

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/y2dsdvfj) All 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



Laundry workers in Brooklyn, N.Y., many of whom are im/migrants, fight for their jobs and unpaid wages. See article, page 8.

Editorial

Cyntoia Brown — free at last

10

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Workers World Weekly Newspaper

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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



#AbolishICE #CloseTheCamps #EndTheRaids #DefendMigrants #OpenTheBorders

PROTEST AND RALLY TO DEMAND GREYHOUND END ITS WORK WITH ICE!!!

Friday, August 23rd at 6 PM
 Port Authority (8th Ave. and 42nd St.), New York City

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- Tell agents and bus riders, "ICE has no right to do this! ICE has no warrants! You don't have to show your ID!"
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- Learn your rights: www.tinyurl.com/aclu-ride-with-rights



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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending 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 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, 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, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP 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 capitalist 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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this week

♦ In the U.S.

ICE attacks aimed at migrants and their unions . . .	1
'Solidarity and community, not migrant bashing' . .	3
People's Power stops a modern-day lynching	4
Michael Brown remembered	4
Rally calls out for justice	4
National question: A revolutionary understanding .	5
Laundry workers fight back	8
Hawai'i, 1969: GIs resist war in Vietnam	11

♦ Around the world

The new Cold War against China.	6
Puerto Rican people topple colonial puppet	8
Trump seizes Venezuelan assets in U.S.	8
Guatemala signs 'Safe Third Country'	9
'Expanding Empire' — in 1969 and today	10

♦ Editorial

Cyntoia Brown — free at last	10
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♦ Noticias en Español

Editorial/El Paso y supremacía blanca	12
Asesinato en masa condenad	12

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Vol. 61, No. 33 • Aug. 15, 2019
 Closing date: Aug. 14, 2019

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly
 except the last week of December by WW Publishers,
 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone:
 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institu-
 tions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and
 edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to
 Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY
 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available
 on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing,
 Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.
 A searchable archive is available on the Web at
www.workers.org.

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
 Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
 New York, N.Y. 10011.

‘Solidarity and community, not migrant bashing’

Statement on the El Paso, Dayton and Gilroy shootings by FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants 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? What can be done to prevent yet another mass shooting?

The main contribution to the upswing in violence is the blatant racist rhetoric emanating from the White House. President Trump and his administration send messages that migrants are "criminals" and "rapists" "invading" the U.S. These lies embolden a fear and hatred of people of color that white men in particular, like the El Paso shooter, have been spewing in white nationalist forums online.

The media are starting to call the violence in El Paso for what it is: white supremacy. But the history and depth of that violence are ignored. Long before



the current administration amped up the war on migrants, this land saw the violent removal of Indigenous people before the U.S. was colonized.

Then came the horrors of the enslavement of African people and the robbery of 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 militarizing 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 peoples.

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 LGBTQ2S 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 people before profits, and build community that prevents the alienation that leads to individual acts of violence.

5. Solidarity and community among us all: U.S. or foreign born; Black, Brown, white; LGBTQ2S or straight; young and old. That is the solution to white supremacy.

To get involved with FIRE, visit fightformigrants.org. □

ICE raids target migrants' unions

Continued from page 1

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/yy83lzlh)

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/y4365yji)

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 working 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 \$200,000 for dangerous equipment that caused the death of an undocumented worker. (tinyurl.com/yx8zy4o2)

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 Latinx immigrants join a predominantly



Children in Canton, Miss., at Aug. 11 protest against ICE raids.

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. ...

"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." (tinyurl.com/yygpmn7r)

Workers assert solidarity, ICE attacks

The Southern Spaces article analyzes tactics used by companies to try to break worker solidarity and organizing: "The industry's management employed intimidation, threats, bribes, and lies to instill fear in workers and defeat most [National Labor Relations Board] elections over the next two decades. Pitting Black and white workers against one another, as happened at Poultry Packers in Forest, became central to economic restructuring.

"This rising economic, political, and cultural logic soon led to Mississippi poultry's recruitment of immigrant labor as a form of labor control." In Forest, one of the raided towns, the Latinx population increased 1,000 percent from 1990

to 2000.

But in the poultry plants that ICE raided, Black and Latinx workers have continued to assert solidarity and fight-back through union organizing and legal cases against death-dealing capitalist working conditions.

The recent ICE raids are the heavy hand of the U.S. state apparatus attempting to smash pro-immigrant and pro-worker organizing, using an array of racist, anti-worker attacks not just in Mississippi but throughout the country.

The impact of the ICE raids on the Mississippi communities is devastating, including economically. In the Aug. 9 CNN interview, Brittany Reynoso, who was waiting in a parking lot near the Morton plant, said members of her church had been seized in the raids, and she wanted them to see a familiar face if they were released.

Reynoso added: "I've never seen Morton or Forest or any of the surrounding areas look so empty during the day. It is horrible. And I honestly don't think these communities will make it without them, because they really and truly are the backbone of what's keeping this town afloat." (tinyurl.com/y3yuo8qt)

The Southern Spaces article noted that the poultry workers are "from nearly every part of the continent. They are Black, Brown, and occasionally white; men and women; campesinos 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 world. They are deep in the struggle against white supremacy, misogyny and capitalism.

Now is the moment to unite in struggle through the International Workers' Solidarity Network (workersolidarity.net), and through local actions everywhere, to finally end white supremacist ICE raids and #AbolishICE.

Johnnie Lewis, member of UFCW Local 400, retired, also contributed to this article.

