Trump, capitalism incite mass shootings

Smash white supremacy!

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It’s possible that others, for the same reason, did not go to the morgue to identify their loved ones. No information has yet emerged about the ideology of the Dayton killer. But the identity of his victims brutally exposed his hatreds. The nine people he shot included his 22-year-old sister and six African-American men and women standing with or near her.

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Not “lack of gun control.” Not “mental illness.” But the fact is that the U.S., all of its formal institutions and its “rule of law” are sunk deep in foundations of white supremacy, xenophobia, misogyny, Christian nationalism and anti-LGBTQ2S+ hatred and a system of murderous capitalism.

Those encouraged and practiced hatreds inflicted a terrible toll last week. Just before the assault in Gilroy, the killer went on Instagram to recommend a book glorified by white supremacists and used to justify racism, slavery and colonialism. Then he went out and murdered one African-American young man and two Latinx children — 6 and 13 years old — and wounded many others.

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Anti-racist activists win case in court

By Leilani Dowell

Anti-racists won a victory Aug. 2 against suppression of their protest when a judge dismissed charges against two activists. The two, Jody Anderson and Enzo Niebuhr, had placed KKK-reminiscent white hoods over a statue depicting a Confederate woman and child on the grounds of the state capitol. The activists had been charged with disorderly conduct and defacing a public statue.

A statement by Smash Racism Raleigh, organizers of the Aug. 2 protest where the two were arrested, described their efforts: “Activists allegedly climbed the monument and placed Klan hoods over its two heads to properly contextualize the statue’s role in perpetuating white supremacy and reinforcing both Jim Crow-era and modern racist violence and oppression.

“The Women of the Confederacy monument, as well as the other racist statues on the State Capitol grounds, have a dark history of oppression, violence and revisionism that has consistently attracted hate groups such as the KKK, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Heirs to the Confederate to the square for the last century.”

At the Aug. 2 trial, people’s attorney Scott Holmes pointed out that there is no law prohibiting people from climbing on the monuments or from placing objects on them. He deputized Capitol Police Officer Dustin Dobson, who outrageously claimed that putting white hoods on the monument was a “hate crime.” The prosecutor went so far as to liken it to burning crosses.

In a show of allegiance to white supremacy, however, after arresting Anderson and Niebuhr, the officer actually handed his baton to a Confederate supporter. At the trial, Dobson asserted that although he had never met this person before, he deputized the supporter at the scene.

The cop and prosecutor also maintained that Anderson’s and Niebuhr’s chants of “Fuck these racist statues!” prove racist statues have to go!” represented abusive language. However, after a lengthy debate in court about the use of the expletives outdoors in a public space, Holmes moved to dismiss all charges. Judge William Lawton concurred.

In Smash Racism Raleigh’s statement before the trial, the group affirmed that it “stands in solidarity with those who face continually and brazenly arrested and benefited from a relentless attack on the monuments and their statues. We call for an end to state-sponsored racism and the removal of all tributes to white supremacy from state capitol grounds.” (Smash Racism Raleigh’s live Tweet coverage of the trial can be viewed at tinyurl.com/yy5g3l92.)

Over the past couple of years, activists throughout the Triangle region of North Carolina have challenged the presence of Confederate statues and faced the wrath of the state as expressed through cops and courts. The judge threw out the charges in this case is a victory won through the continued mobilization of anti-racist forces in the South.
We demand the resignation of Pedro Pierluisi & fiscal control board

The following statement was issued by A Call to Action on Puerto Rico on Aug. 4. The organization can be contacted at precallaction@gmail.com, on their Facebook Page: A Call to Action on Puerto Rico and on Instagram: precallaction.

The collective A Call to Action on Puerto Rico / Un Llamado a la Acción por Puerto Rico from the Diaspora celebrates Ricardo Rossello’s resignation. It is a triumph of the people already fed up with the political, economic and social abuses perpetrated by the United States and its colonial administrators against the people of Puerto Rico.

Our people demand the end of colonialism and the destitution of all representatives of the colonial empire. We understand that the quick replacement of Pedro Pierluisi as colonial governor is an attempt of the metropolis through his dictatorial Fiscal Control Board and its colonial lackeys to try to appease the just indignation of the people, reestablish its colonial control and maintain order.

Puerto Ricans in the archipelago and Diaspora, from all sectors of society, made their demands in the streets. Their protests made clear that they will not accept any government of corrupt and unscrupulous blandishments, nor the dictates of a Fiscal Control Board imposed by the U.S. There will be no peace for the empire nor for their colonial lackeys. It is time for decolonization. It’s time for a Free Puerto Rico! #RosenFemenina #Telegramate #IndependenciaparaPuertoRico #esaesdudanoesnuestra #resetelDeme #ACalltoActionPuertoRico

Union resolution: End the colonial status of Puerto Rico!

The resolution below was adopted by the Pennsylvania Federation Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters at their convention in July 2019.

End the Colonial Status of Puerto Rico!

Freedom and Liberation for the Puerto Rican People!

Whereas the Puerto Rican people have struggled under the yoke of oppression and colonial status from the United States for over 120 years; and

Whereas, this oppression has resulted in forced migration of millions of Puerto Ricans forced to leave their homes and terrible hardships suffered by the Puerto Rican people who have seen their democratic movements for self-determination brutally repressed by the corporate masters and their servants in the United States Government who seek to continue to rob the Puerto Rican people of their wealth and resources while keeping the people unemployed and in poverty; and

Whereas, the corporatocracy—using public resources by our corporate masters following the devastating hurricanes of Irma and Maria in 2017 has increased the oppression of the Puerto Rican people with the complicity of the United States Government that cynically denies the 4,000 deaths directly attributed to the storms and has used this false news as an excuse to withhold much needed aid in order to force the privatization of the public resources of the Puerto Rican people, such as but not limited to power, water, education and health care; and

Whereas, following a long and brave history of continued resistance against the corporate and imperialist oppressors, the Puerto Rican people have again recently risen up and demanded justice and an end to colonial oppression forcing the sitting government out of office and showing the world that when working people stand together solidarity they can achieve great things; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the delegates assembled at this Twenty Third RegularQuadrennial Convention of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees of the United States and Canada recognize Puerto Rico as a colony of the United States.

Role of police under capitalism

To label individual cops as good or bad workers, is to misunderstand the role of the police in society. The police are the sworn agents of the ruling class in a capitalist society, whether directly or indirectly. And if the workers dare to rebel against their conditions of poverty and oppression, the state will use every weapon at its disposal to repress them—especially police occupation and mass incarceration. There are many instances simply when the police will abuse or even kill a non-threatening individual—like an Eric Garner. It would be reasonable to have a debate about a cop being responsible for murder.

Role of police under imperialism

To label individual cops as good or bad workers, is to misunderstand the role of the police in society. The police are the sworn agents of the ruling class in a capitalist society. The police produce nothing of value to the working class. The police produce only misery for the working class. The police increase the exploitation of the Puerto Rican people and their resources.

Decolonize Puerto Rico!

