ICE raids target migrants’ unions

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted the largest worksite immigration raid in U.S. history on Aug. 7 in Mississippi. Only four days after a racist, anti-Latinx massacre in El Paso, Texas, ICE arrested 680 supposedly undocumented and overwhelmingly Latinx workers.

U.S. authorities boasted of breaking the arrest record after raiding poultry processing plants in seven small central Mississippi towns. (CNN, Aug. 9, tinyurl.com/y2a6dvjr) But one of the plants are operated by Koch Foods, one of the largest poultry producers in the U.S., employing 13,000 workers at locations primarily in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee. (Koch has no known connection to the right-wing billionaire Koch brothers.)

The raids were carried out on the first day of the school year, which starts early in much of the South. Hundreds of children of im/migrant workers were left without their parents. Videos of the children sobbing in their classrooms or at plant fences went viral, bringing a blast of outrage from within and outside Mississippi.

The Facebook statement of the Mississippi Rising Coalition emphasized: “[This is] the largest single-state worksite raid in the nation’s history… in a state with three for-profit immigrant detention centers, the only state flag with the Confederate emblem, the highest number of recorded lynchings of people of color, the last to ratify the 13th Amendment [abolishing slavery except for prisoners]… where every April is Confederate Heritage Month.”

Hometown Action of Alabama stated on Facebook: “As southerners we recognize this type of state violence is another form of white supremacy and we won’t stand for it. #AbolishICE.”

The raids took place in Bay Springs (population 1,723), Canton (12,725), Carthage (4,822), Forest (5,655), Morton (3,423), Pelahatchie (1,353) and Walnut Grove (1,609).

Raids targeted union workers

Many workers belonged to Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1529, Region 5, also with members in Tennessee, Arkansas and Kentucky. UFCW is meeting with community groups and immigrants rights activists to organize support. UFCW is the leading U.S. organizer of poultry workers, with more than 60,000 members in the industry.

ICE raided the plants as worker organizing rises throughout the South, including in Mississippi. Canton also houses one of the largest automobile plants in the U.S. South, a Nissan plant with 6,400 workers.

Continued on page 3

Editorial

Cyntoia Brown — free at last 10

Resisting racist police
Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York 4
In defense of ‘The Squad’ 5
China and the new Cold War 6-7
When U.S. troops rebelled 11

Puerto Rico 8  Venezuela 8  Guatemala 9
PROTEST TO END GREYHOUND’S COLLABORATION WITH ICE

Buses are for transportation, not deportation! Greyhound allows ICE, DHS, and BP to board buses and detain migrants every day. People continue to resist!

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• Call Greyhound to say: “End your work with ICE, DHS and BP!”
• Phone 214-849-8966
• Learn your rights: www.tinyurl.com/aclu-ride-with-rights

WORKERS WORLD

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!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist political 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 neverending quest for ever_greater profits.

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, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WFP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital profits. The wealth workers create 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 branch near you.

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Statement on the El Paso, Dayton and Gilroy shootings by FIRE (Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere).

FIRE expresses its solidarity and condolences to the victims, families and communities of the heinous mass shootings that took place in this country during one week alone.

What are the causes of these actions? Whited out white supremacy to prevent yet another mass shooting?

The main contribution to the upswell in violence is the blatant racist rhetoric emanating from the White House. President Trump and his administration send messages that migrants are “criminals” and “invaders” from Mexico. Armed militias have acted with impunity. When the media say, “This is not who we are,” it’s just, well, not true.

The acts of the Border Patrol and the police are also white supremacist violence. When law enforcement swarmed the scene in El Paso after the shooting, many could not seek professional help for fear they might get detained or deported.

White nationalist rhetoric is at the heart of the Gilroy and El Paso shootings. In Dayton, where nine died and 27 were injured, the murderer had a history of violently misogynist threats. Rather than spending money militarily, the police and the border, money should be spent on health care and education.

The answer to these shootings is not gun control but community control.

FIRE demands:

1. End the scapegoating of migrants. End forced migration by dealing with the root causes of migration. Reparations for victims of the climate crisis; end U.S. intervention everywhere; end violence against women and gender-oppressed people.

2. Migration is a human right, not a crime. Stop criminalizing workers. Solidarity with all workers.

3. Community control, not gun control. We cannot depend on the police or Immigration and Customs Enforcement to solve our problems. Police have killed too many Black, Brown, and LGBTQ people with impunity and cannot be relied upon. Gun control won’t create the community needed to stop individual acts of terror.

4. Organize our communities. Let’s go door-to-door, block-to-block. Demand community control of the police. FIRE demands: Solidarity and community among us all; U.S. or foreign born; Black, Brown, white; LGBTQ+ or straight; young and old. That is the solution to white supremacy.

To get involved with FIRE, visit fightformigrants.org.

‘Solidarity and community, not migrant bashing’

African-American workers there have been leading a 15-year-long battle to win union recognition as a local in the United Auto Workers. (Workers World, July 18, 2017, tinyurl.com/yg3blj7t) The poultry plant raid follows closely on a significant legal win by Mississippi UFCW workers. According to the Aug. 7 Payday Report, after an almost eight-year-long legal battle, Koch Foods was declared guilty last year in a $3.75 million worker harassment suit. (tinyurl.com/y395qj5j) The lawsuit, brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, cited Koch Foods for incidents at the Morton plant when “supervisors touched and/or made sexually suggestive comments to female Hispanic employees, hit Hispanic employees, and charged many of them money for normal everyday work activities.”

In 2016, Koch Foods of Mississippi was cited and fined by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration after safety violations caused severe worker injuries from falls, unguarded machinery, electric shocks and other hazards. The ICE raid in Mississippi is the latest to target plants and factories where immigrant workers have organized unions to fight back against discrimination and unsafe work conditions. For instance, last year ICE arrested 140 workers at a unionized Fresh Mark meatpacking plant in Salem, Ohio, only a week after OSHA fined that company more than $280,000 for dangerous equipment that caused the death of an undocumented worker. (tinyurl.com/y3w8z86j)

 Presidents of both the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters Union issued statements of support for the UFCW workers, but omitted white supremacy as a factor. Statements from UNITE HERE and CWA condemned white supremacy and racism in the raids.

The chicken plant replaced the cotton field

In rural Mississippi, poultry plants have now become the dominant employer as Latino immigrants join a predominantly Black community and workforce in this white supremacist state. An in-depth 2013 Southern Spaces article recounted the long history of poultry worker organizing in Mississippi, saying: “The chicken plant replaced the cotton field…. Organizing by African American poultry workers in the 1970s grew from the seeds planted by the Mississippi freedom struggle…. The Southern Conference Educational Fund established its Grass Roots Organizing Work (GROW) Project, an anti-racist organizing initiative that sought to help Black and white workers improve their economic conditions.”

“Led by Bob Zellner, formerly of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, GROW had been organizing pulpwood haulers and wood cutters since the late 1960s. One of its chapters was located in Forest, Miss., and many of the haulers’ and cutters’ family members worked in poultry. Encouraged by the organizing efforts of their husbands and brothers and fed up with management’s refusal to provide breaks after one woman working the line urinated on herself, Black women at Southeastern Poultry walked off the job in 1972. That year they formed the independent Mississippi Poultry Workers’ Union.”

