White House escalates criminal war on migrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

The White House currently behaves like a bungee cord, with up and down proclamations that change day-by-day and the threat of major edicts that may go nowhere — befuddling his audience.

One day Donald Trump threatens to immediately shut down the Southern border; another day to cut aid to Central America right away. The ever-revolving door of White House staff could cause a small tornado as both high- and lower-level officials come and go.

The latest is the resignation on April 7 of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. All this occurs as migrants face increasingly more desperate conditions that need immediate, humane and just solutions. Despite the chaos at the White House, Trump’s war against migrants is frankly succeeding. Families are divided, children are missing, massive migration continues, along with super-exploitation at work, depressing concentration camps and deaths that include small children. Imperialist policies, lamentably, have the upper hand for now.

Trump targets Northern Triangle

Trump announced on April 2 that he would be cutting aid to three Central American nations: Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, known as the Northern Triangle. That night the State Department informed Congress that $450 million would normally go to these countries would be diverted elsewhere.

Yet, the day before Trump’s announcement, Nielsen had just signed a regional agreement with officials from the three countries that they would “conduct joint police operations and fight unauthorized migration.” The next morning, however, President Trump was, once again, criticizing those countries, as well as Mexico, for the record levels of family migrations to the U.S.

According to the State Department website, the U.S. government spent over $2.6 billion in aid to the Northern Triangle nations, Guatemala receives the most aid. … According to the Washington Office on Latin America, … the most recent figures for 2017 [were] more than $78.6 million.” That is a lot of money for a small impoverished nation.

What would help is if the money truly went to the people and not local oligarchies. What would help is if imperialism would pay reparations to the people of Central America for centuries of theft. It is U.S.

Continued on page 6

Venezuela combats sanctions with solidarity

By Sara Flounders

In its latest act of international piracy against the people of Venezuela, the U.S. government has targeted the shipment of oil between the Bolivarian Republic and socialist Cuba.

These new sanctions have been imposed on the 34 ships operated by Venezuela’s state-run oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., as well as on two international companies that handle oil shipments between the two countries.

No walls in the workers’ struggle...

Lessons for the class struggle...
Advancing liberation for nine decades: Vietnam Women's Union

By Paddy Colligan

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means the undergradient degrees, 43 percent of master’s degrees, and 25 percent of the Ph.D. and higher degrees are held by women. In 2012 the Women’s Academy became a university with six faculties, including gender equity, business management and multimedia studies; it is now open to both women and men.

Women are also increasing their role in the political life at all levels of government. The Women’s Union has responsibility for advancing policy matters relating to women, workers and children. In addition to promoting women’s leadership, it has set goals for the percentage of seats in various political bodies that must be set aside for women. The excuse that there are not enough qualified women to fill these seats doesn’t work. The seats must go unfilled until women are found to fill them, removing the temptation to continue filling these seats with men until “qualified” women can be found!

As someone who was a young anti-imperialist activist in the 1960s, I feel a great debt to the Vietnamese people. I have been inspired by their example of determination and courage in the face of such apparently overwhelming odds.

Today the women of Vietnam continue to awe me by their consistent, determined and methodical work to overcome the odds.

Editors: Décile Griswold

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism. The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, to food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP dues-paying member!

From left to right, Nguyen Thi Tuyet, Ho Thu Nguyen, Tran Thi Minh Hue, representing Vietnam Women’s Union. They were part of a large contingent from Vietnam that recently visited New York. They shared their experiences of women’s role in the fighting against the U.S. war and the imperialist occupiers.

Editors: Décile Griswold

Workers World

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What's behind the election of socialists in Chicago

By Monica Moorehead

April 8 – Chicago is the third most populous U.S. city today, after New York and Los Angeles, and is viewed as the main financial hub of the Midwest. In 2016, Chicago, with its suburbs, was also considered the second most segregated city in the U.S., with whites constituting 32.6 percent of the population, Latinx people at 25.7 percent and Black people at 29.3 percent. (24/7 Wall St., Aug. 17, 2017) Most of the segregation takes place in a neighborhood-by-neighborhood.

While Illinois in 2017 had the highest U.S. state unemployment rate for Black people at 11.3 percent, following the disappearance of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs, this unemployment reached a crisis level in Chicago. (tinyurl.com/yybw590)

The Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago found that more than 40 percent of 20-24-year-old Black youth and men in Chicago were out of work and out of school in 2018.

And, according to the Chicago Tribune, the poverty rates for the South and West sides of the city, which are predominantly African American, hovered around a devastating 60 percent. (March 15, 2017)

Meanwhile, the impact of police brutality on Chicago’s Black neighborhoods was brought home by the recent conviction of a white cop for the 16-shot murder of Black teenager Laquan McDonald in 2014.

All these factors must be taken into account in considering the results of Chicago’s April 2 municipal elections. These results were both historic and illuminating.

Chicago has been politically dominated by a deeply corrupt Democratic Party machine for many decades, first anchored by the late Mayor Richard J. Daley, who held that office from 1955 until his death in 1976, and then by his son, Richard M. Daley, mayor from 1989 to 2011.

In the recent Chicago municipal run-off elections, three left-wing candidates who ran openly as members of the Democratic Socialists of America, won City Council seats representing their wards. Two of them, Byron Sigcho-Lopez and Andre Vasquez, are Latinx, and the third, Jeanette Taylor, is Black.

Another Latinx DSA candidate, Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, has the potential to win her ward seat once the vote count is completed. Two other DSA candidates, Daniel La Spata and Carlos Rosa, had already won City Council elections during the first round of voting in February. These five—and perhaps six—members of DSA, the majority of them people of color, have just won the largest socialist electoral victory in modern U.S. history.

In the belly of the imperialist beast, where just over 60 years ago the Cold War anti-communism paranoia paralyzed the progressive movement, the unions and the masses, the horrible veil of red-baiting is finally being lifted. This shift has been underway since the anti-Wall Street Occupy Movement in 2011. Then Bernie Sanders’ 2016 presidential campaign helped further popularize socialist ideas, despite Sanders’ limited “let’s reform capitalism” program.

Another significant victory in Chicago was the election of Loree Liptonfoot as the city’s first Black, openly lesbian mayor. Liptonfoot, who is a former corporate lawyer and prosecutor, immediately called for reopening the acquittals of the three white police officers charged with obstruction of justice, conspiracy and misconduct in Laquan McDonald’s death.

Focus on class issues was decisive

The program that appeared to resonate most with voters who favored the DSA candidates were bread-and-butter issues emerging from the global economic crisis.

Some of these included growing gentrification and loss of housing, privatization of public services including schools, attacks on immigrant rights and police repression. The demand for rent control by the candidates was especially popular among voters.

