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# Kānaka Maoli protect sacred land in Hawai'i

By Stephanie Hedgecock

When work crews arrived to begin construction of the long-opposed \$1.4 billion Thirty Meter Telescope on the sacred Mauna Kea mountain on July 17, Kānaka Maoli (Hawaiian) elders who use wheelchairs, walkers or canes demanded to be taken to the front line to be arrested. The elders were there to oppose further damage to and desecration of Mauna Kea, which already has had 13 smaller telescopes constructed on it since 1960.

Since the arrests of 35 people on July 17, thousands of Hawaiians and supporters have blocked all access to the mountain.

The TMT Corporation and the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents want to build a huge, 18-story telescope and facilities covering about six football fields on allegedly "ceded" crown lands. Queen Liliuokalani of Hawai'i was overthrown in 1893 by a cabal of sugar planters and settler businessmen. Two years later, the U.S. annexed Hawai'i as a territory, and it became the 50th state in 1959.

Mauna Kea is not just unique for its rare Hawaiian plants and animals; it also has deep significance to the Hawaiian Nation. The site was honored in a January

2011 National Geographic special edition, "The Earth's Holiest Places: Sacred Journeys." The state Board of Land and Natural Resources originally blocked construction of the TMT in February 2011. (tinyurl.com/yxrnc4ss)

After the arrests of the elders, Hawai'i Gov. David Ige signed an emergency proclamation threatening Mauna Protectors with police and National Guard troops. (tinyurl.com/y5zscqkc) More than 2,000 people then turned out to surround the base of the mountain in response to the arrests and the governor's threats.

Kealoha Pisciotta told the Associated Press, "They're taking our kupuna" (elders), as the crowd sang "Hawai'i Aloha." (July 18) The blockade immediately forced a work stoppage of on-site astronomers and researchers.

Gov. Ige again attacked the Protectors at a July 19 press conference, alleging illegal activity, but local media reported the opposite. Heidi Tsuneyoshi of the Honolulu City Council said, "There are absolutely no signs of drugs



Graphic used by Mauna Kea mountain protectors.

or alcohol. No one is even allowed to smoke here." (KHON2 news, July 20) Volunteers are feeding thousands of protectors daily meals and snacks from free kitchens, running medical tents, recycling, cleaning porta potties and hauling trash.

KHON2 reported that the resolve of the Ku Kia'i Mauna, the guardians of the mountain, was growing stronger every day. Volunteers told KHON2 that anyone who comes into the Pu'u honua is welcome.

Pu'u honua means "place of refuge of Hōnaunau," ancestral home of the

Kamehameha dynasty. The Hōnaunau regards itself as sovereign under international law, a successor government to the independent Kingdom of Hawai'i, not subject to U.S. law.

TMT opponents marched in Waikiki July 20, blocking traffic along Kalakaua Avenue as people made their way to Kapiolani Park. (Honolulu Star Advertiser, July 20) Demonstrations have also taken place from New York City to Alaska.

More than 100 TMT-affiliated astronomers and more than 700 others have signed a letter against forcing the project on the Hawaiian people. The letter also raises concerns about sovereignty and intrusions on Indigenous lands. It cites past environmental racism and white colonizers' obsessions with conquest: "These histories progressed in lock-step with the development of Western 'sciences' of personhood: of who and/or what is human, and therefore who must be subhuman, and thus must be subject to control via mechanisms of policing, incarceration and military violence." (tinyurl.com/yxulf4lu)

University of New Hampshire astrophysicist Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, who signed the letter, stated, "What facilitated [scientific] access [to Mauna Kea] is American colonialism on kānaka 'ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) land in

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Rally in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico in Philadelphia, July 19.



San Juan: A million Puerto Ricans on general strike July 22.

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Eric Garner supporters rally at killer-cop’s home

By Nathaniel Chase  
Staten Island, N.Y.

Activists, revolutionaries and family members gathered at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal on July 17 to march in memory of Eric Garner, the Black man choked to death five years ago by New York Police Department cop Daniel Pantaleo. The action culminated with a visit to Pantaleo’s home in the Oakwood Heights neighborhood — the first time a protest has taken place there.

Eric Garner’s final words — “I can’t breathe” repeated 11 times — resonated around the world as a symbol of how racist oppression kills Black people in the U.S. His death and the non-indictment of Pantaleo in December 2017 were major forces behind the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement. Ramsey Orta, a young Puerto Rican man and friend of Eric Garner who videoed the killing, has been persecuted by the NYPD, and is the only person at the scene who has been sent to jail. (To find out how to help Ramsey, who is resisting severe harassment and intimidation while incarcerated, go to [ramseyorta.org](http://ramseyorta.org).)

Those marching were enraged but entirely unsurprised by the July 16 Department of Justice announcement that federal civil rights charges would not be filed against Pantaleo. It’s widely known that today’s police are the descendants of pre-Civil War slave patrols and night watches, and that they fulfill the same function: to detain, kill and oppress Black, Brown and Indigenous people, migrants and workers. Pantaleo was not indicted for any crime because he was doing exactly what he was hired to do when he killed Eric Garner.

**‘Struggle for justice’**

The march began following a route set by Erica Garner, Eric’s daughter, who marched regularly in Staten Island following her father’s murder and took a leading role in the struggle against police brutality. Tragically, Erica died in late December 2017 from a heart attack shortly after giving birth — yet another death linked to racism. The maternal death rate for Black women in the U.S. is more than three times that of white women. ([cdc.org](http://cdc.org))

The struggle for justice for her father weighed heavily on Erica. Shortly before her death, she said, “I’m struggling



Protestors occupy the street in front of cop’s house, demanding justice.

right now with the stress of everything, because the system, it beats you down.” (The Guardian, Dec. 30, 2017) The July 17 action took up her name as well as her father’s and was organized by The Legacy Eric Garner Left Behind, NYC Shut It Down, People’s Power Assemblies NYC and Why Accountability.

The march, led by Jewel Miller, mother of Eric’s youngest child, stopped at the 122nd Police Precinct before rallying at the place where Eric Garner was killed. Though the rally appeared to be wrapping up, in fact over 100 people quietly boarded the Staten Island Railway and traveled to the Oakwood Heights neighborhood to Pantaleo’s home.

Undeterred by increasingly heavy rain, the demonstrators faced down a wall of police. Accompanied by thunder, lightning and beating rain, the righteous anger of the oppressed poured forth. Protesters chanted, “He need to be scared everywhere that he go, we will find you Pantaleo,” “Pantaleo got away with murder, vengeance for Eric Garner” and “We’ll be back!”

Before departing, a protester shouted at the cops: “We won’t stay out here long. This is a message for y’all. The same way you can find us, we can find you!”

As protesters returned to the train, an atmosphere of joy and celebration could be found amidst the grief and anger. In their revolutionary, militant unity, those assembled found extraordinary strength and exposed the NYPD as paper tigers — to be crumpled and swept into the dustbin of history. □

WORKERS WORLD
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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

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The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

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Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**National Office**  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor  
 New York, NY 10011  
 212.627.2994  
[wwp@workers.org](mailto:wwp@workers.org)

**Atlanta**  
 PO Box 18123  
 Atlanta, GA 30316  
 404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

**Austin**  
[austin@workers.org](mailto:austin@workers.org)

**Boston**  
 284 Amory St.  
 Boston, MA 02130  
 617.522.6626  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)

**Bay Area**  
 P.O. Box 22947  
 Oakland, CA 94609  
 510.394.2207  
[bayarea@workers.org](mailto:bayarea@workers.org)

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 335 Richmond Ave.  
 Buffalo, NY 14222  
 716.883.2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

**Charlotte**  
[charlotte@workers.org](mailto:charlotte@workers.org)

**Cleveland**  
 P.O. Box 5963  
 Cleveland, OH 44101  
 216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

**Durham, N.C.**  
 804 Old Fayetteville St.  
 Durham, NC 27701  
 919.322.9 970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)

**Houston**  
 P.O. Box 3454  
 Houston, TX 77253-3454  
 713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

**Knoxville, Tenn.**  
[knoxville@workers.org](mailto:knoxville@workers.org)

**Minneapolis**  
[minneapolis@workers.org](mailto:minneapolis@workers.org)

**Pensacola, Fla.**  
[pensacola@workers.org](mailto:pensacola@workers.org)

**Portland, Ore.**  
[portland@workers.org](mailto:portland@workers.org)

workers.org/wwp

**Philadelphia**  
 P.O. Box 34249  
 Philadelphia, PA 19101  
 610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

**Salt Lake City**  
 801.750.0248  
[slc@workers.org](mailto:slc@workers.org)

**San Antonio**  
[sanantonio@workers.org](mailto:sanantonio@workers.org)

**San Diego**  
[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)

**Washington, D.C.**  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)

**West Virginia**  
[WestVirginia@workers.org](mailto:WestVirginia@workers.org)

Workers World  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
 New York, NY 10011  
 Phone: 212.627.2994  
 E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
 Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)



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Editor: Deirdre Griswold

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# Rashida Tlaib: ‘I will never waver or sell out’

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

Hours before white supremacist Trump launched his viciously racist July 14 Twitter attack against four progressive congresswomen of color, one of them — Rashida Tlaib — was in Philadelphia meeting with Palestinian activists and supporters. Tlaib became U.S. representative for Michigan’s 13th district this year.

Tlaib, a Palestinian American and a Muslim, was introduced to the gathering by Palestinian author and activist Susan Abulhawa, who urged those present to contribute generously to ensure Tlaib’s 2020 reelection campaign.

Tlaib stressed that by sticking together, activists can make history against the dangerous corporate assault on working families: “I know that my sisters in Congress and I are being attacked by this president because we are anti-war and anti-poverty. I’m fighting for a free Palestine, and I will never waver or sell out to corporate PAC [political action committee] money.

“We don’t need kids in cages at the border or mass incarceration across the U.S. We don’t need border walls or dirty water. As Palestinians, we know what that feels like. My folks in Wayne County don’t have clean water — just like residents of Palestine. I want Palestinians to be fighting for my district as well.

“They will try to label me that I care more about Palestine than the residents of my district, but I don’t see the difference between trying to free Palestinians and trying to free my Detroit and Wayne County residents from oppression.” Tlaib’s district, which includes half of Detroit and several of its western suburbs, is the third-poorest congressional district in the U.S.

Tlaib recounted her experience as a state representative working with residents in her district to liberate public park land after a billionaire developer tried to fence it in. One resident told the media, “My state representative is Palestinian, and you can’t illegally occupy land in her district.”

Tlaib made history in 2008 by becoming the first Muslim woman to ever serve in the Michigan Legislature.



Rashida Tlaib WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

During a 2016 Trump presidential campaign stop at Detroit’s Cobo Hall, Tlaib and 12 other women disrupted Trump and called him out for his hate-filled rhetoric and tactics.