People’s Power stops a modern-day lynching

By **Betsey 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 41st 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 carloads 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 of 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



Supporters gather with signs outside SCI Dallas prison.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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 member 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 Grand 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 route at Pedestrian Plaza in Times Square, 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, led to a wave of protests that added more fuel to the fire of the Black Lives Matter movement launched in 2012. NYC Shut It Down began #PeoplesMonday — 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

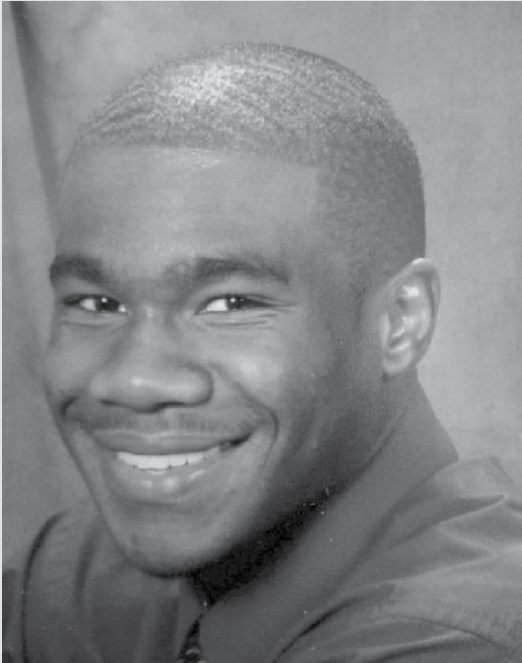
Rally calls out for justice

By **Jimmy Raynor**
Atlanta

A rally and remembrance here on Aug. 5, organized by the family and community members of Jamarion 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, Monteria



Jamarion Robinson, shot 76 times by police.

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, 21, 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 include workers and oppressed of all nationalities and gender expressions who are super-exploited and super-oppressed by the same bosses and bankers.

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 colonization launched by Christopher Columbus’ claim of “discovery” in 1492. The crimes of the U.S. were marked by such actions as U.S. President Andrew Jackson’s infamous “Indian Removal Act” of 1830 and encompassed the U.S. theft of more than half of Mexico’s territory in the bloody war of 1848. And then there was slavery — where an estimated 4 million people of African descent were owned outright after being kidnapped to provide the unpaid labor needed to farm and develop the stolen land.

That development led to a sharp economic clash between two opposing systems — slavery which served the interests of the Southern slaveowners and capitalism which served the interests of the Northern capitalists. The clash culminated in the U.S. Civil War — the opening of the ongoing struggle for Black Liberation in the U.S.

After the Emancipation and the end of that war, any hope of bringing about political equality for Black people on equal footing with white people was shattered into a million pieces with the overthrow of the 10-year period known as Radical or Black Reconstruction. The first of many broken promises — for what would have been reparations — was the failure to provide freed Black people with the self-sustaining 40 acres and a mule, along with education and political representation.

The quest for political equality was replaced by racist “Jim Crow” or legal segregation — codified by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1898. 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 position of Workers World Party chairperson Sam Marcy regarding the defense of oppressed nations as central to class unity that won me to revolutionary Marxism.

Marcy wrote the article titled “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 touches 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 solution of the national question may 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 complete the unfinished bourgeois democratic revolution by extending and winning full



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Monica Moorehead at Reclaim Pride demonstration in New York, June 2019.

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 politics 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, deploring Trump’s attempts to cut over 3 million more people off the

Continued on page 9



Painting of Black Congressional representatives during Reconstruction.

The new Cold War again

By Fred Goldstein

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

On one side was the socialist camp, based upon socialized property, economic planning for human need and the government monopoly of foreign trade. On the other was capitalism, a system of production for profit.

That the two systems were irreconcilable was at the bottom of the conflict dubbed the Cold War. In light of the current sharpening economic, diplomatic, political and military conflict between U.S. imperialism and the People's Republic of China (PRC), it is time to revive the concepts that were applied during the height of the Cold War.

Of course, it is necessary to make modifications in these formulations with respect to socialism in China, with its mix of controlled capitalism and guided socialism. Nevertheless, the conflict between imperialist capitalism, headed by Washington, Wall Street and the Pentagon, and the Chinese socialist economic system, with state-owned industry at its core and planned economic guidance, is becoming much sharper, and imperialism is growing more openly hostile.

U.S. imperialism's long-standing effort to overthrow socialism in China, Chinese capitalism notwithstanding, has been concealed beneath sugary bourgeois phrases about so-called "common interests" and "economic collaboration." But this kind of talk is coming to an end.

Washington's first campaign to overthrow China — 1949-1975

This struggle has been ongoing since 1949, when the Chinese Red Army drove U.S. puppet Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist army from the mainland as it retreated to Taiwan under the protection of the Pentagon.

The conflict continued through the Korean War, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the U.S. high command drove U.S. troops to the Chinese border and threatened atomic war. Only the defeat of the U.S. military by the heroic Korean people, under the leadership of Kim Il Sung and with the aid of the Chinese Red Army, stopped a U.S. invasion of China.

The struggle further continued with the U.S. war against Vietnam, whose strategic goal was to overthrow the socialist 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 investment, beginning in December 1978, Wall Street began to reevaluate its strategy. The U.S. ruling class began to take advantage of the opening up of China to foreign investment as well as the permission for private capitalism to function, which could both enrich U.S. corporations in the massive Chinese market and at the same time penetrate the Chinese economy with a long-range view to overturning socialism.