An electoral group, Reclaim Chicago, was instrumental in organizing door-to-door canvassing and mass phone banking to support two of the DSA members. Taylor, an education activist, participated in a 34-day hunger strike in 2015 to demand the re-opening of Walter H. Dyett High School on the South Side, where she is from.

The tradition of community activism runs deep in Chicago, carried forth today by the Chicago Teachers Union, which conducted the political strike in solidarity with oppressed communities to defend and fund public education. Chicago is also where the labor movement for the 8-hour day was spearheaded in 1860, led and won by immigrant workers mainly from Europe, and resulting in the birth of May Day as International Workers Day.

Workers Day.

Notwithstanding the recent victories of DSA candidates rooted in their communities, these members will be a minority on the 59-seat City Council. To what extent their political influence will be a factor or be compromised during their tenure remains to be seen.

Nevertheless, the electoral victories reflect a growing trend of workers and oppressed who not only hate pro-Wall Street candidates, but are questioning the capitalist system those candidates stand on.

As the global economic crisis deepens, the masses will come to understand and embrace that only revolutionary socialism, not a gentler, kinder capitalism, is the road to take in making their class interests—and their dreams—a reality.

Fried MOVe 9 revolutionaries we!”

Mike and Debbie Africa, MOVE 9 members unjustly imprisoned in 1978, were finally released in 2018. The MOVE 9 were illegally convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the killing of a white cop during a brutal police assault on their house.

On April 6 Debbie and Mike were married in Philadelphia in a packed room of family, friends and political activists. Their love and strength spanned decades!

—Report by Betsy Piette

April 6 wedding of Mike and Debbie Africa in Philadelphia.

Workers Day.

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It's a crisis of bourgeois liberalism. What should we learn from this in terms of the class struggle? Bourgeois liberalism is a way to rationalize capitalism in order to pretend there's a distinction at the end of the day between liberalism and reac-
tionary capitalism. More and more people are waking up to the reality that there's no difference. I think in many ways the working class is well ahead of the pro-
gressive movement, certainly ahead of some of these TV talking heads who give you the impression that "We're defending democracy, capitalism is decent, all this is at stake because of Trump." Trump is essentially the face of capi-
talism. He does what they all do, only he does it openly and brazenly. Elements in the establishment and large sections of the bourgeoi-
sie are doing what they always do, to restore faith and confidence in the main-
stream of the Democratic Party, a capi-
talist party committed to the interests of the economic elite, to keep the workers down.

But Trump and the people in the leadership of his movement are fighting to see the whole thing, that some of us might not be curious to see, that their program for the workers?

It's a continuation of the 2016 elections politically. A wing of the ruling class is still in denial. They're not accepting the reason Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Democratic Party didn't win is because the working class was oppressed. Essentially they threw the working class under the bus. That is why they lost, more than Russia or anything else.

The core of the support for Trump has been the working class, the working class who came to the realization that capitalism was not going to be the way to take down Trump. The FBI guy, Mueller, gave his report to the House and the Senate. The lea-

dars are fighting to see the whole thing, and they want us to get behind them. Not that some of us might not be curious to see, that their program for the anti-war movement is the working class and the oppressed who will fight to support the Bolivarian Revolution and defend against imperialism. It was Lenin's dream that there would be no need for a separate anti-war move-

ment, that the anti-war movement would be indistinguishable from the working class. The Russian Revolution was a great example of this. Soldiers and sailors demoralized by the war were open to revolutionary agitation. The old-school communist orientation was that if there's a war, you bring it home.

Very soon, Workers' Solidarity Days will be established on a monthly basis. We're going to see how far it can go, not just in this country but around the world. We'll help support the gig workers. We'll help support the education workers. It'll help us support immigrants. The theme of Workers' Solidarity Day is "No walls in the workers' struggle." Many workers can't organize because they're atomized. With globalization and new technology, a lot of workers in small places feel all alone. Many of them, even if they are radical, don't see themselves as part of the working class. They feel isolated and insignificant. We need a campaign that tells people you're part of the working class, whether you work in a shop with three people, whether you have a gig job, whether you can't work because you're disabled, whether you have six or seven jobs a year or two or three at once on pay off student debts.

Trump No, Workers' Solidarity Yes. To get involved with Workers Solidarity Day visit workersolidarity.net

Excerpted from a talk by Larry Holmes, First Secretary of Workers World Party, at a forum on March 28 in New York City.

Russia-gate has been going on for two years. The liberal bourgeoisie poured so much into it — CNN, MSNBC, Rachel Maddow's show every day. A section of the bourgeoisie thought this was the way to take down Trump. The FBI guy, Mueller, gave his report to the House and Senate. The liberals are fighting to see the whole thing, and they want us to get behind them. Not that some of us might not be curious to see, that their program for the workers?

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Trump No, Workers' Solidarity Yes. To get involved with Workers Solidarity Day visit workersolidarity.net
You are the working class

By Makasi Motema

The ruling class has offered up a big lie, and we swallow it whole. We have been told that we are not “working class,” that we are not workers at all. Instead, we are a nebulous “middle class” whose main goal is to climb upward mobility, go-getters. We have a side hustle, but we’re not working class.

To be working class is to be poor, rural, uneducated and struggling, to be a victim of the predations of the Wall Street vampire aristocracy. Rather than a collective class—a whole, close-knit society—we are a collection of individuals pursuing our own rational self-interests. And there’s no solid center to it all.

If we are not a class, then we have no collective class interest. Without that, we cannot engage in class struggle against those who—every day—mine the wealth of our communities to swell their overflowing bank accounts.

To be the working class is meant to make the economic reality of our society; there are those who own and those who do not—the capitalists and the workers. It doesn’t matter how much you make. Whether you drive some- thing or are a worker. Whether you drive some- one else’s tractor trailer or write someone else’s software, you are part of the working class. Karl Marx defined thes e classes based more on the type of work one does than on how much a person makes. And yet work- ers with desk jobs or jobs that require an expensive education are becoming more and more exploited. Earlier this year The Verge reported a disturbing experience at Facebook contracting firms. These firms are bringing in workers for low hourly rates with virtually no benefits. These tech workers—whose job is to filter out explicit content, particularly racist and violent content—suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, drug use and suicidal ideation after being subjected to hours of the most horrible videos on the internet. They’re used until they’re used up and then tossed away.

But none of that matters to the reality is they are united in class interest. No matter what prestige you believe your line of work has or do not have, if you are part of the ownership class, you have more in common with literally any other worker than you do with the average hedge fund manager.

We must challenge the big lie and build working-class solidarity. We must think of ourselves and refer to ourselves as working class. We must build connec tions between isolated workers in every industry so that we can harness our col lective power. In doing so, we can turn the tide of capitalist exploitation once and for all.