Tlaib says she hasn’t changed since then: “I’m a U.S. congresswoman now, and I’m going to call him out!” □

# ‘The squad’ won’t back down from Trump’s attacks

By **Monica Moorehead**

July 22 — The white supremacist, misogynist U.S. President Donald Trump continued his racist tirade for a second week in a row against “The Squad,” as the four congresswomen of color proudly call themselves. Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (N.Y.), Ilhan Omar (Minn.), Ayanna Pressley (Mass.) and Rashida Tlaib (Mich.) are Puerto Rican, Somali, African-American and Palestinian, respectively.

Trump had stated that all four women should “go back where they came from” for criticizing U.S. policies. Both Reps. Omar and Tlaib are Muslim, and Rep. Omar consistently wears a hijab. Of the four, only Rep. Omar was born outside the U.S.

The outspoken congressmembers brought on the ire of Trump not for their nationalities and gender, but especially for coming to the political defense of migrants, including children, being held under inhumane conditions in detention camps. Dozens of detainees have died in these concentration camps. Their main crime? They were forced to leave their homelands, whose economies have been torn asunder by U.S. imperialist super-exploitation and plunder.

The four held a national joint press conference on July 15 in Washington, D.C., accusing Trump of promoting white nationalism to divide the population along racial lines. Following the press conference, the House of Representatives passed a nonbinding resolution 240-187 on July 16 condemning Trump’s racist remarks. (WW, July 18)

Rep. Tlaib described how proud she was of her



Reps. Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ayanna Pressley at July 15 press conference.

Palestinian immigrant parents and of growing up in her district of Detroit: “The city that birthed movements that fought and won against racism and inequality in our country. A city that taught me to never back down, to speak up when I see injustice, and one that elected the first of two Muslim women serving in the United States Congress.” (Detroit News, July 16)

At an overwhelmingly white rally in Greenville, N.C., on July 17, while attacking all four women as being “unpatriotic,” Trump singled out Rep. Omar for his most xenophobic rhetoric. The crowd, which had an openly lynch-mob mentality, started to simultaneously chant, “Send her back.” Trump claimed on July 18 that he didn’t agree with the chant, but the fact is that he stood silent for at least 13 seconds before he started speaking again.

His ambivalent stance on July 17 was very reminiscent of how he reacted to the violent neo-fascist mobilization that resulted in the murder of white anti-racist activist Heather Heyer by a neo-Nazi in Charlottesville, Va., on

Aug. 12, 2017. At first, Trump tried to distance himself from the neo-fascists, but did an immediate aboutface. Saying that “both sides were equally to blame,” he put an equal sign between the violence of the neo-fascists and the justified, united resistance of the anti-fascists.

Trump’s racist and sexist attacks on the four congresspeople is unleashing violent attacks on them in social media. A white Gretna, La., cop openingly stated on his Facebook page that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez is an “idiot” who should be shot, saying she deserved a “round” — and he was not referring to her days as a bartender. Gretna’s police chief stated that the post was “disturbing” but didn’t perceive it as a “threat.” (The Times-Picayune, July 22) He and another cop were then fired.

This latest social media attack comes on the heels of Border Patrol agents having photoshopped images depicting the gang-rape of Ocasio-Cortez on their Facebook page — an act which the Department of Homeland Security has been silent about.

### Grassroots support for the Squad

There has been overwhelming support for the four in their respective states. When Rep. Omar returned to her district in Twin Cities, Minn., on July 19, she was greeted with cheers and hugs from hundreds of multinational supporters at the airport. Using a bullhorn, Omar told the crowd: “When I said I was the president’s nightmare, well you’re watching it now. We are going to continue to be a nightmare to this president, because his policies are a nightmare to us. And we are not deterred, we are not frightened, we are ready.” (New York Times, July 19)

Asma Mohammed, the advocacy director for Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment in North Minneapolis and an organizer of the airport rally, stated in the Times article, “Trump is working to make Muslims, immigrants, refugees and people of color feel afraid because he’s afraid of our collective power, and he’s emboldened white nationalists in the process by making the conversation about who belongs here and who doesn’t.”

On the same day, Rep. Omar spoke to a packed, predominantly Black crowd at a town hall meeting in Minneapolis about her support for Medicare for All, adding that she refuses to be “distracted” by Trump.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, affectionately known as AOC, held a pro-immigrant rally in her district of Queens, N.Y., on July 20 that drew hundreds of people. She commented on Trump at the rally: “He is using racism, he is stoking white supremacy, and he is allowing, frankly, a neo-Nazi group to go off unchecked because that is a key part of ‘rousing his base.’” (Common Dreams, July 20)

She spoke against the criminalization of human beings happening in detention camps and in support of mental health services that migrant children desperately need.

The four congresspeople deserve to be defended not because they are in the Democratic Party — which includes right-wing forces who are also complicit in racism — but because they are women of color who have taken a courageous position against Trump’s racist strategy to divide and conquer the global working class. □

## Down with imperialism! Up with Workers World!

The U.S. has been the world’s No. 1 imperialist bully for years. That fact has been carefully covered up with self-righteous bourgeois language by the corporate media. Now, led by emperor-wannabe Trump, the soft-sell bullying has become in-your-face ultimatums, with Venezuela, Cuba and Iran the latest targets.

The New York Times and other big business media are not reporting on criminal U.S. sanctions as outright attempts at regime change via a ruling-class imposter in Venezuela. Rather, they are cheering U.S. plots to take over Venezuela’s oil deposits, valued as the world’s largest.

Trump is using his bully pulpit against Cuba, this year celebrating 60 years of socialist power. Not only has Trump set up tough restrictions on U.S. visits to Cuba, he has authorized U.S. companies, whose imperialist holdings were nationalized after the revolution, to sue Cuba for “reparations.” There’s no corporate media coverage of what socialist Cuba has accomplished to uplift its people in 60 years.

Trump ordered this year’s super-militarized July



Reclaim Pride march, June 30, NYC.

4th celebration of the origins of the genocidal, enslaving, white-supremacist capitalist U.S., while at the same time using the U.S. Armed Forces to threaten Iran striving to maintain its independence surrounded by global capitalism. The corporate media are willing co-conspirators in covering up the real threat — U.S. imperialism.

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# MOVE supporters rally for political prisoners

By Ted Kelly  
New York

Supporters filled the first floor of the People’s Forum in Manhattan on July 19 to welcome Janet Africa and Janine Africa, two members of the MOVE Organization who were released from prison this summer after nearly 40 years behind bars. The two shared harrowing accounts of their decades as political prisoners as well as strategies for resisting the racist, sexist capitalist system, and praised the spirit of MOVE Organization founder John Africa.

The city of Philadelphia and its murderous, white-supremacist police department arrested Janet, Janine and seven other revolutionary Black environmentalists, who became known as the MOVE 9, for the murder of a cop in August of 1978. But everyone involved, including the police, prison authorities and the press, knew that this was a frame-up meant to get the Black radicals off the street, just as the cops had done to the Black Panthers in Philadelphia less than a decade earlier.

Describing the notorious attack on their home in Powelton Village in 1978, Janet said, “Five hundred cops and firemen lined up outside our house at 3 a.m. They put a deluge hose on us, so high pressure that the basement flooded. Our children had to stand on our heads and shoulders not to drown.”

So thick was the tear gas the cops pumped into the residential home in West Philly, Janine said, “I couldn’t see the baby I was holding in front of me.”

As they finally escaped the basement, they heard, to their horror, that police were still shooting tens of thousands of rounds of live ammunition into the house—and laughing. The cops tore



WW PHOTO: TED KELLY

Janet and Janine Africa were joined on stage by Carlos Africa (center right) and Kaila Bulé (left) who performed an original song in tribute to revolutionaries and political prisoners.

children from the women’s arms and arrested them. Delbert Africa, another MOVE 9 member, was brutally beaten by cops, which was captured on film years before the infamous Rodney King beating. Within 24 hours the Powelton Village house was gone, bulldozed by the state to destroy all evidence of the MOVE family’s innocence.

Just as the evening’s program was beginning, organizers received a surprise phone call from one of MOVE’s longest and most faithful supporters: Mumia Abu-Jamal. Calling from SCI Mahanoy, this progressive journalist and former Black Panther has been incarcerated by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections since 1982 after a similar police frame-up. After Mumia’s call was patched through the venue’s sound system, he was greeted by cheers of support

from all those attending. This phone call marked the first time that Janet, Janine and Mumia had been able to speak to each other in 41 years.

“My first question,” Mumia asked the two, “is how the hell can you do over 40 years in prison and still look so damn beautiful?”

As the crowd shared a laugh and applause, both Janet and Janine replied in unison, “Long live John Africa!” It is to the spiritual and revolutionary teachings of MOVE’s founders that both credit their unflinching commitment to the struggle. The Philadelphia police assassinated John Africa in 1985 when they bombed the MOVE family house on Osage Avenue, killing 11 MOVE members and children and burning down an entire city block.

It was because of MOVE’s opposition to the system—to environmental destruction

and environmental racism, police brutality and exploitation—that the organization became a target of the state.

“The only thing MOVE was guilty of was exposing the system,” Janet said.

Of all the things that have changed in the 40 years that they have carried on the fight behind bars, the technology is what is most different. Janine explained that smartphones and the Internet are tools of the system to divert people. She stressed the importance of using technology and wielding it effectively for the struggle, but also about the need to teach youth that “You don’t have to be a slave to technology; you don’t have to let it become your heart and soul.”

Janet and Janine were joined by MOVE member Carlos Africa, who told gripping accounts of his prison time, fighting from the inside to defend the women of MOVE who were held in a separate facility. He stressed that MOVE has always been an organization led by women, and that he was grateful to be exposed to their leadership and an ideology of gender equality in his youth.

Organizer and longtime MOVE ally Orie Lumumba closed the program with a call to action. Two of the MOVE 9, Delbert and Chuck Africa, are still behind bars. Michael, Debbie and Eddie were also recently released. Phil and Merle Africa were killed by prison conditions during their incarceration.

With Chuck and Delbert’s parole board hearings approaching at the end of the summer, supporters are urged to get involved in the effort to free these revolutionaries by writing letters, making phone calls to the parole authorities and visiting [onamove.org](http://onamove.org).

Long live John Africa! Free all political prisoners! □

## Ohio

# A crooked river and a crooked economic system

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

To many the phrase “burning river” might seem like an oxymoron. Rivers are water, and water is used to extinguish fires. But June 22 marked the 50th anniversary of the famous Cuyahoga River fire.

That day in 1969, when flammable pollutants floating in the river were ignited by a spark made by a passing train, is forever etched in Cleveland’s historical memory. The flames, reaching five stories high, subsequently brought down the railroad bridge. No photos are known to exist of this catastrophic event.

That was the 13th time the Cuyahoga caught fire. The first time was in 1868. Five people were burned to death in 1912, and the 1952 fire caused \$1.3 million worth of damage. As the city became a manufacturing center, executives at profit-hungry companies, such as U.S. Steel, Republic Steel, Jones & Laughlin Steel, Sherwin-Williams and John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil, thought nothing of dumping waste in the river. The river burned under the shadow of Republic Steel.

