devuelto a su "amo" a través de una decisión del Tribunal Supremo.

Los "códigos de esclavos" fueron dirigidos contra el esclavizado y cualquiera de sus simpatizantes. Más tarde se convirtieron en los "códigos de los negros" contra la población negra libre. Todavía en 1896, en el caso Plessy vs Ferguson, la Corte Suprema declaró que la segregación era legal. Mientras tanto, la segregación había sido forzada abiertamente por el Ku Klux Klan después del abandono de la Reconstrucción Negra en 1877.

Así que el estado capitalista estadounidense fue concebido mientras estaba saturado por el racismo. La misma institución de la policía surgió de "patrullas contra los esclavos" en el Sur y las patrullas de "vigilancia nocturna" en el Norte, así como los "alguaciles indios" especiales cuya función consistía en suprimir a los pueblos indígenas, primero en Nueva Inglaterra y más tarde en el Medio Oeste, incluyendo a San Louis.

Las "patrullas de esclavos" fueron utilizadas para hacer cumplir la regla de los dueños de esclavos en las plantaciones y para perseguir a los esclavos fugitivos. Estas patrullas fueron el anticipo de los departamentos de policía formales, que conservaron su carácter racista.

Según un estudio: "[La] literatura establece claramente que existía un sistema de aplicación de la ley sancionada legalmente en los Estados Unidos antes de la Guerra Civil con el expreso propósito de controlar la población de esclavos y para la protección de los intereses de los dueños de esclavos. Las similitudes entre las patrullas de esclavos y la policía estadounidense moderna son demasiado manifiestas para desestimarlas o ignorarlas. Por lo tanto, la patrulla contra los esclavos debe ser considerada como un precursor de la moderna aplicación de la ley estadounidense."

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Huelgas de Walmart se unen a protestas Ferguson

Por Kris Hamel

El espíritu combativo de la gente de Ferguson, Misuri a raíz de la decisión de no procesar al asesino policía racista Darren Wilson por el asesinato de Michael Brown, parece haberse trasladado a muchas de las más de 2.250 huelgas reportadas en las tiendas Walmart en todo EUA del 26 de noviembre hasta el 28 de noviembre, el "Viernes Negro".

Originalmente planeada como una huelga de un día en unas 1.600 tiendas de Walmart, la acción se convirtió en tres días de huelga de brazos caídos y otras protestas.

El Boicot Viernes Negro o movimiento #BlackoutBlackFriday en solidaridad con Ferguson y contra el racismo coincidió con la mayor huelga hasta la fecha contra el gigante minorista y sus salarios de pobreza. En varios lugares, las protestas se unieron cuando las/os participantes se

manifestaban en solidaridad con las dos luchas.

Forbes señaló el carácter unitario de algunas de las protestas: "En Chicago, los manifestantes marcharon desde la zona comercial Magnificent Mile de Wicker Park y parte del grupo se dividió para ir a una tienda de Walmart en el West Side. El boicot Viernes Negro coincidió con huelgas de las/os trabajadoras/es de Walmart en otras ciudades y pueblos de todo el país, donde manifestantes de Ferguson en Boston, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Dallas, Denver y otras ciudades se aliaron a las/os empleados de bajos salarios que buscan mejoras salariales". (Forbes.com, 29 de noviembre)

La Organización Unida por el Respeto en Walmart, OUR Walmart [por las siglas en inglés], impulsada por el sindicato Trabajadores de Alimentos y Comerciales, explicó por qué las/os "asociados" estaban tomando la valiente de-

decisión de irse del trabajo: "La desigualdad de ingresos es la más alta desde 1928. Las ganancias corporativas están en su punto más alto. Mientras tanto, los salarios están en su punto más bajo desde 1948 - incluso mientras aumenta la productividad.

"Ninguna familia está impulsando esta tendencia tanto como los propietarios de Walmart, los Walton. La familia Walton es la familia más rica [en EUA] con cerca de \$150 mil millones en riquezas y con tanto dinero como el 43 por ciento de las familias [en EUA] combinado. Sin embargo, la mayoría de las/os trabajadoras/es de Wal-Mart ganan menos de \$ 25.000 al año. Es por eso que miembros de la comunidad se están uniendo a su llamado por el aumento de salarios y acceso a horas. ...

"Mientras Rob, Alice y el resto de los Walton son la familia más rica [en EUA], muchas/os de los trabajadores de

Walmart que ayudaron a construir esa fortuna están luchando sólo para poder sobrevivir. Las/os trabajadoras/es de Walmart están buscando oportunidades justas, pero la familia Walton les está robando la posibilidad de una vida digna". (Forrespect.org)

Muchas/os trabajadoras/es enfrentan hambre y otras privaciones como resultado de tratar de mantenerse ellas/os y sus familias con los magros salarios y los horarios de trabajo cortos e irregulares en Walmart. Un estudio encontró que muchas/os trabajadoras/es de Walmart en un súper centro promedio dependen de los beneficios del Programa de Asistencia de Nutrición Suplementaria, Medicaid, vivienda subsidiada y otros tipos de asistencia debido a sus bajísimos salarios. (democrats.edworkforce.house.gov)

(Esta es una selección del artículo que se puede leer en su totalidad en workers.org)