Workers of the world unite! ☐

Google workers in ‘historic show of solidarity’

By Kathy Durkin

April 8—A “historic coalition” has been established among full-time employees and temporary workers, vendors and contractors (TVCs) employed by the global tech giant Google. As of April 2, some 98,000 Google workers had signed a letter issued on March 27 denouncing the corporation’s arbitrary categorization of full-time TVCs as temporary or contract workers. These measures show progress, most don’t

on March 27, an executive caved in and allowed employees to show sympathy to workers who comprise a majority of the Google workforce—44 percent. Their contracts range from two to six months and are regularly renewed. Their term limit is two years. These employees lack paid holidays, health care and other benefits. Workers call this management’s “two-tier system.” It’s all about super-profits. Google, a $1 trillion global company, has an annual turnover rate of 9 percent as workers are more likely to be people of color, ... dynamic reinforces ‘a system of institutional racism, sexism and dis crimination.’” (Vox.com, April 4)

While Google bosses publicly appear to support the workers, behind the scenes they are trying to squelch orga nizing and political protest. In 2017 and 2018, including three weeks after the Nov. 1 walkout, the commu nications behemoth asked the National Labor Relations Board to scrap a 2014 legal protection that allowed workers to organize about job issues using work place email systems.

That sneak attack on workers’ rights comes at a time of increasing militancy, class consciousness, solidarity and activism within the Google workforce. Awareness is growing that collective struggle is the only way to make gains. There is even talk of unions. ☐


Team, we are still waiting to hear back from Google on our current contracts or convert us to full-time positions.” (tinyurl.com/yxh-qht5)

Human toll of contract work

These workers say they were assured at prior meetings that their contracts would be respected if budget cuts were enacted. Despite the “promise” layoffs began in Seoul, continued in London and then occurred in New York and California. Personality Team members say that, simultaneously, company bosses told full-time employees not to offer these workers support — when they needed it the most—or to thank them for their work, and to distance themselves or the company would be “legally liable.” When the letter circulated internally on March 27, an exasperated e-mail in came to all allowed employees to show sympathy to their fired co-workers!

As an internal Google Team explains, “For years, Google has boasted of its ability to scale up to scale and down very quickly and “navigate changes with agility.” However, a whole team thrown into financial uncertainty is what scaling down quickly looks like for Google workers.
Opposing demonstrations point to a shaky stalemate

Guaidó’s ‘Operation Freedom’ flops

By Marco Teruggi

Caracas

Published in pagina12.com.ar on April 7. Translated by Michael Otto.

Caracas has been transformed into a stage for street protests for the last few months. Each Saturday is the day set for the twofold mobilization forces here— the Chavistas and the right wing—with measure their strengths by photograph.

On July 18, 1982, President Ríos Montt was quoted in the New York Times as saying to the Mayan public, “If you are with us, we will feed you; if not, we will kill you.” And in Honduras the State Department — overseen by Democratic Secretary of State Hillary Clinton— orchestrated a coup in 2009 against the progressive President Mel Zelaya, ushering in a right-wing, pro-imperialist government. Journalists, women, trade unionists and anyone fighting for justice are threatened.

President Maduro speaks

The Chavistas, meanwhile, carried out a mobilization at the Miraflores Palace where President Nicolás Maduro gave a speech centered on several key themes. First, he gave an explanation of all the various forms of assault against the electrical system as part of the right wing plan for sabotage.

Guaidó then referred to the work plan for the next three days: A meeting with public sector workers is scheduled for April 8; he called for a new protest on April 10, without providing any details; and finally, he announced that a “world meeting” will be held to show support and build international alliances.

If “Operation Freedom” was to be an escalation of the forms of confrontation, it flopped. At least for now.

Migrant families in El Paso

PHOTO: CEDAR ATTANASIO

Continued from page 1

intervention that has institutionalized the violence that Trump loves to blame on other countries.

In the 1980s, for example, Washington orchestrated a bloody war against the Indigenous people of Guatemala, who were boldly organizing and included a guerrilla organization. The Pentagon, through their lackeys, carried out a genocidal war against the Mayan and Indigenous population. At least 100 villages were destroyed, more than 200,000 people were killed, thousands were disappeared, and millions were displaced (PRB.org).

Combat Genocide website states: “Six hundred and twenty-six massacres by the Guatemalan army have been documented.” On July 18, 1982, President Ríos Montt was quoted in the New York Times as saying to the Mayan public, “If you are with us, we will feed you; if not, we will kill you.”

And in Honduras the State Department — overseen by Democratic Secretary of State Hillary Clinton— orchestrated a coup in 2009 against the progressive President Mel Zelaya, ushering in a right-wing, pro-imperialist government. Journalists, women, trade unionists and anyone fighting for justice are threatened.

Imperialist conditions will continue to force workers out of their homelands.

Once they arrive at the Southern border, Central Americans, despite “legally” being able to apply for asylum under current U.S. immigration laws, are forced to wait in deplorable conditions inside temporary camps on the Mexican side of the border.

If they are allowed in, they are rounded up and put in what amount to concentration camps. In El Paso, thousands were forced to live under a bridge, fenced in with barbed wire.

Children continue to be taken from their parents, who are often deported while their children remain in the U.S. This is the kind of atrocity the U.S. government carried out against Native American children in an earlier period.

Another example of white supremacism — and misogyny — policy is given in a Harper’s Bazaar article published April 2. This must-read article, written by Jennifer Wright, is titled: “The U.S. Is Tracking Migrant Girls’ Periods to Stop Them from Getting Abortions.” This is some really weird “Handmaid’s Tale” stuff. Wright points out: “We still don’t know where 1488 children are ... but by God, they can keep track of teenage migrant girls’ menstrual cycles.”

Indeed.

At all levels the war on migrants continues.

But in every war, repression breeds resistance. Migrants and workers in the U.S. will rise again to end the war against the working class. On May Day, the demand for “No Wars, No Walls in the Workers’ Struggle” will surely resonate around the world.

April 6, Venezuelans demonstrate in “march for peace and sovereignty.”

PHOTOS: TELESUR

White House escalates criminal war on migrants

PHOTO: ISMAEL ATAMARIDU

PHOTO: TAMIR KALIFA
response to the attack, declared that despite Washington’s efforts to disable Venezuela’s economy, “No act of imperialism will stop the cooperation between free and independent enterprises.”

Arreaza made his comments during a meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Syria itself has survived 16 years of draconian U.S. sanctions and eight years of attempts to violently overturn the government by tens of thousands of armed opponents and agents funded and equipped by Washington. The U.S. Air Force has been bombing Syria since 2014. But the criminal efforts to overturn the elected Syrian government by the imperialist superpower have failed.

Cuba, which has been under U.S. sanctions for over 60 years, is one of the most criminal, brutal, fascist regimes in the world—it’s directed against humanity. They intentionally create a maximum of hardship on the civilian population, especially on the most vulnerable sectors.