After residents complained of foul-tasting drinking water, tests done as early as 1922 determined: “The polluted water of the Cuyahoga River reached the water works intakes, and this polluted water contained the material which caused the obnoxious taste.” (Smithsonian, June 19) Yet by 1969, no corporations had ever



The Cuyahoga River fire of 1952 caused \$1.3 million in damage.

been held accountable for their environmental recklessness.

One elected official who voiced concern about pollution was Mayor Carl B. Stokes, the first African-American elected mayor in a major U.S. city. In 1968, with his backing, voters overwhelmingly passed a \$100 million bond initiative to fund efforts to clean up the Cuyahoga. Stokes held a press conference at the river’s edge the day after the fire.

The fire drew attention to the crises of pollution threatening the country’s air, land and water — and it gave impetus to the environmental movement. This movement emerged in tandem with powerful struggles against racism, sexism, gay oppression (as LGBTQ2S+ was referred to then), imperialist war and other injustices.

Cleveland has played an important role in the radical movement. The city hosted many anti-war conferences. The 1966 Hough Rebellion and 1968 Glenville Rebellion shook up the racist power structure. The city was also the site of the first Earth Day in April 1970, when 1,000

Cleveland State University students held a teach-in and marched from their campus to the river to protest pollution.

Congressman Louis Stokes, the mayor’s brother, helped push the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970. Under pressure from the mass ecology movement, Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 and overrode President Richard Nixon’s veto of the bill.

### Another dirty legacy: racism

The name Cuyahoga was appropriated from an Iroquois language, spoken by the Indigenous peoples of the area before colonization. It may be a distortion of the Mohawk word Cuyagaga, which means “crooked,” or of Cuyohaga, the Seneca word meaning “place of the jawbone.” (Encyclopedia of Cleveland History) The river briefly defined the western border of the U.S. until — as with every other treaty between European and Indigenous peoples — white settlers broke the Treaty of Greenville and pushed westward.

As settlements expanded on both sides of the Cuyahoga, the crooked, winding river divided the city into East and West sides. The river represents another ugly feature of Cleveland history: racist segregation. When African Americans came north seeking industrial jobs, they were largely concentrated on the East Side. Decades later, they still crossed the bridge with trepidation to enter the West Side, where the white population lived.

Hough, originally a wealthy enclave, was later a place of refuge for Jewish immigrants after World War II. By the early 1960s, it had become an impoverished Black neighborhood. There, Civil Rights protesters were arrested in 1964 when they lay down in a ditch to protest construction of a segregated school, a project that froze Black workers out of building trades jobs. Rev. Bruce Klunder lay down behind a bulldozer. The operator backed up over the activist minister and killed him instantly.

Conditions in segregated housing became a major subject of the 1966 U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearings. In April of that year, a public inquiry heard testimony about the terrible living conditions for Hough’s Black residents. Two months later, Hough exploded in a rebellion initially triggered by racist abuse of Black patrons at a white-owned bar. The Ohio National Guard crushed the rebellion on July 24, four days after it began, leaving four Black Clevelanders dead.

The 1967 election of Mayor Stokes, who garnered support on both sides of the Cuyahoga, was a historic blow against racism. The whole city benefited from his work against pollution.

### 50 years after the fire, still serious issues

“Riverfest,” held on this year’s anniversary of the fire, celebrated the Cuyahoga’s comeback. The river that was once declared dead, and unable to sustain life in any form,

*Continued on page 9*



# On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

## Chicago airport workers win contract victory!

Airport workers at both Midway and O'Hare celebrated ratification of their first Service Employees (SEIU) Local 1 contract at Chicago City Hall July 17. This contract with Prospect Airport Services and Scrub Inc. — which covers 2,200 wheelchair attendants, cabin cleaners, baggage handlers and cargo agents — provides a pathway to \$15-an-hour and good union benefits!

Workers won roughly \$8,000 more in wages over the life of the three-year contract, as well as overtime, a grievance procedure, seniority protections, more affordable health care, vacation time and five additional holidays at time-and-a-half pay.

This group of workers has been organizing all over the country, with Local 1 leading protests and strike threats since 2016. What helped them win in Chicago was a 2017 City Council ordinance raising wages to \$13.80 an hour and language that made it easier for workers to join unions. O'Hare workers' high-profile allegation of wage theft totaling \$1.2 million helped. (Chicago Sun Times, July 17)

The next fight in Chicago is to win union representation for fellow workers employed by Total Airport Services Inc. — cabin cleaners, customer service agents, baggage handlers, ramp agents and warehouse agents. (seiu.org, July 17)

This is a major breakthrough nationally for airport workers. May it ramp up the ongoing organizing struggle for these workers all around the U.S.!

## Nurses in 3 western states are on the move

About 400 registered nurses, represented by the California Nurses Association, ratified a new contract July 3 with Oroville Hospital, north of Sacramento, mandating wage increases of 12 percent over four years. They also improved safety in working conditions that addressed outbreaks of communicable diseases, emergencies, disasters and workplace violence. These protections were won to help lower the high turnover rate of RNs. (sacbee.com, July 5)

When management of Kalispell Regional Health hospital in northwest Montana refused to recognize the nurses' petition to the National Labor Relations Board to join SEIU1199NW in mid-June, the nurses opted for an election. With a July 12 vote of 372 to 199, the nurses won union representation. One of their aims is getting KRH to hire more nurses and end the staffing shortage. (SEIU1199nw.org, July 12)

Nurses represented by the Washington State Nurses Association at CHI Franciscan St. Joseph Medical Center in Takoma reached a tentative agreement after a 17-hour negotiating session into the early morning of July 13. The union called the deal a "major victory ... that achieved gains in all three of our key priorities on wages, staffing and retro pay." (thestand.org, July 15)

## National Bill of Rights for domestic workers

The National Domestic Workers Bill of Rights was introduced in Congress July 15 to finally establish rights for some of the most oppressed workers in the U.S. — domestic workers. These women, along with farmworkers, were not covered by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, after Southern congressmen refused to vote for it unless white Southerners could continue Jim Crow oppression and abuse of Black housekeepers and sharecroppers.

This bill, fought for since 1968, will establish rules so the growing number of nannies, housecleaners and home care workers, who have had to endure low wages (about \$10 an hour), unpredictable hours, lack of job security and sexual harassment, will have set wages, hours, overtime, protections and benefits like sick days, and job security. Live-in nannies will have signed contracts and must receive a written termination notice and at least 30 days of severance pay. Given the growth of the aging U.S. population, domestic work is predicted to be the fastest growing job in the next decade.

The National Domestic Workers Alliance, founded in 2007 and representing 2 million women — predominantly women of color from as far away as the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and Africa — is the driving force behind the law. (New York Times, July 15) Its passage will right a racist, sexist wrong and become a small step toward long-overdue reparations. □

# Will autoworkers strike for jobs and equal pay?

By Martha Grevatt

The United Auto Workers has begun negotiations for new contracts with Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Current contracts expire in mid-September. For the first time in decades, UAW International President Gary Jones has raised the specter of a strike.

Jones informed GM CEO Mary Barra and company negotiators on July 16: "My Brothers and Sisters are ready to do whatever is necessary to get the contract that, in this time of record profits, they deserve." A similar message was presented to Ford and FCA.

The UAW regional offices are hosting strike-preparedness classes for local leaders and interested rank-and-file members. Union dues have been increased to bolster the strike fund, and weekly strike pay was increased this year from \$200 to \$250. Industry analysts in the corporate media are nervously reporting "a wide divide" between the two sides. (Detroit News, July 15)

Workers on the plant floor have been hesitant to take the International's tough talk seriously. For decades the International bureaucracy has asked them to vote "yes" on contracts, claiming big gains when they were, in fact, taking major concessions.

The 2007-11 contracts introduced the two-tier pay scale that paid future hires less than higher-seniority "traditional" workers doing the same work. This unequal and divisive formula — an affront to basic union principles — was expanded when contracts were modified during the 2009 GM and Chrysler (now FCA) bankruptcies and maintained in the 2011-15 contracts.

FCA workers voted down a contract in 2015 that would have extended the two-tier wage scale another four years. They approved a second contract that brought newer, "in-progression" workers' pay up to that of traditional workers after eight years. Similar language was included in GM and Ford contracts. Workers hired after October 2007 at FCA are still excluded from traditional pension plans and have unequal health benefits.

When UAW members approved contracts in 2015, most believed they were voting to eliminate tiered pay. But new language actually expanded a third tier of lower-paid "temporary employees." They get no bonuses or benefits beyond a very basic health care plan.

With few protections against arbitrary discipline and discharge, temps are subjected to widespread abuse by supervisors, including racist and sexual harassment. Their work schedules vary from one or two days a week to seven, with little advance notice, and they are expected to cover for high absenteeism on days of bitter cold or oppressive summer heat.

### Plant closings another big issue

Jones has taken Barra to task over GM's plans to permanently close plants in Michigan, Ohio and Maryland. The Lordstown, Ohio, assembly plant has been idle since March, and three others are slated for closing. The current contract prohibits GM from closing or idling plants. The company has tried to get around the contract by calling the plants "unallocated" — meaning no new work after the current car model being built is discontinued.

The UAW has mainly limited the fight against plant closings to filing grievances, taking legal action and holding prayer vigils. It has not lent support to GM workers in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada whose plant is also on the chopping block. Several busloads of GM workers from



Maryland and Lordstown demonstrated with local autoworkers outside GM world headquarters in downtown Detroit July 16, the day negotiations opened.

The closing of Lordstown is a big blow to the Youngstown-Warren area, which has been devastated by multiple steel mill closings. In a sign of hard times, Youngstown's only daily newspaper, The Vindicator, will cease publication in August.

Meanwhile, FCA is going forward with closing Mt. Elliott Tool and Die in Detroit, which will eliminate more skilled-trades jobs. Workers have also been laid off in a number of FCA and Ford plants.

Several decades of capitalist restructuring have reduced UAW membership at the Detroit Three to 155,000, even as car sales have rebounded to pre-recession levels. A recession in auto would bring even more layoffs.

### Strike all three!

The companies are quick to point out that their average labor costs are higher than those of Asian and European vehicle manufacturers with plants in the U.S. They want the UAW to partner with them in holding costs down in order to be competitive. GM CEO Barra warned President Jones that "our collective future is at stake." (Detroit News, July 16)

The UAW should reject these bogus arguments. Labor costs are estimated to be only 5 percent of the cost of a car. Put another way, only 5 percent of sales revenue goes to the workers. This comes to a little over \$20 billion for the three companies combined, not much more than their combined profits of about \$16 billion in 2018. On the average, four hours of labor go to profits for every five hours that go to wages and benefits. This is a high rate of exploitation, and it is much higher in low-wage countries. Unions have every right to say no to concessions.

Demands around equal pay and job security are more than just, but it may take a strike to get the companies to agree. It is past time for the UAW leadership to kick its decades-old habit of class collaboration, the root of an embarrassing bribe-taking scandal still under federal investigation.

The traditional "pattern bargaining" strategy has been to name one of the three companies as a "strike target" from which the union will try to get the best possible contract, hypothetically by striking if necessary, and then to push the other two companies to follow the "pattern." The last auto strikes, in 2007, were for two days at GM and six hours at Chrysler. Some workers mocked them as "Hollywood strikes" — just for show. What they "won" was introduction of two tier, no raises for four years and the erosion of skilled trades through consolidation.