Continued from page 1

“In the decade that followed, numerous union organizing attempts failed at plants in Morton, Hazlehurst, Laurel, Jackson, and other poultry towns. Sanderson Farms in Laurel, a processing stronghold one hundred miles to the south of Scott County, stands out as an exception. There, the largely Black female workforce self-organized, and a prolonged strike garnered the support of the AFL-CIO, leading to affiliation with the International Chemical Workers Union.”

(workers.org Aug. 15, 2019 Page 3)

The Southern Spaces article noted that the poultry workers are “from nearly every part of the continent. They are Black, Brown, and occasionally white; many come from South Asians and former blue- and even white-collar workers; speakers of English, Spanish, and a handful of Indigenous languages.”

This is the 21st-century international working class, organizing in Mississippi, throughout the South and throughout the country. They are native to the struggle against white supremacy, misogyny and capitalism.

Now is the moment to unite in struggle. Back the International Workers’ Solidarity Network (workerssolidarity.net), and through local actions everywhere, to finally make white supremacist ICE raids and aAbolishICE.

Johnnie Lewis, member of UFCW Local 838, retired, also contributed to this article.
By Betsy Piette
Philadelphia

A massive phone protest by people from around the world and calls for direct protests forced the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to back down from carrying out the state’s latest attempt to kill MOVE 9 member Delbert Orr Africa.

For over a week all communication between Orr Africa and his family and friends was cut off after he was sent to the prison infirmary at SCI Dallas. He was subsequently transported to Geisinger Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and held incommunicado. Prison and hospital officials refused to release any information about his condition or allow visits from family or legal representatives.

When taken from SCI Dallas, Delbert reportedly had swelling in his lower extremities from a fluid build-up. On Aug. 7, supporters heard from two separate sources that Delbert had been given no more than 72 hours to live.

The MOVE family immediately held a press conference in Philadelphia on Aug. 7, calling for phone calls to authorities and for demonstrations outside Geisinger and SCI Dallas on Aug. 9. Of primary concern was the threat of further retaliation by the state against MOVE near the 45th anniversary of the Philadelphia police assault on a MOVE house that led to his unjust incarceration. They feared that a modern-day lynching was underway.

People’s Power at work

On Aug. 8, Delbert was returned to SCI Dallas and finally allowed to speak to his family by phone. On Aug. 9, when calls of protesters gathered at Geisinger Hospital, they were greeted by extremely conciliatory hospital officials. An official hospital press person even offered them food and drinks. Meanwhile, some family members were allowed inside to get paperwork to request access to Delbert’s medical records.

The protesters then traveled to the nearby prison, where two MOVE members were allowed inside to visit Delbert while other demonstrators gathered outside. Thanks to all the calls—the power of the people—communications were restored with Delbert, who, according to visitors, appeared in good spirits but was still very weak.

On Aug. 8, 1978, Delbert was one of nine MOVE members arrested during the Philadelphia police assault on the MOVE house in Powelton Village. Police officer James Ramp died during the assault, likely struck by one of the tens of thousands of rounds fired by his fellow officers that day. Following the attack, Delbert, the last MOVE member to leave the house, was brutally beaten and assaulted by police.

Nine MOVE members were all found guilty of firing the same bullet and were convicted of murder, assault and conspiracy by the late Judge Edwin S. Malmed. They were all sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison. Despite serving over 41 years in the sentence, Delbert Africa remains unjustly imprisoned.

Two MOVE members killed by PA DOC

After serving over 40 years, five MOVE 9 members — Debbie, Michael, Janine, Janet and Eddie — have been released on parole beginning in June 2018. Delbert is scheduled for a parole hearing in September.

With no communication or access to his health care records, MOVE members expressed concerns at the Aug. 7 press conference that the state would try to kill Delbert before he could be paroled. They pointed out that the conditions surrounding the 2015 death of MOVE 9 member Phil Africa were suspiciously similar to Delbert’s situation. After Phil was taken to an outside hospital with a minor stomach virus, he was held incommunicado for five days. After returning to SCI Dallas, he died a day later in hospice care.

In 1998, after recovering from a stomach virus at SCI Cambridge Springs, MOVE 9 sister Merle Africa was told by prison officials that she was dying, which happened a few hours later.

‘Thank you for your support’

Delbert and the MOVE family expressed their appreciation for the support from everyone who made calls, shared information through many networks and traveled with the caravan on Aug. 9. Next up is to bring Delbert Africa home.

In an email to a Workers World reader received Aug. 9, Delbert described how the prison kept him from contacting his family to assure them he was all right:

“You would have laughed at these insecure puppets’ fear as they went into so-called security. They came in my room at the hospital with arms and hospital security Sunday morning (8/4) and told me I was a ‘high-level escape risk.’ I laughed at that, since I had tubes sticking out of damn near everywhere! They moved me to a so-called security room, put three guards on me, two of them armed, and it was that way until today.

‘I want to thank you and all the other Workers World [readers] that have given your support to the MOVE Family. No doubt in my mind y’ll turned these suckas around!! Stay on the Revolutionary Road Always!! Love and Solidarity!’ ”

Michael Brown remembered

New York — Exactly five years after 18-year-old Michael Brown was shot and killed by a cop in Ferguson, Mo., Shut It Down NYC called an Aug. 9 demonstration — “Fists Up, Fight Back!” — in his memory. Protesters marched from Grant Central Terminal through midtown Manhattan chanting: “Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Shut it down, Shut it down!”

As they neared Bryant Park on 42nd Street, police appeared and began trying to intimidate them. When the march reached the end of its path in Columbus Circle, a large crowd of people surrounded the police. Several cops pointed out five individuals to be arrested and grabbed them. Other cops admitted to some of those arrested that they knew the protesters had not been doing anything wrong. Four were held in jail overnight and not released until after 5 p.m. the following day.

Brown was fatally shot Aug. 9, 2014, after being harassed for walking in the street. His killing and the decision not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson on top of the chokehold killing of Eric Garner by a Staten Island cop a few weeks before Brown’s shooting, lead to a firestorm of protests that added more fuel to the fire of the Black Lives Matter movement launched in 2012. NYC Shut It Down began #People’sMonday — weekly demonstrations against the police murder of Black Brown and Indigenous people. The first protest was dedicated to Brown.

— Story and photo by Brenda Ryan

Rally calls out for justice

By Jimmy Raynor
Atlanta

A rally and remembrance was held Aug. 5, organized by the family and community members of Janamar Robinson, a black boy shot 76 times by police.

Robinson, marked the third anniversary of the young man’s shooting by a joint force of federal marshals, East Point police and Atlanta city police. Two organizations against police killings — Tribe 76 and Mothers of Black Boys — also participated.

The rally took place outside the apartment where Robinson had been shot 76 times. Eleven cops battered his door open and began shooting — without bothering to identify him. When a picture of who the cops were searching for was shown, it was clearly not Robinson. They claimed Robinson had a gun, but one was never produced.

The rally opened with a candle-lighting ceremony for Robinson in which people were asked to say something about him or why they were there. His mother, Monetria Robinson, spoke about the efforts to get justice over the three years since his killing and vowed to continue until the cops who participated are punished.

This same task force has been involved in another killing in Atlanta. They shot Jimmy Atchison, 23, this January while he was hiding inside a closed closet. A rally at the Federal Building on Aug. 10 will seek justice in that case.
In defense of ‘The Squad’

A revolutionary understanding of the national question

By Monica Moorehead

This article is based on a talk given at a July 25 Workers World Party meeting in New York City that addressed the theme “Fighting against Racism and for National Sovereignty.”