The U.S.move came in response to an “extraordinary threat” to the United States. The U.S. move came in response to an “extraordinary threat” to the United States.

In addition to oil, Venezuela has bauxite, coal, iron and the world’s largest gold reserves. U.S. sanctions have totally cut off Venezuela’s sales of oil, gold and other minerals on the world market.

Venezuela has depended on its oil revenue to cover essential imports, including medicine and medical equipment, food and other basic necessities. By recognizing a parallel government instead of the real one in Caracas, Washington and its political allies automatically created a trade embargo on Venezuela in most of the markets for its oil. At the same time, Venezuela has been cut off from most financial systems based on the dollar and/or European currencies, further constricting its ability to pay for imports that it can afford.

Economic sanctions were first imposed in March 2015 by the Obama administration. Obama declared a “national emergency” and claimed Venezuela was an “extraordinary threat” to the United States.

In August 2017 Donald Trump extended Obama’s “national emergency” to intensify the sanctions. The economic strangulation has grown worse since then.

Most recently, on March 22, the U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions against three major Venezuelan public banks. BANDES is a bank created to support development projects; Bank of Venezuela and Bicentenario are two major state-owned banks through which the government pays public pensions and benefits.

The U.S. move came in response to the March 22, 2017, appointment of Robert Altman, chief of staff to self-proclaimed “interim president” Juan Guaidó and a high-ranking figure in Guaidó’s right-wing Popular Will party.

Venezuelan Interior Minister Nestor Reverol announced at a press conference that the opposition had led a “terrorist cell” that was planning attacks against public institutions using foreign mercenaries.

“Marrero was the person responsible for the terror cell,” Reverol told reporters, adding that a number of weapons as well as foreign currency had been seized.

**Attack on free medical care**

The sanctions are a crime against humanity. They intentionally create a maximum of hardship on the civilian population, especially on the most vulnerable sectors.

The targeted sanctions have cruelly cut by 80 percent the supply of essential medicines that Venezuela was able to purchase on the world market to provide free medical care for all.

President Nicolás Maduro on March 21 denounced Washington’s withholding of $3 billion intended for the purchase of medicines and raw materials used in production of medicines. U.S. authorities, he said, “have kidnapped U.S. $5 billion [in one of the most criminal, brutal, fascist medical supplies from China, including antibiotics, analgesics and key surgical provisions, arrived on April 1. On March 29, the president of the International Federation of the Red Cross, Francesco Rocca, announced that the federation will start distributing vital food and medicine to 650,000 people, in coordination with Venezuelan authorities.

In February, the Red Cross, together with the United Nations, refused to participate in U.S. government efforts to send trucks across the Venezuelan-Colombian border, stating that the operation could not be labeled “humanitarian” given its political motives. In particular, the Red Cross protested the use of its own insignia on so-called “aid” trucks operated by the Venezuelan opposition.

Maduro has illustrated the U.S. “aid,” supposedly worth $20 million, which pales in comparison with the estimated $30 million per day that the U.S. oil embargo will cost Venezuela this year. “If Washington wants to help, then lift the sanctions,” Maduro has repeatedly urged.

**Sabotage of electric grid**

President Maduro has charged that Venezuela is experiencing the first cyber-war in the world—it’s directed against its electrical system to destablize the country and impose regime change.

“Venezuela is living the first war of unconventional dimensions, with attacks on public services to impose a regime change by the U.S.,” he said, referring to cyber sabotage at the Guri Dam’s Simon Bolívar hydroelectric power plant, the country’s main electricity generator, and to electromagnetic pulse attacks against transmission lines.

He ordered a 30-day recovery period, with implementation of a national plan to ration electricity as rolling blackouts entered their sixth day.

Chief Economist Francisco Rodríguez of U.S.-based Torino Capital has connected the vulnerabilities in Venezuela’s electrical grid to the role of previous and new U.S. sanctions.

A priority for Venezuela is safeguarding its water-pumping systems. An electric generator is being installed at the Uyú pumping system, which supplies water to Caracas and nearby states.

Something as essential to life as drinking water has become both a technical challenge and a political struggle. Water pumping systems in Caracas and throughout the country impose a significant demand on the electric grid. As an emergency measure, tanker trucks are transporting water to communities that have had none for extended periods.

On March 30 a large anti-imperialist Chavista demonstration in western Caracas rallied to preserve peace and express solidarity with electricity workers at state-owned CORPOELEC.

After masked anti-government troublemakers barricaded Fuerzas Armadas Avenue in Caracas on March 31 and attacked residents getting water from a tanker, a pro-government motorbike collective moved in to disperse them.

The Bolivarian Revolution is establishing new goals and moving forward with all available supplies to improve living conditions, despite the sanctions. Expanding social programs have set new targets, including building 5 million new homes— an increase from the 3 million low-income homes built since 2016. Other goals include the consolidation of 8,000 communes and extension of the pension system to the entire elderly population.

Flounders was part of a solidarity delegation that visited Venezuela in March. She thanks TeleSUR and Venezuela Analysis for information in this article.
U.S. in search of an imperialist ‘new order’

By Manuel Raposo

Raposo is a Portuguese Marxist and analyst. This article was published March 28 on the website jornammudardevida.info. Translation by Workers’ World Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

On the way to his three years in office, it can no longer be said that Donald Trump is a simple adventurer lost to the presidency of the world’s largest imperialist power by a voter error or a coup at the polls. His path, which has been a bit unreliable, has demonstrated the firm purpose of the U.S. ruling class (or at least a decisive part of it) to impose itself on the rest of the world in a different way than what it had done until now, in an attempt to test the dominant U.S. position that is now in jeopardy.

The systematic way in which Trump’s government has acted on the international stage, as well as internally, appears anything but erratic if we look — not at the personal way in which he arrives at political decisions — but at the result of those decisions.

On the foreign front

The U.S. has broken the agreement with Iran. This step directly targets the main threat to Israel and indirectly targets Washington’s European competitors, as well as Russia and China. The U.S. is openly betting on Israel and Saudi Arabia, putting an end to the illusion that it would be an arbiter in the Middle East.

The U.S. threatens to leave NATO’s European partners behind. Far from despising NATO, however, Washington seeks to extend alliances to survive in Africa (as Obama did, too) and Latin America. It brazenly supports Brexit, with the obvious purpose of dividing and weakening the European Union. The U.S. rulers support the formation of a fascist international in Europe without any great disguise, doing this through the energetic action of the former strategic advisor to the president, Stephen Bannon.

The U.S. revoked multilateral trade agreements in order to impose its unilater- al will on yesterday’s partners. It has withdrawn from U.N. bodies and devalued the organization itself (along the lines that began in 2003 with the war against Iraq), so that it does not have to submit, not even formally, to common rules of international law.