Given the hard line the Detroit Three bosses are taking, a better strategy might be to strike all three and demand no plant closings, no mass layoffs, no more tiered pay and all temps must be made permanent employees.

*Grevatt is a UAW worker who recently retired from FCA after 31 years. She is the Trustee of UAW Local 869 and an elected delegate to the union's recent convention.*

# Prime Day wildcat strike and picket shakes Amazon

By Harvey Markowitz  
Shakopee, Minn.

On Monday, July 15, the same day as Amazon’s “Prime Day” sales extravaganza, workers at the Amazon MSP1 fulfillment center in Shakopee, Minn., walked out to protest the company’s oppressive management practices.

With the support of the general community and union locals, hundreds of people picketed the entrance of the Amazon fulfillment center, holding signs, singing, chanting and dancing. Workers report that almost all trucks that approached the facility turned around and refused to cross the picket line.

One hundred workers were originally expected to walk out and a significant number did. With the front door flanked by jeering managers, “loss prevention” staff and police, the company succeeded in intimidating some workers into remaining on the job.

Worker demands include: no retaliation for concerted action, better working conditions, an end to unsafe work that leaves workers injured, and for Amazon to stop polluting the environment.

East African workers in particular, many of whom are Muslim, demand adequate time and accommodation for religious practices throughout the day. Amazon’s designated space for prayers is no more than the doorway of a corridor. According to Jaylani Hussein of CAIR-MN (Council on American-Islamic Relations-Minnesota), this is less than what some smaller companies provide for only 50 employees.

Speaking at the rally, former employee Meg Bradley told her story of developing a foot injury — for which workers’ compensation was denied — which later became exacerbated, rendering her unable to work. She insists Amazon must “reduce

productivity rates” and exploitative reliance on temporary workers to stop the “churn and burn” of workers.

Bradley recalled the history of her grandfather, who, many decades ago, also worked in a factory and struck for workers’ rights. “I think he’s looking down on me today, and I think he’s quite proud of what’s going on.”

Weston Fribley, a tech engineer from Seattle and member of Amazon Employees for Climate Justice, read solidarity statements from others in his division. “Without its employees, Amazon cannot exist,” Weston said. “We have no say on how our work contributes to climate change, or otherwise affects our world. ... Will Amazon squander its resources on new ways to extract even more work from its overworked employees?”

Weston’s sentiments were joined by Michael Rousseau, a pilot whose company flies air freight for Amazon and a strike-preparation chair with Teamsters Local 1224.

Phyllis Ibrahim, a young Somali worker, emphasized the big picture of the workers’ concerns. She related that a lot of the workers at MSP1 are Somali, and much of the climate change caused by companies such as Amazon has effects around the world, including in Somalia. “A lot of money is stolen from the workers in here ... all of that comes at a cost,” said Ibrahim.

An elderly Somali warehouse worker who walks with a cane, Mohammed Hassan, spoke through a translator. He lambasted Amazon for their unfair standards and practices: “There is a lot of fear, a lot of injustice around here. The work is a heavy load. They think that human beings can be robots. We are not scared to stand up for our rights. ... We will make sure that ... we speak for all the Amazon workers in the world, [and] all the humans of the world.”

parent might be able to attend their child’s soccer game by taking UTO. But workers are fully aware that the bosses who came up with this benefit can take it away. A complaint was filed with the National Labor Relations Board when workers who previously walked off the job had their UTO reduced.

## Injured former worker describes horrors

Kim Hatfield, a divorced mother who came from Dallas in solidarity, spoke with Workers World. The struggles of East African workers at MSP1 resonated with her experience at Amazon, where she empathized deeply with Liberian workers performing back-breaking labor alongside her. Hatfield worked for Amazon for less than a year before being injured to the point where she couldn’t work.

Performing as a “picker,” Hatfield developed severe pain in her arms that grew more intense as time went on. While seeking care through the company’s approved network of workers’ compensation physicians, she was relieved when she was approved for surgery. However, she was devastated when the insurance adjuster informed her that a review determined that her approval had been reversed.

The adjustor’s call came two days before her son’s 16th birthday. Hatfield had planned to surprise her son with his first car, but the call cut her plans short.

After performing her own investigation into the adjustor’s decision, Hatfield discovered conspicuous additions to and subtractions from her medical record. In particular, snapshots of the record show a surgical history of carpal tunnel surgery. Hatfield asserts that the company inserted a fictitious precondition to justify denying her treatment.

Hatfield added that she and her co-workers observed that treatment denials appear to happen, quite conspicuously, more to women employees, whereas many men who receive injuries get the treatment and accommodation they need.

Hatfield is currently working with an attorney to appeal the rejection of her compensation claim.

## Solidarity actions here and around the world

In **Germany**, nearly 2,000 workers in seven cities held strikes on July 15 in solidarity with MSP1 workers and Amazon workers around the world. In **Spain**, workers had planned to hold a two-day demonstration, but it was later cancelled because there are signs that the company may come to an agreement subsequent to a judicial decision in the coming months.

In **England**, workers at the Rugeley facility held a demonstration, echoing the rallying cry from MSP1 workers: that workers “are people — not robots.”

Strike supporters held an action in front of an Amazon pick up/drop-off location in **Boston**’s Central Square, a busy shopping area and hub of several bus routes. People took flyers and expressed solidarity, often stopping to inquire for more information.

**Cleveland** activists leafletted and held signs outside a local Whole Foods store



Shakopee, Minn.

WW PHOTO: HARVEY MARKOWITZ



Seattle

PHOTO: CHERYL MCARTHUR

(owned by Amazon), holding conversations with sympathetic shoppers.

Protesters rallied outside a downtown **Portland, Ore.**, Amazon Locker Hub on July 15. Passersby took leaflets, asked questions and expressed support. On July 16 and 17, demonstrators at two Amazon warehouses protested horrendous working conditions, joining Amazon employees fighting to unionize their workplaces.

An Amazon worker at the rally told Workers World that plants have no air conditioning and managers are imposing impossibly fast speedups. “Amazon workers appreciate the support and community unity against the sweatshop conditions we are working in. More people are starting to see how Bezos, the richest man in the U.S. who doesn’t pay taxes, is treating Amazon workers.”

Paige Kreisman, a transwoman running for the Oregon House of Representatives, said at the rally, “I choose to stand with the workers. ... We can’t build a movement without labor.” A member of Vets for Peace, Paige was kicked out of the U.S. Army for being trans. Other speakers represented the Amazon Workers Solidarity Campaign, International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Service Employees union, Communication Workers and Jobs with Justice.

The International Workers Solidarity Network initiated an online solidarity campaign that encouraged workers to support the Amazon strike by pledging solidarity and spreading the word about the strike; joining actions planned to support the workers’ demands or organizing their own at an Amazon or Whole Foods location; and boycotting Amazon and Whole Foods on Prime Day to respect the workers’ picket line.

The solidarity pledge raised the significance of this action, led primarily by Somali and East African migrants, following strikes by Uber and Lyft drivers and Wayfair workers, and in the midst of Trump’s racist war on migrant workers. Nearly 1,000 people signed the pledge from across the U.S. and around the world; others shared the message of the strike through social media and other means.

*Ben Carroll, Phebe Eckfeldt, Martha Grevatt, Johnnie Lewis, Jim McMahan and Lyn Neeley contributed to this article.*



Portland, Ore.



Cambridge, Mass.



WW Commentary

# Puerto Rico rises up

By Jason Cohen

The souls of Puerto Ricans everywhere should burn with indignation as they read through the text messages by Gov. Ricardo Rossello and members of his administration written in a group chat. On July 13, the Center for Investigative Journalism in Puerto Rico published 900 pages of the messages.

The contents ranged from openly defaming valiant women of the island who are fighting against sexual violence to insulting folk heroes such as Carlos Gallisa who have fought alongside the toiling masses in their quest for freedom, equality and independence. Perhaps the most macabre and damning part of the messages discuss the government’s coverup of the actual death toll of thousands of Puerto Ricans from Hurricane Maria, with some members making jokes at the expense of the dead. This is disgusting behavior ubiquitous among the ruling cliques of capitalist nations.

Colonial and capitalist financial crisis

This “Telegram Gate” controversy is just the newest chapter in corrupt practices committed by successive colonial administrations that have plagued the island since famed genocidal conqueror Juan Ponce DeLeon invaded this beautiful land in 1514, beginning the genocide of the Indigenous Taino people.

Thus, it is not surprising that there has been such a militant response by the people calling on colonial governor Rossello to step down. On July 17, half a million people demonstrated in San Juan. By July 22, there had been 10 consecutive days of protest.

Many bourgeois reporters will claim that the only reason why these protests are occurring is allegations of corruption. But corruption is just one part of the story.

The contradictions of living in a colonial entity have grown more acute for a



Protest for Puerto Rico at Columbus Circle in New York City, July 22. WW PHOTO: HENRY LUNA

majority of Puerto Ricans on the island. Under Rossello’s administration, the little sovereignty Puerto Ricans had left to deal with their economic situation was given to an unelected board of supervisors, led by the imperialist U.S. government, under the PROMESA agreement. The Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act is a 2016 U.S. federal law that established the oversight board.

The arrangement was made under the guise of “fiscal responsibility” due to the massive amount of debt accrued by Puerto Rico, an island that has been strangled economically by the United States for over 120 years. This board put in place austerity programs that are blatant machinations of class conflict.

‘Refugees on our own island’

The austerity drive aggravated an already decrepit economy, thus continuously leaving Puerto Ricans in the dark while billionaires scramble to buy up everything on the island due to the massive privatization campaign.

Then came Hurricane Maria, with our

beleaguered island left alone after this massive storm hit, leaving death and destruction everywhere.

Our people became refugees on our own island, snubbed by the government that claims Puerto Ricans are rightful citizens of the United States of America. But the fascist U.S. president hosted a press conference on the island during which he threw paper towels at desperate families to “help” them.

All these events and numerous others have built up a rage in the hearts of Puerto Ricans, thus producing the outpouring of demonstrations on the island and in the diaspora.

The protests have humanized a beleaguered people. Our imperialist overlords have continuously shown that they value profits over our wellbeing. Now we are showing that we will not stand for this exploitation any longer. Ousting Rossello is just the beginning. The people have risen, and we will not stop until our island is free.

‘The people are forever strong’

This is a momentous task, but we are up for it. We shall walk in the footsteps of our revolutionary ancestors who rebelled against the Spanish under the Taino leader Agüeybaná II, on the path of the brave souls of Lares who rebelled against Spain in 1868, and many other figures who have defied the U.S. head on, like Albizu Campos, the valiant people of Jayuya and Oscar López Rivera. Our fight is just, and we will win in the end for imperialism is a paper tiger and the people are forever strong!

The struggle ahead will be long, but with the solidarity of the international working class we will triumph. This

means that we, the Puerto Rican revolutionaries, must also adopt a proletarian internationalist outlook. For our oppression under U.S. imperialism is an oppression felt throughout the world.