Eric Garner & the ruling class police

Counter this lack of accountability with what happened in Brooklyn and Harlem on July 20, one of the hottest days of the summer. Black youth were being harassed by New York cops for the so-called “crime” of turning on fire hydrants to cool off. The oppressive heat was compounded by Con Edison turning off power to whole neighborhoods, cutting their air conditioning. A few of the youth doused the police with water—only water. The cops turned that into a witch hunt, with over a dozen youth targeted for round-ups. At least three have been arrested so far. These youth could face jail time if convicted, since they are now classified as making “dousing a cop” a felony, punishable with a sentence of 1 to 4 years in prison.

There are many instances simply when the police will abuse or even kill a non-threatening individual like an Eric Garner, Anthony Baez or Sandra Bland just because they are members of an oppressed nation. The cops know they will not face any legal retribution. Why? Because under capitalism, the police are above the law—they are literally above society. And therefore, the police, just like prison guards, are not workers. The police and prison guards should be banned from the right to organize unions or be in an existing union.

People’s justice for workers and the oppressed

And if the workers dare to rebel against their conditions of poverty and oppression, the state will use every weapon at its disposal to repress them—especially police occupation and mass incarceration. The police produce nothing of value to the working class. The police produce only misery for the working class. The police increase the exploitation of the Puerto Rican people and their resources.

Eric Garner family and supporters demonstrate in pouring rain, July 7

The police produce nothing of value to society at all. Before Eric Garner died, he was selling individual cigarettes on the street to support his family. He happened to be a Black worker targeted by the police on that particular day. The progressive movement, along with the Garner family, which has sacrificed so much, deserve all the credit for putting mass pressure on bourgeois politicians like Mayor de Blasio, prosecutors and the police to come to a decision about whether Pantaleo is fired or not. It is very rare to even have a debate about a cop being responsible for murder.

If there were people’s justice, Pantaleo and his accomplices would have been charged, indicted and incarcerated for the murder of Eric Garner. But this kind of justice will happen only with a socialist revolution—when the workers take power to run society to meet human needs—and sweep away all remnants of the repressive state, along with the entire capitalist system which gives it human need—when the working class takes power to run society to meet human needs—when the working class takes power to run society to meet human needs.
Oregon Oregon pro-labor law HB 2016 was signed the last week of June. It provides strong guarantees of government employees’ right to organize and bargain collectively. The bill, due to be enacted Jan. 1, 2020, reinforces the First Amendment’s guarantee that workers have the right to organize and take collective action.

Passage of this law is critical since Oregon is a key battleground state where right-wing groups like the Freedom Foundation, which is funded by the Bradley Foundation and the Koch network, have declared war on public sector unions. The bill, due to take effect Jan. 1, 2020, reinforces the First Amendment’s guarantee that workers have the right to organize and take collective action.

The bill is expected to boost pay for 27 million workers, lifting 1.3 million households out of poverty. While the Congressional Budget Office says it might trigger job losses, most academic research reports there will be little or no loss. (Vox, July 18)

One day after the bill passed, activists decided to bring the bill to the “House of the People,” demanding passage outside McDonald’s from coast to coast. While the vote showed street protests are being heard, Frances Holmes, a leader of Minnesota’s Show-Me-Sub, movement, asserted, “We will keep fighting until we get a living wage where we can provide for our families with our work.” (Labor Tribune, July 29)

Unions struggle against ICE using hotels as jails

Unions and advocate groups have vigorously pressed major hotel chains not to house im/migrant workers arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. “Hotels are meant to welcome people from all over the world, not jail them,” said D. Taylor, president of hotel workers union UNITE HERE. (Associated Press, July 24)

Unions have an important role in the fight for the rights of the im/migrant community—all of them belong to hotel unions. They’ve successfully pressured management at many big chains like Marriott and Hilton to state they don’t want to use as ICE detention centers.

This movement is growing across industries, with airlines refusing to fly children whom ICE separated from parents. Advocates hit Motel 6 in November with a class action lawsuit after it shared lists of guests with “Latino-Sounding Names” with ICE. (Colorlines, July 22)

Although it’s a victory that CEOs of major chains oppose ICE’s lucrative contracts, 88 percent of chains are independent franchises which make their own deals. So beware where you stay on summer vacation. Who would want to patronize a hotel that’s also a jail?!

AFSCME stands up to anti-union Janus decision

Did the 2018 Supreme Court decision, Janus v. AFSCME, bankroll by conserva-
tive billionaires and think tanks, succeed in killing public sector unions? The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the largest U.S. public sector union, only saw a 6 percent loss in 2018—down from 1,411,877 members, including agency fee payers and retirees, in 2017 to 1,399,954 in 2018.

The Janus ruling prohibits public sector unions from collecting agency fees—also known as “fair share” dues—from workers who don’t sign up for full membership despite their still benefiting from it. AFSCME’s winning strategy was to focus on retaining members. Since Janus, membership is up 8 percent, or, if organizing budgets have to be cut in the future, that could reduce membership.

Despite well-funded, aggressive, right-wing campaigns to cut membership, statistics show a victory for AFSCME. Although conservatives in six states sued to make unions pay back agency fees collected before the decision, which could have defunded unions, those efforts failed. In February, an appeals court rejected a challenge to “exclusive representation”—claiming union representation infringes on free speech rights—brought by the Freedom Foundation and the anti-union National Right to Work Foundation.

Even as right-wing groups attack, public sector unions, approval ratings of labor unions are the highest they have been in 15 years—62 percent in favor in July 2018, according to an Aug. 30, 2018, Gallup poll. Scholars attribute to that the recent wave of historic teacher strikes. (In These Times, March 27) Solidarity forever!

Coal miners up in arms again

Coal miners are up in arms again. This time they are not unionized, but they are taking on the sixth-largest coal company in the U.S., and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) is helping them out. (MineWorkers.org)

The miners demand payment for lost wages from a bankrupt coal company, Blackjewel LLC. The company was supposed to post a bond with the state of Kentucky guaranteeing workers’ wages without penalty, but failed to do so. Not only have the miners lost wages, but for several months Blackjewel made no deposits into their 401(k) retirement accounts. (thinkprogress.org)

Typical of many unorganized workers rising up these days, Amazon workers, Lyft and Uber drivers, fast food and Walmart workers demanding an end to sexual harassment and a $15 minimum wage. These miners are taking their fight to a new level: they are using social media to gain recognition and support.

On the first day of their work action, July 24, five miners tweeted on Twitter and Facebook organized themselves to block a coal train leaving a Blackjewel mine near the town of Cumberland, Ky. Standing on the tracks as a locomotive pulling a long train of filled-to-overflowing coal gondola trains bore down on them, they held a sign made from a pizza box: “No Pay We Stay.”

The miners intended to hold the train hostage until they were paid the wages they were owed. (wpil.org)

Blackjewel and CSX railroad called the police, who told the miners to leave. The miners left—moving down the track, but not off it. They tweeted for reinforcement, and nine more miners came. Again, the police told them to leave. They moved farther down the tracks and readied to leave again. This time dozens more miners, family members and friends came, eventually numbering hundreds, with more arriving by the hour. The police could do nothing.

