

Indefinite detentions

Trump escalates fascist war on migrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

Despite overwhelming U.S. opposition to President Trump's ongoing attacks on migrant workers, on Aug. 21 he announced plans to detain migrant children and families for even longer than they are incarcerated at present, using a new "indefinite detention" rule.

Furthermore, plans are for detention centers to be run exclusively by Immigration and Customs Enforcement rather than government-licensed shelter facilities.

This maneuver is another attempt to appeal to Trump's white supremacist and reactionary base. It is dangerous because he is trying to override laws on the books without congressional approval. It is dangerous because conditions for migrants and children could deteriorate even further.

There are currently two laws that protect migrant children and families: the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Flores Agreement of 1997.

Clearly, these have not worked perfectly as, not only under Trump, but also under Democratic administrations, violations of these protections have occurred.

This is not surprising to anti-capitalist activists. As long as the capitalist system is intact, laws or agreements won through struggle will be violated, as the ruling class aims to control, rather than protect, the working class.

But Trump has taken his disdain of existing laws to a whole new level.

Trump's hatchet men have announced a sweeping plan to detain migrant families and children for even longer periods of time. The administration said this is happening in order to deter migrants and their children from coming into the U.S.

The current racist administration wants a final regulation that would overhaul the immigration detention system altogether — to fit its standards.

Violating the Flores Agreement

Since 1997 the Flores Agreement has set standards for the treatment of migrant children in custody. It stated that decent

housing, medical care, hygiene, education and nutrition should be guaranteed.

The agreement originates from a 1987 court case in which Jenny Flores, 15 at the time, and three other migrant children filed a class action lawsuit over horrible detention center conditions. The children reported they were put in razor-wired housing with adults they did not know. Abuse and routine strip searches were carried out on both children and adults.

These Salvadoran children had arrived in the U.S. much like migrants today — as a result of imperialist policies. The U.S. had sponsored and funded a civil war in their Central American nation. Over 75,000 people died, their blood on the hands of the U.S. government.

Additions to the original Flores Agreement held that the U.S. government was prohibited from detaining families with children for more than 20 days. (CBS News, Aug. 21)

Clearly this has been violated over and over again under the Trump administration.

From day one of Trump's election in 2016, he has complained about the Flores Agreement. In 2018, the Department of Homeland Security published a regulation giving DHS more leeway in detaining families and children for longer periods. It also modified the standards of care for unaccompanied children.

The new administration plan could mean that the Flores Agreement would become obsolete altogether. Under Trump's new policy, there would not be a limit to the number of days families with children could be detained. The administration wants to circumvent the 20-day detention limit in Flores by establishing a federal licensing system. This would then authorize facilities that the government could use to detain families. The new policy is expected to be challenged in court.

U.S. concentration camps now known worldwide

CBS News reported: "Officials have maintained that migrant adults bring their children with them to the U.S.

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WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

On Aug. 23, NYC protesters confront Greyhound's anti-migrant policies at Port Authority. See page 5.

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Atlanta and Buffalo meetings Deepening Marxist theory, Sept. 7-8

Special to Workers World

As the economic and climate crises deepen, Workers World Party is growing steadily into a strong force for socialist revolution. On Sept. 7-8, WWP will host two simultaneous Marxism schools, one in Atlanta and one in Buffalo, N.Y., where new members can deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge in order to become the best fighters for the working class and oppressed people.

The Atlanta Marxism School will include organizers and activists from Georgia, Florida, Alabama and South Carolina, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and beyond. Classes will focus on organizing in the South, the need for a Leninist party and the struggle against racism in the U.S. South. Saturday evening, WWP will host a public program with First Secretary Larry Holmes, who will focus on debates among the global left, entitled “What Road to Socialism?” More details for this public event will be posted on the Workers World Party-Atlanta Facebook page.

Over 60 years ago, a handful of revolutionaries founded Workers World Party in Buffalo, N.Y. Today, Buffalo is a growing branch of young revolutionaries. Organizers from



Workers World Party supported anti-Nazi demo in Buffalo, N.Y., January 1981.

WORKERS WORLD

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

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

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Massachusetts, New York state, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois will be converging on the birthplace of Workers World Party to celebrate the party’s 60 years of dedication to Marxism-Leninism and the struggle for revolutionary socialism on Sept. 7-8. Classes will include “Reparations and the National Question,” led by WW Managing Editor Monica Moorehead; “Cadre and the Need for a Leninist Party;” “China & U.S. Imperialism;” and lessons from WWP’s 60-year history. Saturday night WWP will lead a demonstration in downtown Buffalo in solidarity with El Paso, Texas, and against white supremacist, fascistic attacks.

On Sept. 8, Buffalo Marxism School attendees will have an organizing skills training led by union leaders, as well as a discussion on the party’s intervention in the mass struggle, including initiatives to fight the capitalist climate crisis, build solidarity with migrants and oppose U.S. imperialism’s growing attacks abroad.

If you are interested in learning more about Workers World Party and attending the Atlanta or Buffalo Marxism schools, please contact atlanta@workers.org or buffalo@workers.org. Caravans will be leaving from major cities that you can join if you need transportation. □

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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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Vol. 61, No. 35 • Aug. 29, 2019
Closing date: Aug. 28, 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; institutions: \$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.

Police siege creates trauma for Philadelphia neighborhood

By Philadelphia Workers World bureau

One week after the now infamous Aug. 13 Philadelphia police assault and 7.5-hour siege of the African-American Tioga neighborhood, new facts are coming to light. Maurice Hill, whom police targeted and now allege shot six officers, had no outstanding charges, nor was his address on the police warrant.

The alleged police search warrant was for a building two houses from 3716 North 15th Street where Hill rented an apartment. Police now claim they did a “safety sweep” and raided both houses at once because they believed “drugs or weapons” were going into Hill’s house “in a duffel bag.” (Inquirer.com, Aug. 15)

Police have offered no evidence that drugs were found in Hill’s apartment.

Lawyers with the Defender Association of Philadelphia point out that police officers searching a property without a warrant could constitute an illegal search.

In the same article, DAP attorney Bradley Bridge said that officers “would need to get a warrant for the second location. That’s what the Fourth Amendment mandates.” He noted that extenuating or emergency circumstances could possibly justify failure to obtain a warrant, but allegedly witnessing someone carry a duffel bag (contents unknown) into a house does not constitute an emergency.

Tioga neighborhood residents call the regular police practice of checking people for warrants “Jump-out Tuesdays.” Less than a week after the shootout, one resident reported seeing 13 police cars and increased random stops of people in the neighborhood. Another resident stated that police share the blame for what happened, noting that they knew about drug dealing on the block but allowed it to become a serious problem. (Inquirer.com, Aug. 22)

According to sources cited in the Aug. 15 article, officers from the Narcotics Strike Force broke down the front doors at Hill’s address, ran upstairs, into the basement and into his kitchen when Hill allegedly opened fire — after he was clearly under attack.

Without a valid warrant police had no justification for attacking Hill, regardless of any previous arrest record he might have had and regardless of the outcome.