We must stand steadfastly with the Bolivarian revolutionaries of Venezuela in their struggle against U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. Puerto Rico plays an especially important role in this issue, since multiple times Gov. Rossello has offered Puerto Rico as a place for the U.S. military to base its insurgency against the Venezuelan people.

We must ensure solidarity with the Caribbean nations, especially Cuba, which have stood in solidarity with Puerto Ricans from the beginning, always calling for the end of U.S. colonial oppression of our nation. We must also stand firmly with Haitian revolutionaries who have continuously struggled against U.S. imperialism.

Thus, Puerto Ricans in the mainland United States have a very special role to play. We must continue to put pressure on the U.S. government to withdraw the blockades and sanctions levied on nations such as Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. These are manifestations of class warfare against revolutionary nations and must end.

‘Solidarity with peoples of other colonies’

Also, Puerto Ricans must show solidarity with the peoples of other colonies of the United States, such as Guam, Mariana Islands, Hawai’i and the Philippines. Currently there is a righteous struggle by Indigenous Hawaiians whose holy lands are slated to be desecrated in the name of science. We must affirm our solidarity with the Indigenous Hawaiians whose nation, culture and quality of life has been decimated due to U.S. imperialism.

Another main struggle occurring right now is in the Philippines against fascist President Rodrigo Duterte. Since his election he has begun the policy of extrajudicial killing of poor people in the name of the “war on drugs.” Sounds familiar, eh?

Although on paper the Philippines became independent in 1946, the United States has continuously undermined the struggle for democracy by supporting and funding multiple dictatorships. Duterte is no different. Therefore we must stand in solidarity with Filipinos and all other peoples struggling for freedom.

This is a heavy task, but the strength of the working class is unmatched. Together we will build a new world out of the ashes of the old! □



## #RickyRenuncia Puerto Rican community rallies in Philly

Despite temperatures in the high 90s, the Puerto Rican community from across Philadelphia converged at Ninth Street and Hunting Park Avenue on July 19 to demand the resignation of Puerto Rico’s Gov. Ricardo Rossello. This protest was in solidarity with the thousands of working people who have been in the streets of Puerto Rico since the second week in July demanding that Rossello leave office.

The protests in Puerto Rico began following the release of almost 900 pages of group chat messages among Rossello,

his top aides and lobbyists. In these they made homophobic, sexist and profane remarks against allies and foes.

The protests are also condemning the governor’s slow response to the crisis following Hurricane Maria, as well as government corruption.

Many protesters have drawn attention to Puerto Rico’s status as a U.S. colony and how that has negatively affected relief, aid and decision-making in relation to the island.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## Kānaka Maoli protect sacred land in Hawai’i

Continued from page 1

what we call the state of Hawai’i. It is the American state apparatus that continues to play a role in enforcing astronomer access to the Mauna, for example, with the police forces this week arresting the kūpuna, the elders, who took great physical risk to protect their family.” (earther.gizmodo.com, July 18)

The TMT has been falsely portrayed as science vs. Native Hawaiians, but it is a for-profit project. The telescope’s investors have an alternate site selected in the Canary Islands.

The Earther website paraphrased an email from Aurora Kagawa-Viviani, a Native Hawaiian Ph.D. candidate at the Mānoa’s Department of Geography and Environment at the University of Hawai’i: “This isn’t a moment for scientists to stay silent. ... That would make scientists complicit in oppressing Indigenous worldviews.” (July 18)

Support the Kia’i; donate to the Hawai’i Community Bail Fund at hawaiicommunitybailfund.org. All donations will be used exclusively to bail out protectors of the mauna. □



# 160 from U.S. take protest trip to Cuba

*The following press release was issued by the Venceremos Brigade on July 18. The group describes itself as “an inter-generational educational work project that has brought 10,000 Americans to Cuba since 1969 in an act of civil disobedience in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.” The VB will travel to Cuba from July 23 to Aug. 13.*

New York — As the Trump Administration uses fear tactics to turn back the clock on Cuba policy, 160 [people from the U.S.] are planning a massive political and educational trip to protest lingering U.S. imperialism — above all the financial control that the U.S. still forcibly exerts over Cuba — which threatens to undermine the sovereignty of the Cuban people. The trip, organized by the Venceremos Brigade, will mark the 50th anniversary of this project, which, since 1969, has traveled annually in protest of the U.S. government’s travel restrictions and blockade on the island, while working

to strengthen movements for justice in the U.S. through exchange and collaboration with Cuba. ...

This will be the largest and most accessible Venceremos Brigade in over a decade and will include many people from the U.S. who have traveled with the Brigade sometime in the last 50 years. Since its founding 10 years after the socialist revolution in Cuba, the Brigade has taken more than 10,000 people from the U.S. to the island, where they have worked as volunteers on civic projects, delivered thousands of pounds of material aid, and engaged in discourse with people from various sectors of Cuban society. Brigade members, known as “brigadistas,” come from all over the U.S. and are diverse in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, occupation, and political affiliation. The guiding purpose of the Brigade is solidarity.

“Sometimes the best way to be in solidarity is by building community. That is what this trip taught me,” said Hector

Rivera, a brigadista from the 48th trip in 2017. “It was refreshing, healing, grounding, and uplifting. It was essential in my path toward liberation.”

The Venceremos Brigade itself has been on an evolving path over the years as well. In 2003, in response to a crackdown by the Bush Administration on travel to Cuba, the Brigade made their “Travel Challenge” a public act of civil disobedience, as a way to increase pressure on the U.S. government to lift the economic blockade and change policy toward Cuba. In the following years, [the Brigade] succeeded in greatly reducing the enforcement of sanctions against travelers, but [that] work has been met with threats from the U.S. Treasury Department and harassment from the FBI. Still, the Venceremos Brigade continues to organize annual trips and demand that the U.S. government act to rectify its harmful Cuba policy.

Most recently, the Trump administration has reversed many of the advances toward normalization initiated by the

Obama administration in late 2014, expelling diplomats from the Cuban Embassy, withdrawing personnel from the U.S. Embassy, curtailing business travel, eliminating the “people-to-people” subcategory for travel, continuing to spread misinformation about Cuban society, and levying some of the largest blockade violation fines ever.

As the Trump Administration continues its domestic attacks on civil and human rights and as interest in socialism grows among the U.S. population, people are looking for alternatives in Cuban society, where there is no such thing as student debt and everyone has health insurance. Now more than ever, the Venceremos Brigade’s trip to Cuba takes on great political significance. Brigadistas will return to the U.S. to educate their communities about the realities seen and experienced in Cuba, and to advocate for the end of the blockade and travel ban, the return of occupied Guantánamo Bay, and truly normal relations. □

## Venezuela discussions

### The government denounces, the opposition wavers

By Marco Teruggi  
Caracas

*First published July 14 in pagina12.com.ar. Translation by Michael Otto.*

A massive throng of people passed through the center of Caracas on July 13 to demonstrate their rejection of the United Nations report on Venezuela, presented by Michelle Bachelet, U.N. high commissioner for human rights. A tropical storm soaked the marchers as they made their way to Miraflores Palace.

Meanwhile, far from the capital, in the city of Valera, in the state of Trujillo, [opposition leader] Juan Guaidó addressed his followers at a rally: “We aren’t committed to any mechanism, with any action. We know that there are no magic solutions.” He thus tried to contain the criticisms received for his oscillating and contradictory moves — such as threatening force while simultaneously returning to talks in Barbados with Venezuela’s government.

As the two contending public meetings took place, Venezuela’s minister of communication, Jorge Rodríguez, held a press conference to inform the people about the detention of three members of the team close to Guaidó, which resulted from an investigation into the attempted coup d’état on April 30.

Rodríguez explained, “One of the lines of investigation corresponds to the theft of regulation weapons belonging to detachment 432 of the Bolivarian National Guard of the Bolivarian National Armed Force that were stolen from the weapons depot of the Federal Legislative Palace by some of the criminal military who were involved in the coup ordered by Juan Guaidó.”

#### Opposition agents caught selling stolen weapons

The three men were discovered attempting an operation to sell some of the stolen weapons, five AK103 rifles and 10 clips, for \$35,000. “[The opposition] present themselves to the world as so-called democrats, as human rights defenders, but in reality they are coup



PHOTO: PAGINA12.COM.AR

**A member of the Bolivarian militia denounces the U.N. High Commissioner’s negative report on Venezuela, during a July 13 march in Caracas.**

conspirators and criminals. They are always playing a dual game. On the one hand, they sit down with the revolutionary government, but, on the other hand, they persist with their violent agenda,” Rodríguez said.

Minister Rodríguez announced that the investigations and evidence will be brought to the talks with the opposition forces in Barbados, which the Norwegian government is facilitating. The minister is part of the [Venezuelan] government delegation along with [Miranda state Governor] Héctor Rodríguez. They are moving forward with the talks in their third public round, following the first two meetings that took place in Oslo, Norway, in May.

Héctor Rodríguez spoke during the ceremony celebrating the government’s handing over the 2.7 millionth house built for the Venezuelan people. He had just returned from “three intense days of peace talks with the Venezuelan opposition forces, where we have listened with much patience to the aspirations, reflections and requests made by these various Venezuelan opposition forces.”

The content of the talks has been kept confidential. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed “the importance of taking the utmost precaution in comments and statements regarding the

process.” The only thing publicly known is that six (undisclosed) points are on the table. All the rest is based on speculation, rumor, media events and political maneuvering.

#### Pro-imperialist press conference

One such media event was a joint press conference on Friday [July 12] attended by Luis Almagro, secretary-general of the Organization of American States; U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams; and three opponents from Venezuela. They included Ivan Simonovic, a fugitive from justice for his involvement in the 2002 coup d’état [which seized President Hugo Chávez and was then forced to release him].

Almagro asserted that the only solution will come from U.S. pressure: “More than what is being negotiated

around the table, if anything comes out it’s going to be due to factors external to the talks such as pressure, sanctions and other credible threats made by the U.S. administration.”

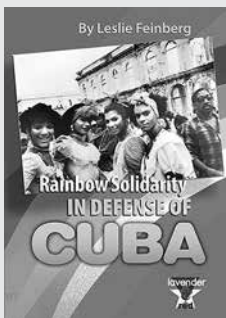
Venezuela’s ambassador to the U.N., Samuel Moncada, later accused the OAS of sabotaging the dialogue process, since its secretary general “asks for military intervention in Venezuela.”

In turn Abrams, who was responsible for arms smuggling and massacres in Central America in the 1980s, said: “I hope that nobody in (the press conference) room knows what’s happening, because the only possibility that the negotiations will be successful is that there will be confidentiality. (...) [S]o needless to say we hope the negotiations will succeed. Interim ‘President’ Guaidó and his team are not negotiating in Barbados because they trust the regime. They are negotiating to end the regime.” (Abrams quote, at 41 minutes into the video, [tinyurl.com/yyq2ubd6](https://tinyurl.com/yyq2ubd6))

None of the parties has shifted from its core position so far. The United States maintains that the departure of President Nicolás Maduro is the key point.