This talk will not give a blow-by-blow account of all the attacks that racist Trump has made against the four progressive congresswomen of color – Reps. Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib – known as “The Squad.”

But these four congresspeople symbolically represent the global working class, despite their political affiliation and loyalty to the Democratic Party. The fact that their respective nationalities – Somali, Puerto Rican, Black and Palestinian – represent millions of oppressed peoples globally is an inspiration to the movement for revolutionary change.

In the end, these racist attacks are not isolated from attacks on the global working class, which includes workers and oppressed of all nationalities and gender expressions who are super-exploited and super-oppressed by the same bosses and banks.

Whatever form the struggle against racism may take – in a bourgeois arena like electoral politics or outside that arena – as revolutionary socialists we must be prepared to take on the fight against racism whenever and however it rears its ugly head. This is because of the historical, theoretical and practical significance of the national question and its relationship to the class struggle.

Origins of national oppression in the U.S.

The expansion of U.S. imperialism was rooted in the theft of Indigenous lands, begun in the drive to colonize the Americas. This was the fundamental theft of Indigenous homelands, by the richest capitalistic countries. This expands the wealth and resources of peoples—be they of African descent, Brown people, then and now. Over the years this theft has been codified by the U.S. Supreme Court, as segregation—codified by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1896. This was reinforced by penal codes, Lynchings, police brutality and mass incarceration that classified Black people, no matter their social status or where they lived, as criminals and second-class citizens.

Based on these historical facts and Marxist ideology, Black people constitute not just a nation, but an oppressed nation—oppressed by an oppressor nation dominated by white supremacy, emanating from ruling-class ideas rooted in the capitalist economic system. The struggle against racism based upon a foundation of national oppression is not separate and apart from the class struggle—in fact, this principle is central to the prosecution of the class struggle.

National oppression as a theoretical, practical concept

National oppression is a Marxist-Leninist concept that Lenin expounded in “Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism.” He explained that nations of peoples—be they of African descent, Latinx, Indigenous, Arab, etc.—are super-exploited, along with the resources of their homelands, by the richest capitalist countries. This expands the wealth and territory of the small class of billionaires who own the banks and corporations. This is how the world is divided into oppressed nations and oppressor nations.

As a young Black woman raised in the apartheid South, I was radicalized by the struggle to smash white supremacy during the era of the Black Panther Party and the Attica prison rebellion (1966-71). However, it was the unwavering theoretical work of Workers World Party chairperson Son Marcy regarding the defense of oppressed nations as central to class unity that won me to revolutionary Marxism.

Marcy wrote the celebrated “The Right of self-determination and the class struggle” in November 1983. I want to quote from this extensively because he said it best: “Of all the great domestic political problems facing the working class and the oppressed people, none surpasses in importance the relationship of national oppression to the class struggle. Indeed, one may say that it is at the heart of the basic social problem in the United States. It is present for every form of social existence, and no sector of society is free from it.”

“For Marxists in particular it is the acid test of the correctness of their general political program. It is also a test of the revolutionary integrity of the party, in particular as this is manifested in day to day practical application. Probably nowhere else is theory so severely tested by practice as in the field of the national question.”

Marcy went on to say: “To many in the progressive and working-class movement the relationship between national oppression and class conflict appears as a choice between two supposedly contradictory phenomena.

“To socialists of the pre-World War I generation and to many avowed Marxists of that period (and even of decades later), choosing or giving priority to the national question, or as some put it, ‘giving priority to the struggle against racism,’ meant the abandonment of the class struggle and a surrender to bourgeois nationalism. “Needless to say, such a view of Marxism, in addition to being an error in principle and a violation of basic Marxist theory on the national question, was mostly propounded by whites, even those who saw themselves as adherents of socialism and even of Marxism. Upon the other extreme of the national question to very well depend the destiny of the working-class in the struggle against capitalism as well as the future of socialism.”

National oppression and the class struggle

Marcy’s emphasis on socialists putting their theoretical understanding of the national question into practical application is critical, because to fail to do so does more harm to prosecuting the class struggle. Marcy timed the writing of the 1983 article to meet the acid test of the first presidential campaign of the Civil Rights leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson. His campaign was challenging the racism of the Democratic Party leadership, the Democratic National Committee, notwithstanding that the mass base of that party has many Black and Brown people, then and now.

For Workers World Party, we viewed the significance of the Jackson campaign beyond its form within the Democratic Party organization. In its essence, the Jackson campaign was a catalyst for Black and other oppressed nationalities to embody the unfinished bourgeois democratic revolution by extending and winning full social rights for Black people and other disenfranchised sectors of our class.

Marcy stated in the same article: “The national question has for centuries been covered up by a plethora of lies and deceit. The intent is to convey the impression that it does not exist; or if it does exist, it is being solved; or at least its significance is diminishing due to the glory and virtues of the democratic processes of monopoly capitalism.”

Twenty years before the Jackson campaign, the Black Liberation movement was divided into two distinct wings—the Civil Rights Movement represented a liberal bourgeois sector led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., while the revolutionary Black nationalist militant wing was represented by Malcolm X.

While Workers World Party felt the closest political affinity with Malcolm X and the current he represented, even before he left the Nation of Islam, we never pitted these two wings of the Black movement against each other in our propaganda or in concrete solidarity.

That is due to our party’s belief in building class unity against a common oppressor. Our party was very sensitive to the besieged Black masses in the South who were at that time on the front lines against fascist Jim Crow. The lesson then and now is that whenever the masses or a sector of our class is engaged in struggle against racism—as they were in the 1960s or in the 1980s—the form of that struggle against racism becomes secondary and must be given support even if that support is critical, while at the same time showing concrete solidarity.

The Squad and the struggle against national oppression

Compare the politics of The Squad to the Jackson campaign. While we all know that the Democratic Party is as much a party of big business, war and racism as the Republican Party, The Squad’s policies in general are to the left of the party they belong to.

These congresspeople defend the rights of migrants, including calling for abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement and closing down the detention centers, uplifting the rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, supporting Medicare for all, depurposing the border wall attempts to cut over 3 million more people off the
The new Cold War against China

By Fred Goldstein

During the Cold War and the struggle that put the USSR and China on one side of imperialism, headed by Washington, on the other, revolutionaries used to characterize the conflict as a class war between two irreconcilable social systems.

The struggle further continued with the U.S. war against Vietnam, whose strate-egy was to overthrow the government of Vietnam in the north and drive to the border of China to complete the military encirclement of the PRC. Only the world-historic efforts of the Vietnamese people under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh stopped the Pentagon in its tracks.

Pentagon’s plans for military conquest failed

With the rise of Deng Xiaoping and the opening up of China to foreign invest-ment, beginning in December 1978, Wall Street began to reevaluate its strat-egy. The U.S. ruling class began to take advantage of the opening up of China to foreign investment as well as the permis-sion for private capitalism to function, which could both enrich U.S. corpora-tions in the massive Chinese market and at the same time penetrate the Chinese economy with a long-range view to over-turning socialism.

U.S. multinational corporations set up operations in China, hiring millions of low-wage Chinese workers, who flocked to the coastal cities from the rural areas. These operations were part of a broader effort by the U.S. capitalists to set up low-wage global supply chains that integrated the Chinese economy into the world cap-italist market.