It tore up the Paris climate agreement, so that Yankee capitalism would have its hands free for the savage exploitation of resources and make old technologies still profitable.

It is betting on being able to subvert the progressive Central and South American governments. This is not only to make Latin America the U.S. backyard again, as the U.S. rulers have always sought, but also to try to break the legs of the so-called BRICS [five emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa], thus hitting Russia and China.

The U.S. has certainly lost the war in Syria and Yemen in the verge of losing control of the Korean issue. But that may be the price that a declin- ing power has to pay if it is able to reinforce itself in its safest strongholds.

Ditto on the domestic front

Donald Trump is also pursuing a persistent policy of strengthening the extreme right, seeking unopposed power and promoting white supremacy in particular. He has attempted to test the resistance of state institutions or of the media or of prevailing moral values. But whenever he finds favorable ground, he imposes his right-wing extremism, as in the case of appoint- ments to the federal judiciary Court; he disregards democratic standards and seizes more authority; he discards any- one who opposes him in the media; and he defends the most retrograde moral and civil values.

In this process, he appeals in a calculat- ed manner to the neediest elements in the ruling classes and the population. And, of course, he grants the dominant classes much of what they want: lower taxes, fewer legal limitations, unrestricted access to natural resources, theft of the remaining lands of Indigenous peoples.

‘New order’

At the heart of this vast venture is — if we look not only at the figure of Trump but at the whole architecture that supports him and defines his pol- icy — the intention to attack the most powerful international competitors, both economically and in political and institu- tional terms. It also aims to guide the United States and the world toward a sys- tem of global capitalist competition in which economic and in political and institu- tional terms.

It has become clear that Trump’s USA is seeking to establish a “new interna- tional order,” as George W. Bush and his cronies declared in the 2000s. This quest can be perceived if we understand that U.S. imperialism today feels limited in its movements and its ambitions by the web of international relations that it itself pro- moted following World War II.

The growth of major competitors such as the European Union, Japan and, more recently in particular, China — as well as, on another level, Russia’s re-emer- gence — has weakened U.S. power, not only economically but also politically. That web, which at first created the environment for U.S. hegemony in the Western world, is now perceived by U.S. imperialist capital as a straitjacket.

New allies

Breaking these balances, made unfa- vorable by historical evolution itself, is then a goal of U.S. imperialism and not a simple product of Trump’s head. We are therefore witnessing a turning point in the strategy of U.S. imperialism, which is being consolidated with Trump, and not a comical interval. And this shift is most evident when one realizes that, in several cases, Trump’s action reflects the affirma- tion of previous tendencies that were only outlined in the past.

The U.S., of course, needs new allies for this new crusade. Such allies can only be found among the most regressive ele- ments, those willing to embrace the class struggle and the war against the “dangerous regimes” of the world. Such allies can only be found among the most regressive ele- ments, those willing to embrace the class struggle and the war against the “dangerous regimes” of the world.

The U.S. has certainly lost the war in Syria and Vietnam, but the serious hypothesis of a second term of Trump’s mandate (in this case, he will certainly be better advised from the beginning) will represent, on the contrary, the consecration and consolidation of this course.

Bankruptcy of the capitalist democracies

This abandonment of democratic pre- cepts by an imperialist power that, at one time, presented itself as the greatest champion of them is further proof of the decadence of world capitalism as a whole. It is not surprising that the spearhead of this “rejection of principles” is precisely its most developed representative.

The capitalist democracies of the last 70 years have been able to survive thanks to the environment of economic prosper- ity of the post-World War II period. The ruling classes have realized for the last 30 years that they will not be able to recover the prosperity that will allow them to pay for the well-being of the working class and thus buy social peace. The stagnation and decline into which the capitalist world has irreversibly entered are the death certifi- cate of these democracies. What is left to the ruling classes then is their violence.

Nothing to look forward to

It is not to be expected, therefore, that the ruling class in the United States will want to discard Trump or Trumpism (unless someone less ridiculous presents himself to accomplish the mission). We should expect that a new individual in the presidency would alter the funda- mentals of the course now being taken. The serious hypothesis of a second term of Trump’s mandate (in this case, he will certainly be better advised from the beginning) will represent, on the contrary, the consecration and consolidation of this course.

If, since the second postwar period, the U.S. was already the head of international imperialism, then deployed in the form of a triad, with Japan and the EU — with all that this meant for the peoples of the planet — now the U.S. is concentrating on itself, its goals out in the open. This is the worst that can be expected of an imperial- ist power. Destroying it is the central task of our time.

Everything to look forward to

In its enterprise for survival, U.S. impe- rialism is forced to shake the foundations of the order that it itself has established and around which the world has orga- nized itself in recent decades. This means that, through the threats posed to the peoples, an era of disarray of the entire capitalist system is opening up, since it is the backbone of the same system that is disintegrating.

With this, the conditions for a new revolutionary cycle on a world scale are opened. Everything will depend on the response. Above all, there will be the development of the class struggles of the working masses against a bankrupt capi- talism, the fight against fascist forces in each country and against all forms of imperialism, the search for independence of the peoples dominated by the impe- rialist powers — and, particularly, the capacity of the North American workers to overcome, on the internal front, the fascist drift of the ruling class.
Western, colonizing rulers imposed anti-gay laws throughout the world

By Leslie Feinberg

This lightly edited article was originally published in 2007 as Part 112 in Feinberg’s journal Critical Queer Studies on LGBTQ issues and communism. Feinberg’s analysis continues to be timely, given the contemporary turbulent context.

You don’t need a dictionary to know that colonization is the act of taking possession of a country or territory by force, by treaty, or by conquest, and extending one’s laws and authority over the inhabitants. In other words, to bring the land under the control and sovereignty of the colonizer.

European expansionism around the world began to occur in the 15th century, with Portuguese expansionism around the world in the 16th century, and with European colonialism specifically in the 19th century.

By the late 19th century, Europe was colonizing the rest of the world, including Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

The roots of Abu-Ghraib

The roots of Abu-Ghraib go back much farther than the ancient mother-right gens, because it assured the transmission of wealth to male heirs. As ruling classes grew stronger and expanded their territories by overturning neighborhood communities by force, they often enforced their legal codes and social order on militarily conquered peoples.

European ruling classes also exported and enforced a single set of same-sex laws all over the world as they established their colonial empires. European colonialism used Inquisition terror to enforce these laws against same-sex love and gender variance everywhere. This violent legal restructurings of Indigenous societies—which affected economic organization, kinship, family/community organization, sexualities, gender and sex roles—served enslavement, exploitation, oppression, and profit.