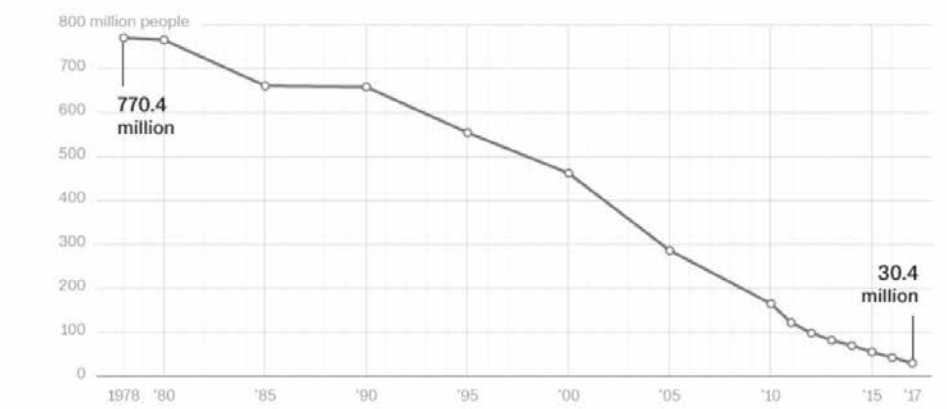
U.S. multinational corporations set up operations in China, hiring millions of low-wage Chinese workers, who flocked to the coastal cities from the rural areas. These operations were part of a broader effort by the U.S. capitalists to set up low-wage global supply chains that integrated the Chinese economy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

China is now a growing counterweight to Washington in international economics, high technology, diplomacy and regional military might in the Pacific, which the Pentagon has always considered to be a "U.S. lake" ruled by the Seventh Fleet.

The attack on Huawei

A dramatic illustration of the developing antagonisms is the way the U.S. had Canada arrest Meng Wanzhou, the deputy chairwoman and chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies, for supposed violations of U.S. sanctions against Iran — an outrageous example of imperialism exercising extraterritoriality. The Trump administration has also leveled



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China
Graphic: Jason Kwok, CNN

Chart showing the immense decline in rural poverty in China over the last 40 years.

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 manufacturer 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 alternative 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 Morning Post, 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 ballroom across from the Capitol building, an unlikely group of military hawks, populist crusaders, Chinese Muslim freedom fighters and followers 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 former 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, imposing 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 concerns 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 relationship 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 medicines 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 scientists 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 government'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 naturalized American citizen, quietly stepped



Mao Zedong proclaims victory of the Chinese Revolution, Oct. 1, 1949.

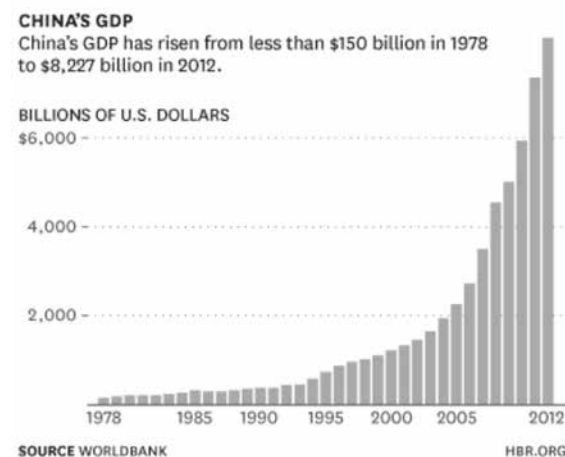
nst China

down as director of the Center for Public Health and Translational Genomics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center after a three-month investigation into her professional ties in China. Wu's resignation, and the departures in recent months of three other top Chinese-American scientists from Houston-based MD Anderson, stem from a Trump administration drive to counter Chinese influence at U.S. research institutions. ... The collateral effect, however, is to stymie basic science, the foundational research that underlies new medical treatments. Everything is commodified in the economic cold war with China, including the struggle to find a cure for cancer."

Big surprise. A world-famous Chinese epidemiologist, trying to find a cure for cancer, collaborates with scientists in China!

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.



Growth of China's GDP, 1978-2012.

To be sure, there has been a steady erosion of China's socialist institutions. The "iron rice bowl" which guaranteed a living to Chinese workers has been eliminated in private enterprises. Numerous state factories and enterprises have been sold off to the detriment of the workers, and in the rural areas land was decollectivized.

One of the biggest setbacks for socialism in China, and one which truly gladdened the hearts of the prophets of counterrevolution, was the decision by the Jiang Xemin CCP leadership to allow capitalists into the Chinese Communist Party in 2001.

As the New York Times wrote at the time, "This decision raises the possibility of Communists co-opting capitalists — or of capitalists co-opting the party." (New York Times, Aug. 13, 2001) It is the latter part that the capitalist class has been looking forward to and striving for with fervent anticipation for almost four decades.

But, on balance, this capitalist takeover has not materialized. Chinese socialism, despite the capitalist inroads into the economy, has proved far more durable than Washington ever imagined.

And, under the Xi Jinping leadership, the counterrevolution seems to be getting

further and further away. It is not that Xi Jinping has become a revolutionary internationalist and a champion of proletarian control. But it has become apparent that China's status in the world is completely connected to its social and economic planning.

China's planning and state enterprises overcame 2007-2009 world capitalist crisis

Without state planning in the economy, China might have been dragged down by the 2007-2009 economic crisis in the capitalist world. In June 2013 this author wrote an article entitled, "Marxism and the Social Character of China." Here are some excerpts:

"More than 20 million Chinese workers lost their jobs in a very short time. So what did the Chinese government do?"