The U.S.’s recent sharp turn aimed at breaking up this economic integration with the Chinese economy, including the witch hunt against Chinese scientists and the U.S. Navy’s aggressive behavior in the South China Sea (called the Eastern Sea by Vietnam), is an admission that the eco-nomic phase of the U.S. attempt to bring counterrevolution to China has failed.

China is now a growing counterweight to Washington in international econom-ics, high technology, diplomacy and regional military might in the Pacific, which the Pentagon has always con-sidered to be a “U.S. lake” ruled by the Seventh Fleet.

The attack on Huawei

A dramatic illustration of the develop-ing antagonisms is the way the U.S. had Canada arrest Meng Wanzhou, the deputy chairwoman and chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies, for sup-posed violations of U.S. sanctions against Iran — an outrageous example of imperi-alism exercising extraterritoriality. The Trump administration has also leveled sanctions against Huawei, the world’s largest supplier of high-tech operating systems in the world.

Huawei employs 180,000 workers and is the second-largest cell phone manu-facturer in the world after the south Korean-based Samsung. The sanctions are part of the U.S. campaign to stifle China’s development of the latest version of data-transmission technology known as fifth generation, or 5G.

The Trump administration has barred U.S. companies from selling supplies to Huawei, which has been using Google’s Android operating system for its equipment and Microsoft for its laptop products — both U.S.-based companies. Huawei is contesting the U.S. ban in court. Meanwhile, as a backup plan in case Washington bans all access to Android and Microsoft, Huawei has quietly spent years building up an operating system of its own. Huawei developed its alter-native operating system after a 2012 finding by Washington that Huawei and ZTE, another Chinese giant cell phone maker, were in criminal violation of U.S. “national security.” ZTE was forced to shut down for four months. (South Asia Mirror, March 24)

But the conflict is about more than just Huawei and ZTE.

New ‘red scare’ in Washington

The New York Times of July 20 carried a front-page article entitled “The New Red Scare in Washington.” A few excerpts give the flavor:

“In a hallway across from the Capitol building, an unlikely group of mili-tary hawks, populist crusaders, Chinese Muslim freedom fighters and fellowes of the Falun Gong has been meeting to warn anyone who will listen that China poses an existential threat to the United States that will not end until the Communist Party is overthrown.

“If the warnings sound straight out of the Cold War, they are. The Committee on the Present Danger, a long-defunct group that campaigned against the dangers of the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s, has recently been revived with the help of Stephen K. Bannon, the president’s for-mer chief strategist, to warn against the dangers of China.

“Once dismissed as xenophobes and fringe elements, the group’s members are finding their views increasingly embraced in President Trump’s Washington, where skepticism and mistrust of China have taken hold. Fear of China has spread across the government, from the White House to Congress to federal agencies…”

The Trump administration has opened up a tariff war against the PRC, impos-ing a 25-percent tariff on $250 billion worth of Chinese exports and threatening tariffs on another $300 billion. But there is much more to Washington’s campaign than just tariffs.

The FBI and officials from the National Security Council have been conducting a witch hunt, continues the Times article, “particularly at universities and research institutions. Officials from the FBI and the National Security Council have been dispatched to Ivy League universities to warn administrators to be vigilant against Chinese students.

According to the Times, there are con-cerns that this witch hunt “is stoking a new red scare, fueling discrimination against students, scientists and companies with ties to China and risking the collapse of a fraught but deeply enmeshed trade rela-tionship between the world’s two largest economies.” (New York Times, July 20)

FBI criminalizes cancer research

According to a major article in the June 13 Bloomberg News, “Ways of working that have long been encouraged by the NIH [National Institutes of Health] and many research institutions, particularly MD Anderson [a major cancer treatment center and research institute in Houston], are now quasi-criminalized, with FBI agents reading private emails, stopping Chinese scientists at airports, and visiting people’s homes to ask about their loyalty...

“Xifeng Wu, who has been investigated by the FBI, joined MD Anderson while in graduate school and gained renown for creating several so-called study cohorts with data amassed from hundreds of thousands of patients in Asia and the U.S. The cohorts, which combine patient histories with personal biomarkers such as DNA characteristics and treatment descriptions, outcomes, and even lifestyle habits, are a gold mine for researchers...

“She was branded an oncological double agent...”

The underlying accusation against Chinese scientists in the U.S. is that their research can lead to patentable medi-cines or cures, which in turn can be sold at enormous profits.

The Bloomberg article continues, “In recent decades, cancer research has become increasingly globalized, with sci-entists around the world pooling data and ideas to jointly study a disease that kills almost 10 million people a year. International collaborations are an intrinsic part of the U.S. National Cancer Institute’s Moonshot program, the gov-ernment’s $1 billion blitz to double the pace of treatment discoveries by 2022. One of the program’s tag lines is: ‘Cancer knows no borders.’...

“Except, it turns out, the borders around China. In January, Wu, an award-winning epidemiologist and natu-ralized American citizen, quietly stepped

The new Cold War against China

the counterrevolution seems to be getting than Washington ever imagined.

decades.

Looking for 'reformers' and counterrevolution

For decades the Chinese Communist Party has had changes of leadership every five years. These changes have been stable and managed peacefully. With each changeover, so-called "China experts" in the State Department, in Washington think tanks and in U.S. universities have predicted the coming to power of a new "reformist" wing that will deepen capitalist reforms and lay the basis for an eventual full-scale capitalist counterrevolution. The collateral effect, however, is to stymie income went up, unemployment was overcome in China — all while the capitalist world was still mired in mass unemployment, austerity, recession, stagnation, slow growth and increasing poverty, and still is to a large extent.

Socialist structures reversed collapse

So income went up, consumption went up and unemployment was overcome in China — all while the capitalist world was still mired in mass unemployment, austerity, recession, stagnation, slow growth and increasing poverty, and still is to a large extent.

China's status in the world

China has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. According to a United Nations report, China alone is responsible for the global decline in poverty. China’s universities have graduated millions of engineers, scientists and technicians; its education system has allowed millions of peasants to enter the modern world.

Challenges and Opportunities

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By Makasi Motema

The overwhelming power of the people in Puerto Rico has toppled the government of Ricardo Rosselló in just 12 days. They protested after texts between the governor and his allies were exposed to the public on July 13. The messages were littered with homophobia, sexism, contempt for hurricane victims and copious evidence of corporatecronyism.

Through mass demonstrations and a general strike that shut down one of Puerto Rico’s highways, demonstrators made it impossible for the governor to stay in office. Now, the government of Puerto Rico is in chaos as elected officials scramble to find a successor.

Rosselló’s successor would have been former Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín, but he resigned before Rosselló did. The scandal brought on by the texts, as well as the indictment of two administration officials for money laundering, have caused Rosselló’s troubles, according to the search for the next governor more complicated.

Rosselló’s solution was to rush the appointment of his chosen successor, Pedro Pierluisi, as the new secretary of state. Pierluisi was appointed secretary of state and quickly sworn in as governor Aug. 2, following Rosselló’s official resignation.

However, while Pierluisi was confirmed—by the Puerto Rican House of Representatives, the Puerto Rican Senate did not have time to confirm him as secretary of state before he assumed the office. This move, according to Rosselló, was an appointment as governor illegitimate—a position quickly upheld by the courts. In less than 20 days, two governors were forced to leave office.