Speaking for the Chavismo side [the Venezuelan government], the president of the National Constituent Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, affirmed that there will be no presidential elections: “It is impossible. ... [T]here were elections here on May 20 [2018] in accordance with the Constitution and Nicolás Maduro won. That cannot be disputed.”

Given clues, media events and rumors — what is known, and what is perhaps most important — is that the talks go on. □



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# Solidarity in the fight against white supremacy

## Part 3 Building international solidarity

*The Sixth International Assembly of the International League of People's Struggles took place in Hong Kong June 23-26. Founded in 2001, ILPS is a coalition of more than 200 anti-imperialist mass organizations from around the world that "promotes, supports and develops the struggles of the peoples of the world, including the workers, peasants, women, youth, professionals and other sectors of society against the ideological, political, military, economic, social and cultural domination and attacks of imperialism and reaction."*

**Loan Tran**, who attended as a representative of the International Action Center, spoke at the assembly. Part 3 of Tran's remarks, slightly edited, is presented below. For more information about ILPS, see [ilps.info](http://ilps.info).

It would be naïve of us to believe that Trump's administration alone has unleashed a new kind of white supremacy or has introduced this latest stage of capitalist decay. It is important to note, however, that he has encouraged a new level of uncensored white-supremacist violence that can only and will only benefit the capitalist ruling class, which is capable of creating its own laws and rules to serve its interests.

Trump's blatantly white-supremacist remarks about im/migrants and Muslims and his blatant misogyny make him a convenient figurehead for the capitalists, who bank on violence against workers and oppressed people for their profit.

Any critique or analysis of Donald Trump as simply stupid or dumb is useless for building a revolutionary movement to resist him. It makes our task more difficult and is rather ahistorical. He is precisely the kind of president who the global conditions of finance capital have produced at this point in time. He is pushing fascist policies and practices, and in the U.S. we are still playing catchup to understand what this means. In large part, his fascist actions are taking root because we still have work to do to strengthen the revolutionary left pole embedded among the masses.

There is a lot more that could be said here but I'll start wrapping up by asking: How might we resist capitalist and white-supremacist rule and laws? How might we wage a struggle that rejects white-supremacist capitalism ideologically and also in action?

We must continue to push revolutionary class consciousness that resisting white supremacy, fascism and capitalism are not crimes. And that democracy under capitalism is not democracy at all: It is authoritarianism. We must work to expose the role that this kind of authoritarianism plays in puppet governments and dictatorships in oppressed nations around the globe.

It goes without saying that we see models for this across the globe, right now. Inside the U.S., communities have blockaded ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] vehicles to prevent deportations and are preparing for Trump's

revving up of the deportation machine. Outside the U.S., we see the resistance in Palestine, the Philippines, Sudan, Haiti and beyond. I believe that in the U.S. we have much to learn from our comrades in the Global South and there are some key lessons we share from the center of the empire that would be of use, too.

In order for us to build effective solidarity between the North and the South, it is crucial that we move toward more shared understanding of the role of white supremacy in all of our struggles. There are oppressed nations within the false borders of the U.S. that can play an important and strategic role in resisting empire.

### Self-determination within and without

We must recognize the centrality of the Black struggle, of the Chicano/Chicana struggle, of the Indigenous struggle for sovereignty. Oppressed people within the borders of the empire are also fighting for self-determination, and we must uplift the idea that this self-determination cannot come at the cost of self-determination for oppressed people and nations outside the U.S.

I know that comrades in the U.S. are ready, and very much need, to centralize and internalize the mandates from our comrades in the Global South. One way to do this is to build more unity in the fight against racism — one of capital's strongest and well-proven tools for advancing the interests of empire.

We cannot leave the task of building international solidarity, of connecting the

struggles from inside the imperial core to those resisting imperial violence in the Global South and around the world, to the liberals, to the social democrats, and, in the U.S., to the Democratic party, which is just as much, if not more, of a warmongering party as the Republicans.

It goes without saying that the global capitalist crisis is indeed very local. The manifestations of contradictions among the ruling class and ruling parties themselves can be found in every struggle taking place around the world.

Our duty as revolutionaries, especially those of us who are inside the belly of the beast, is to take advantage of the disintegration among the ruling class and leverage that in solidarity with the struggles of oppressed people elsewhere.

As a revolutionary in the U.S., I must reiterate that I see my first and foremost priority as the defeat of the very empire through which my organizing still enjoys relative privileges — at least for the foreseeable future. But as we know, everything changes, and our best bet is to be prepared, build mass and international solidarity and connect the struggles of workers and oppressed people everywhere against the common enemy, the primary contradiction and the biggest threat to all of humanity: U.S. imperialism.

Yesterday we toppled statues, tomorrow we topple ICE, the Pentagon and the U.S. war machine, the prisons and the concentration camps of the poor around the world. □



## 'Stop police terror, from Philly to the Philippines'

Dozens of people braved 99° weather to rally in front of Philadelphia's City Hall on July 21. They gathered to demand "U.S. stop funding terror in the Philippines" and instead "Fund jobs, health care, housing and education, not imperialist wars." Speakers included Cero Parel and Jeeva of BAYAN-USA, Nora Kerrich of Jewish Voice for Peace Philadelphia and Mike Wilson of Workers World Party.

The demonstration was one of dozens of similar protests in the U.S. and around the world to condemn the U.S.-backed Duterte regime for its crimes against the Filipino people.

In a "United peoples state of the nation address," BAYAN-USA charges: "The fascist Trump administration continues to fully support the Duterte regime (\$193 million in 2018 alone), while it carries out a bloody drug war on the poor, martial law in Mindanao,

and counter-insurgency war on the revolutionary movement in the Philippines. With more than 30,000 extrajudicial killings, 532 political prisoners, and at least 56 Philippine National Police officers involved in abusing women, the U.S.-Duterte regime continues its state repression and terror against the people. The U.S.-Duterte regime is guilty of daily gross human rights violations."

Speakers joined BAYAN-USA in demanding "Stop U.S. intervention in the Philippines and all across the globe." The protest was endorsed by BAYAN-USA, Food Not Bombs-Solidarity, Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere, International Action Center, Jewish Voice for Peace Philadelphia, Philadelphia Camden Comite Boricua and Workers World Party.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## A crooked river and a crooked economic system

*Continued from page 4*

now teems with fish and attracts canoers, kayakers and even swimmers.

However, there are serious environmental issues facing Cleveland and the whole Great Lakes region. Water levels reached record highs this spring in Lake Erie at the mouth of the Cuyahoga. This posed the danger of flooding, such as Lake Ontario has experienced in the past two years, as well as soil erosion.

Like the century-long period when the Cuyahoga was a floating fire hazard, this new hazard to the environment is not the result of natural causes. Climate change has caused unnatural highs and lows in the water levels of the Great Lakes.

A June 8 article in Scientific American explained: "As researchers specializing in hydrology and climate science, we believe rapid transitions between extreme high and low water levels in the Great Lakes represent the 'new normal.' Our view is based on interactions between global climate variability and the components of the regional hydrological cycle. Increasing precipitation, the threat of recurring periods of high evaporation and a combination of both routine and unusual climate events — such as extreme cold air outbursts — are putting the region in uncharted territory."

Climate change, like pollution, is the result of human activity, specifically production for profit. Historically and today, the fossil fuel industry barons, including the greedy Rockefellers, have demonstrated wanton disregard for the health of the planet.

The cleaner air and water in Cleveland is in no small part due to deindustrialization. Most automobile, steel and machine tool factories have closed, and those still standing are automated. The largest employers are now primarily in government and health care sectors, based on the number of full-time employees.

While the environment has benefited to a degree from some deindustrialization, the drastic loss of manufacturing jobs has devastated Cuyahoga County economically. Child poverty in Cleveland is even higher than in Detroit. Hardest hit is the still-segregated — or as some studies say "hypersegregated" — East Side where African-Americans have the highest poverty rate.

The impact of the foreclosure crisis is clearly visible. The high rate of lead poisoning among Black children is caused by lead paint used in old rental homes poorly maintained by landlords. This is environmental racism.

The multiple crises facing this city, once defined by its crooked river, are all consequences of the crooked system of capitalist exploitation. What is happening in Cleveland is happening worldwide as corporate profiteers destroy nature and pauperize workers and oppressed people. Getting rid of capitalism is the only way to fix the problems it creates.

The city of Cleveland has a proud history of fightback against this system — from the 1936-37 General Motors strikes to the Hough Rebellion — and it will be a fighting force in the class struggles ahead. □



## WORKERS WORLD editorial

# U.S., Britain: Hands off Iran

Britain's aggressive maneuvers against Iran have put the possibility of a major war in West Asia on the front burner for the second time this year.

In a conflict between the world's imperialist powers and an independent capitalist country — in this case between U.S. and British imperialism on one side and Iran on the other — workers' and liberation movements must be against the imperialists. We can then examine the facts. However, facts do nothing to change that basic position.

The current confrontation between imperialism and Iran is a continuation of the conflict Washington began in 2018 by pulling out of the 2015 agreement on nuclear research in Iran. The U.S. government has insisted that all countries, and especially its European imperialist allies, enforce the sanctions it imposed on Iranian shipping, whether they want to or not. In effect, these sanctions amount to a blockade aimed at starving the 80 million Iranian people and provoking regime change in Iran.

On July 4, the British Navy, from its base in Gibraltar, seized and is currently holding an Iranian supertanker, under the pretext that the ship was carrying fuel to be delivered to Syria and that European Union rules don't allow such deliveries. The EU's sanctions were aimed at crushing the Damascus government, a policy that failed although it did impose a war and horrible suffering on the Syrians.

Units of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard seized a British-flagged tanker in the Gulf of Hormuz on July 19, and is still holding that ship as of July 22. A July 21 Associated Press article reports that Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif "characterized the seizure of Iran's tanker July 4 as 'piracy.'" The article added that Iranian "politician and former Guard commander, Maj. Gen. Mohsen Rezai, wrote that Iran was not seeking conflict, 'but we are not going to come up short in reciprocating.'"

Readers should note that Britain seized the Gibraltar base from Spain

in the 18th century, when it was on its way to becoming the British Empire and the ruler of the seas. Its sailors were the pre-eminent pirates for a couple of centuries, with the full backing of the London government. Now British piracy takes place in London's role as a junior partner to Washington, making full use of the remnants of that empire.

Underlining its own role in the aggression against Iran, Washington just sent 500 U.S. troops to a base in Saudi Arabia, the reactionary feudal kingdom that, along with Israel, is a U.S. ally against Iran. Saudi Arabia has been carrying out a brutal war against its neighbor in Yemen, creating untold human suffering but failing to win against a popular movement, despite its possession of far superior Western weapons.

The Iranian military is much better armed than the Yemeni guerrillas. And Tehran knows it has the support of the vast majority of its people against imperialist aggression. Iran has offered to negotiate with the U.S. However, it's

apparent that Iran will refuse to submit to threats. Iran can respond throughout the region to any aerial attack, and the whole Iranian population will combat any attack by land.