As of Aug. 5, the miners now have a large and growing encampment on and beside the train tracks. They have tents, food distribution and portable toilets. They play games like cornhole, played by pitching bean bags, horseshoes and cards. Besides socializing, they tweet and post to Facebook and other social media 24/7. (courier-journal.com)

Former Blackjewel miner Shane Smith told WPLF radio in Louisville, “If they can move that train, they can get us our money.” Shane Smith, a miner from Kentucky, went on to say, “It’s a little bit of a good feeling of accomplishment to hold the train, but we still ain’t done. We’re gonna stay here until we get some money.” (Aug. 2)

The miners are demanding the bankruptcy court order the company to pay them wages for the coal that Blackjewell stockpiled and tried to move off the mine property for sale on the global market. Further, the miners say they have first dibs on the money to be made from sale of that coal—because their last paychecks bounced, costing them thousands in overdrafts and bank fees.

Blackjewell had drawn down the funds in its payroll bank account to $0, making the last checks they paid the workers no good. Meanwhile, the bankruptcy court judge allowed the company $8 million in cash withdrawals from other company funds. (wpil.org)

WYMT, another eastern Kentucky news outlet, has reported that Blackjewell was sold Aug. 3 for $39 million. In all, 1,100 miners worked in Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia are owed $71 million in back wages, in addition to the money Blackjewell stole by failing to make 401(k) deposits.

The miners have set up a Blackjewel Bankruptcy Victims GoFundMe (gofundme. com/y4obclgy), asking for contributions to help with their Cumberland encampment and for emergency funds for miners’ families.

Drop the charges now!

U.S. persecutes defenders of Venezuelan Embassy

By Ted Kelly Philadelphia

Having failed to instigate a right-wing coup d’etat to overthrow the progressive, indigenous government of Venezuela, the U.S. government is lashing out against the solidarity movement here. Four members of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C., from infiltration and takeover by a mob loyal to corrupt coup leader Juan Guaido. At the request and invitation of the people of Venezuela, the EPC had occupied the embassy for 37 days to prevent its seizure by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. Without provocation, U.S. police, this mob threatened, assaulted and hurled slurs at the Embassy Protectors, harassing the entire neighborhood around the embassy and posting to Facebook and other social media 24/7. (courier-journal.com)

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Continued on page 5
Northwest grocery workers prepare to strike

By Johnnie Lewis and Joshua Hanks
Portland, Ore.

Aug. 2 – “Are you aware that Fred Meyer pays $3.33 more per hour to male workers than to female workers?” A United Steelworkers’ member posed this question to a Fred Meyer grocery store shopper. Shoppers were shocked and stopped to listen. Most took flyers showing the facts and figures and many signed the petition demanding that Fred Meyer “Fix the Gap.”

The steelworker, who came by the store after putting in an 8-hour shift, and his co-writing partner (a retired meatcutter and member of Food and Commercial Workers Union, UFCW Local 400) were leafletting and petitioning in support of UFCW Local 555. The largest private sector union in Oregon, Local 555 represents nearly 25,000 retail grocery store workers in Oregon and southwest Washington.

The local is in contract negotiations with Allied Employers, Inc., an owners group of Fred Meyer, QFC/Kroger, Safeway and Albertson’s. While targeting Fred Meyer, the union believes that all chains in Allied Employers take higher wages to men than women. “Whatever we can agree to that closes this gap for Fred Meyer will likely rectify any similar situations or patterns that may exist with other employers,” the union explained.

The “Gap” is evident at FM, where on Schedule B the average wage is $13.69 per hour and 68 percent are women, versus Schedule A, where the average wage is $17.20 per hour and 66 percent are men.

The two groups of workers in the same store, all doing essentially the same work — putting merchandise on shelves and providing customer service — are paid substantially different wages. When a worker applies for a job at Fred Meyer, they are assigned to a schedule. The worker has no choice.

But not only does FM discriminate against women with regard to wages, the older the woman is the more she is discriminated against. On average women (including those not on Schedule B) aged 24 and under make $1 an hour less than men; women 25-29 make $1.50 less; women 30-39 make $1.75 less. Women over 60 even fare worse — making an average of $2.25 an hour less than men their age. Union statistics show that men under 30 were twice as likely to get promotions as women under 30.

The major demand of Local 555 negotiators is to “Fix the Gap.” The union membership agrees. So far, 10,000 members in Portland voted overwhelmingly to strike in June if the owners do not meet their demands, which also include an hourly wage increase for all workers and improved health and welfare benefits. The other 15,000 workers in the region will participate in strike authorization votes between now and the end of August, when a final decision will be made.

While the owners cry poverty, the board of Kroger, a major shareholder in Fred Meyer) just posted a 14 percent increase in stockholder dividends. (tinyurl.com/6ybndpko)

The plans leading and petitioning in support of Local 555 were organized by Jobs with Justice, a labor support organization made up of Portland and Vancouver, Wash., area unions, community groups and political parties, including the Portland branch of Workers World Party.

All statistics about the workers are from ufcw555.org.

Marches outside, disruptions inside, as Dems debate in Detroit

By Martha Grevatt

As 20 Democratic Party presidential candidates took to the stage of the Fox Theater in downtown Detroit on July 30 and 31, mass demonstrations took place in the streets outside. Protesters were loud and clear inside as well.

On the first day, thousands rallied and marched on the Fox. Their main demand was to “Make Detroit the engine for the Green New Deal.” Labor and environmental activists came together to push for green jobs in a city with some of the highest national rates of poverty, unemployment and foreclosure.

Many offered hugs and support to Congressman Rashida Tlaib, who joined the march in her home district. Tlaib has been the target of the most deplorable racist attacks emanating from the White House.

At the next day’s protest, called by Cosecha Detroit, hundreds mobilized on the U.S.-Canada border. On the Facebook page for the event, organizers posed a question to the candidates: “Will you end detention and deportation on day one?”

Young militants sat down in the road leading into the tunnel to Canada. Customs and Border Patrol cops handcuffed and arrested 21, but only after they had successfully halted cross-border traffic.

Supporters chanted “Sin papeles, sin miedo” — no papers, no fear. All the arrestees were released the following day. As of this writing, no charges have been filed.

The issues of police brutality and mass deportations were brought to the national television audience when activists disrupted the debates inside the Fox July 31. While candidate and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio was speaking, New York-based activists Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour began chanting “Fire Pantaleo.” Dan Pantaleo is the New York cop who murdered Eric Garner on Staten Island July 17, 2014.

Mallory and Sarsour are on the national board of the Women’s March.

Later, as candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden took the microphone, members of Cosecha Detroit began chanting “5 million deportations,” a reference to the number of undocumented immigrants deported under the Obama/Biden administration.

All the actions, directed at the Democratic candidates, show that the fight against racism and xenophobia will go on — regardless of the outcome in November 2020.

Venezuelan Embassy defenders

Continued from page 4

the Venezuelan government.

The legitimate and democratically elected government of Venezuela, headed by Nicolás Maduro, has been able to fend off the imperialist assault on the nation’s sovereignty because of the unprecedented rallying of the Venezuelan people. Hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans have turned to the streets to condemn a small band of right-wing businessmen and politicians intent on overthrowing the government. The Venezuelan people love their country and the world was simple: We will not go back; we will not be recolonized.