The sloppy and rushed appointment of Pierluisi was done as a concession—not to the people of Puerto Rico, but to the capitalist ruling class. Pierluisi is a long-time politician and corporate lobbyist. And while he professed intentions of challenging the austerity program—known as PROMESA, forced on Puerto Rico by the U.S.—his brother-in-law serves on the governing board of that agency.

The PROMESA austerity programs put in place over the last two years were a major cause of the outrage that drove the protests to oust Rosselló. The attempt to install Pierluisi was a shoddy sleight of hand to maintain the financial dictatorship in place on the island.

The next in line is Justice Secretary Wanda Vásquez. But Vásquez has made it clear from the beginning that she does not want the position. The people of Puerto Rico have made it equally clear that they feel the same way: Calls for Vásquez’s resignation began before Rosselló was officially out the door.

The colonial puppets of the capitalist class are in complete disarray, and the scramble for power is becoming more and more desperate. Jennifer González-Colón, a nonvoting member of the U.S. House of Representatives (as a colony, Puerto Rico has no true representation in the U.S. Congress), is rumored to be the favorite. But Puerto Rican Senate Majority Leader Thomas Rivera Schatz, who did not confirm Pierluisi as secretary of state and then filed a lawsuit against his government, is an obvious competitor.

It’s impossible to say who will come out on top in this petty political knife fight. But what this conflict shows is the weakness of the U.S. capitalist class on the island of Puerto Rico.

For decades, Wall Street has used the island as its tropical piggy bank, finally smashing it open with brutal austerity in 2017. But the people of Puerto Rico have turned the tables. They have made it clear that no governor chosen by the colonial administration is acceptable. While an official power vacuum exists in the U.S. Senate, the last month has shown that on the island of Puerto Rico, it is the people who rule.
Guatemala signs ‘Safe Third Country’

By Sam Ordóñez

The governments of the U.S. and Guatemala on Aug. 8 signed a “Safe Third Country” agreement, forcing migrants applying for asylum in the U.S. to do so from Guatemala. This agreement is part of the Trump administration’s broader efforts to prevent migrants from entering the U.S. These include the construction of a racist border wall and a recent ruling, currently tied up in the courts, that would disqualify migrants from applying for asylum in the U.S. if they had passed through neighboring countries without applying for asylum there.

The agreement relies on an exemption in U.S. laws on asylum application that invalidates applications from migrants who pass through so-called “Safe Third Countries” en route to the U.S. However, the law provides no definition of a “safe third country,” and until now the only country to have signed such an agreement is Canada.

In Guatemala, critics of the agreement—including both second-round presidential candidates, the Constitutional Court and social movements—have argued that there is no way Guatemala could be considered a safe country.

One of the most repeated points raised against the agreement is the simple fact that Guatemalan nationals themselves are a large percentage of the migrants arriving at the southern U.S. border. The violence, poverty and climate-change-induced droughts that cause people to flee the country are cited as evidence that Guatemala is not equipped to receive the asylum seekers the U.S. plans to send it.

Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Affairs Sandra Jovel stated during an Aug. 6 public meeting with one of the presidential candidates that she could not disclose the estimated number of migrants the country would be expected to receive, due to concerns that human trafficking networks might use that information. (tinyurl.com/y3p9mhdtc— in Spanish) If Guatemala were truly a “Safe Third Country,” there would be no need to hide this information from organized crime!

U.S. tries to hide its crimes by exporting them

The U.S. government, with its expan- sive intelligence apparatus and historical control over the region, is perfectly aware that Guatemala is unprepared and unable to meet the humanitarian obligations of feeding and housing asylum seekers.

However, the conditions in the U.S. border concentration camps and the president’s encouragement of extraju- dicial violence against migrants are enough to show that the U.S. does not actually care about crimes against humanity committed against migrants.

The true purpose of the Safe Third Country agreement is to create a layer of plausible deniability with respect to the treatment of migrants. Instead of sending concentration camps on the border with Mexico, they would rather turn Guatemala itself into such a camp.

The neoliberal relationship between Guatemala and the U.S. means that even if the U.S. washes its hands of the con- centration camps by exporting them to Guatemala, the same white suprem- acist, imperialist, capitalist ruling class is designing the policies.

This is not the first instance of the U.S. trying to sanitize its image without fundamentally changing its anti-mi- grant policy. Earlier this year, threats of tariffs and even stricter border controls forced the Mexican government to imple- ment harsher security measures against migrants traveling through on their way to the U.S.

Guatemalan government bows to economic coercion

As soon as the news broke that the Guatemalan government was in negotia- tions to sign the anti-migrant agreement with the U.S., the Constitutional Court issued a ruling that any such agreement would require congressional approval.

This move was intended to delay or even block the agreement, while forcing the government to make its intentions public and allow for democratic debate. It was significant enough that President Jimmy Morales was forced to temporar- ily back off and make public statements denying that he was negotiating any agreement, although he had scheduled a trip to Washington that same week with- out stating a reason.

The response from the White (Soviet) House was to almost immediately threaten to freeze remit- tances, impose tariffs or even impose a travel ban on Guatemalan nationals. A few days after Donald Trump announced that these options were being considered, the Guatemalan interior minister signed the agreement, without any congressional input.

Beyond demonstrating the coward- ice and subservience of the Guatemalan ruling class to the interests of U.S. impe- rialism, this series of events illustrates the mechanisms of imperial control in Central America.

Guatemala is primarily an export-orien- ted agricultural economy, growing coffee, bananas, palm oil and other cash crops for sale on the international market. The U.S. is the single biggest customer for Guatemala, absorbing approximately 40 percent of its agricultural exports.

On the other side of the economic relationship, remittances (money sent to Guatemala from citizens living in the U.S.) account for approximately 12 percent of the country’s gross domes- tic product. Many families, especially in rural areas, depend on relatives living and working in the U.S. for a major or even primary source of their income.

Between its ability to export products and a heavy reliance on remittances, the Guatemalan economy is doubly depend- ent on its northern neighbor. This double dependency becomes a triple dependency when one accounts for foreign capital investment. This forms the economic basis of the political subservience of the Guatemalan ruling class, who are really only partners in the business of exploit- ing Guatemalan workers and peasants.

Student, Indigenous and campesino resistance

The people of Guatemala, unlike its rulers, have never accepted imperial definitions, whether from Spain, England or the U.S., without a fight. The response to this most recent decree has been no dif- ferent, and mobilizations began almost as soon as images appeared in the news showing the interior minister signing the agreement.

The public outcry has been so great that both presidential candidates in this month’s runoff election have been forced to publicly condemn the agreement, though they are unlikely to put up any real opposition after the election.

Because of the Constitutional Court ruling, special sessions of Congress were called to ratify the agreement. The first was disrupted by students at the public University of San Carlos (USAC), who prevented the session from voting. Another session was called for two days later. It failed to reach a quorum after an even larger protest, once again led by the students, formed outside the building where it was being held.

While demonstrating against the agreement, the USAC students began an occupation of the campus, with the twin demands of dropping the agreement and rolling back measures they fear are a pre- cursor to privatization of the university. This occupation has spread quickly, with students occupying 24 university centers across the country.

The occupation has included university clinics, so medical students have set up community clinics to continue providing care to students and working communities.