Knowledge of Iranian strengths, and not U.S. President Donald Trump's reluctance to kill civilians, is what stopped the earlier missile attack that Trump said he ordered June 21 and then rescinded with minutes to spare.

If reason could eliminate the danger of imperialist war, it would seem impossible that the U.S. and its allies would dare to start another conflagration that would make the disastrous invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq seem small in comparison. A look at history, however, shows that reason takes second place to the imperialists' drive to impose their rule by force. Thus it is vital that resistance to any war with Iran come from the U.S. population, and that this resistance be mobilized.

U.S., Britain, hands off Iran! ☐

## U.S. replaces bombs on Iran with a cyberattack

By G. Dunkel

President Trump called off a bombing attack on Iran on June 20 because he was "shocked" at 150 projected casualties.

He then called on the U.S. Cyber Command to conduct a series of attacks against that country. Virtual attacks on command and control systems can cause as much infrastructure damage as physical attacks but are not nearly as obvious.

It is hard to believe Trump's motivation was "humanitarian." He has approved deadly military attacks all over the Middle East, such as the missile strikes against Syria in 2017 and 2018. His policies on refugees have led to hundreds of deaths on the U.S. Southern border.

A Pentagon spokesperson said the cyber attacks were undertaken because



Iran shot down a U.S. drone flying in its airspace and was responsible for attacks on tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran pointed out that it had every right to shoot down any military aircraft violating its airspace. It denied responsibility for the tanker attacks.

Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Iran's minister for information and communications technology, commented

about the cyberattack on Twitter: "They try hard, but have not carried out a successful attack."

He added, "Media asked if the claimed cyber attacks against Iran are true. Last year we neutralized 33 million attacks with the (national) firewall."

In 2010, the Stuxnet virus was introduced into the network of computers controlling the enrichment of uranium in Natanz, an Iranian city about 250 miles south of Tehran. Stuxnet, a very sophisticated piece of code, caused the centrifuges processing the uranium to spin out of control, while the system reported the process was working within its limits.

According to security experts, Stuxnet was most likely written by a team of programmers working for either the U.S. or Israel or both. Some of its variants have been used to attack computers

controlling electrical grids.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, said Iran's cyber defense system was strong, and Iran could legally pursue cyber aggression in international courts.

Under the terms of the nuclear agreement from which Trump withdrew the U.S. in May 2018, Natanz is still allowed to process uranium.

The U.S. withdrawal and re-imposition of heavy sanctions on Iran have increased tensions in the Middle East. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently claimed that these sanctions were driving Iran to the bargaining table.

But Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that Iran would first have to see the United States rejoin the nuclear treaty and lift its new sanctions. ☐

## Fifth annual Disability Pride Parade rocks NYC

By Workers World New York  
Disabilities bureau

Many thousands of people with disabilities and our allies endured oppressive heat July 14 to march, roll, ride and scoot in the streets of New York City for the fifth annual parade to commemorate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 29 years ago.

Italian-American immigrant and wheelchair user Nadina LaSpina, a Grand Marshall of the parade, pointed out that it was being held on Bastille Day — the day the French workers tore down the jail walls. The veteran disability rights activist and writer's remarks caught the spirit of the parade: "Let's break down the walls — no walls — neither to keep people out nor to keep people in. And no locking up people in nursing homes or in detention centers."

LaSpina asserted that people with disabilities are proud "in spite of the fear of ending up in a nursing home or other institution. So many of our people are still stuck in those hellholes. Free our people! Pass the Disability Integration Act. If we

are happy to live our lives, it's in spite of all those who think that disabled lives are so sad that they are not worth living. ... Don't get all teary-eyed and tell us how brave we are. Join our fight! We don't need sympathy, but we could use allies."

Many disabled peoples' organizations and their allies participated, including the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Communications Workers (CWA) Local 1180 and the New York State Nurses Association.

In New York, Gov. Cuomo has been cutting back services and consolidating them, eliminating many benefits and options for disabled people. Although the fight for elevators and ramps to give disabled people equal access to the subway system had been gaining momentum, with victories in the courts, Cuomo recently proposed a subway reorganization plan that cuts transit jobs and does not include any additional access in the public transit system.

Cuomo replaced the Independent Care System with the Visiting Nurses Service, which lacks ICS's personalized comprehensive care for disabled people and

reduces the amount and variety of their health and home care benefits. At the 2018 parade a protest against Cuomo by 50 wheelchair users, who gathered in front of the stage, warned that this could happen.

These attacks are also happening as police repression continues unabated, including the harassment of mostly young people of color in clampdowns on so-called "fare beaters" in the subways. A leaflet produced by the People's Power Assemblies, whose members were marching in their fifth consecutive NYC Disability Pride Parade, pointed out: "Over 50% of people killed by police have a disability, and the police continue to disable and kill Black and Brown people with impunity — like paraplegic Jeremy McDole, people with medical disabilities like Eric Garner, or Magdiel Sanchez who was deaf."

Workers World Party, Peoples MTA,



PHOTO: ERIK MCGREGOR

Nadina LaSpina, a Grand Marshall of the parade.

and Rise and Resist also marched, after participating in a demonstration at a nearby subway station where there was no elevator; 80 percent of stations in the city are not accessible. Rise and Resist carried a cardboard cutout of Cuomo cutting a ribbon at the opening of a new bridge, which he was happy to build while refusing to build elevators for inaccessible stations.

The parade passed a judge's stand where participants were judged for their creativity in costumes and floats, demonstrating spirit and having fun. Prizes were

Continued on page 11



# ¡No redadas! ¡Cerrar los campamentos!

Continúa de la página 12

## Las masas hablan: “¡Cerrar los campamentos!”

La convocatoria del 12 de julio para acciones para cerrar los campamentos sacó masas de personas indignadas. Las protestas tuvieron lugar en 700 a 800 ciudades de EE. UU. y en todo el mundo. El número de personas que participaron se extendió de cientos a miles. Los letreros mostraban consignas familiares: “Ningún ser humano es ilegal”, “Cerrar los campos”, “el nunca más, es ahora”. Pero muchos de los que trajeron letreros eran nuevos para el activismo.

Aquí hay algunos ejemplos de la indignación coordinada que se replicó de costa a costa. Las manifestaciones continuaron durante el fin de semana, generando un impulso para los esfuerzos de base para frustrar las redadas.

La pancarta más grande en una vigilia en la intersección principal de la pequeña ciudad de **Rhinebeck en Nueva York**, decía: “Hudson Valley se mantiene fuerte - El poder a través de la acción”. Como 80 residentes de la región participaron con muchos de participantes que llegaron después de escuchar misa en un iglesia local. Los letreros hechos a mano, más que unos pocos escritos en la parte posterior de los letreros que apoyan a Planned Parenthood, incluían mensajes como “Nuestra línea en la arena: tortura infantil” y “La inmigración no es un delito”. Mientras que muchos autos pasaban sonando sus bocinas en apoyo a la protesta, el mejor momento fue cuando un gran camión FedEx pasó con el conductor apoyado en la bocina fuertemente.

Una gran multitud, exigiendo el cierre de los campos de detención de inmigrantes, bloqueó el tráfico durante más de una hora y media en una intersección concurrida en el centro de **Buffalo, Nueva York**. Atrapado en la parte delantera de la línea de tráfico estaba un conductor de un camión de la sociedad UPS. Mientras que los manifestantes rechazaron las demandas de la policía para dejarlo pasar, este miembro sindical afroamericano, demostró su apoyo a la protesta dándoles a

los manifestantes sus saludos.

La policía detuvo a nueve activistas. Antes de la manifestación, un grupo más pequeño ocupó la oficina del líder de la minoría del Senado, Chuck Schumer, y presentó una lista de demandas.

“Estamos aquí para exigir la acción de nuestros líderes”, dijo la organizadora de la protesta Rachel Ablow. “Como judío estadounidense, me horroriza ver que la historia se repite y me siento obligada a unirme a muchos otros, incluidos los sobrevivientes del Holocausto, en exigir el cierre de los campos”. (Comunicado de prensa de Justicia para Familias Migrantes)

Cerca de 1.000 manifestantes se tomaron las calles de **Filadelfia**, cerrando las carreteras principales en el corazón de la ciudad. El contingente del Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero marchó bajo la bandera de “Abolir el ICE, la Policía y el Pentágono”, obteniendo un amplio apoyo.

Gritando “¡Liberar a las familias! ¡Cerrar los campamentos!” Y exigiendo la abolición de ICE y el cierre del Centro de Detención de Berks, los activistas marcharon alrededor del Ayuntamiento y luego a la sede del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, que es la oficina de ICE más activa y agresiva del país. También hicieron demostraciones fuera de la “Casa Redonda”, donde el notorio Departamento de Policía de Filadelfia tiene su sede central, vinculando la lucha de los migrantes y refugiados con la de los presos y los trabajadores negros y marrones en los Estados Unidos.

En **Cleveland**, 1.000 personas llenaron el Market Square Park para una vigilia nocturna a la luz de las velas donde una multitud multinacional y multigeneracional coreaba: “¡Cerrar los campamentos!”.

**Pensacola, Florida**. Unas 30 personas participaron en un mitin en el Seville Park el 7 de julio. La protesta fue organizada por Strive, el grupo local de defensa de las personas transgénero; El partido Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero; Partido por el Socialismo y la Liberación; y Dream Defenders. Los oradores, uno de cada grupo, enfatizaron la necesidad de que todas las protestas en

y migrantes adopten un enfoque internacionalista y proletario hacia la liberación.

Instaron a mirar más allá de las medidas reformistas e insistieron en la abolición de la ICE. Los participantes discutieron los posibles planes para la resistencia futura, incluido un viaje en autobús a la frontera entre Texas y México y una lucha para cerrar la oficina local de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Pensacola.

En **Aurora, Colorado**, más de 2.000 personas protestaron por el encarcelamiento de inmigrantes, la separación de familias, las deportaciones y las amenazas que enfrentan los refugiados. Marcharon 2 millas hacia el Aurora Processing Center, un centro de detención administrado por el grupo privado Geo Group, al este de Denver, donde Lights for Liberty estaba vigilando.

Los gritos de los oradores se escucharon en el centro donde más de 1.500 inmigrantes han sido detenidos sin fianza durante meses y no pueden salir. Los manifestantes golpearon las puertas y gritaron: “¡Derribenlo!”

Una joven le contó a Workers World/ Mundo Obrero cómo su esposo fue deportado y ahora tiene dos hijos que atender sola. Le costará \$15.000 para tratar de traerlo de vuelta, dinero que ella no tiene.

Los manifestantes en **Portland, Oregon**, llevaron a cabo una “semana de acción”, reuniéndose afuera y marchando hacia Microsoft y cuatro bancos de Portland para exigir que se deshacieran de ICE. Bank of America y Suntrust dijeron que se desinvertirían, pero que el proceso tardará meses en completarse. Otros bancos seleccionados fueron PNC y Bank of the West.