In an appeal to the people of the U.S., in February, President Maduro wrote: “The people of Venezuela have painfully suffered social wounds caused by a criminal commercial and financial blockade, which has been aggravated by the dispossession and robbery of our financial resources and assets in countries aligned with this despicable onslaught.

And yet, thanks to a new system of social protection, of direct attention to the most vulnerable sectors, we proudly continue to be a country with a high human development index and low inequality in the Americas.”

It is precisely these policies of the Bolivarian system that the U.S. has been seeking to destroy for the entire 21st century. In 2002, the George W. Bush administration supported a military coup that briefly unseated then President Hugo Chávez, who was immediately restored to power by a vast popular movement.

Shortly after Chávez’s death in 2013, Barack Obama declared Venezuela a “national security threat” and established a new regime of harsh sanctions to starve out the Venezuelan people and weaken their resolve. Obama’s successor, Donald J. Trump, has continued and accelerated this attack on Venezuela’s sovereignty.

“U.S. corporate power and Wall Street can’t call the shots in that country,” said Sara Flounders, co-chair of the International Action Center, at a recent event here in Philadelphia. “And that’s what they’re trying to do. They’re willing to use every tactic. Sanctions are one tactic. They’re using assassinations, drones, military threats; they’re using aircraft carriers.”

The purpose of these attacks, it must never be forgotten, is not to ameliorate a “humanitarian crisis,” as the corporate media claim. Rather, the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is a result of these attacks. The goal of the U.S. ruling class is to reestablish hegemonic corporate control in a country that refuses to relinquish control of its own resources for the sake of global capitalists’ profits.

Eduardo Galeano wrote in “The Open Veins of Latin America,” his excellent history of the colonization of the Americas, that “no country has yielded as much for world capitalism in so short a time; the wealth drained from Venezuela, accord- ing to Domingo Alberto Rangel, exceeds what the English from India.”

When right-wingers who want to sell their country complain of Maduro’s “authoritarianism,” they long for the same kind of “freedom” referred to by a U.S. businessman back in 1953 when Caracas was still occupied by U.S. forces. He said: “You have freedom to do what you like with your money; for me, this freedom is worth more than the political and civil freedoms you have together.”

The Embassy Protectors, on the other hand, were standing up for true freedom, for dignity, for the right of the Venezuelan people’s national self-deter- mination. Workers World supports the EPC and demands all charges be dropped! Long live the Bolivarian revolution! —
Widespread militant actions against ICE

By Arielle Robinson

Activists around the country continue to participate in militant actions to shut down U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and those complicit with that agency.

On July 30, around 200 protesters in St. Paul, Minn., gathered at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building to call for closing concentration camps at the border. Jewish activists who are part of the national group, Never Again Action, organized the event. The group is named as a reminder to never again allow the conditions to occur that led to the Holocaust. The intervention was part of a national wave of actions sponsored by Jewish activists and Never Again Action.

The St. Paul protesters also called for defunding ICE and for permanent protections for all undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers. Announcing that their intention was to disrupt “business as usual,” they blocked vehicle exits at the building to prevent ICE agents from going out to conduct raids.

In Detroit on July 31, the second night of the Democratic presidential debates, immigrant rights activists disrupted candidate Joe Biden. They chanted “Three million deportations!” as Biden tried to defend his role as vice president with Barack Obama, who deported more immigrants than any other U.S. president before now. The action was organized by Movimiento Cosecha, which means “harvest” in Spanish, paying tribute to the long history of farmworker organizing in the U.S. The group fights for “permanent protection, dignity, and respect for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.”

On Aug. 1, protesters briefly interrupted President Trump twice while he was speaking during a rally at the U.S. Bank Arena in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Milwaukee a crowd of 100 activists from Never Again Action and 9#en#sagaintis rallied and marched on Aug. 1, calling for ICE to be abolished. The event was coordinated with Voces de la Frontera, a community organization led by low-wage workers, immigrants and youth. Activists gathered around the entrances and exits of the ICE building and blocked agents from leaving in order to carry out raids and deportations, eventually shutting down the building.

Boston: Protesters drive back masked white supremacists

On Aug. 2, activists drove a giant “No ICE, no prisons, no more cages” banner at a Boston Red Sox baseball game in Fenway Park. Then, on Aug. 4, hundreds of angry and organized pro-migrant, anti-racist prison abolitionists came together in Boston for a March Against Cages.

As activists gathered, they were confronted by a masked group of white supremacists. A video from the scene shows the activists confronting the masked white Nazis marching toward them and finally forcing them to retreat out of the area. (wcvb.com)

Activists then advanced on the American Correctional Association’s 149th Congress of Correction, held at Hynes Convention Center, and shut down the entrance for over three hours. Chants rang out, including, “No hate, no fear, refugees are welcome here”; “We must organize to survive”; and “Border walls have got to go, from Palestine to Mexico!”

The theme of the protest was “All Cages are Connected!” with hashtag tweeting at #mocercorreges, #abolishlice and #nocredentalsforcamps. The action was led by Black Lives Matter; Black and Pink, a Queer-led prison abolitionist group supporting the liberation of LGBTIQ2S+ people and people living with HIV from imprisonment; and Deeper Than Water, focused on prisoner human rights and water justice.

A Deeper Than Water information sheet passed out during the march noted: “The ACA makes $4.5 million each year to carry out raids and deportations, even-FIG—PHOTO: MOVIMIENTO COSECHA
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FIG—PHOTO: MOVIMIENTO COSECHA
Activists challenge ICE profiteers

By Betsey Piette

Shortly after Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, shares of CoreCivic Inc. and GEO Group (CXW and GEO, respectively) shot up 42 and 43 percent, respectively. The two companies controlled 85 percent of the private, for-profit detention industry.

The company’s revenues of $1.9 billion alone, hold around 75 percent of im/migrant detainees. CXW and GEO own many of the detention centers near the U.S./Mexico border; their government-guaranteed profits average 83,000 to 85,000 per bed. Fueled by mass deportations and detentions of migrants, these companies’ stock prices have skyrocketed. Yet in June 2019, due to campaigns by im/migrant solidarity activists targeting their funders, stock values plunged nearly 30 percent. CXW and GEO operate as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) for financing (estimated at $1.9 billion) as banks divest due to pressure from anti-ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) activists, according to the Center for Popular Democracy. (Truthout, July 23)

At one point CXW’s single largest investor was the Vanguard Group Inc., with shares valued at nearly $600 million, including investments from pension funds. Vanguard owns roughly 15 percent and second-largest asset manager BlackRock owns 12 percent of CXW and GEO. A round 20 union pension funds have an estimated $675 million invested in CXW or GEO. Many are public- pension funds that tout “environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.” The California Public Employees Retirement System, the California State Teachers’ Retirement System and the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System are investors in CXW and GEO and are all ESG proponents. Borrowing from the historic divestment movement that weakened apartheid in South Africa and the current Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israeli apartheid, activists will likely call on union members to demand divestment from these companies.