Indigenous societies under siege were diverse. For instance, the Gay American Indians History Project, first published in the seminal 1988 book “Living the Spirit,” lists 135 Indigenous peoples on the North American continent who made room for non binary and same-sex roles than the European nations did.

Midnight Sun (Anishnabe) provides a historical materialist view of sex/gender systems in these varied Indigenous societies in one of the book’s essays. Entitled “Sex/Gender Systems in Native North America—Which affected economic organization, kinship, family/community organization, sexualities, gender and sex roles—served enslavement, exploitation, oppression, and profit.

Indigenous societies under siege were diverse. For instance, the Gay American Indians History Project, first published in the seminal 1988 book “Living the Spirit,” lists 135 Indigenous peoples on the North American continent who made room for non binary and same-sex roles than the European nations did.

Max Mejia [a founding member of the Grupo Lambda de Liberacion Homosexual in Mexico City in 1978] writes that with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the Western Hemisphere, “An absolutist discourse enveloped homosexuality in the concept of ‘infamous sin,’ ‘sin against nature,’ corruption of the soul and alliance with the devil. They punished these practices with no distinctions, among both lay people and clerics.”

“Furthermore,” Mejia concludes, “the conquistadors treated ‘sodomity’ as a specific Indian sin and hunted it down and punished it as such on a grand scale. They orchestrated crusades like the Holy Inquisition, which began burning ‘sodomites’ at the stake as a special occasion, as in the memorable auto-da-fé of San Lázaro in Mexico City.

During Vasco Núñez de Balboa’s colonial expedition across Panama he saw “men dressed like women; Balboa learnt that the king and 40 others to be eaten by his dogs, a fine agan of an honorable and Catholicistic Spanish colonists in Spanish colonial authorities in Cuba castrated those they considered sodomites.”

When the Spaniards invaded the Americas in 1519, they found men dressed as women who were respected by their societies. Thinking they were hermaphrodites, or homosexuals, they castrated them.

Wealthy Dutch merchants imposed pre-Napoleonic Roman-Dutch common law codes treated “sodomy” and “unnatural sex offenses,” from Indonesia to South Africa. The colonial legislation that the Dutch merchants brought with them to the Cape of Africa in the 17th century still forms the basis of laws in Namibia, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

Sun never set on British anti-sodomy laws

The British imposed on the people of Ireland and India, who at that time made same-sex relations between males punishable by death. Later, the 1885 British Labour Chollective Amendment was the law under which féminist writer Oscar Wilde was sentenced to hard labor.

Laws criminalizing same-sex relations in India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Singapore, Malaya and Brunei all have the same name — Article 377 — because the same colonial power wrote the law: Britain. The colonial-drafted legislation is misleadingly named the “Indian Penal Code.” Hindu law had not punished consensual sexual relations.

Historian Douglas Sanders explains: “Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code of 1860 made ‘carnal intercourse against the order of nature’ an offence.”

The British imposed this legislation in the Straits Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca in 1872. By the late 19th century, Britain also enforced the law in Hong Kong, Fiji, the Malay Peninsula and Burma.

Korea Herald journalist Benjamin Jho Pye quotes Utopia-asia.com, which offers information about the same-sexuality scene in Asia: “Asia has rich and unique homosexual traditions almost everywhere you look. The true enemy of homosexuality in places like Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are antique colonial laws and homophobic non-Asian religions that bully citizens with skewed views of the natural world.”

Historian Sanders notes, “This provision, or something very close to it, is presently in force in all former British colonies in Asia with the exception of Hong Kong.”

He adds: “Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Papua New Guinea have the key wording from 377, but different article numbers. Parallel wording appears in the criminal laws of many of the former colonies in Africa.”

Historians Kevin Botha and Edwin Cameron write, “The systems of law the colonial powers (both Dutch and later English) introduced significantly influenced the customary law of the African communities they subjugated.”

The British “Queensland Penal Code” of 1899 was “adopted in Northern Nigeria in the 19th century, later becoming the basis for a uniform federal code in Nigeria in 1916. The Indian Penal Code had been used in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, but those laws were later replaced by drafts based on the Nigerian criminal code. Sudan used the Indian Penal Code. In 1960 Northern Nigeria’s writer Oscar Wilde was sentenced to hard labor.”

Similar laws were forced on “British” Honduras (today Belize), Jamaica, Anguilla, the “British” Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Bahamas, Tobago, Turks and Caicos, and St. Lucia.

The British also imposed anti-“sodomy” legislation on Canada in 1892, New Zealand a year later, and Australia in 1788 and again in 1899.

Capital offens in colonized North America

Civil liberties historian Tom Head explained: “As Spanish, French, Dutch and English colonists began to settle North America during the 17th century, they brought with them a catalog of highly specific laws proscribing various sexual acts. The purpose of all these laws was to enforce monogamous, same-race, heterosexual marriage as a mandatory institution, and to punish any and all sexual activity outside of that institution.”

The earliest anti-“sodomy” legislation was passed in the Virginia Colony on May 24, 1606, and soon spread to all the colonies, and later to all U.S. states.

Historian John D’Emilio wrote: “In every colony, sodomy was a capital offense — at least five men were executed during this era — and other homosexual acts, from ‘sodomy practices’ to ‘lewd behavior’ were punished with whippings and fines.

“After the American Revolution, although the states reformed their criminal codes in the spirit of Enlightenment philosophy, revision of the sodomy statutes and the ‘crimes against nature’ laws came very slowly; North Carolina did not eliminate capital punishment [for sodomy] until 1860.”

D’Emilio concludes: “Historians Jefferson proposed that death be replaced by castration. Moreover, as time went on, legislatures and courts broadened the statutes to include a wider range of acts, such as oral sex between men and sexual activity between women,” D’Emilio concluded.

In the U.S., anti-homosexual and anti-miscegenation laws were also a weapon of state repression against African and Indigenous peoples, who became internal colonies. In 1969, U.S. imperialists also brutally enforced these laws in countries they subjugated militarily.

After seizing Puerto Rico as a colony in 1898, the U.S. imposed a law against same-sex love on the island that was a carbon copy of the California state legal language. And in 1938, in a Cuba under U.S. domination, an [anti-gay] “Public Ostentation Law” was enacted. (2)
An arsonist set a fire on the night of March 29 that destroyed the main office of the Highlander Research and Education Center, with a $250,000 insurance policy. (tdn.com, July 7, 2016) The fire began at 8:52 p.m. With the loss of the Highlander Research and Education Center, headquartered in the town of Hot Springs, N.C., the center has underlined its importance to Southern and U.S. organizing.

The center was founded in 1932 by an all-black faculty including the late civil rights activist and educator Dr. Mary Elizabeth Seacord, who was born in Hot Springs and began her career as a teacher in the city. She was a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and later became the first black woman to be appointed to the National Council of Churches.