On Aug. 6, protesters blocked roads in most regions of the country, rejecting the agreement, standing in solidarity with the students and raising so many demand- ing demands, such as renationalization of the electric company. The action was called by COODECA, an Indigenous and campesino organization whose presi- dential candidate, Thelma Cabrera, had shocked the political establishment by winning the majority in the first round of presidential elections.

The Guatemalan government has started efforts to block the agreement from the Safe Third Country agreement— its masters in Washington have left it no choice. But the righteous anger of the Guatemalan masses over this injustice is quickly becoming too great for the gov- ernment to control, even with the backing of the U.S. ☑

A revolutionary understanding of the national question

Continued from page 5

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and more.

And while Bernie Sanders claims to be a “socialist,” he hasn’t specifically mentioned the attacks on The Squad or defended them, although he has come out in general against Trump’s racist and xenophobic language. This is the same Bernie Sanders who only mentioned Black Lives Matter during his 2016 bid for the presidency when Black protesters heckled him at one of his campaign rallies.

The burning question now is what is next in this ongoing struggle against rac- ism—especially with the presidential elections about 16 months away?

The City Council of Charlotte, N.C.— where the Republican National Convention is to take place in August 2020— voted 9-2 on July 23 to condemn Trump’s racist remarks. This action was similar to the July 16 vote by the House of Representatives that condemned Trump as a racist. But these are symbolic, nonbinding votes.

Is the Charlotte City Council going to cancel the convention? Hell, no! It will bring in millions of dollars. And while Democrats like Nancy Pelosi may have called out Trump on his racism, they will not go so far as to do so in solidarity with the Squad or demand the closing of those horrific detention cen- ters. The Democrats could easily take that action because they have the resources and allegiance of a large sector of the masses, including the trade unions.

But the Democratic Party leadership fears a mass mobilization in the streets that would become more independent, move more and more to the left, and be driven by militancy.

We must continue to defend the Squad— or any other prominent figures, politicians or not, attacked by racists. We must be ready to establish that defense from any endorsement of the two major bourgeois parties, which will do and say anything to occupy the White House. These are the days when radical institutions that administer class rule.

We must continue to organize and unite to defend the Squad, to shut down mass incarceration, to shut down police brutality, to shut down all forms of white supremacy. This can all lead to a complete shutdown of capitalism—toward realizing a socialist future. Build international soli- darity! Build a Workers World!
Cyntoia Brown, an African-American woman who was incarcerated for 15 years for the “crime” of self-defense, was finally freed Aug. 7 from a Nashville, Tenn., prison. Brown, now 31 years old, was granted clemency on Jan. 7 by former Gov. Bill Haslam.

A Workers World article from Jan. 15 explains Brown’s case: “Brown was sentenced to life in prison for killing a white male sexual predator who solicited her for sex when she was just 16 years old. As a child, Brown suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome and homelessness, and as a juvenile she was a victim of multiple rapes. Her case has helped shine a bright spotlight on global sex trafficking, especially that targeting young people of color regardless of gender expression or national borders.”

The article also raised the question of why Brown had to spend an extra nine months in prison after clemency was granted. Even with her release, Brown will have to spend the next 10 years on parole. This means that if the state — the judicial system — deems that Brown violates the conditions of her parole, she could return to prison to serve more of her original outrageous 51-year sentence that began with her arrest in 2004.

Brown’s tragic case is not isolated in a society filled with racism, misogyny and lesbian, gay, bi, and trans oppression. If it weren’t for the mass support and publicity on Facebook and Twitter at the hashtags #MeTooMovement and #FreeCyntoiaBrown, she would just be a faceless women and gender-oppressed people who are languishing in prison for defending themselves against racist and sexist abuse and assault.

All too often capitalist laws protect the rapists and not the survivors, especially those who dare to speak up and speak out, not only for themselves but for others. Just ask the hundreds of teens who were convicted of sexual assault and violence against minors in February 2018.

In 1974, Joanne Little, a Black woman, killed the white jailer who attempted to rape her in Washington, D.C. She was the first woman ever to be acquitted in a murder trial on the grounds of self-defense against sexual violence. What was decisive in achieving this historic legal decision on Aug. 22, 1975, was a national and international “Free Joanne Little” campaign, which included countless protests.

Workers World Party participated in that struggle. Cyntoia Brown received her General Education Diploma and a bachelor’s degree while in prison. She also mentored at-risk youth. Meanwhile, the criminal justice system stole 15 years of her life.

In the state of Tennessee alone, there are over 180 prisoners whose life sentences began when they were convicted as juveniles for crimes against children. This law helps to expose that prisons and detention centers for minors are concentration camps for the poor and oppressed.

The National Women’s Law Center echoed the sentiments of many on their Aug. 6 Twitter feed: “We’re glad Cyntoia Brown is finally free — but we must not forget that she never should have been in prison in the first place. We must continue to seek justice for survivors like her.”

The following excerpt from “Expanding Empire — The global war drive of big business and the forces that will stop it” was written in 1969 during the Vietnam War. The author, Vince Copeland, was a founding member of Workers World Party and had been a militant steel worker fired in 1965 during the Korean War for his revolutionary politics. “Expanding Empire” is today more relevant than ever. The full pamphlet can be found at www.workers.org/en/cmlp.html.

The expand-or-die aims of U.S. big business were relatively concealed from the American people during both world wars. The expansion of the internal market in the 1920s, 1940s and 1950s helped to make foreign trade and investment seem unimportant. And the plunder of the external world being almost unaccompanied by territorial acquisition, it went unnoticed by the great masses of this country. Moreover, both world wars were “started” by the “other side.” That is, the pressure of the expand-or-die logic was working harder on German big business — and Japanese and Italian — in World War II, than on the Allies.

For the United States, since Hitler was even more brutal, vicious and reactionary than the Kaiser, it was difficult to recognize in him merely a different type of representative of big business than U.S. presidents. It was in this respect that big business — and Japanese and Italian — in World War II, were more characteristic of big business gone mad.

The results of World War II, however, are in themselves the best lesson on what that war was all about as far as the rulers of the United States were concerned. Contrary to the wish-thoughts of many sincere anti-fascists, these rulers fought an imperialist war, rather than an anti-fascist war.

U.S. big business, the biggest owner of worldwide property in all history as a result of the war, double-crossed its Soviet and Chinese allies, who had borne the brunt of the fighting and done the bulk of the dying. It cheated and exploited its own capitalist allies — Britain, France, the U.S. allies that had backed and virtually created Hitler. It fed the Japanese militarists it had at first purged and imprisoned. It formed partnerships with the Zaibatsu — war profiteers — who had profited in billions upon billions in unprecedented profits. This was what World War II meant for U.S. big business.

And it was all more or less predictable, on the basis of the character of big business and of the state that was its political instrument.

World War II was confusing, however, because it appeared to be a war against Nazism. For the Soviet Union, it was such a war. But there was no big business in the Soviet Union. And independently of the virtues and vices of Stalin, as well as the glori- ous heroism of Stalingrad, [for the USSR] the war was a defense of a new and progressive social system as against business gone mad.

For the United States, it was a different war. First, it was a war to prevent Hitler from expanding at the expense of the United States. And second, it was a war for the United States to expand at the expense of its soon-to-be exhausted allies — Britain, France, etc. The U.S. has now penetrated into the former colonies of those countries with many billions of dollars worth of investments, and in fact, has challenged the hegemony of much big business in the “mother countries” as well.