Legislation is pending in New York state that would ban state-regulated banks from owning prison stock. Workers, activists demand: Stop ties with ICE

Increasingly there are signs that workers—unionized and unorganized—are uniting against Wall Street corporations that profit off the suffering of im/migrant workers. Palantir Technologies, a surveillance company that makes millions in profits from ICE, has come under increased pressure from tech workers and activists in several cities to stop profiting from asylum seekers’ suffering. Workers at Microsoft and Amazon have protested their companies’ ties with ICE.

Pressure from employees at public relations giant Edelman resulted in the company canceling a contract to boost GEO’s public image in Florida. Work had been scheduled to start in July. As one of the world’s leading public relations firms, Edelman feared risking a public relations crisis.

Hundreds of workers at Wayfair headquarters in Boston walked off the job June 26 in protest of their company’s contract to furnish a Texas migrant youth detention center. They were greeted by a solidarity gathering of over 3,000 people. Housing, transporting and watching over migrant children is a lucrative billion-dollar business involving for-profit corporations, including Southwest Key Programs, Catholic Charities and BCFS (a global nonprofit network), have all received millions of dollars in government funds to operate im/migrant child detention centers.

Military contractors, security firms, airlines, ground transportation providers and hotels also profit from ICE contracts. Aircraft Transport Services was awarded nearly $30 million for charter flight services to transport ICE detainees. G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc., notorious for brutality in occupied Palestine and against Standing Rock anti-DAPL Water Protectors, received over $17 million to transport detained im/migrants.

Harris Corporation received a $4.8 million ice contract for tracking equipment, while hotels get around $2.8 million for business accounting software. (Miami News Times, July 5) ICE contractors also include Comcast, Aramark, Lockheed Martin and Greyhound.

In July, several hotel chains, including Marriott, Hilton, Choice Hotels, Best Western, Wyndham, Hyatt, IHG and MRM Resorts, released statements claiming they did not know their facilities were in U.S. custody or detention centers. The hotels were bowing to pressure from their employees’ unions, as well as customers. CREDO Action gathered over 120,000 petition signatures for this effort. Middle managers were to call the corporate headquarters of Best Western, Red Roof Inn and Radisson, which have yet to publicly commit to divest.

Greyhound is estimated to lose 72 percent of private financing (estimated at $1.9 billion) as banks divest due to pressure from anti-ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) activists, according to the Center for Popular Democracy. (Truthout, July 23)

As the movement to #closethecamps grows, every im/migrant that was being harassed by ICE agents. This week, agents have been turned away from apartment complexes in Puerto Rico, mass movements are disrupting the repressive power of the state. A better future is possible. Concentrated people’s power can close the camps, open the borders and abolish ICE. (Join with FIRE, LWC and PPA/ NY on Aug. 23. Then the revolutionary work will begin.)

Greyhound feeling FIRE for collusion with ICE

By Makasi Motema

The state is waging war on migrants and refugees. As they flee from violence, political instability and the growing climate crisis, the U.S. is doubling down on a cruel, violent and profitable industry. ICE deportations, immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol agents are rounding up migrants, placing them in detention centers with horrible conditions and deporting them back to countries where they may face death.

All people with a conscience must rise up and restore the state’s vast detention and deportation machine. This machinery of devastation is not run by the state alone. Corporations that seek to turn a profit from human misery have joined hands with ICE and CBP. Private companies run the horrific detention centers, sell the weapons and equipment used by ICE and CBP, and charter flights to deport migrants. If activists are to put an end to the detention and deportation machine, they must use direct action against both the public and private facilitators of this oppression. They must focus on the logistics of detention and deportation and make it impossible for the government and companies to continue these racist policies. Already, there have been incredible acts of resistance, such as the walkout on June 24 by hundreds of Wayfair workers who were protesting their company’s sales to these concentration camps.

Rally at NYC’s Port Authority on Aug. 23!

A major campaign begins on Aug. 23. Fight for im/migrants’ rights! Contact FIRE (FIRE), the Laundry Workers Center (LWC) and the People’s Power Assemblies/New York (PPA/NY) will hold a rally in New York’s Port Authority Bus Terminal to demand that Greyhound kick ICE and CBP off their buses. All over the U.S., Border Patrol agents stop and board buses where they racially profile passengers looking for undocumented im/migrants. These unconstitutional searches and seizures are a sign of the growing police state. People should be free to travel without jackbooted thugs stopping them to check their papers. FIRE will inform passengers of their rights, while building momentum for future actions.

By focusing on the logistics of the detention and deportation machine, im/migrant rights activists can weaken its ability to operate. ICE and CBP searches must be stopped. Holding children in detention centers must end. All deportations must be halted. Greyhound is only a first step.

As momentum builds in this struggle, so will its organizing capacity. Any company that takes part in deporting migrants or running concentration camps should be the focus of direct action. These corporations, which include Palantir that does data-mining, Amazon that provides the technology and Enterprise that supplies ICE vehicles, should be the focus of direct action. There should be no material support for ICE.

Im/migrants and refugees must also be informed of their rights. “Know Your Rights” trainings have already led to migrants and their allies winning back their freedom. ICE agents have been turned away from apartment complexes by residents who refused warrantless searches. Across the country, ICE and CBP are being pushed back.

Working-class solidarity key

In Nashville, Tenn., neighbors formed a multiracial human chain around a detention facility that was being harassed by ICE agents. This was a heroic action that should be repeated everywhere im/migrants are endangered.

The demands of the racist Trump regime have put a strain on ICE and CBP resources. As the movement to #closethecamps grows, the repressive power of the state is growing weaker. This is how people’s movements will abolish these vile agencies.

As the sun of white supremacist terror rises, it shows how necessary it is that an even greater surge of working-class solidarity meet this threat. Now is the time for our class to unite and call the shots. The power of the people must not be underestimated.

The working class is rising. From Hawaii to Puerto Rico, mass movements are disrupting the repressive power of the state. The better world is possible. Concentrated people’s power can close the camps, open the borders and abolish ICE.
Based on a talk titled "White supremacy over the White House: Why racism breeds resistance" by Richard Kossally at a Workers World Party Aug. 1 forum in New York City.

Donald Trump has been at it hard this past week or so. He has always been a horrible human being. He has been especially so for the entirety of his candidacy for and tenure as the president of the United States. We have become so familiar with and expect his offensive behavior that sometimes it passes with barely a comment or just becomes the butt of jokes on social media and content in internet memes — most of which is not helpful at all, because a lot of this stuff concentrates on his appearance.

There is, however, real pain, suffering and death caused by his words and policies.

Much of the harm that he has caused isn’t even quantifiable.

As a landlord, his racist housing policies caused such harm.

His words and deeds as they relate to the case of the Central Park Five caused immeasurable harm, and he has doubled down on that issue even since these young men have been vindicated. They were just boys when they were persecuted.

His sexual assaults against women, both physical and verbal, are disgusting. The trauma caused by such behavior is undoubtedly everlasting in some cases.

His administration has continued racist colonial policies against Puerto Rico. He has the blood of many Puerto Ricans on his hands due to his response — or rather nonresponse — to Hurricane Maria, and he has made vile statements against Puerto Rico’s brave resistance to austerity. The Junta there was put in place to make vile statements against Puerto Rico’s brave resistance to austerity. The Junta there was put in place to make vile statements against Puerto Rico’s brave resistance to austerity.