The center's mission is to provide leadership and education to promote social justice and human dignity, and to develop a new generation of leaders who are committed to nonviolent action and the struggle for racial and economic justice. Since its founding, the center has been a leading voice in the fight against racism, poverty, and inequality, and has played a key role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

The center's facilities were destroyed by the fire, which began in the main office building and quickly spread to the entire complex. The center's archives, which contain millions of documents, photographs, and other materials, were also lost in the fire. The center's library, which contains thousands of books and periodicals, was also destroyed.

The center's staff and volunteers are committed to rebuilding the center and continuing its work. They are also dedicated to honoring the memory of the center's founders and pioneers who dedicated their lives to the struggle for justice and equality.

The center has started a fund to help raise money for the rebuilding of the center and to support its ongoing work. Donations can be made online at the center's website, highlandercenter.org, or by mailing a check to Highlander Research and Education Center, PO Box 535, Hot Springs, NC 28743.
Still in the streets! Algerians demand fundamental change

By G. Dunkel

Millions of Algerians came out in the streets April 5, even after President Abdelaziz Bouteflika had officially resigned. The general sentiment was: “We have won a battle, but not the war.” Bouteflika’s colleagues are still in charge of the government.

According to the official Algerian Press Service, protests took place in 42 of Algeria’s 48 provinces. In its major cities – Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Annaba — hundreds of thousands of people came out. Even in its southern provinces, in the depths of the Sahara Desert, such as Ouargla, Touggourt, Ghardaia, El-Oued, Adrar, Tamanrasset, and Timimoun, people staged peaceful protests and rallied in the main streets and squares, insisting on the departure of the current “illegitimate” government and the “dissolution of all assemblies.” (AP, April 5)

Even though millions of Algerians were militantly in the streets, the ministry of interior reported that they were no incidents, and the marches and protests dispersed peacefully at sundown.

Thousands of Algerians living in France and their children held their seventh, very large support demonstration in Paris Sunday, April 7.

Before the marches, there were street meetings, conducted in Arabic, Tamazight (sometimes called Kabyle) and even French. They were free wheeling, mainly focused on the problem of where to go next in the current political struggles and how to treat women and workers.

There appears to have been general agreement on the departure of three close associates of Bouteflika — Abdelkader Bensalah, head of parliament’s upper chamber; Tayeb Belaiz, head of the Constitutional Council; Noureddine Bedoui, former minister of the interior. He was considered an “active enemy of liberty,” in the opinion of many opponents of Bouteflika, but was, since March 11, the prime minister.

Different views on how to reconstruct Algerian society

There are many opinions floating around about the direction the February 22 movement should take to create basic changes in the structure of Algerian society. There is widespread acknowledgment that an Egyptian-style solution, where the army takes control and runs society, is to be avoided. Signs shown on French television stressed both the violent nature of the struggle so far, but also its steady determination. For example, one reads: “Without violence: without hate; without vengeance—all of them have to get gone!”

Mustapha Bouchachi represents one tendency in the movement, and has been frequently interviewed and quoted by major bourgeois press like the New York Times and Le Monde. He is a leader of the FFS (Front of Socialist Forces), which was founded by a hero of the Algerian revolution, Hocine Ait Ahmed, in 1963. Ait Ahmed was a member of the Socialist International.

In an interview with Le Monde, Bouchachi proposes a “government of national understanding with a collective or individual presidency. The army must accompany the transformation to a new democratic regime. In this fragile period, we need a strong institution to accompany the president to resign.”

Mali: Thousands demand peace, removal of French troops

By G. Dunkel

At the call of imams and civic associations on April 5, thousands of protesters marched in Bamako, the capital of Mali, to demand the end of violence between ethnic communities in central Mali, the removal of French troops, which have been in Mali since 2013 fighting “Islamic extremists,” and aid from Russia.

The cops gave the number of marchers at 30,000, while organizers claimed 50,000. (Agence France-Presse, April 5)

The same day, a similar demonstration took place at Niour of the Sahel in northwest Mali. Niour is a small city of 70,000 people near the Mauritanian border.

The U.S. AFRICOM command has a cooperation agreement with the Malian armed forces. Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, called IBK, was criticized for his “incompetent administration” by rally speakers. When the protesters attempted to march to the home of Prime Minister Soumeyoul Boubeye Maïga, who started throwing rocks, the cops broke up the march with tear gas.

Mali is a poor, landlocked country on the southwest border of the Sahara. Historically its cities were crossroads between West and North Africa.

Build Workers World! Defend the environment and workers’ rights

April 22 is Earth Day, initiated in 1970 to make people aware of the earth and environmental health. After that push, laws were passed to promote clean water and air, enact safety regulations, and pass measures that promote health and life. Not until 1990 was climate change raised. Now, with a far-right climate-denier in the White House, while floods and tornados surge in the U.S. and shorelines rise around the globe, we know the need to fight the oversees of fossil fuels and the billions that sell them.

Ten days after Earth Day we celebrate May Day. May 1 is now marked worldwide fight for workers’ rights. There’s lots of good news this year: Education workers all over the U.S., from K-12 schools to universities, have started a strike wave, organizing for higher wages and better working conditions. Well-paid Amazon and Google workers are joining low-wage McDonald’s workers in walkouts.

While Trump and the global ruling class are waging war on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, his administration is also making war on Central American immigrants and refugees seeking entry into the U.S.

This transition.” (April 3)

He is basically opposing workers and women issuing demands to address their particular oppressions.

Zohir Bessa, who is director of Alger Republican, a historical journal publishing communist and progressive writers, wrote a rebuttal to Bouchachi. He has represented the Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism (PAADS), which calls itself communist in international forums.

He writes: “Workers who can no longer tolerate depri-

vation and inequality, women who demand equality, are therefore asked by the ‘strong arms’ visibly in charge of controlling slogans, not to ‘divide’ the unanimous move-

ment against Bouteflika by ‘inappropriate’ sectoral social demands. Above all, no strikes in the productive sectors, the Bouchachi tell us! That would interfere with the flow of profits.

Bessa goes on to say the bourgeoisie’s ‘greatest fear is that’ these struggles ‘will lead beyond the overthrow of the current regime, which nobody wants any more, to the demand for a regime that puts the perspective of a socialist society back on the agenda.’ He calls for ‘class unions, unitary and coordinated, to shake off the chains of capitalist slavery, to fight for a truly democratic and popular revolutionary government, to participate in the creation of a revolutionary class party.’” (Alger Republican, April 3)

Bouchachi and Bessa offer two different perspectives to the masses who are still out in the millions on the streets of Algeria.

Defend the environment and workers’ rights

Workers are threatened with deportation after escaping horrific conditions caused by U.S. intervention in their home countries. Neo-Fascist U.S. policies separate infants and children from their parents at the border and jail underage migrants crossing the border alone.