The article quoted Nicholas Lardy, a bourgeois China expert from the prestigious Peterson Institute for International Economics and no friend of China. (The full article by Lardy can be found in "Sustaining China's Economic Growth after the Global Financial Crisis," Kindle Locations 664-666, Peterson Institute for International Economics.)

Lardy described how "**consumption in China actually grew during the crisis of 2008-09, wages went up, and the government created enough jobs to compensate for the layoffs caused by the global crisis,**" this author's emphasis.

Lardy continued: "In a year in which GDP expansion [in China] was the slowest in almost a decade, how could consumption growth in 2009 have been so strong in relative terms? How could this happen at a time when employment in export-oriented industries was collapsing, with a survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture reporting the loss of 20 million jobs in export manufacturing centers along the southeast coast, notably in Guangdong Province? The relatively strong growth of consumption in 2009 is explained by several factors.

"First, the boom in investment, particularly in construction activities, appears to have generated additional employment sufficient to offset a very large portion of the job losses in the export sector. For the year as a whole the Chinese economy created 11.02 million jobs in urban areas, very nearly matching the 11.13 million urban jobs created in 2008.

"Second, while the growth of employment slowed slightly, wages continued to rise. In nominal terms wages in the formal sector rose 12 percent, a few percentage points below the average of the previous five years (National Bureau of Statistics of China 2010f, 131). In real terms the increase was almost 13 percent.

"Third, the government continued its programs of increasing payments to those drawing pensions and raising transfer payments to China's lowest-income residents. Monthly pension payments to enterprise retirees increased by RMB120, or 10 percent, in January 2009, substantially more than the 5.9 percent increase in consumer prices in 2008. This raised the total payments to retirees by about RMB75 billion. The Ministry of Civil Affairs raised transfer payments to about 70 million of China's lowest-income



Socialist China has built a vast network of high-speed trains.

citizens by a third, for an increase of RMB20 billion in 2009 (Ministry of Civil Affairs 2010)."

Lardy further explained that the Ministry of Railroads introduced eight specific plans, to be completed in 2020, to be implemented in the crisis.

According to Lardy, the World Bank called it "perhaps the biggest single planned program of passenger rail investment there has ever been in one country." In addition, ultrahigh-voltage grid projects were undertaken, among other advances.

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.

The reversal of the effects of the crisis in China is the direct result of national planning, state-owned enterprises, state-owned banking and the policy decisions of the Chinese Communist Party.

There was a crisis in China, and it was caused by the world capitalist crisis. The question was which principle would prevail in the face of mass unemployment — the rational, humane principle of planning or the ruthless capitalist market. In China the planning principle, the conscious element, took precedence over the anarchy of production brought about by the laws of the market and the law of labor value in the capitalist countries.

Socialism and China's standing 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.

Made in China 2025

In 2015 Xi Jinping and the Chinese CP leadership laid out the equivalent of a ten-year plan to take China to a higher level of technology and productivity in the struggle to modernize the country.

Xi announced a long-range industrial policy backed by hundreds of billions of dollars in both state and private investment to revitalize China. It is named Made in China 2025 or MIC25. It is an ambitious project requiring local, regional and national coordination and participation.

The Mercator Institute for Economics (MERICS) is one of the most authoritative German think tanks on China. It wrote a major report on MIC25 on Feb. 7.

According to MERICS, "The MIC25 program is here to stay and, just like the GDP targets of the past, represents the CCP's official marching orders for an ambitious industrial upgrading. Capitalist economies around the globe will have to face this strategic offensive.

"The tables have already started to turn: Today, China is setting the pace in many emerging technologies — and watches as the world tries to keep pace."

The MERICS report continues, "China has forged ahead in fields such as next-generation IT (companies like Huawei and ZTE are set to gain global dominance in the roll-out of 5G networks), high-speed railways and ultrahigh voltage electricity transmissions. More than 530 smart manufacturing industrial parks have popped up in China. Many focus on big data (21 percent), new materials (17 percent) and cloud computing (13 percent). Recently, green manufacturing and the creation of an "Industrial Internet" were given special emphasis in policy documents, underpinning President Xi Jinping's vision of creating an 'ecological civilization' that thrives on sustainable development.

"China has also secured a strong position in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), new energy and intelligent connected vehicles. ...

"Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) continue to play a critical role for the development of strategic industries and high-tech equipment associated with MIC25. In so-called key industries like telecommunications, ship building, aviation and high-speed railways, SOEs still have a revenue share of around 83 percent. In what the Chinese government has identified as pillar industries (for instance electronics, equipment manufacturing, or automotive) it amounts to 45 percent."

Breakup of U.S.-China relationship inevitable

The tariff war between the U.S. and China has been going back and forth. It may or may not be resolved for now or may end up in a compromise. The Pentagon's provocations in the South China Sea and the Pacific are unlikely to subside. The witch hunt against Chinese scientists is gaining momentum.

The U.S. has just appropriated \$2.2 billion for arms to Taiwan. National Security Adviser and war-hawk John Bolton recently made a trip to Taiwan. The president of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, made a recent stopover in the U.S. on the way to the Caribbean and is scheduled to make another one on the way back.

All these measures indicate the end of rapprochement between Beijing and Washington. This breakup between the

Continued on page 10

Puerto Rican people topple colonial puppets

By Makasi Motema

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

Through mass demonstrations and a general strike that shut down one of Puerto Rico’s major 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 thinned out Rosselló’s cabinet, making the search for the next governor more complicated.