The most powerful explanation for the cynicism and disillusionment of our age may be unnoticed to the masses, but the general situation has been all too clear: the sacrifice of 40 million lives for the “four freedoms,” the devastation of Europe, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — and then the obscene profits that were made on this “peace” and “democracy” and the like, only to see the “freedom” of a world laboring under a $12 billion mortgage to the U.S. banks, the “peace” created by the most deadly war machine in history and the “democracy” guaranteed by military and fascist puppets of the U.S.

Continued from page 7

two powers is not just the doing of Donald Trump. It flows from the growing fear of the predominant sections of the U.S. ruling class that the gamble they took in trying to overthrow the Chinese government from within has failed, just as the previous military aggression from 1949 to 1975 also failed.

High technology is key to the future

Since as far back as the end of the 18th century, the U.S. capitalist class has always coveted the Chinese market. The giant capitalist monopolies went charging in to get joint agreements, low wages, cheap exports and big super-profits. The United States opened up the country to foreign domination and the more the Pentagon fears for its economic dominance and the more the Pentagon fears for its military dominance.

The example of the stifling of international collaboration by the United States is a demonstration of how global cooperation is essential to not only curing disease, but also to the development of society as a whole. International coop- eration is needed to reverse the climate disaster wrought by private property. Now more than ever, it is the framework of private property and the profit system. Only the destruction of capitalism can bring about the liberation of humanity.

Marxism asserts that society advances through the development of the productive forces. This development is the result of social progress, fueled by capitalism. Marx wrote: “The hand-gennel you gives you with the feudal lord; the steam-mill soci- ety with the industrial capitalist.” (“The Poverty of Philosophy,” 1847) And now the revolution in high technology lays the basis for international socialism.

The bourgeoisie knows that the society that can advance technology to the highest degree will be triumphant in shaping the future. This is why imperialism, headed by the U.S., imposed the strictest blockade on the flow of technology to the Soviet Union, as well as the Eastern Bloc and China. This was done by OCOM, an informal organization of all the imperial- ialist nations, which was set up in 1949 and headquartered in Paris.

The main targets were the USSR and the more industrialized socialist coun- tries, such as the German Democratic Republic, the Czech Republic, etc. Detailed lists were drawn up of some 1,500 technological items not for- bidden to be exported to these countries. Marx explained that developed social- ism relations depend upon a high degree of productivity of the new socialist society. This abundance available to the population in his “Critique of the Gotha Program” of 1875. However, as Lenin noted, the chain of imperialism broke at its weakest link in Russia — that is, the revolution was successful in the poorer backward capitalist country. The result was that an advanced social system was established on an insufficient material foundation. This gave rise to many, many contradic- tions. The countries that revolutions correctly called socialist were in fact imperialist countries that continued to exploit their peasantry. Some countries laid the foundations for socialism. But imperialist blockade, war and subver- sion never allowed them to freely develop their social systems.

The great leap forward in technology in China today has the potential of raising the productivity of the world. Thirty years of labor strengthening the socialist foundations. It is this great leap forward that is fueling the “new cold war” with China and the real threat of hot war.

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GIs take ‘Sanctuary’ to resist war in Vietnam

By John Catalinotto

Fifty years ago, in the summer of 1969, a growing number of people in the United States believed a revolution leading to socialism was possible, even in this country. An event in August in the tumulus summer of that year revealed one path this revolution might follow.

That June, the Stonewall Rebellion in New York’s Greenwich Village opened the road to the liberation movement for the expression of LGBTQ+ communities.

In July 1969, young Puerto Ricans living in New York founded the Young Lords Party, with revolutionary goals. (The 50th anniversary this year coincided with a massive upris-}

ing in Puerto Rico that— for starters— ousted the governor.)

The Black Panther Party had become the face of the Black Liberation Movement in the years before 1969. This revolutionary organization was still growing that summer despite horrific police repression.

At the same time, the movement opposing the U.S. war against Vietnam was not only winning majority support in the population, it was taking root among the rank-and-file troops — the GIs — in the U.S. military itself. As a member of Workers World Party, I did my main political work that summer in the New York-based national office of the American Servicemen’s Union, an organization perfect for the GI movement.

The ASU aimed to win rank-and-file service members of all genders and nationalities to join the organization. This union would fight for higher pay and better conditions. More important, it would combat racism and fight for the right to refuse to be sent to Vietnam.

The ASU aimed to break the chain of command that allowed the bankers and heads of corporations, working through the Pentagon generals, to order privates of U.S. imperialism, to order privates of the armed forces to kill and die for the interests of U.S. imperialism. The emergence of Hawai’i Sanctuary showed one way that break in the chain of command might take place.

Hawai’i Sanctuary begins

That I was present at the beginning of the Sanctuary was almost a fluke. The anti-war movement in Hawai’i — the Hawai’iResistance — was a language student at the University of Hawai’i named Susan Steinman, had invited ASU Chairperson Andy Stapp to speak at a demonstration in Waikiki Beach in Honolulu on Aug. 10. Stapp’s spouse was about to give birth, so he sent me in his place.

Hawai’i Resistance announced and promoted the Civilian Walk for Peace that Aug. 10, the date picked to commemorate the atomic massacres of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The ASU co-sponsored the action.

At the rally at Waikiki Beach, Airman First Class Louis “Buff” Parry announced that he would end his “complicity with the U.S. military and its crimes against humanity” and take sanctuary at Honolulu’s Church of the Crossroads.

In Louisville, Kentucky, his followers Parry would have been an individual heroic protest of conscience. What happened, however, is that following his talk, one GI after another followed Parry’s example. This included a Marine military police officer who had been sent to apprehend any GIs who were absent without official leave (AWOL).

That evening, we counted eight service members in the Sanctuary. They and another 50 or 100 people slept on the floor of the church.

Black Marines rebel

We learned soon that Black Marines at the nearby Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station had torn apart the mess hall to protest prejudicial job assignments and racist harassment. This rebellion added another dimension to the movements shaking the military.

In an attempt to unite the military resistance at the Crossroads with this outburst of the Black Liberation struggle at Kaneohe MCAS, I suggested to the movement youths at the church that we hold a demonstration of solidarity with the Black Marines at the base entrance. And we did the next afternoon.

While this brought no miraculous development of solidarity, the next night Marines from Kaneohe brought a donation of 50 pounds of meat to the church to help feed the resisting troops and their allies.

After I witnessed that show of solidarity, I started to believe we could spread this resistance throughout the U.S. military and help the Vietnamese get the U.S. out. I wanted to believe we could stop the napalm bombs from dropping. In my younger enthusiasm, I may have been overly optimistic, but the seeds of a wide-spread rebellion were in Hawai’i.

Ever since 1893, plantations pursuing led to the U.S.’s illegal annexation of the nation of Hawai’i in 1898, the islands, especially Oahu, have always been central to U.S. domination of the Pacific. In 1969, amid Oahu’s lush tropical forests and beaches were five major military bases for sailors, soldiers, Marines and air personnel, including Pearl Harbor. Altogether, the GIs were to maybe 100,000 troops. Other tens of thousands of GIs were in Hawai’i on R&R leave from Vietnam.

By Aug. 17, a week after Parry announced the Sanctuary, some 17 GIs spanning all the armed services had joined Parry in Sanctuary and received a standing ovation from the 350 people at the church.