And they had no justification for carrying out this occupation of a Black neighborhood.

They had no justification for preventing parents from picking up their young children for hours from two daycare centers near the shootout site. Nor for preventing parents from returning home to their school-aged children, who had been home alone for hours because of the police blockade. Nor for keeping

people from going to work, securing food or engaging in any normal activities prevented by the police blockade.

Media’s racist bias

When the local and eventually national media covered the standoff, police were portrayed as “brave,” “under attack” and “heroes.” Hill became the “gunman.” No one is saying whether the shots that injured the officers, none seriously, were fired by Hill or fellow police.

Corporate media portrayed the Tioga section of Philadelphia as a “bad neighborhood.” Yet wealthy, white, suburban neighborhoods — homes to the CEOs of major pharmaceutical companies convicted of profiting off the promotion of OxyContin — are never the targets of police raids or labeled “bad neighborhoods.”

And the media have yet to acknowledge the brutal history of Philadelphia police who assaulted the Black Panther Party in 1969, who waged an 18-month siege of the Powelton Village neighborhood leading up to an assault against the MOVE organization in 1978, and who bombed a MOVE house, murdering 11 men, women and children in 1985.

Pennsylvania’s ‘Castle Doctrine’ upholds right to self-defense

Even Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner is hedging his bets on whether the police assault is defensible. He would not disclose if Hill’s name was on the warrant and declined to comment about the legality of the police search that led up to the standoff. Krasner claimed that the alleged gunman “needed to be off the streets,” but essentially admitted that, while Hill had a long record, he had no open cases since January 2018.

In other words, police had no justification for targeting Hill and DA Krasner had no grounds for claiming, in the Aug. 15 Inquirer article, that he “needed to be off the streets.”

To end the siege, Hill eventually contacted a lawyer and arranged to surrender, hoping that the international media spotlight might prevent his death at the hands of Philadelphia police.

Yet under Pennsylvania’s “Castle Doctrine,” Maurice Hill had every right to defend himself, and former progressive attorney Krasner understands this well. Workers World was in the courtroom in 2013 when attorney Krasner successfully defended Philadelphia community activist Askia Sabur against multiple felony charges leveled by the police after they viciously attacked him in 2010. Police claimed they had been injured when Sabur defended himself.

Krasner’s argument then — picked up by presiding Judge Roger Gordon — was

that under Pennsylvania’s Castle Doctrine, self-defense is justified against police using unreasonable force and putting a defendant’s life at risk. Gordon noted that a defendant cannot be found guilty of resisting arrest for arguing with officers.

Krasner is well aware that the state’s case against Hill is questionable and told the media the case would be delayed because the investigation of collected evidence could take months.

Community cannot afford ‘months’

Krasner’s withholding evidence for “months” shows just how out of touch he is with Philadelphia’s most oppressed communities. Much of the “evidence” includes the impounded possessions of Tioga residents who, like Hill, are victims of the police attack.

Their cars, riddled with bullets, were seized as evidence with no indication of when they will be returned. Many residents rely on their vehicles for work. They blame police for creating the siege, then damaging their property and taking no responsibility for repairs.

One mother of 10- and 12-year-old children described their terror of being trapped alone for hours until police allowed her into her home at 1 a.m., where she found her children crying. A week later they still don’t want to go out to play.

“This block is full of children, always,” the mother told Inquirer.com on Aug. 22. “They play basketball, ride bikes, they eat water ice here, but they won’t come outside no more.” According to the paper, “She keeps thinking about how police treated her during the shooting, saying police didn’t identify themselves or make sure residents were safe. Their whole approach, she said, was wrong.”

Other Tioga residents interviewed expressed sympathy with their neighbors, the alleged “drug dealers,” who were picked up as a result of the police siege.

Block captain Cynthia Muse credited some of the arrested men for their involvement in the neighborhood, including holding barbecues and block parties and putting up a basketball hoop low enough that even the youngest children could play. Muse labeled the massive police presence in the neighborhood as “martial law.”

Freelance journalist Melissa Simpson, who grew up near the Tioga neighborhood, addressed social media support for Hill in the Aug. 22 article: “This is a guy who’s doing something we’ve never seen before: he’s shooting at cops ... and he came out alive. That’s unprecedented.” As for the lack of community concern for the injured police, Simpson noted, “It’s really difficult to have empathy for oppressors.” □

Honor Black August! Invest in Workers World!

Did you know the month of August holds special meaning for the Black Liberation struggle? This August marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the British colony of Virginia in 1619. That makes it the 400th anniversary of slavery — with its countless injustices, brutality and institutionalized crimes against humanity. These atrocities continue, in this white supremacist, capitalist society, to this day.

But August is also a time to celebrate the Black Resistance Struggle: From the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804 to the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831, from the Underground Railroad of 1800-1865 to the Fugitive Slave Law Convention in 1850, from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925 to the March on Washington in 1963, the Watts Uprising in 1965 and last year’s National Prison Strike from Aug. 21-Sept. 9.

A number of freedom fighters were born in August, including Marcus Garvey, Fred Hampton and Russell Maroon Shoatz, while a number died: W.E.B du Bois; Huey P. Newton and Jonathan Jackson, killed Aug. 7, 1970 while attempting to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers, who included his brother, Black Panther leader George Jackson. One year and two weeks later, on Aug. 21, 1971, George was executed by prison guards. His assassination was an important factor leading to the heroic Attica Prison Rebellion in September 1971.

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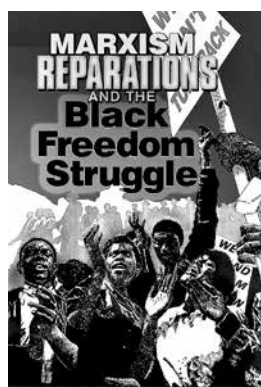


the fight against the racist, xenophobic, misogynist, anti-LGBTQ2S+ hostility tweeted daily from the “White” House.

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Edited by Monica Moorehead

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Trans solidarity with locked-out Harlan County miners

By Johnnie Lewis

Lill is a resident of Harlan County, Ky., and a member of a transgender anarchist support group (blackjewelminersblockade on Instagram) assisting coal miners locked out by the Blackjewel coal company. “Most of us are trans and the miners think that’s really cool,” she said.

Blackjewelminersblockade has been providing support for the miners’ encampment set up on and adjacent to the CSX railroad tracks leading out of the mine. The encampment began July 29 after a few miners blocked a CSX train transporting over \$1 million worth of coal. There are now hundreds of people either living at the encampment or visiting on a regular basis.

In late June, Blackjewel, one of several of the largest coal companies in the U.S. to go bankrupt, fired the Harlan County miners and about 1,300 others at 38 mines in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and Wyoming. Not only did the miners lose their jobs, but after Blackjewel zeroed out its bank accounts, transferring all funds to a separate family-owned account, the miners’ last paychecks bounced to the tune of a collective \$12 million! Plus, the company owes millions to the miners’ 401(k) retirement accounts.