Rosselló’s solution was to rush the



People demand resignation of yet another stooge of Wall Street.

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 of governor. This made Pierluisi’s 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 Vázquez. But Vázquez 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 Vázquez’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. Jenniffer 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 governorship, 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 executive branch, the last month has shown that on the island of Puerto Rico, it is the people who rule. □

Trump seizes Venezuelan assets in U.S.

By Marco Teruggi
Caracas

First published in pagina12.org.ar on Aug. 7. Translation by Michael Otto.

President Donald Trump has taken a new step to strangle Venezuela: He signed an executive order Aug. 5 to freeze Venezuelan assets in the United States. “All assets and interests of the Venezuelan government that are in the U.S. are blocked and cannot be transferred, purchased, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise negotiated,” the text states.

Trump announced his decision a few days after he said he was evaluating the possibility of imposing a “quarantine” against Venezuela. In that way Venezuela joins the list of countries facing attacks from Washington, including Cuba, Iran, Syria and North Korea.

“This is the first time in 30 years that we are imposing an asset freeze against a government in this hemisphere. ... It worked in Panama, it worked once in Nicaragua, and it’s going to work there again, and it’s going to work in Venezuela and Cuba,” said U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton in Lima, Peru on Aug. 6.

This economic measure is one more step on the road taken beginning with the presidential decree that Barack

Obama signed in 2015. This year it escalated to the highest level that an economic blockade can reach. Thus, Venezuelan state accounts in the U.S. were frozen and assets like those of the oil company CITGO were stolen. PDVSA [Venezuela’s state-owned oil company] is the largest shareholder [in CITGO]. Food import chains were also cut, in addition to other unilateral actions.

The majority of the opposition forces welcomed Trump’s decision, including Juan Guaidó [the self-nominated “president” of Venezuela], who claimed that [the blockade] will affect only the government and not the Venezuelan population.

Bolton, who attended a meeting [of 60 countries] convened by the Peruvian government as part of the Lima Group, said: “We take this step to deny [Venezuelan President Nicolás] Maduro access to the global financial system and to further isolate him internationally. We want to send a message to third parties wanting to do business with the Maduro regime: There’s no need to risk your business interests in the U.S.” (New York Times, Aug. 6)

Washington’s decision came a week after the Bolivarian government and the opposition [forces] held their fifth meeting in Barbados, which was mediated by the Norwegian government. In this regard, Bolton said: “We will not fall



Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza accused the U.S. of boycotting the Barbados negotiations.

into these old tricks of a tired dictator.... Now is the time for action.” [apnews.com, Aug. 7]

Washington’s two-pronged attack

Thus, the North American government gave two signals within 24 hours with a single aim: the attack on the Barbados dialogues and the twofold economic assault against the Venezuelan government, as Washington claims. But in reality, [the latter] is aimed against the Venezuelan economy and population as a whole.

Washington’s statements were aimed simultaneously against the governments of Russia and China. [Bolton declared] that support for the Venezuelan government “could affect the payment of its

debt after the fall of Maduro.” (Orinoco Tribune, Aug. 6)

This geopolitical dimension takes on a pivotal role, since the support of both governments for constitutional order — and consequently, for Maduro — has provided diplomatic and economic support, as well as deterrence, in confronting various U.S. actions.

The Venezuelan government, through Foreign Minister Jorge Arazzea, described Trump’s executive order as a “new and serious aggression.” Vice President Delcy Rodríguez asserted at a press conference that the sanctions would “affect public and private entities and the availability of the country’s foreign currency, completely violating international law and endangering the lives of Venezuelans.”

The U.S. [government] maintains that its actions seek to accelerate the tempo in order to force Nicolás Maduro’s departure before the presidential elections. Diverse siege operations are increasing. They are diplomatic, military [unauthorized flights over Venezuelan airspace], economic and open threats against other countries [especially Cuba, Russia and China] that are allied with Caracas. The option of dialogue leading to a negotiated agreement does not appear to be on the U.S. list of options in this phase of the conflict. □

Laundry workers fight back

New York — The Laundry Workers Center organized a spirited demonstration on Aug. 5 in front of the Brooklyn home of the owners of Sunshine Laundromat. These bosses had fired workers who dared to fight back against wage theft and unsafe working conditions. For 15 years, the company refused to pay the workers minimum wage or overtime.

This February, the workers initiated a struggle against these conditions and won the minimum wage and a safer work environment. Then, on June 15, the owners announced they were closing the

laundromat and laying off the workers. However, the owners are not really closing the laundromat; they just gave it a different name.

The activists were there to let the community know what these bosses have done to these workers and to force the owners to rehire the workers. Many people in the neighborhood expressed support. As with other campaigns, the Laundry Workers Center is confident that the workers will win.

— Report and photo by
Toni Arenstein



Caving to imperial threats

Guatemala signs ‘Safe Third Country’

By Sam Ordóñez

The governments of the U.S. and Guatemala on July 26 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 that 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/y3pmhtdc—in Spanish) If Guatemala were truly a “Safe Third Country,” there would be no reason to hide this information from organized crime!

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

The U.S. government, with its expansive 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 extrajudicial violence against Latin Americans 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 building concentration camps on the border with Mexico, they would rather turn Guatemala itself into such a camp.

The neocolonial relationship between Guatemala and the U.S. means that even if the U.S. washes its hands of the concentration camps by exporting them to Guatemala, the same white supremacist, imperialist, capitalist ruling class is designing the policies.