The perpetration of global environmental destruc-

tion and workers’ oppression are one and the same. If you want to fight against capitalist reaction and for socialist change, we invite you to join the WW Supporter Program. The program was founded in 1977. Ever since, our subscribers and friends have helped build the only revolutionary socialist weekly in the U.S. that’s in print as well as on the web.

For a donation of at least $75 a year — and much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 4/7 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10012. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/. It’s easy to set up monthly donations. We’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — sign up today!
Cientos se unen contra la OTAN reactivando movimiento contra guerras

Por Ted Kelley

Varios cientos de activistas y organizadores tomaron las calles de la capital de los Estados Unidos el sábado 30 de marzo, llegando de todo el mundo para oponerse a la OTAN y a todas las guerras imperialistas mientras los líderes militares se reunían allí para conmemorar el 70 aniversario de la formación de la OTAN.

A los manifestantes se unieron activistas contra la OTAN de Grecia, Ucrania, México, Argelia, Bélgica y Gales. Un gran contingente de conductores de autobuses sindicales de Boston, equipados con carteles y pancartas, vinieron para la marcha y estuvieron representados en el mitin por el presidente del sindicato de trabajadores del acero, United Steelworkers Local 8735, el haitiano Amsterdam.

William Camacaro, un activista venezolano del Círculo Bolivariano de Alberto Lovero, recientemente regresó de una visita a su país de origen. “Cualquier confrontación contra Venezuela sería un desastre no solo para los venezolanos sino también para toda la región; para Colombia, para Brasil, para las islas del Caribe. Y eso realmente crece en el corazón blanco y púrpura de los estados unidos de América y a través de los pasillos de la máquina de guerra de la OTAN!”


Raickovich, quien recientemente conmemoró el vigésimo aniversario de la destrucción de Yugoslavia en una marcha en la ciudad de Nueva York, también expresó su sincera solidaridad con el pueblo venezolano.

“La marcha y la manifestación fueron ampliamente cubiertas por teleSUR, Russia Today y muchos periódicos locales. Pero es notable que no aparecieron en medios de derecha.”

La marcha se abrió camino a través de las calles de la capital, a través del nuevo césped de primavera que crecía en el National Mall, y a través de los pasillos de la Casa Blanca. Exigió la atención de miles de turistas y fue apoyado por muchos trabajadores que pasaban en su camino hacia el trabajo.

Por Ted Kelley

Cientos se unen contra la OTAN reactivando movimiento contra guerras

Vidas trans, vidas revolucionarias

¡Que viva el Día de la Visibilidad Trans! Este se llevó a cabo el 30 de marzo. ¡No te diste cuenta de qué sucedió? No es un día que sea muy “visible” en los medios de comunicación de las grandes empresas.

Porque este día está organizado por y para las personas trans que hablan por sí mismas y propias vidas, contando al mundo cómo se definen y celebrando las complejidades reales de las vidas trans.

Los medios corporativos han presentado obviamente las vidas de personas trans como un circo para barridos de la semana o personas trans narradas como balones políticos que se patean de un lado a otro durante los ataques de derecha.

En cambio, son las personas trans las que han insinuado en la verdad: han sido parte de la trama de la existencia humana desde el principio de nuestra especie.

Como el compañero trans Grey Armbry comentó en Facebook en el Día de la Visibilidad Trans: “A la larga, la lucha de las vidas humanas han ‘asignado’ papeles socioeconomicos a personas de muchas maneras que yo entendemos como ‘género’. Como todas las sociedades están sujetas a constantes internas y externas fuerzas de cambio, es razonable comprender que los roles de género no son ahora ni nunca han sido estáticos, y mucho menos binarios. [Los roles de género] ciertamente tienen poco o nada que ver con la biología humana real. Esto no es nada nuevo.”

De hecho, en las sociedades pre-clase matrimoniales, antes del surgimiento del patriarcado de clases, era la norma la sociedad tener una complejidad de sexo y género que podría llamarse ahora “trans”. Las diferen- tes variedades, nombres, costumbres e historias de esta complejidad de género continúan hoy en día a través de pueblos, culturas y naciones indígenas aún existentes.

Pero, como anotó Armbry en sus comentarios de Facebook, dentro de los Estados Unidos y en otros lugares donde el patriarcado ha pinchado, la lucha por esa complejidad “para muchas personas trans, especialmente mujeres trans de color, equivale a una lucha de vida o muerte por los pronomnes correctos, por baños y para cualquier recurso y medida [que] las personas trans, no binarias y de dos espíritus creen que vale la pena luchar”.

Las fuerzas imperiales en los Estados Unidos han producido conceptos opressivos y esterechos de “hombre” y “mujer” como objetivos públicos: para crear poblaciones coloniales, soldados para el imperialismo y trabajadores.

No fue casual que, a principios del siglo XX, cuando RE.UU. comenzó a invadir y ocupar naciones más allá de sus fronteras continentales, el presidente Teddy Roosevelt hizo una campaña para “endurecer” a los jóvenes y convertirlos en “hombres”. Como señaló la historiadora Sarah Watts, quería que los hombres de los Estados Unidos imperialistas fueran “los verdade- ros herederos de la tradición de vaqueros de la virilidad blanca, agresiva, armada y nacionalista”. (tinyurl.com/ yggxg57)

Las vidas trans nos dan a todos la visión y la espe- ranza de un mundo que rechaza las ideas rígidas, dominantes y dañinas sobre el hombre y la mujer, lo masculino y lo femenino. Como dice una vez la historiadora Sarah Watts, quería que los hombres de los Estados Unidos imperialistas fueran “los verdade- ros herederos de la tradición de vaqueros de la virilidad blanca, agresiva, armada y nacionalista”. (tinyurl.com/ yggxg57)

Vidas trans, vidas revolucionarias

Por Ted Kelley

Cientos se unen contra la OTAN reactivando movimiento contra guerras

Vidas trans, vidas revolucionarias

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

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¿Por qué el capitalismo ha fracasado y no ha podido reactivarse? ¿Por qué los Estados Unidos han producido conceptos opressivos y esterechos de “hombre” y “mujer” como objetivos públicos: para crear poblaciones coloniales, soldados para el imperialismo y trabajadores? No hay respuesta fácil, pero es cierto que la acumulación capitalista no puede continuar indefinidamente. ¿Qué posibilidades hay para el futuro del capitalismo y para el futuro de la humanidad? ¿Cuál es el significado de las luchas que se están dando hoy en día? ¿Qué podemos hacer para reactivar el movimiento revolucionario y oposición al capitalismo? Este libro profundiza en estos temas y ofrece una visión crítica y radical de la acumulación capitalista, la crisis del capitalismo y la posibilidad de una transformación social y política radical.

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