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The occupying forces of the NYPD will use any pretext to demonize Black people or to distract us. Just a couple of weeks ago, the feds declined to prosecute the murdering cop of Eric Garner. Their reason was flimsy. Movement people here have responded and have visited Daniel Pantaleo [the chokehold cop] at his home a few times. There are calls to fire him.

Creating a distraction to obscure this development might be what’s behind the decision to raid communities for using water to cool down during a heatwave and for the subsequent dragnet. The charges against the youth are also revealing. They are some of the same charges brought against activists when we are in the streets — obstructing governmental administration, criminal mischief, harassment, disorderly conduct. These are the default charges that the cops lean on when they don’t have any good reason to arrest anyone but want to break up a protest. This is hardly the stuff that should make national news, but the ruling class is just as aware as we are that their system is in trouble.

All charges against these youths are bogus and should be dropped. Killer cops running around in our city are a far greater danger to us. The police do not deserve our respect, and they do not deserve our money.

In New York, we currently have another local presidential candidate. In his famous song, “Love me, I’m a liberal,” Phil Ochs says that liberals are 10 degrees right of center on issues that affect them personally. Bill de Blasio demonstrated this truth by joining in the demonization of the youth after Trump dismissed him. This was actually a better time to tell how he has raised a Black son, but he is a spineless liberal. Yes, liberals are a shady bunch indeed.

Contrast Trump’s condemnation of Black people, immigrants, refugees and women with his tweet about the mass shooting at the garlic festival: “Law Enforcement is at the scene of shootings in Gilroy, California. Reports are that shooter has not yet been apprehended. Be careful and safe!” Some words seem to be missing in his tweet: white supremacist, murderer, terrorist and maybe some others. In his mind, white people can’t be any of these things. After all, there were “fine people on both sides” in Charlottesville, Va.

His targets are primarily Black and Brown populations. His hatred of women brings about an exasperation. His personal victims have been primarily, if not exclusively, white women.

These assaults against segments of our class by Trump come from every direction. Racism continues to be the biggest barrier to unity in the U.S. and Trump has tapped into this. It comes naturally to him.

With all his cruelty, hatred and disgusting behavior, Donald Trump is actually pointing the way. The ruling class is its own gravidegger. He is telling us that he and his class hate us — all of us. As a class we need to hate them.

More important than this hatred, however, is the flip side of the coin. The flip side is love and unity within the working class. Concentration camps for migrants and refugees, along with the concentration of so many Black and Brown people in prisons, is a base for Black/ Brown unity.

The formation of FIRE [Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere] and the Workers’ Solidarity Day Coalition are two of our recent endeavors that will be helpful in building unity in this period.

We will indeed never lose a moment in building unity, but it is always darkest before the dawn. As a pastor from Baltimore likes to say, "We are all we got, and we are all we need."
Defend righteous rebellions against racist NYPD!

Drop all charges! No more arrests and roundups!

By Gloria Rubac

Attorney General William Barr is moving the United States backward. He is taking hard-fought civil rights gains to the dumpster. Just like President Donald Trump, he has nothing but racist contempt for people caught up in the so-called criminal justice system.

Barr suddenly announced in a Department of Justice press release on July 25 that the federal government will resume executions. It stated that the DOJ directed the federal Bureau of Prisons to set three execution dates in a five-day span between Dec. 9 and 13, with two others on Jan. 13 and 15. Notably, the last date will mark the 90th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

The five men to be executed have all been convicted of murdering children. This is a horrific act considered by most people to be among the worst crimes. It is not the first time prisoners were chosen—in order to elicit public support for their executions.

Since the federal death penalty was reauthorized in 1988, only 15 people have been executed. There has been an informal moratorium since the last federal execution in 2003. Apparently neither Barr nor his lackeys have learned anything during the 16-year hiatus.

Support wanes for executions

Barr’s directive comes as public support for capital punishment has ebbed, down from nearly 80 percent in 1996 to less than 50 percent in 2019. Three major factors contribute to the drop in support: Research has debunked the reactionary premise that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime; publication of the fact that 166 innocent people on state death rows have been exonerated and released; and changing public attitudes in the application of the death penalty.

New Hampshire legislators voted to abolish the death penalty on May 30, making it the 21st state to ban executions. In four other states, governors have imposed moratoriums on executions.

The other 25 states still have the death penalty on their books, but the majority rarely use it to state executions that have occurred so far in 2019 have been carried out in the Southern states of Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and Alabama.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center: “The federal death penalty is authorized for a variety of crimes that directly implicate federal interests, including terrorism and espionage. However, none of the prisoners who are the subjects of the five warrants were charged with such crimes, and only one of the 62 people on federal death row has been convicted of terrorism. No one on death row has been sentenced to death for a crime involving treason or espionage.”

There are 62 people on federal death row, with over half—35—from oppressed communities: 26 are African American, seven are Latins, one is Asian and one is Indigenous.

The federal death penalty mirrors use of this policy in the states. No matter where applied, it is a racist, anti- poor weapon, disproportionately used against African-American, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous people. Many prisoners on death row have been convicted in biased courts where injustice prevails.

Death penalty: ‘Racist, vile policy’

On July 26, one day after Barr’s edict, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts introduced a bill that would ban the federal death penalty altogether. She is a member of “The Squad”—four progressive congresswomen of color who are directly challenging the Trump administration.

Pressley, who is African American, tweeted that the new rhetoric coming from the occupant of the White House, who called for the execution of the exonerated [Central Park Five], is a preview of a country “

Trump notoriously spent $85,000 on full-page ads in New York newspapers in 1989 calling for the execution of the Central Park Five, the Black and Latinx youth falsely convicted of rape. His ads, which appeared shortly after the incident, played a key role in shaping public opinion about the case.

The five men were later exonerated by DNA evidence and the real rapist’s confession. Yet Trump has never withdrawn his remarks or apologized. There is the real possibility that the exoneration would have come too late if New York had implemented the death penalty at that time.

Andrea Lyon, a Chicago defense attorney who specializes in capital cases, commented to The Atlantic magazine on July 29: “Since Trump took office, those of us in the capital-defense community have seen a sharp spike in capital prosecutions of state crimes by the federal government, and there is a shortage of counsel qualified to represent defendants in death-penalty cases. States that are perfectly capable of prosecuting cases are handing over cases to them by the federal government.”

Stop legal lynching!

Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala., stated: “The death penalty in America is a failed, expensive policy defined by bias and error. It is a direct descendant of lynching. More than 5,000 people in ten American lynchings between 1889 and 1918 occurred in the South, and more than eight in ten of the 1500 executions carried out across this country since 1976 have been in the South.” (ejionline.org)

Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief or release from prison for over 250 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

The Trump administration’s decision to return to federal executions is partly to bolster his re-election bid among racist supporters who love his “Make America White Again” programs—and to intensify state repression against the working class and oppressed.

Activists in Texas, which has executed 501 people since 1982, have strongly protested the reinstatement of the federal death penalty.