This is not the first instance of the



Poverty and climate-change-induced drought cause families to flee Guatemala.

U.S. trying to sanitize its image without fundamentally changing its anti-migrant policy. Earlier this year, threats of tariffs and even stricter border controls forced the Mexican government to implement 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 negotiations 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 temporarily back off and make public statements denying that he was negotiating any agreement, although he had scheduled a trip to Washington that same week without stating a reason.

The response from the White (Supremacist) House was to almost immediately threaten to freeze remittances, 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 cowardice and subservience of the Guatemalan ruling class to the interests of U.S. imperialism, this series of events illustrates the mechanisms of imperial control in Central America.

Guatemala is primarily an export-oriented 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 domestic 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 dependent 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 junior partners in the business of exploiting Guatemalan workers and peasants.

Student, Indigenous and campesino resistance

The people of Guatemala, unlike its rulers, have never accepted imperial decrees, whether from Spain, England or the U.S., without a fight. The response to this most recent decree has been no different, 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, several 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 precursor 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 checkups for surrounding communities.

On Aug. 6, protesters blocked roads in most regions of the country, rejecting the agreement, standing in solidarity with the students, and raising several long-standing demands, such as renationalization of the electric company. The action was called by CODECA, an Indigenous and campesino organization whose presidential candidate, Thelma Cabrera, had shocked the political establishment by winning fourth place in the first round of presidential elections.

The Guatemalan government has stubbornly refused to back down 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 government 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 racism—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 mobilize the masses in solidarity with the Squad or demand the closing of those horrific detention centers. 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 to militancy.

We must continue to defend the Squad—or any other prominent figures, politicians or not, attacked by racists. We must also continue to distinguish that defense from any endorsement of the two major bourgeois parties, which will do and say anything to occupy the White House, Congress and other capitalist institutions that administer class rule.

We must continue to organize and unite to shut down the camps, 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 solidarity! Build a Workers World! □

Cyntoia Brown — free at last

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 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, 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 riddled with racism, misogyny and lesbian, gay, bi and trans oppression. If it weren’t for the mass support Brown received from prominent figures like popular singer and actor Rihanna and publicity on Facebook and Twitter at the hashtags #MeToo Movement and #Free CyntoiaBrown, she would just be one of the countless, 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 teenage gymnasts whose abuser, Dr. Larry Nassar, was protected for decades by his employers, Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, until he was convicted of seven counts of criminal sexual assault against minors in February 2018.

In 1974, Joann Little, a Black woman, killed the white jailer who attempted to rape her in Washington, N.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 Joann 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. This is a crime against humanity. It helps to expose that prisons and detention centers for migrants 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 has finally been freed — 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.” □

‘Expanding Empire’ — in 1969 and today

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 1950 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/cm/empire.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.

Furthermore, 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 is only today in retrospect that many progressives can clearly see him

as the prototype of what some American representatives of the corporations have already become today. World War II seemed, even more than World War I, to be fought “to make the world safe for democracy.”

The results of World War II, however, are in themselves the best lecture 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, Belgium, Holland, etc. — using Marshall Plan “aid” to honeycomb these countries with U.S. investments.

It hobnobbed with its wealthiest Nazi “enemies,” building up their industries, collaborating with the very banks that had backed and virtually created Hitler. It freed the Japanese militarists it had at first purged and imprisoned. It formed partnerships with the Zaibatsu monopolists who had bombed Pearl Harbor. And it raked 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 glorious heroism of Stalingrad, [for the USSR] the war was a defense of a new and progressive social system as against big 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 billion dollars worth of investments, and in fact, has challenged the hegemony of much of big business in the “mother countries” as well.

The most powerful explanation for the cynicism and disillusionment of our age may be unknown to the masses, but the general situation has been all too clear: the sacrifice of 40 million lives for the “four freedoms,” for “peace” and “democracy” and the like, only to see the “freedom” of a world laboring under a \$112 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. □

The new Cold War against China

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 Chinese socialism 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 when China “opened up” at the end of the 1970s.

But the stronger the socialist core of the PRC becomes, the more weight it carries in the world and, above all, the stronger China becomes technologically, the more Wall Street fears for its economic

dominance and the more the Pentagon fears for its military dominance.

The example of the stifling of international collaboration on cancer research 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 cooperation is needed to reverse the climate disaster wrought by private property. None of this can be carried out within 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 from primary communism to slavery, feudalism and capitalism. Marx wrote: “The hand-mill gives you society with the feudal lord; the steam-mill society 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 COCOM, an informal organization of all the imperialist countries, which was created in 1949 and headquartered in Paris.

The main targets were the USSR and the more industrialized socialist countries, such as the German Democratic Republic, the Czech Republic, etc. Detailed lists were drawn up of some 1,500 technological items that were forbidden to be exported to these countries.

Marx explained that developed socialist relations depend upon a high degree of the productivity of labor and the resulting 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 poorest, most backward capitalist country. The result was that an advanced social system was established on an insufficient material foundation. This gave rise to many, many contradictions. The countries that revolutionaries correctly called socialist were in fact really aspiring to socialism. Their revolutions laid the foundations for socialism. But imperialist blockade, war and subversion 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 labor and 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.

*Reprinted from
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Hawai’i, August 1969

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 tumultuous 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 to end the repression of LGBTQ+ communities.

In July 1969, young Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. founded the Young Lords Party, with revolutionary goals. (The 50th anniversary this year coincided with a massive uprising 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 and corporals 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’i Resistance — motivated by a language student at the University of Hawai’i



Louis ‘Buff’ Parry, GI who started the Hawai’i Sanctuary, at the demonstration on Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Aug. 10, 1969.