Just prior to filing bankruptcy, the Wall Street Journal reported that Blackjewel’s primary stockholder, founder and former CEO Jeffrey Hoops Sr., transferred \$34 million in cash out of the company to a bank account owned by members of his family. In the bankruptcy documents, Hoops lists himself as the primary creditor of his own company, claiming that the company owes him personally \$22 million.

He claims an additional \$5.9 million that is owed him by a Blackjewel-owned real estate company which is part of the bankruptcy filing and that Blackjewel owes \$11 million to The Grand Patrician theme park and golf course, which Hoops is building on the site of a closed hospital. (news.littlesis.org, Aug. 15)

Hoops claims the funds are now unavailable to pay the wages and pensions owed the workers. The miners’ response is: “No pay, no coal!”

Building solidarity

Support from blackjewelminersblockade includes cooking, cleaning, child care, fundraising and other support. Lill says, “They [miners, families, friends] are just thrilled that people want to be there and help maintain things at camp, that people with training and experience in protest care and want to help.” Their protest experience includes building a concerted grassroots movement that helped shut down the Trump government’s plans for a new federal prison in neighboring Letcher County.

Lill and others told the miners about Lesbians and Gays Support Miners, a group that supported British coal miners during the 1984-85 lockout by the Thatcher government, portrayed in the 2014 film “Pride.”

Lill went on to say, “We are building solidarity with folks who aren’t necessarily just like us — though we’ve found that we have more in common than we don’t.” Because the miners and their supporters face arrests and jail time, Lill says she and her group are also opposed to jails: “We have asked for a hard rule of letting us deal with problems at the camp, in-house,



Blackjewel miners and supporters watch a train engine leave without its load of coal. To prevent the entrance or exit of coal trains, they have occupied the railroad tracks ever since July 29.

no cops. There is no one in denial that the prison and jail system is messed up and many of these folks have been touched by the opioid crisis and the criminalization of addiction. We have been [talking] and will continue to talk about racism and white supremacy, prison abolition and how we are wrecking the planet.

“We’ve also been surprised a few times. For example, one of the miners spent a lot of years of his life in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. I can’t reiterate enough that people from eastern Kentucky are full of complexities and painting us with a broad brush of conservatism is just classism.”

All quotes from Lill: earthfirstjournal.org; general info: teenvogue.com and nytimes.com. See a video clip of Blackjewel miner supporters at tinyurl.com/y52tzz8l.

In 1974, Johnnie — then John — Lewis wrote the pamphlet, “Till Every Battle’s

Won: *The Brookside Strike of Harlan County*,” with the comradely help of Vince Copeland, a founding member of Workers World Party and then editor of Workers World newspaper.

The Brookside strike was an important victory for all workers, not only because of the heroism of the miners who engaged in armed struggle with the coal operators, their gun thugs, and local and state police. But also after the miners (men) were all arrested for breaking a court injunction, women — including the miners’ spouses, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, friends and other relatives — took over the picketing, which included toe-to-toe battles with gun thugs and scabs.

Having struggled her entire life with sexual orientation and with gender, Johnnie is now living as a transwoman in Portland, Ore., where she is a WWP branch organizer.

Belfast workers fight layoffs, climate change

By Martha Grevatt

Workers have occupied the Harland and Wolff shipyard in the north of Ireland since July 29. They are fighting to save the last 132 jobs at the 166-year-old Belfast company, which at its peak during World War II employed 35,000 and is most famous for building the Titanic. The workers are represented by two unions, Unite and GMB.

Last year the Norwegian parent company, Dolphin Drilling, announced it would be selling Harland and Wolff. With no prospective buyers, workers learned in July the yard would be taken over by administrators. Rather than see the yard closed and stripped of its assets, they

began an occupation.

The unions are calling on the government to “re-nationalize” the shipyard, which the British government owned and operated from 1977-89. They have demanded it be kept open to build the machinery needed to produce renewable energy. The skill sets are already in place; the handful of workers no longer build new ships, but have constructed offshore wind energy and tidal power equipment.

The workers took their fight to Stormont, site of the Northern Irish Assembly, on July 31. Newly elected British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, considered a British version of Trump, was present but declined to meet with the workers. A letter was delivered to

Johnson, who has dismissed this struggle as “a commercial issue.” (bbc.com, July 30)

The administrators, BDO, who took over the shipyard Aug. 6, announced that potential buyers had been lined up. This prompted one worker to describe the mood as “buoyant.” (bbc.com, Aug. 19) However, until a concrete deal to keep them all on the job materializes, workers are continuing the occupation.

A mass rally Aug. 23 drew broad support from other unions, while the Belfast City Council was meeting to address the situation.

Left parties Sinn Féin, People Before Profits and the Green Party have expressed support for the occupation, as has Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn Féin’s current national leader for both the Republic of Ireland and the British-occupied north. The pro-British Democratic Unionist Party merely expressed “disappointment ... that there has not been a resolution and rescue package that we had advocated for and that we had hoped for.” (Belfast Telegraph, Aug. 5)

A history of class struggle

The shipyard occupiers are continuing their city’s long history of labor resistance to capital, including mass strikes in 1907, 1911, 1919 and 1932. The most famous Irish labor leaders, James Larkin and James Connolly, spent years in the Belfast working-class movement. Irish labor has long been intertwined with the struggle to end British occupation altogether and establish a free and independent Ireland.

In 2009 Belfast autoworkers occupied a Visteon plant slated to close. Visteon, created in 2000 when Ford spun off a number of parts plants, subsequently lowered wages and sold or closed a majority of its plants. The Irish workers, along with their counterparts who also occupied two English plants, won big improvements in their severance packages.

Once again, the workers in Belfast are advancing the global class struggle by employing the occupation tactic. Seizing the bosses’ property — as opposed to just walking out and putting up a picket line, as courageous as that can be — represents a higher degree of class confrontation.

As Workers World Party’s late founder and chairperson, Sam Marcy, wrote in the 1984 work “High Tech, Low Pay”: “There are means by which the workers can go beyond the established capital-labor relationship, that is, the framework of capitalist exploitation. They can seize and occupy the plants and thereby force a new and different type of crisis on the ruling class, instead of remaining in a narrow, often frustrating endurance contest between the employers and the workers.”

The fight of these conscious Irish workers to save their jobs is also part of the fight against climate change. However things are resolved, this shows the potential for a movement to politically unite the right to a job with the right to a clean, healthy environment — and to take on capitalism.

The struggle recalls the poem by Connolly, who was executed by the British after the famous 1916 Easter Rising: “We Only Want the Earth.” □



Unions rally on Aug. 23 to support Belfast shipyard occupation. PHOTO: UNITE THE UNION, NORTHERN IRELAND FACEBOOK

Protesters tell Greyhound: ICE off our buses!

By Makasi Motema
New York

About 200 demonstrators gathered Aug. 23 outside Manhattan’s Port Authority Bus Terminal, demanding an end to collaboration between Greyhound Lines, Inc. and Customs and Border Patrol agents, who have been illegally boarding buses to racially profile and detain migrants. The protest was the result of a month of planning by a coalition of migrant, anti-racist and union organizers.