The death penalty was virtually abolished in the United States in 1967. Former NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Bill de Blasio has joined arch-racists for putting Eric Garner, a Black man, to death with an outlawed chokehold—a killing the whole world witnessed in horror video July 17, 2014.

It’s not surprising that “liberal” Mayor Bill de Blasio has joinedarch-racists for putting NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Donald Trump in the hypocritical chorus of outrage against Black and Latinx protesters. In addition to ramping up racist “police” opportunistically pushed the outrage and protests over killer-cop Pantaleo being exonerated out of the headlines.

What were the cops, whom the communities clearly want out, doing when mini-rebellions broke out in the midst of soaring heat and humidity on July 20? Breaking up crowds of people who had opened hydrants trying to get relief during a record heat wave. This was the same weekend thousands of people were also without electricity as Con Ed shut off power to thousands of Brooklyn residents. Not having air conditioning only intensified the crisis.

The heat index ran over 110 degrees. With no help from corrupt institutions such as NYC Housing Authority, Con Ed or the Metropolitan Transit Authority—whose trains stopped running during rush hour on Friday, July 25—affected neighborhoods in Brooklyn, Harlem and the Bronx took it upon themselves to deal with this dangerous situation.

Facing heat strokes and dehydration, neighborhood residents have gotten help. Instead they got harassment and stopped-up stop-and-frisk from the vicious NYPD.

The Netflix sensation, “When They See Us,” about the Central Park Five perfectly dramatized the attitude of the police being played out now with the NYPD’s stated intention of arresting 15 more people after already arresting three. Thirty years after the framew of the Central Park Five, there’s another racist dragnet where arrests of any Black or Brown person will do.

When working and oppressed people are suffering during a life-threatening weather emergency, humanitarian exceptions should be made by the city government and the NYPD—open up the hydrants and give people an immediate, life-saving way to cool off! But that kind of compassion doesn’t occur to city officials and the NYPD whose job it is to promote capitalist law and order.

Under capitalism the police are incapable of learning lessons. They exist solely to protect the rich by fomenting racism and attacking workers and the poor. If the pundits are concerned about anarchy and chaos, they should be calling for people’s solutions for the rampant homelessness, joblessness and lack of health care that plague New York.

That’s why we say:

• Stop the Racial Occupation of Black, Latinx & All Oppressed Neighborhoods, from Brooklyn to Harlem to the Bronx!

• Our Communities Need Services, Jobs, Health Care, Not Racist Police in the Streets or the Subways!

• Drop All Charges! No More Arrests!

Workers World

Statement

The New York Police Department is using instances of justified rebellions as an excuse to mount a racist, Central Park Five-style roundup of any arrests, as prospects, as long as they’re Black and poor.

In the wake of a media wave of reactionary indignation—incrediably, at peak temperatures—local news is assisting the NYPD by running photos on TV of 15 people—all African American—“wanted” by the police for dousing cops with water in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, N.Y., and in Harlem, N.Y., on July 20. As of July 31, three young African-American men have been arrested.

The mass incarceration system is throwing out a flurry of charges—“obstructing governmental conduct,” “criminal mischief,” “harassment,” “disorderly conduct”—for righteous expressions of opposition to the police occupation of oppressed neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, no basis could be found to even charge a white cop, Daniel Pantaleo, for putting Eric Garner, a Black man, to death with an outlawed chokehold—a killing the whole world witnessed in horror video July 17, 2014.

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When working and oppressed people are suffering during a life-threatening
Washington has taken another step to inflame international relations and raise the risk of war. On Aug. 2, Washington pulled out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces agreement, known as the INF treaty. Back in 1987, Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev had signed the treaty as a move to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation of the Cold War. The INF treaty eliminated the deployment of missiles capable of delivering a warhead to a range between 300 and 3,500 miles (480 to 560 km), thus removing a threat to Europe.

Besides abandoning this treaty, the U.S. military is now moving to deploy shorter-range missiles in areas that directly challenge Russia and China. The U.S. has announced plans to deploy these weapons in the NATO countries of Europe, including those close to the Russian border. This means that the time from launch to striking a Russian target with one of these missiles could be as short as 6 to 11 minutes. Such a short time for reaction would make nuclear war more likely than at any time since the INF and other similar disarmament treaties were signed.

The Russians, for simple self-defense, have no choice but to aim their intercontinental ballistic missiles at European bording ground-based U.S. missiles. This new U.S. deployment thus puts East and West Europeans, as well as Russians, at risk of nuclear missiles.

And it’s not just Russia. On Aug. 3, the U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he was in favor of the U.S. deploying intermediate-range missiles in Asia. That would threaten China’s people, a country with a much smaller nuclear arsenal than the U.S. or Russia. China has a reported 290 nuclear devices, even fewer than the French military.

The U.S. has bases in Japan, South Korea, Okinawa, Thailand and Australia that are within the intermediate-range distance of cities in China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. There is no way to interpret this U.S. move to deploy these missiles as anything other than a direct threat to the peoples of the region, including those residing near U.S. bases.

A New York Times article on Aug. 4 explained it this way: “Such a move would be likely to anger China and North Korea, two countries that are opposed to the deployment of U.S. military hardware anywhere near their borders, and would most likely prompt further chastisement from allies that Washington was veering dangerously close to a new arms race.”

It should be noted that while much of Washington’s reactionary domestic policies and rhetoric—especially the overt racism, xenophobia, misogyny and homophobia—can be blamed on the current resident of the White House and his party, the aggression against China and Russia is bipartisan and backed by most U.S. ruling-class strategists.

Trump announced his INF decision on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2019, under the Barack Obama administration, which accused Russia of testing a cruise missile prohibited by the treaty. No evidence of Russian violations was presented. In 2015, still under the Democrats, the U.S. announced it was considering deployment of ground-based missiles in Europe. Trump seconded these decisions, and then, in 2018, Congress authorized new research to produce cruise missiles.

Thus an effective movement to stop the war threats will have to remain independent of both big capitalist parties and hold them and the Pentagon war machine responsible for putting the lives of hundreds of millions of people in danger.

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**Smash white supremacy!**

**Down with imperialism! Up with Workers World!**

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**Feds to resume racist death penalty**

Continued from page 9

In 2014, Joseph Wood was the last person executed in Arizona. He was injected with a drug that causes death before he finally died after two hours of agony. “After about nine minutes, his mouth opened wide, his head moved up against the restraint, he bucked up against the straps and he started gulping and gasping,” said his attorney Dale Baich. (KVOA.com, Aug. 2)

**No humane executions**

Activist Lily Hughes is a leader of the campaign to stop the November execution of Rodney Reed, an African-American man whose only crime was having a relationship with a white woman. Hughes told WW: “My problem with the one-drug lethal injection is that all lethal injections have been proven to be the least humane method for execution so far. There is no humane way to execute people. The idea that lethal injection is a humane clinical procedure is a lie.”

Two years later, in February 2017, “There have been more botched executions using lethal injection than any other execution method. They do not even know where the pentobarbital is going to come from. Is it going to be FDA [Food and Drug Administration] approved? People laying on a gurney being executed say, ‘I feel my whole body burning.’ This rush to execute has nothing to do with following the law. Ultimately people will be terrorized with an untested drug.”