Front page of the ASU newspaper, The Bond, August 1969.

named Susan Steinman, had invited ASU Chairperson Andy Stapp to speak at a demonstration at Waikiki Beach in Honolulu on Nagasaki Day, Aug. 10. Stapp’s spouse was about to give birth, so he sent me in his place.

Hawai’i Resistance announced and promoted the GI-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.

Had it stopped with Parry, it 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 to 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 outbreak 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 60 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 youthful enthusiasm, I may have been overly optimistic, but the seeds of a widespread rebellion were in Hawai’i.

Ever since an 1893 planters’ uprising led to the U.S.’s illegal annexation of the nation of Hawai’i in 1898, the islands, especially Oahu, have always been central for 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 home 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 resisters 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 Weissman and Vietnam Veteran SP5 Bob Lemay and, days later, two active-duty GIs who were already AWOL, PFC Greg Laxer 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 spring up 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 wanted 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 repression from the Pentagon — although 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 soldier-resisters 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” and by increased use 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

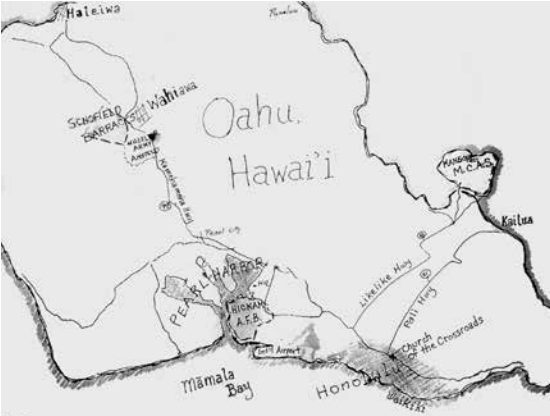
During the first month of the Sanctuary, the military police and military intelligence bided their time, keeping a close watch on the movement, while trying to catch and arrest individual GIs. They hovered about, picking off GIs where they could, apparently hoping the movement’s energy would decline.

Then, after the movement had weakened and some of the resisters had left to organize elsewhere, on Sept. 12, about 40 MPs stormed the grounds at Crossroads, kicking 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 can we 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.

Privates 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 in languages, but became 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 Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto. Or listen to his half-hour podcast, part of a series on the Vietnam War prepared by Courage to Resist, at couragetoresist.org/podcast-john-catalinotto.



PHOTO: MARIO TAMA

Manifestación contra Trump en El Paso, 7 de agosto.

Declaración de WWP/PMO de Texas condena asesinato en masa

Por Filial de Workers World/
Mundo Obrero en Texas

La rama de Texas del partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero, condena en los términos más enérgicos, el asesinato en masa en El Paso y el sistema de supremacía blanca que lo produjo.

Los informes del 3 de agosto estiman que un supremacista blanco asesinó al menos a 20 personas después de conducir más de nueve horas desde Dallas/ Fort Worth a El Paso. Su dedicación premeditada al vil racismo se expresó en un manifiesto supremacista blanco. Es probable que no se denuncien todas las lesiones y muertes, ya que las personas huyeron de la escena por temor a posibles secuestros por parte de agentes de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas, hasta el punto de

que las personas incluso evitaron buscar atención médica por sus lesiones. Tanto el manifiesto del tirador como la historia profundamente racista de las turbas de linchamiento de Texas deben estar al frente de esta discusión.

En un país y estado fundado en la supremacía blanca, debemos luchar contra el regreso de la mafia linchadora que amenaza a los inmigrantes y personas de color. Este último tirador no es único, sino el producto de un sistema imperialista que alienta y depende del racismo. Si bien los medios lo describen como un lobo solitario equivocado, el hecho de que sus ideas fueran compartidas y fomentadas en los paneles de mensajes en línea sugiere que tenía una vasta red de apoyo de compañeros racistas energizados por Trump y políticos como Ted Cruz, quienes casualmente

se toman fotos y se encuentran con miembros de conocidos grupos de odio.

Los políticos que buscan ocultar la supremacía blanca exigen un mayor control de armas o "asistencia" para las personas con salud mental. El control de armas históricamente ha resultado en el aumento del encarcelamiento de personas de color, mientras que la "enfermedad 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 abordar el sistema que no solo permite que estos terroristas de derecha no sean controlados, sino que es responsable de colocar a Trump en la oficina 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 del 3 de agosto. Un movimiento que dará un paso adelante cuando las personas de color estén bajo ataque; uno que le diga a los capitalistas: "¡Ni una muerte más!"

¡Exigimos justicia para las víctimas de la masacre! ¡Exigimos la abolición de ICE y la frontera racista, el fin de los campos de concentración, el encarcelamiento masivo y una sociedad libre de supremacistas blancos y terror policial! □

Editorial

El Paso y supremacía blanca

Entre el 31 de julio y el 3 de agosto, tres terroristas hombres de raza con blanca mataron e hirieron a docenas de personas 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 tiroteos masivos de EE.UU. en 2019 a más de 250. Wikipedia y artículos de noticias en todas partes publicaron relatos completos o parciales de los crímenes atroces.

Sin embargo, en ninguna parte de los medios de las grandes empresas se mencionó la abrumadora razón de los asesinatos. No es "falta de control de armas". No es "enfermedad mental".