Demonstrators held a speakout where migrant organizers described the effects of oppressive Immigration and Customs Enforcement and CBP policies. The demonstration quickly drew a crowd of hundreds of sympathetic onlookers.

“Know-your-rights” information was passed out. The protest ended with activists marching inside the terminal and chanting “ICE off our buses” in front of the Greyhound’s ticket station — which the New York Police Department rushed to block off.

Under the Trump administration, CBP has increased public transportation dragnets. In violation of the U.S. Constitution, CBP agents have been boarding buses and demanding passengers provide proof of citizenship. Agents make no efforts to obscure the fact that their police-state tactics are laser-focused on anyone who looks Latinx.

The American Civil Liberties Union has argued that these searches lack probable cause and are therefore a violation of passengers’ Fourth Amendment rights. Greyhound has the right to deny



Aug. 23 demonstration outside of Port Authority.

WW PHOTO: NATE CHASE

CBP agents entry to their buses, but the corporation has repeatedly refused to do so. With total disregard for the safety of their passengers, Greyhound has put the onus on passengers to know their rights and has passed the buck to lawmakers to address the problem.

However, what appears on the surface to be cowardice is actually just another demonstration of the close relationship among capitalists, politicians and armed state agents. Law enforcement exists to protect the wealth of the capitalist class. Companies like Greyhound have no interest in impeding or offending their armed henchmen.

Over the last two decades, the capitalist class has funded and encouraged the increased militarization of local and federal police agencies because they depend on law enforcement crackdowns

to suppress the growing surge of working-class outrage.

Don’t be fooled by Greyhound’s claims of powerlessness. Business and fascists have always worked, and always will work, hand-in-hand.

Continuing the fight

In July organizers put out the call for a mass action challenging Greyhound, ICE, CBP, and the larger detention and deportation machine. Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere (FIRE), the Laundry Workers Center, and People’s Power Assemblies coalesced to build a series of actions aimed at abolishing ICE and closing the border concentration camps.

Activists from all over New York City and northern New Jersey attended planning meetings, made contacts with the press and connected with transportation



Aug. 23 demonstration.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

union members.

The result was a rally that drew a large cross section of the working class — both migrants and their allies. Commuters who were previously unaware of the demonstration showed solidarity by accepting literature and holding signs.

Even the capitalist press was compelled to provide positive coverage. This success shows the advantages of patient coalition work.

Where organizers go from here has yet to be determined. Demonstrators put out a call for followup meetings. The masses’ disgust and rage at ICE, CBP and their corporate collaborators has certainly not abated.

What we can say for sure is that this action represents a strategic shift as organizers target ICE and CBP logistics and seek to make it untenable — if not impossible — to deport and detain human beings. If that trajectory continues over the long term, there is the potential for building enough mass pressure to seriously immobilize the detention and deportation machine.

Both the Trump regime and the Democrats are unwilling to cede to the demands of the people. So we will have to make changes ourselves. □

Trump escalates fascist war on migrants

Continued from page 1

because they know immigration authorities cannot detain families with children for a prolonged period of time. The administration hopes to eliminate what it sees as an ‘incentive’ by detaining families until the end of their immigration proceedings.” Since immigration proceedings have no predetermined end-point, detentions could effectively be indefinite.

The tremendous hardship and dangers that migrants face upon leaving their countries are well-known.

No parent would willingly bring their child on this hazardous trip unless they absolutely had to. The only “incentive” is survival.

Furthermore, news about conditions in the concentration camps have spilled over this country’s borders and around the world.

For the Trump administration to imply that prolonged detention will deter migration is a bold-faced lie. Since Trump was elected, at least seven migrant children have died in U.S. custody or shortly after being released. It could be more at any moment.

Yet how many times has a politician or someone in the news said in reference to these caged children: “This is not America”? It is as if U.S. history started in 2016.

Conditions — from rotten to worse

In reality, U.S. history is full of atrocities exactly like the caged migrant children. There is the mass incarceration of

Black and Brown youth right now, making the U.S. the country with the largest prison population in the world.

Africans being enslaved; the theft of the U.S. Southwest from Mexico; the robbing of Native children from their communities; the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II — these are examples of exactly what this country is all about.

Yet a U.S. senator from Oregon, Jeff Merkley, seemed genuinely surprised and outraged at what he witnessed at the detention camps, though he himself was denied entry into the camps. Perhaps the fact that a U.S. senator was not allowed into a government-run facility opened his eyes.

According to publicity about his recent book, “America Is Better Than This,” Merkley saw “mothers and children, newborn babies and infants, stranded for days on border bridges in blistering heat or locked up in ice-cold holding pens. There were nearly 1,500 boys jammed into a former Walmart, a child tent prison in the desert with almost 3,000 boys and girls, and children struggling to survive in ... border towns after they were blocked from seeking asylum. Worst of all, there were the children ripped out of their parents’ arms and sorted into cages in some profoundly warped attempt to discourage migration.” (Facebook page: Strand Bookstore)

A July 23 article in the Texas Observer confirms these horrors documented in Clinton, Texas: “[T]he nightmarish conditions attorneys witnessed at a Customs

and Border Protection (CBP) holding facility: outbreaks of scabies, shingles, and chickenpox; children in soiled, reeking clothes; a lice infestation; chronic hunger and exhaustion; kids as young as eight caring for toddlers.”

The Trump administration is planning right now to increase this detention and have absolutely no checks on conditions at these concentration camps. The impact on migrant children and families will get worse — much worse than already reported.

U.S. business as usual — or creeping fascism?

Is this administration more of the same? Is it settler colonialism and imperialism 4.0?

Or is it the beginning of something very new to U.S. politics: outright fascism at home?

It should be noted that Republican President George H. Bush used the 2001 bombing of the World Trade Center to create the Department of Homeland Security, which at the time evoked Nazi Germany to many Jewish activists.

Bush also began the criminalization of migrants when his administration abolished the Immigration and Naturalization Service, placed immigration under the DHS and began treating migrants officially as criminals. Crossing into the U.S. was no longer a minor civil infraction, but a criminal action.

Nonetheless, Trump has taken these kinds of policies to a heightened new level — so much so that even Bush, the

butcher of Iraq, is appalled.

Many pundits have compared Trump to Hitler. Both, for example, spout racism and anti-Semitism, favor mass detention and deportations, and revere closed borders.

So is Trump something new altogether in the U.S.? Or is he more of the same but on steroids? Or has the ruling class 1% decided to allow a fascist to rule the 99% since capitalism is at its last breath?

These questions and more should be studied and discussed among the left and answered to the best of our ability — especially as we approach the 2020 elections.

But in the meantime, the war on migrants, without a doubt, is a test for the working-class movement.

As German anti-Nazi Rev. Martin Niemöller said during the Nazis’ rise in Germany: “First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out... . Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.”