Based on my initial reports, the national ASU office, with support from Workers World Party, sent four skilled organizers by Aug. 18. First came Maryann Weissmann and Vietnam Veteran Veteran Stephen Lenaiuolo and, days later, two active-duty GIs who were already AWOL, PFC Greg Luxer and Pvt John Lewis, in the hope of expanding the struggle.

A tiger by the tail

The Hawai’i Resistance, the church elders and the ASU had a tiger by the tail. To continue to reach out and expand the movement needed determination, a willingness to take big risks and a well-organized and disciplined organization, united in this goal.

Instead, like most movements that sprout quickly, it had a leadership with diverse goals. There were church leaders wanting to make a moral statement, activists wanting to send a strong message of dissent but not to go too far, and a few revolutionaries wanting to overthrow the generals whatever the repercussions.

Meanwhile, most of the young people at the church were similar in their attitudes to those who were among the more than 400,000 people at the iconic Woodstock concert on Aug. 15-17 of that year. They were no part of the Vietnam War. How to fight against it was a question they had few answers to, as yet.

In addition, the Sanctuary movement faced imminent repercussions. The Pentagon — the generals had to worry that raw repression would spread the movement even further.

Even under a hesitant leadership and the inevitable problems that develop when people are confined, the Sanctuary movement grew to about 35 soldiers in the course of a month.

Another church, a Unitarian, also opened its doors. Meanwhile, the mass mutiny of a combat unit, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, took place in Vietnam. A big headline in the Aug. 26, 1969, New York Daily News read: “Sir, My Men Refuse to Go.” It was the first of 10 major mutinies during the war.

President Richard Nixon had already announced plans to gradually remove U.S. troops. The U.S. forces were to be replaced by expanding the puppet army of South Vietnam in a plan known as “Vietnamization” (in fact, it was more a transfer of air power). By January 1973, the U.S. stopped drafting youth. The plan was to replace a drafted “citizens’ Army” with a professional army relying on air power and high-tech weapons.

But in the end, after much sacrifice, the Vietnamese drove out the U.S. in 1975.

The Sanctuary ends

During the first month of the Sanctuary, the military police and military intelligence bid their time, keeping a close watch on the movement, while trying to catch and arrest individual GIs. They hovered about, picking off GIs where they could, apparently hoping the movement’s energy would sputter.

Then, after the movement had weakened and some of the resisters had left to organize elsewhere, on Sept. 12, about 40 Marines, supported by the military police, kicked in all locked doors, including those to the church. They only found and arrested eight GIs, but the police action ended the Sanctuary.

Throughout the five weeks of the Sanctuary, the approach of the ASU delegation focused on how we can continue to expand this movement until it affects the entire Armed Forces, from Western Europe to Vietnam? To move in that direction, one needed to have the attitude and the ideology that looked at the collapse of the U.S. Armed Forces as both positive and possible.

By strengthening the political and organizational development of the GIs to fight for their own class interests, the ASU was able to play a major role in working toward smashing the imperialist state.

The Crossroads became another important chapter in this struggle, even if it fell short of my early dreams and many people’s hopes. The Hawai’i Resistance continued to work with GIs into the mid-1970s, helping to organize some successful struggles.

In 1971 it began publishing an impressive GI newspaper, Liberated Barracks.

In 1969 the island of Oahu in Hawai’i was home to five major U.S. military bases: Pearl Harbor, Hickam AFB, Wheeler AFB, Schofield Barracks and Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station.

Louis “Buff” Parry moved to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where he was active in the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism.

Private Lewis and Laxer continued to resist being sent to Vietnam and continued organizing at Fort Dix, N.J. When they finally left the Army, they became ASU organizers in the New York office.

Susan Steinman never finished her degree but she continued to become the Hawai’i organizer and later a national field organizer for the ASU.

For more information on the ASU or on the individuals mentioned in this article, read “Turn the Guns Averse worldwide, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto. Or listen to his half-hour podcast, part of a series on the Vietnam War prepared by Cuomo & Co. To read the grounds at antiwarreporter. org/podcast-john-catalinotto.

Workers.org Aug. 15, 2019 Page 11

1969, amid Oahu’s lush tropical forests and beaches were five major military bases for sailors, soldiers, Marines and air personnel, including Pearl Harbor...
El Paso y supremacía blanca

Entre el 3 de julio y el 3 de agosto, tres terroristas hombres de raza con blanca mataron e hirieron a decenas de perso- nas en Gilroy, California, El Paso, Texas; y Dayton, Ohio. Tres tiroteos masivos en los Estados Unidos en una semana.

Los locutores de televisión expresaron que esto llevó el número de tiros masivos de EE.UU. en 2019 a más de 250. Wikipedia y artículos de noticias en todos supervisó su blanca. Es probable que no se denuncies todas las víctimas y muertes, ya que las personas huyeron de la escena por temor a posibles secue- sos por parte de agentes de Inmigración y Control de Armas, hasta el punto de que las personas incluso evitaron buscar atención médica por sus lesiones. Tanto el manifiesto del tirador como la histo- ria de la suprema blanca y la política imperiales ha resultado en el aumento del encarcelamiento de perso- nas de color, mientras que la "enferme- dad mental" se usa como chivo expiatorio para el racismo. Algunos demócratas han tenido las agallas de llamar a Trump un racista que alienta la violencia contra los inmigrantes y otros grupos oprimidos, pero no llegan a ningún otro sistema que no solo permite que estos terroristas de derecha no sean controlados, sino que es responsable de colocar a Trump en la ofi- cina en primer lugar!

Un miembro chicano de WWP Dallas dijo: "Solo me pregunto: ¿cuántas veces más debe ocurrir esta violencia antes de organizar a nuestras comunidades? Si la supremacía blanca no se controla, espero nada menos que otro genocidio de personas de color". Necesitamos un movimiento de la clase trabajadora que coloque a la vanguardia las luchas de las personas oprimidas, como las víctimas de la masacre el 3 de agosto. Un movi- miento que dé un paso adelante cuando las personas de color estén bajo ataque; uno que le diga a los capitalistas: "¡Ni una muerte más!

El capitalismo es brutal y terco. ¡La revolución por la masacre contra las víctimas de la masacre! Exigimos un cese de la barbaridad y la vio- lencia policial de los trabajadores históricos para el racismo. Ha ya es "enfermedad mental", se usa como chivo expiatorio de los terroristas de derecha.

Javi Rodríguez de WWP Dallas y El Paso, Texas, que fue uno de los primeros en denunciar el ataque, argumentó: "Los elementos más moderados en el Partido Demócrata son demasiado tími- dos para acusar a Trump. Los progresistas sin éxito propusieron un juici- o político por racismo después de sus violentos tiros contra cuatro congresistas de color. Pero la acusación por sí sola no haría justicia a las víctimas de estas horribles masacres. Las formalidades legales ahora tienen que dar un paso adelante cuando el capitalismo patriarcal, supremacista blanco exige un mayor control sangriento de la opresión, para terminar con los asesinatos causados por el capitalismo patriarcal, supremacista blanco. Podemos comenzar a construir el largo pero esperanzador camino hacia el socialismo revolucionario donde "la tierra se levantará sobre nuevas bases". "La Solidaridad para Siempre" comienza con la solidaridad hoy. ☐