Pero el hecho es que EE.UU., todas sus instituciones formales y su "estado de derecho" están profundamente arraigadas en los fundamentos de la supremacía blanca, la xenofobia, la misoginia, el nacionalismo cristiano y el odio anti-LGBTQ2S+ y un sistema de capitalismo asesino.

Esos odios alentados y practicados causaron un terrible precio la semana pasada.

Justo antes del asalto en Gilroy, el asesino entró en Instagram para recomendar un libro glorificado por los supremacistas blancos y solía justificar el racismo, la esclavitud y el colonialismo. Luego salió y asesinó a una persona afroamericana y dos niños latinx, de 6 y 13 años, e hirió a muchos otros.

El tirador de El Paso publicó un largo manifiesto, comenzando con una declaración de que su ataque fue "una respuesta a la invasión hispana de Texas". Luego condujo nueve horas a través de Texas (que era indiscutiblemente parte de México hasta que Estados Unidos lo robó en 1848) a la zona predominantemente latina de El Paso, justo al otro lado de la frontera con Juárez, México. Allí disparó

y mató a 22 personas e hirió al menos a 26 más, muchas de ellas de gravedad.

Las identificaciones de los asesinados no están completas, pero al menos seis ciudadanos mexicanos murieron, según su embajada, así como el ex conductor de autobuses urbanos de 72 años Arturo Benavides y el estudiante de secundaria de 15 años, Javier Rodríguez. También se informó que algunos de los heridos no fueron a los hospitales por temor al Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de EE.UU. Es posible que otros, por la misma razón, no fueron a la morgue para identificar a sus seres queridos.

Todavía no ha surgido información sobre la ideología del asesino de Dayton. Pero la identidad de sus víctimas expuso brutalmente sus odios. Las nueve personas a las que disparó incluyeron a su hermano de 22 años, que era un hombre trans, y seis hombres y mujeres afroamericanos que estaban cerca.

Después de las masacres, Trump tuiteó los obligatorios "pensamientos y oraciones". Pero su función real como el principal abanderado gubernamental del odio de dividir y conquistar se exhibe constantemente.

En un mitin en Florida el 19 de mayo, se lamentó de que los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza no tengan permitido apuntar con sus armas a los in/migrantes y preguntó: "¿Cómo se detiene a estas personas?" Cuando alguien en la multitud gritó: "Dispárales" y el hizo una "broma" de eso.

Nuestra pregunta es: ¿Cómo lo detenemos? ¿Y los asesinatos racistas, los asesinatos antisemitas y antiislámicos, los asesinatos de migrantes, los que matan a personas queer y trans, los que matan en incidentes de violencia doméstica?

Según un análisis de Everytown for Gun Safety, de 156 tiroteos masivos entre 2009 y 2016, el 54 por ciento estaban

relacionados con violencia doméstica o familiar. (tinyurl.com/y5oyujxa).

Nueve personas afroamericanas fueron asesinadas a tiros en una iglesia de Charleston, SC, en 2015. Cincuenta personas en su mayoría latinx, principalmente LGBTQ2S + fueron asesinadas en un club nocturno de Orlando, Florida, en 2016. Once personas fueron baleadas a muerte en una sinagoga de Pittsburgh en 2018. Y así sucesivamente.

Este es el sistema estadounidense profundamente asesino en el que vivimos. Y esas son solo algunas de las muertes por disparos masivos aquí. Eso no cuenta los millones que EE.UU. a matado en sus guerras.

¿Qué se necesitará para terminar esto?

Los elementos más moderados en el Partido Demócrata son demasiado tímidos para siquiera acusar a Trump. Los progresistas sin éxito propusieron un juicio político por racismo después de sus violentos tuits 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 supuestamente impiden el arresto de un presidente en funciones. ¡Pero el asesinato es asesinato! La creciente ola de resistencia contra la supremacía blanca en los Estados Unidos quiere ver a Trump ante la justicia.

¿Por qué miraríamos hacia el Partido Demócrata para salvarnos? Mire la historia de los EE.UU. Nada ha movido a los partidos gobernantes en el poder, sea cual sea su nombre, excepto la movilización masiva independiente del pueblo. ¡Vamos a acusar al sistema capitalista en su lugar!

La pregunta ya no es la hipotética: "¿Qué pasaría si vinieran por (llene el espacio en blanco)?" Las masacres subrayan la verdad de los manifestantes judíos anti-ICE han proclamado: "¡Nunca Más

es Ahora!" Ahora es el momento de organizarse y estar en las calles para exigir que se detengan los ataques mortales contra los negros y morenos y los migrantes/inmigrantes, y la retórica llena de odio que los inspira.

Cada acción en solidaridad con la gente de color y con los inmigrantes es importante, no importa cuán pequeña sea. Use un botón que diga: "Vamos contra el racismo" y fortalezca a todos los que encuentre. Organice una reunión de la ciudad o una reunión en el vecindario en apoyo de los migrantes/inmigrantes y cree un lugar para que se reúnan los antirracistas.

Lleguemos a aquellos con quienes trabajamos, a miembros de nuestro sindicato y otros sindicatos, a nuestros grupos de vecindario y comunidad, y formemos coaliciones para defender a los inmigrantes en nuestras vidas.

Esté atento a las acciones locales de FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) y únase. (Facebook.com/fightformigrants/) Siga la Red Internacional de Solidaridad de los Trabajadores (Workersolidarity.net) que está creando conciencia y colectividad de la clase trabajadora. ¡Hagamos del Día del Trabajo 2019 un día de solidaridad con los in/migrantes!

Si ahora encontramos nuestra fuerza juntos, ese es otro paso para romper el 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. □