If Trump is allowed to win the war against migrants, he will go on to wage war on even the likes of Sen. Merkley, who could end up experiencing the fascist terror many people of color have lived under all their lives.

Trump must not be allowed to win the war on migrants.

Fortunately, every day more and more people are taking to the streets to fight back. □

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Koch's poisonous gifts

The death this August of right-wing multibillionaire David Koch immediately unleashed a spate of extensive obituaries in the corporate media. These mini-biographies describe him and his brother Charles Koch as “philanthropists” and financiers of right-wing ideas and political movements.

The media attention on David Koch's death brings to mind a quote from Karl Marx: “The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas.” (“The German Ideology,” 1845)

Capitalist fortunes come from the exploitation of labor, that is, from robbing the working class of the wealth that only workers can produce. Rich people sometimes put aside a small part of this loot and donate it. Usually they avoid paying taxes when they donate. In return for this “philanthropy,” they get their names on hospital and university buildings, museums and concert halls.

With “philanthropy” they buy respect from creative and intellectual circles they have done nothing to earn. They also buy

intellectuals who justify the ill-gotten wealth of the ruling class.

Marx's quote was subtle. Applied to contemporary U.S. society dominated by a capitalist ruling class that supports different political models — all of them pro-capitalist — it means the following: Since this class pays intellectuals for their output, that output must make no challenge to private property and the ability of the capitalists to exploit labor.

David Koch was less subtle. His father, Fred Koch, did business with Adolf Hitler and later founded the ultra-right, anti-communist John Birch Society. David and Charles Koch were no rebels from this family history. They accepted their inheritance—their combined wealth was estimated recently at \$100 billion—and used a piece of their annual income to further the ideas of their particular far-right section of the capitalist ruling class.

The Koch brothers—and other big capitalists—have taken this “philanthropy” to a more direct and blatant level. They

set up think tanks, foundations that make grants to universities and researchers, and political action groups—all to promote their very reactionary ideas. They even use organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a supporter of the Tea Party, to get legislature passed enshrining these ideas as political policy.

All capitalist “philanthropy” builds the reputation of the donor and in general disseminates ideas acceptable to the capitalists. The Kochs' donations home in on promoting right-wing ideas, with a veneer of libertarianism.

Despite the libertarian cover, Koch philanthropy is not only anti-worker and anti-environment, it is also racist and misogynist. Because the Koch foundations promote right-wing candidates, they abandoned classical libertarian ideas against government intervention to back the anti-woman attack on abortion rights.

The Kochs attack all government intervention that aids the workers and the poor. They denounce any regulation

of industry for health or environmental reasons. They promote groups that try to prevent African Americans and other oppressed people from voting.

In addition, the Kochs want no regulation that might curtail the profits made by their extensive oil, gas and chemical industry holdings. This includes paying researchers to offer arguments against climate change.

David Koch's inherited wealth worked to implant his super-rich family's poisonous political ideas into society, making those ideas one version of ruling-class ideology. His death does nothing to change this process.

Those who fight to overturn capitalist society must battle those pro-capitalist ideas as well as fight to separate the wealthy from the riches that allow them to control ideas. Ultimately, to overturn capitalism, the workers and oppressed will also have to fight against the apparatus of state power that protects the wealth of the rich. □

Trump, China and the stock markets

By Deirdre Griswold

The longer that U.S. stock markets continue to rise, the more nervous become the investors and all the financial analysts.

On Friday, Aug. 23, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped by over 600 points after proclamations by Donald Trump that his trade war with China would intensify, putting higher tariffs on Chinese imports.

What he and the big business media failed to mention is that his tariffs are the equivalent of taxing the people in the U.S. who buy these imported items. In other words, Trump has just raised taxes on the U.S. working class, who make up the bulk of the consumers of lower-cost Chinese goods.

He is raising taxes even as the U.S. government budget deficit keeps rising, largely due to enormous expenditures on the war machine, even when no wars have been declared. The last time Congress declared war was in 1942. How many undeclared wars has the Pentagon waged since then, during both Democratic and Republican administrations?

The Congressional Budget Office

estimates that the annual government deficit will for the first time exceed the astronomical sum of one TRILLION dollars by next year. That's the deficit for just one year. The total amount owed by the federal government is already up to \$22 trillion, which amounts to 70 percent of the entire annual gross domestic product of the U.S.

The banks and other institutions that lend this money to the government may be growing fatter and fatter on the interest they get, but it is obvious that everything is heading toward a crisis in which the workers will be the ones to really suffer.

Trump and China

On Aug. 26, the Monday following the big Dow Jones decline, the markets began to partially recover after Trump claimed that China had since “blinked” and a “deal” was in the making. Regardless of who really blinked, the U.S. stock markets' reaction showed how important People's China has become to U.S. capitalists as a market for their products.

It also showed how flimsy the investors' hopes are and how easily they are manipulated by Trump's demagoguery. The markets

perked up on Monday because Trump, while in Europe for a meeting of the G-7 imperialist countries, had told the press the night before that “China called last night” and “we'll be getting back to the table.”

Who from China called? No matter. Don't ask questions. Up go the stock prices.

However, Editor-in-Chief Hu Xijin of Global Times replied in a tweet that negotiators from both countries did NOT talk on the phone and that “China won't cave to U.S. pressure.” (CNBC, Aug. 26)

Fear of recession

Gyrations of the stock markets may make investors richer or poorer day by day, but the fear of recession remains a constant for a much more basic reason.

Overproduction is a cyclical feature built into capitalism. In their constant competition for a larger share of the market, the owners of capital must expand production while trying to reduce the cost of each item. This leads to rapid technological change and an increase in constant capital (equipment, plants, etc.) while reducing variable capital (labor).

It also leads to a glut of commodities

on the market, and eventually a collapse, with millions losing their jobs. Karl Marx meticulously explained how this boom-and-bust feature of capitalism functions in his monumental work, “Capital.” In such a collapse, workers may not only lose their jobs but also their pension funds, which are invested in the system.

The antics of Donald Trump may shake up many owners of capital because of his unpredictability, his exaggerations and outright, easily disputed lies, plus his disinterest in even trying to cover up his ignorance of facts. He is trounced daily by many media outlets loyal to the capitalist system because they're afraid of the damage he is doing to the stability of their system.

But progressives have better reasons to fight the Trump regime. Trump and his followers are openly racist, misogynist and bigoted. They make scapegoats of im/migrants and poor people. They cover up the crimes of the system with poisonous words and deeds meant to divide the multinational and global working class. Capitalism is the enemy, and Trump is but one of its many faces. go on. □

Yemeni communities protest U.S. military aid to Saudi Arabia

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Yemeni communities organized protests across the U.S. during August demanding that Washington stop its support for Saudi Arabia-led attacks on Yemen. These attacks are by a Saudi-led coalition in a nearly five-year-long civil war in Yemen.