Joanne Gavir, a founding member of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, stressed that latest move by Trump and the DOJ is “just one more attack on working-class people and an intensification of state repression and racist oppression. But our job is to stop these new executions before they even begin.”

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**Ominous escalation of war drive**

Continued from page 1

Charleston, S.C., church in 2015. Fifty mostly Latino, mostly LGBTQ2S+ people were killed at an Orlando, Fla., nightclub in 2016. Eleven people were shot to death in a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018. And on and on.

This is the deeply murderous U.S. system we live in. And those are only a few of the mass shootings here. That doesn’t count the millions U.S. wars have killed.

What will it take to end this?

The most moderate elements in the Democratic Party are too timid to even imply Trump should be impeached. They have failed to be the two-thirds to remove his im/migration policies.

But impeachment alone would not do justice to the victims of these horrific massacres. Legal formalities now supposedly bar the arrest of a sitting president. But murder is murder! The mounting wave of resistance against white supremacy in the U.S. wants to see Trump brought to justice.

Why would we look to the Democratic Party to save us? Look at the history of the U.S. Nothing has ever moved the ruling parties in power, whatever name they pass under, except independent mass resistance. Legal formalities have no place in our lives.

The question is no longer the hypothetical: “What if they came for (fill in the blank)?” The massacres underscore the truth that Jewish anti-ICE demonstrator have proclaimed: “Never Again is Now!” Now is the time to organize and be prepared to demand a stop to the deadly attacks on Black and Brown people and im/migrants—and the hate-filled racists that incite them.

Every action in solidarity with people of color and with immigrants is important—not no matter how small. Wear a button that says: “Resist against racism” and strengthen everyone who sees you. Organize a town rally or neighborhood gathering in support of im/migrants and create a place for anti-racists to gather.

Let’s reach out to those with us, to members of our union and other community groups, and form coalitions to defend the im/migrants in our lives.

Watch for local actions by FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) and join in. (facebook.com/flightformigrants/) Follow the International Workers’ Solidarity Network (workersolidarity.net) which is building working-class consciousness and collectivity. Let’s make Labor Day 2019 a day of action.

If we find our strength together now, that is another step toward breaking the bloody grip of oppression, to ending the murders caused by white-supremacist, patriarchal capitalism. We can begin to build the long but hopeful road to revolutionary socialism where “the earth shall rise on new foundations.”

“Solidarity Forever” begins with solidarity today.
Algeria

By G. Dunkel

For the seventh consecutive Friday, Algerians all over this vast country marched Aug. 2 to demand that the interim president, prime minister and head of the army resign. They chanted: “No to a military state!” and “The people want it now.”

Some demonstrators raised chants promoting their right to participate in the process of referring to calls for limited general strikes—while others chant: “The army and the people are brothers.” But they also chanted with Ahmed Gaïd Salah, who is head of the army and effectively the ruler of Algeria, a “traitor.”

Tout sur l’Algérie (TSA), the major Francophone news site for Algeria, reported protests on Aug. 2 in the following Algerian cities: Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Tlemcen, Annaba, Tizi Ouzou Bejaia, Bouira, Setif, Jijel, Mostaganem, Mascara, Sidi Bel Abbes, Chlef, Tébessa, Khemchéla, Tipaza, Djelfa, Saida, Ain Temouchent and Tissemsilt. In some of the cities, protests took place even though the temperature was in the high 90s.

In Algiers, the capital and largest city in Algeria, armored personnel carriers from the army and the cops lined and restricted the route of march. In contrast in Oran, a seaside town in western Algeria and Algeria’s second largest city, no cops were visible along 4 kilometers of the march. According to Huff Post Maghréb, the Algerians march for “power to the people.”

Not just Brexit

 Boris Johnson has been compared to Donald Trump. Both come from rich, elite backgrounds but pretend to be men of the people, and both are quick to use the “whistles of flagrant racism and homophobia.”

In a column he wrote for the Daily Telegraph, a major right-wing paper in London, Johnson claimed that the problem with Africa was that the British “are not in charge anymore.” On a visit to Libya, when it was foreign minister, Johnson claimed that the only thing getting in the way of an economic recovery after its civil war was “clearing the dead bodies.”

Johnson has proposed a way of cutting taxes for the rich in England, Wales and the six occupied Irish counties by sharply increasing taxes in Scotland. (tinyurl.com/y2twfom)

The three million non-British EU citizens working in Great Britain face an uncertain future. Are they British citizens or not? – end

Doce días sacuden al imperio

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“Sólo una presencia masiva de la policía, algunos manifestantes dijeron que triplicaba su número, permitieron la entrada de algunas personas. [...] El atractivo tuvo tanto éxito que menos de 200 personas asistieron a la reunión de negocios, según informes de los medios de comunicación”. (tinyurl.com/yy56jgse)

-- End of text --
Declaración WW-PMO

El Departamento de Policía de Nueva York está utilizando la lógica de acoso de policía y batallones de infantería para reprimir a la población. Las mujeres y hombres del barrio de Vallejo en Nueva York, los jóvenes afroamericanos y latinos, los oprimidos, se resisten a ser una amenaza para el poder. 

Lo peor es que es la crisis de deuda de Puerto Rico se debió por completo a las maquinaciones de Wall Street. La economía puertorriqueña recibió un golpe fatal cuando el sector manufacturero se retiró de la isla en busca de salarios más bajos. Los bancos ingresaron y compraron bonos del gobierno puertorriqueño que se vendieron para cubrir el déficit presupuestario y proporcionar servicios esenciales a la gente. Pero la economía nunca se recuperó y la deuda continuó acumulándose. Esto no era asunto de Wall Street. La ley de los Estados Unidos exige que su propiedad colonial no pueda declararse en bancarrota como lo hacen los municipios del continente. En cambio, hay una red racista en la cual Policía de Nueva York (PNY) y su junta dictatorial de Control Fiscal de tratar de reestructurar la deuda. Esta junta dictatorial de control fiscal no puede declararse en bancarrota como lo hacen otros municipios del continente. 

Por eso decíamos: ¡Deber la ocupación racista de los barrios negros, latinos y todos los oprimidos, desde Brooklyn hasta Harlem y el Bronx! 

Los miembros de la junta de PROMESA no elegidos implementaron un plan de recortes presupuestarios austeros. Sistemas de servicios esenciales a la gente. Los trabajadores y a los pobres. Si las autoridades están preocupadas por la anarquía y el caos, deberían otorgar soluciones a las personas para la indignación, el desempleo y la falta de atención médica que azotan a Puerto Rico. 

Por eso decíamos: ¡Deber la ocupación racista de los barrios negros, latinos y todos los oprimidos, desde Brooklyn hasta Harlem y el Bronx! 

¡No habrá paz para el imperio ni para sus oprimidos, desde Brooklyn hasta Harlem y el Bronx! 

¡Defiende rebeliones justas contra la policía de Nueva York racista! ¡Desestimemos de todos los cargos! ¡No más arrestos ni redadas! 

No habrá paz para el imperio ni para sus oprimidos, desde Brooklyn hasta Harlem y el Bronx! 

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