The protests in the U.S. marked the one-year anniversary of the Aug. 9 Saudi bombing of a school bus in Yemen. Forty Yemeni children on a school trip were killed and 56 injured, along with 90 adults who were either killed or injured. CNN reported that the weapon used was a laser-guided bomb made by Lockheed Martin and sold to the Saudi government. This bomb was part of billions of dollars of exported weapons arranged by the U.S. government. (tinyurl.com/ycgguacb)

In Detroit on Aug. 23, protesters gathered downtown where Hanan Yahya, active in the Yemeni Alliance Committee, told the Detroit Free Press: “The U.S. role is vital, and if we are able to withdraw U.S. support, we can help end the war.” U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan's 13th Congressional District was present: “We need political courage right here in the United States to speak up for Yemen.” (tinyurl.com/y2b8dkd2)

In San Francisco, the Yemeni Alliance Committee Bay

Area held a protest against U.S. involvement in the conflict at House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office. Blue school bags representing children killed in the Saudi airstrike were stacked on the sidewalk at the Aug. 16 rally.

The U.S. has given the Saudi coalition of Persian Gulf monarchies a range of military aid to attack Yemen, including refueling for Saudi planes that bomb civilians, satellite information for bomb targeting and U.S. military forces who work with the Saudis. Recently the United Arab Emirates pulled out of the Saudi-led coalition, weakening the Saudi position in Yemen.

Nevertheless, the continuing war has created an immense humanitarian crisis for the Yemeni people.

According to a June 2019 report of the U.N. World Food Programme, 24.1 million people in Yemen are in need of humanitarian assistance; 3.3 million people are internally displaced; and 20.1 million people are food insecure. (tinyurl.com/y2vw93m2)

In November 2018, UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere declared Yemen to be “a living hell for children.” Cappelaere noted that every year 30,000 children die

there because they do not get enough to eat. And 1.8 million children suffer acute malnutrition and are more susceptible to diseases, like cholera that has begun to run rampant. (tinyurl.com/y36utxv2)

For more political background on Yemen, see tinyurl.com/y7ea4hzl.



PHOTO: CORNELIA GRIMES/PRO BONO PHOTOS

School bags representing children killed in a Saudi airstrike on Yemen at Aug. 16 San Francisco protest of U.S. military aid.

Roots of the Kashmir conflict

By Siddika Degia

India, one of the oldest civilizations, fell under British colonial rule starting in the late 1700s. With British imperialism came the dividing of people by religious groups, castes, languages spoken and nationalities, so that the workers under oppressive rule would not unite to overthrow the British empire.

The largest division was between Muslims and Hindus. Due to this, when the Indian independence movement started in the 1900s, elites in both groups could not decide on the election process for minority groups — the minorities in this case being Muslims as well as the Dalits. This led to Muslim groups calling for a separate state for themselves where they would not be a minority.

Muslims eventually got their wish in 1947, when India was split into the Muslim-majority states of West Pakistan and East Pakistan (modern-day Bangladesh) and the Hindu-majority state of India, sometimes referred to as Hindustan. The British partition of India led to the displacement of between 14 million and 16 million people and the killing of more than 200,000 to 2 million people in mass riots.

With partition, Kashmir and Jammu became one of the most disputed territories between India and newly formed Pakistan.

Kashmir and Jammu is a territory in the Himalayan region that earlier had been one of the 600 princely states of India. At that time, Kashmir and Jammu was a majority-Muslim territory,

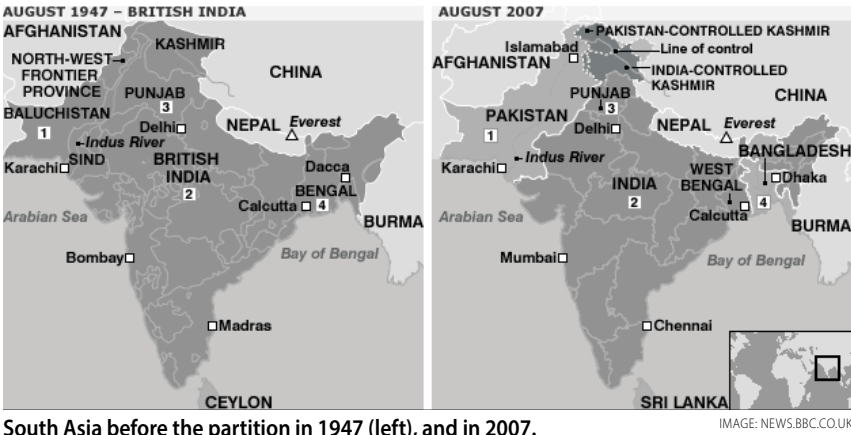
but it was ruled by a Hindu monarch named Maharaja Hari Singh. Under his rule, Muslims constantly faced discrimination and high taxes.

When the partition happened, the British left it up to the monarch to decide which country he would join. His subjects wanted Kashmir to be an independent state. But the Maharaja decided to join India in return for military help against Pakistan. India then invaded Kashmir, sending in troops by air to crush a popular movement that had developed against the Maharaja’s rule.

Kashmiris fight for right to self-determination

An intense war then broke out between Pakistan and India. In 1948 the United Nations stepped in and brokered a ceasefire. Under the terms of the ceasefire, two-thirds of Kashmir belonged to India and the remainder, called Azad Kashmir, belonged to Pakistan. The terms also stipulated that there be a referendum where the Kashmiris could exercise their right to self-determination in choosing their own faith. But this was never carried out and was especially ignored by India.

Since 1947, India and Pakistan have been fighting to claim all of Kashmir. They have fought three wars over Kashmir, one



South Asia before the partition in 1947 (left), and in 2007.

in 1990 which almost led to a nuclear conflict between the two countries. To this day Kashmir is a highly disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

Both India and Pakistan have ignored the demands of the Kashmiri people. Instead, India gave Kashmir the special status of autonomy within India that ensured the Muslim-majority state its own constitution and supposed independence over all matters except foreign affairs, defense and communications.

Since 1948, Kashmiris have fought for their right to self-determination. They have taken to the streets constantly demanding freedom. India has answered with brutal repression. Since the 1900s an estimated 96,765 people have been killed in violent military massacres.

Kashmir is a heavily militarized zone, with up to 600,000 Indian soldiers and paramilitary cops stationed in the territory. More than 10,000 men have been arrested and more than 10,000 women

have been raped or molested.

As of Aug. 26, India is still trying to suppress the people of Kashmir and Jammu. On Aug. 5, the Indian Hindu nationalist party BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, revoked Article 370, which had given Kashmiris the right to own land. Modi’s action was meant to encourage

millions of Hindus to move into the majority-Muslim territory of Kashmir.

In the face of these challenges, Kashmiris have not backed down and have been fighting back, as they have done for the last 72 years. India has cut off all communication, including internet, phones and social media. Schools and markets are closed, and millions of people are left incommunicado and besieged.

Indian police have opened fire on protest demonstrations in the capital, Srinagar, and other towns and cities. The population is under complete curfew, unable even to go outside. Hundreds have been arrested.

Since Aug. 5, demonstrations in solidarity with Kashmir have occurred all over the world. Workers World Party has participated in these demonstrations in the U.S. and has always supported the right of Kashmiris to decide their own fate.

The writer is a Muslim woman born in a rural village in Gujarat, India.

Amidst global protests

Amazon rainforest threatened by capitalist neglect

By LeiLani Dowell

Worldwide protests have denounced the unprecedented number of fires burning in the Amazon rainforest, enabled by the policies of Brazil’s president, Jair Bolsonaro. Some 25,000 fires have been burning in the world’s largest rainforest, which is home to more than 350 Indigenous groups who have resisted encroachment on their lands for centuries. Scientists consider the oxygen-producing capacity of the Amazon’s plant life to be crucial to counteracting global warming.

The number of fires in the region is the highest in nine years, and 35 percent more than the average of the last eight years, according to Brazil’s National Institute of Space Research. In the Brazilian state of Rondônia, hospital admissions for respiratory problems have tripled. The fires have spread to Bolivia and Peru.

Even before Bolsonaro assumed the presidency, the issue of deforestation had been of great concern to local Indigenous peoples and environmental activists around the world. In fact, the agricultural lands that most of the fires were likely begun on, in order to prepare for the soybean and corn planting season, were created through deforestation of the region.

Describing one such area, Matthew Hansen, of the Global Land Analysis and Discovery laboratory at the University of Maryland, said,

“Brazil has turned certain states ... into Iowa. You’ve got rain forest, and then there’s just an ocean of soybean.” (New York Times, Aug. 24) Other fires appear to have been set with the explicit purpose of more deforestation.

Bolsonaro has long been a critic of the country’s environmental regulations, calling the fines associated with them an “industry” that should be abolished. These laws are supposed to protect parts of the Amazon but in actuality are sparsely enforced. The New York Times found that “enforcement measures” by Brazil’s main environmental agency fell by 20 percent in the first half of this year.

While running for president, Bolsonaro pledged to enable industry to have greater access to protected Indigenous reserves and to merge the agricultural and environmental industries. Many say that his ascendancy to the presidency has given the green light to loggers and landed agricultural elites to clear the land for more capitalist profit making. According to Resumen Latinoamericano, at least 68 protected areas have now been affected

by the fires.

In the past week Bolsonaro and his right-wing environmental minister, Ricardo Salles, have faced massive protests in multiple Brazilian cities in response to the fires. Indigenous peoples living inside the Amazon have vowed to continue defending their lands. Handech Wakana, an Indigenous leader, told Reuters: “Over the years we have resisted here, when there was no access by road, when electricity arrived, when the invasion happened. And with each passing day we see the destruction advance: deforestation, invasion, logging.” (telesurenglish.net, Aug. 23)

Capitalism is to blame

Brazilian embassies have been targeted for protest in several countries. On Aug. 23, during a meeting of the Group of 7 in Biarritz, France, the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, threatened to block a trade deal between Europe, Brazil and three other South American countries.

U.S. President Donald Trump offered, in a tweet, to assist Brazil in combating the fires. In what seemed to be direct contrast to Macron’s warnings, Trump asserted, “Our future Trade prospects are very exciting and our relationship is strong, perhaps stronger than ever before.” (politico.com, Aug. 23)

But “assistance” from the U.S. usually comes with imperialist intervention and occupation. At the G7

meeting, Trump didn’t bother to attend the discussion on climate and biodiversity held on Aug. 26 where the Amazon fires were a big topic. Out of that meeting, a \$20 million pledge was made as a band-aid solution to fund Amazon countries to battle forest fires and to launch a long-term initiative to protect the rainforest. In 2017, Bolsonaro lauded Trump’s decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

After the fires spread to neighboring Bolivia, President Evo Morales announced an extensive plan of action, stating: “We are no longer forced to submit to ‘international aid.’” The measures included the use of a 747 Supertanker, six helicopters and 10 light aircraft to douse the fires; the dispatch of extra troops as reinforcement for firefighters; and the formation of an emergency cabinet to address the situation. On the first day the fires hit Bolivia, Morales delivered emergency food and two helicopters to evacuate affected areas.

After initially claiming that the fires might have been set by nongovernmental organizations and that the criticism against him was part of a foreign conspiracy, Bolsonaro finally made an abrupt reversal of his do-nothing stance on Aug. 23. He announced a military operation to contain the fires in six Brazilian states, claiming in a televised address that his government would have “zero tolerance” for environmental lawbreaking.

What is clear is that it will take a people’s movement to stop the continued environmental devastation affecting the lives of every person on the planet. The Global Climate Strike from Sept. 20-27 will be one step forward. Ultimately, however, capitalism itself must be destroyed. □



Climate change protesters outside the Brazilian Embassy Aug. 23 in central London.



Nueva York, 23 de agosto. Solidaridad con migrantes.

MUNDO OBRERO

editorial

“Hacer grandioso a Estados Unidos de nuevo” — el eslogan del actual presidente y del movimiento pro fascista que representa — siempre ha significado “odio de nuevo”. Ningún grupo oprimido se ha librado de los viles actos y declaraciones que emanan de la Casa Blanca todos los días.

Gente de color, inmigrantes, musulmanes, mujeres y otros géneros oprimidos, personas con discapacidades y la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ han visto cómo sus derechos por los que han luchado fuertemente los han retrocedido, al igual que la clase obrera en su conjunto.

Muchos en el movimiento LGBTQ2S+ están incrédulos acerca de un artículo de opinión publicado el 15 de agosto en el Washington Post por el presidente y vicepresidente de los Republicanos de Log Cabin que apoyan a Donald Trump para la reelección en 2020. Robert Kabel y Jill Homan elogiaron a Trump por “tomar acciones audaces que benefician a la comunidad LGBTQ”.

Bueno, eso es una montaña de

excrementos equinos, si es que alguna vez hubo una.

El día después de que apareciera el artículo de opinión, informó BuzzFeed: “El viernes, la administración Trump tomó una de las medidas más agresivas para legalizar la discriminación antitransgénero al decirle a la Corte Suprema que la ley federal permite despedir a los trabajadores sólo por ser transgénero”. (16 de agosto)

Esto ocurrió sólo dos días después de que el Departamento de Trabajo concediera a los contratistas federales permiso para practicar la discriminación en el lugar de trabajo, siempre y cuando se base en la religión. Esto tiene amplias implicaciones para millones de trabajadores empleados por miles de entidades que tienen contratos con el gobierno federal.

‘Acciones audaces’ de hecho!

Estos dos ultrajes son los últimos de una serie de acciones anti-LGBTQ2S+, incluyendo la prohibición militar de las personas trans, la eliminación de los beneficios de atención médica transespecíficos de la Ley de Atención Asequible, la concesión a las agencias federales y a los proveedores de servicios médicos de una

licencia basada en la religión para discriminar, la negación de visas a las parejas del mismo sexo de diplomáticos extranjeros y la eliminación de las protecciones contra la discriminación sexual de los jóvenes y estudiantes trans del Título IX.

Trump rescindió un memorando de la administración de Barack Obama que había interpretado el Título VII de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 para prohibir la discriminación basada en el “estereotipo del sexo”, es decir, la discriminación contra un trabajador cuya identidad de género, expresión de género o sexualidad entra en conflicto con las normas patriarcales. Ahora el caso de discriminación sexual de una mujer trans despedida ha llegado a la Corte Suprema y Trump se ha puesto del lado de un director de funeraria intolerante.

¿Necesita más? ¿Qué tal las citas dadas a individuos abiertamente misóginos y anti-LGBTQ2S+ como los jueces de la Corte Suprema Neil Gorsuch y Brett Kavanaugh y la Secretaria de Educación Betsy DeVos, quien ha prodigado su fortuna Amway en grupos de odio como Focus on the Family?

Estos movimientos políticos sirven para legitimar y alentar el odio violento que ha matado al menos a 12 personas

trans este año, la mayoría de ellas mujeres de color.

Pero Kabel y Homan siguen argumentando que las personas LGBTQ2S+ también se benefician de otros aspectos de la agenda de Trump, como los recortes de impuestos y la política exterior. ¿En serio? ¿Quién se beneficia de las reducciones de impuestos para los ricos? ¿Quién se beneficia de un presupuesto militar inflado? No gays de la clase trabajadora que asumen el costo.

¿Por qué un miembro de un grupo oprimido apoyaría públicamente al fanático en jefe? Porque estos capitalistas de la cabaña se han enriquecido con Trump. Están poniendo sus intereses de clase por delante de la comunidad LGBTQ2S+.

Mientras que a los periódicos más influyentes del mundo les gusta dar tinta a la élite gay, las verdaderas conversaciones están ocurriendo en las calles. Eventos anti-corporativos, anti-policía alternativos de Orgullo han tenido lugar en todo el país, desde Austin, Texas, a Columbus, Ohio, hasta una marcha de 40,000 personas en la ciudad de Nueva York.

La juventud gay, especialmente la de color, no ve futuro bajo el sistema capitalista de explotación — y se está levantando contra él. □

MUNDO OBRERO

editorial

La cuestión de la Palestina ocupada volvió a ocupar un lugar central en la prensa mundial cuando dos mujeres miembros de la Brigada del Congreso -Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) y Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.)- le fueron negadas inicialmente el derecho a entrar a Israel por su fascista Primer Ministro Benjamin Netanyahu el 15 de agosto, a instancias del presidente de la supremacía blanca de Estados Unidos, Donald Trump.

El mes pasado, en una manifestación xenófoba en Carolina del Norte, Trump pidió que estas dos congresistas, junto con Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (demócrata de Nueva York) y Ayanna Pressley (demócrata de Massachusetts), fueran “regresadas” a sus países de origen en respuesta a sus críticas al racismo de Trump contra los inmigrantes.

Fue la primera vez que a los representantes del Congreso de Estados Unidos se les negó el derecho a visitar a Israel hasta ahora. ¿Por qué ahora?

Netanyahu explicó la negación en una declaración: “Como una democracia libre y vibrante, Israel está abierto a los críticos y a las críticas, con una excepción: La ley israelí prohíbe la entrada a Israel de aquellos que piden, y trabajan para imponer, boicots a Israel, al igual que otras democracias que impiden la entrada de personas que se cree que son perjudiciales para el país”. (New York Times, 15 de agosto)

Omar, que es somalí, y Tlaib, que es palestina, han sido especialmente francos contra el trato inhumano al pueblo palestino, al que se le ha negado sistemáticamente el derecho a su patria desde que se estableció el estado sionista de Israel en 1947. Las dos mujeres también son firmes partidarias del movimiento estadounidense de boicot, desinversión y sanciones contra Israel. De hecho, Omar presentó una resolución en el Congreso en apoyo al boicot a Israel y a la afirmación del derecho de los grupos a llamar a tales acciones.

Tlaib ha exigido que el dinero que financia los asentamientos sionistas y el ejército israelí se gaste en proporcionar atención médica, educación y otras necesidades humanas en el país.

Al describir su viaje a “Palestina”, no a “Israel”, las dos dijeron que esperaban reunirse con un representante árabe en el Parlamento de mayoría israelí y visitar los territorios ocupados de Hebrón, Ramallah, Cisjordania y la mezquita de Al Aqsa en Jerusalén del Este. Tlaib también tenía previsto visitar a su abuela de 90 años, Muftiyah Tlaib, que vive en la Ribera Occidental.

La negación de la entrada creó oposición dentro de los dos grandes partidos empresariales, e incluso los republicanos que apoyan a Trump dijeron que la decisión sentaría un precedente no deseado para otros funcionarios electos y figuras prominentes que planean viajes a Israel. Incluso el Comité de Asuntos Públicos Estadounidense-Israelí de extrema derecha y pro-sionista denunció la decisión.

Esta crítica tenía más que ver con tratar

de proteger la ilusión de décadas de que Israel es un modelo de “democracia” en la región rica en petróleo. En realidad, Israel es un régimen racista de colonos blancos y un estado de guarnición que protege las superganancias del imperalismo yanqui.

Rechazar los términos de Netanyahu

Mientras las denuncias continuaban creciendo, Netanyahu rápidamente revirtió su decisión sólo 24 horas después, el 16 de agosto, con la condición de que Omar y Tlaib no propagaran las campañas a favor de BDS durante su visita.

Tlaib dijo enfáticamente que no iría debido a las restricciones opresivas de Netanyahu.

Su declaración decía en parte: “El gobierno israelí utilizó mi amor y mi deseo de ver a mi abuela para silenciarme y condicionó mi capacidad de hacerlo a que firmara una carta, lo que refleja cuán antidemocrático y temeroso es de la verdad que mi viaje revelaría sobre lo que está ocurriendo en el Estado de Israel y a los palestinos que viven bajo ocupación con el apoyo de Estados Unidos”. (Washington Post, 16 de agosto)

Los funcionarios israelíes afirman que el rechazo de Tlaib a las restricciones de viaje fue sólo una provocación, tratando de dar la falsa impresión de que cualquiera que se oponga a las políticas de Israel es antisemita o antijudío.

La clase dominante de Estados Unidos, incluidos demócratas y republicanos,

está unida en su defensa del estado israelí, a pesar de las diferencias en las políticas o tácticas que sus miembros puedan tener con varios gobernantes israelíes.

El hecho de que Israel recibiera este año \$3.300 mil millones de dólares en ayuda del gobierno de Estados Unidos, un aumento de \$200 millones de dólares desde 2018, refleja la fuerte alianza geopolítica y estratégica que ha existido entre los dos países durante más de 70 años.

El movimiento debe continuar defendiendo a los funcionarios electos, especialmente los de color, cuando son el blanco de la derecha, que se basa en tácticas de dividir y conquistar para mantener el status quo. Grupos como Jewish Voice for Peace han tomado posiciones de principios para defender tanto a Tlaib como a Omar. Comparando la detención de migrantes en Estados Unidos con el internamiento de judíos en campos de concentración durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los grupos han estado organizando protestas dentro de Estados Unidos. □



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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

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