Las empresas se vieron obligadas a cerrar sus puertas durante horas. Los manifestantes les dijeron a los trabajadores que llamaran a sus gerentes y les pidieran que pusieran fin a sus contratos con ICE o las protestas continuarían. Los contratos de ICE con Microsoft usan el software Azure Government.

El 12 de julio, más de 1.000 personas se reunieron frente al centro de detención de ICE, luego marcharon por el centro de Portland exigiendo: abolir el ICE, detener la especulación corporativa, reunir a

familias de inmigrantes y poner fin a las condiciones inhumanas en los centros de detención.

Las acciones de “Lights for Liberty” del 12 de julio fueron iniciadas principalmente por organizaciones orientadas al Partido Demócrata como Indivisible, con el objetivo de activar a los votantes antes de la elección del próximo año. “Saca a [Trump] con tu voto” fueron sus coros.

## Sección creciente de la clase obrera en solidaridad con im/migrantes

La participación masiva durante el fin de semana muestra que una sección creciente de la clase trabajadora es rechazada por el hedor del racismo y la xenofobia que emana de la Casa Blanca y está profundamente preocupada por los ataques a inmigrantes y migrantes. Esto en sí mismo es progresivo, a pesar de las maniobras del Partido Demócrata para dirigir el sentimiento antirracista hacia los canales electorales.

Los sindicatos están tomando una posición fuerte contra el fanatismo. Los United SteelWorkers explicaron en una declaración del 6 de julio: “Esto se trata de la decencia humana. Se trata de reconocer que muchas de las personas que vienen a nuestras fronteras en busca de asilo son trabajadores”.

Al referirse a la campaña para lograr que las principales cadenas hoteleras no contraten con ICE, el Presidente Internacional, D. Taylor, de UNITE HERE dijo: “Tenemos que actuar en cada uno de esos hoteles. Tenemos que aumentar la llama, ... tenemos que dejar de cero ociosos y salir de Twitter y salir a las calles donde está ocurriendo este mal”. (Daily Kos, 12 de julio)

Los hoteles Marriott y Choice han anunciado que disminuirán Cualquier solicitud de ICE para alojar a detenidos.

Las políticas de Trump, diseñadas para movilizar una base racista para su campaña electoral del 2020, tienen la consecuencia involuntaria de provocar una resistencia generalizada.

*John Catalinotto, Julianna Cordray, Ellie Dorritie, Ted Kelly, Johnnie Lewis, Lyn Neeley y Viviana Weinstein contribuyeron a este artículo.*

# Fifth annual Disability Pride Parade rocks NYC

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announced at a festival following the parade, which also showcased musical and dramatic abilities of participants.

## The meaning of disability pride

LaSpina explained the meaning of disability pride to the crowd: “They say to me, oh, yes, you should be proud because in spite of your disability you're so positive. You can have a smile on your face in spite of your unfortunate situation of the bad hand you've been dealt in life, of your sad plight.

“If we're managing to live a good life, it's not in spite of our disabilities. It's in spite of the prejudice we've been subjected to — the ableism that's ingrained in the fabric of our society, and in our social-economic system. It's in spite of the lack of services and supports, in spite of the often inadequate education our young people receive. In spite of discrimination in the work place. In spite of the

poverty that's enforced on disabled people because of our for-profit health care system, inhumane health care system ... and of outmoded laws and policies which keep disabled people poor in order to be eligible for services and benefits — which should be ours by right.”

LaSpina quoted ADA architect Justin Dart: “Disability is just a normal part of the human experience, a common characteristic of a normal life span.”

She ended her remarks: “We all have the same kind of body. It's made of flesh and blood and organs that fail. You never know when it's going to happen. Ours is a minority anybody can join. And most of us, if we live long enough, will experience disability. But if our bodies or our brains do not work the same as other people's that does not make us less valuable as human beings.

“So let us understand this pride, and try to make other people understand this pride. ... Ours is not the pride of flag-waving Americans. Ours is the pride of the



NYC People's Power Assembly marching in Disability Pride.

PHOTO: ERIK MCGREGOR

oppressed, of those who have been made to feel ashamed of who we are. Of those who have been made to feel they don't matter. Of those who have been made to feel unwanted.

“Today we are all out. We won't be hidden away. We are parading our disabled bodies and saying, ‘We are proud.’ And we are going to enjoy ourselves today. We're going to have a good time. You know, so many people still insist on believing our lives are sad and pitiful, so we must make sure we do not internalize any of that negativity. So it is important for us to enjoy as much as we can. Having fun is a political act. It's a revolutionary act. So let's have fun.”

The WWP Disabilities bureau joined LaSpina after the parade at Barnes &

Noble for an exciting book-signing event for her new book, “Such a Pretty Girl: A Story of Struggle, Empowerment, and Disability Pride.”

The back cover of the book describes the author: “LaSpina is a prominent activist in the disability rights movement and has been arrested countless times for civil disobedience. You can find her in the streets with Disabled in Action, ADAPT, the Disability Caucus, and others.”

A video of LaSpina's entire speech is available at [tinyurl.com/y6am4555](https://tinyurl.com/y6am4555). A video of the July 25, 1993, NYC Disability Independence Day March of 3,000 people, which was both organized and filmed by LaSpina, is available at [tinyurl.com/y5hahdvs](https://tinyurl.com/y5hahdvs). □





WW FOTO: JOE PIETTE

¡Solidaridad con la lucha en Puerto Rico!

# Protesta de más de 700 demandan: ¡No redadas! ¡Cierrar los campamentos!

Por Martha Grevatt

Con cada fotografía impactante, la realidad se vuelve cada vez más clara: el gobierno de los Estados Unidos está deteniendo a los migrantes en campos de concentración.

Las últimas imágenes se produjeron después de que el vicepresidente Mike Pence recorriera dos campamentos. Cientos de hombres, tan densamente empacados en una celda que ni siquiera pueden acostarse, gritan: “¡No hay duchas!” Los niños duermen en el concreto con solo mantas de mylar de emergencia para la ropa de cama.

Pence intentó por primera vez afirmar que los detenidos eran bien tratados, pero después de ver otro campamento, incluso él reconoció: “Esto es algo difícil”. El reportero Josh Dawsey encontró el hedor de los campamentos “horrible”. A los adultos y los niños se les negaron las mantas, colchonetas y almohadas, alimentos y artículos de higiene. Se les quitó las alfombras a los niños que sufrían piojos después de que uno de ellos perdió un peine. Los niños pequeños cuidaban de los bebés. (Washington Post, 12 de julio)

Las imágenes y las historias se han vuelto virales y los horrores son de conocimiento público. Michelle Bachelet, Alta Comisionada para los Derechos Humanos, condenó las condiciones y dijo: “Esto nunca debería suceder en ningún lugar”. (Al Jazeera, 9 de julio)

La Congresista de Nueva York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, inicialmente fue criticada por caracterizar a los centros de detención como campos de concentración hasta que los judíos progresistas, incluidos los sobrevivientes y descendientes del Holocausto, defendieron el término en protestas fuera de las oficinas de Inmigración y Aduanas. “El nunca más, es ahora” se ha convertido en un grito de guerra. Los sobrevivientes japoneses de internamiento en Estados Unidos durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial también se han manifestado en contra de los campamentos.

## Comunidades im/migrantes enfrentan terror

Después de que la Corte Suprema dictaminó recientemente en contra de incluir una pregunta sobre la ciudadanía en el censo de EE. UU. Para el 2020, el presidente Donald Trump prometió traer un nuevo argumento a SCOTUS o anular el alto tribunal a través de una orden ejecutiva. El 11 de julio, se retiró de la cuestión, una concesión a la fuerza del movimiento de derechos de los inmigrantes y migrantes.

Sin embargo, el xenófobo en jefe está librando la guerra contra los migrantes por otros medios. Las redadas en 10 ciudades, destinadas a detener a unos 2,000 inmigrantes indocumentados, se planearon originalmente para junio, pero se retrasaron hasta el 14 de julio. A la espera

de la deportación, los detenidos podrían encontrarse en uno de los mismos horribles campos de concentración que albergan a solicitantes de asilo.

Los alcaldes de nueve ciudades (Denver, Atlanta, Nueva York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Ángeles, Miami, Baltimore y Houston) se niegan a cooperar con las redadas. Todos estos alcaldes, con la excepción del Bill de Blasio de la ciudad de Nueva York, son afroamericanos o latinoamericanos. (Las redadas planeadas en Nueva Orleans fueron canceladas debido a la aproximación del huracán Barry).

Los defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes y los abogados llevaron a cabo una campaña educativa generalizada y bien organizada de “Conozca sus derechos” que condujo a las redadas anunciadas. Voluntarios patrullaron las calles, monitoreando la presencia de ICE. La Alderwoman de **Chicago** Rossana Rodríguez Sánchez organizó a 160 miembros de la comunidad en brigadas vecinales, mientras que los “depredadores de ICE” recorrían el área metropolitana de Atlanta.

Con estos preparativos en su lugar, donde los policías de ICE tocaron las puertas, fueron ignorados o rechazados cuando no presentaron una orden judicial. La mayoría de las nueve ciudades no reportaron arrestos; las últimas tácticas de ICE fueron, según se informa, una operación reducida a lo largo de la

semana.

Sin embargo, las amenazas de arresto, detención y deportación crearon un clima de temor e intimidación entre las comunidades de inmigrantes. Los inmigrantes se quedaron en casa sin ir al trabajo, evitaron ir de compras, se saltaron los servicios religiosos y, en general, se quedaron adentro el 14 de julio. La atmósfera sigue siendo tensa en las nueve ciudades objetivo, ya que los policías de ICE podrían regresar la próxima semana con las órdenes de arresto en la mano.

Sin aviso previo, los agentes de ICE tocaron puertas en **Immokalee, Florida**. La Coalición de Trabajadores de Immokalee ganó exitosas campañas de boicot contra las cadenas de comida rápida y actualmente está boicoteando a Wendy por su negativa a unirse al Programa de Comida Justa. Si bien nadie fue arrestado, los intentos de arresto fueron un acto amenazador contra los trabajadores agrícolas.

Mientras tanto, los horrores en la frontera continúan. El 14 de julio, los agentes de la Patrulla Aduanera y de la Patrulla Fronteriza negaron la entrada al senador de Ohio, Sherrod Brown, mientras que Trump disparaba mensajes claramente racistas en Twitter contra las cuatro congresistas de raza oscura, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley y Rashida Tlaib, las cuales piden el cierre de los campamentos.

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## Digamos NO al ‘embarazo forzado’

### MUNDO OBRERO editorial

“El derecho a controlar lo que le sucede a su propio cuerpo y a tomar decisiones médicas por sí mismo” es uno de los derechos universales de la humanidad, establecido en 1948 por las Naciones Unidas.

Pero a partir del 11 de julio, a 4 millones de mujeres pobres de Estados Unidos y personas no binarias, predominantemente de color, se les está negando ese derecho humano. De acuerdo con una decisión del Tribunal de Apelaciones del Noveno Circuito, las reglas revisadas de Trump-Pence para el Título X pueden entrar en vigencia en 49 estados (excepto Maryland) hasta que los casos en contra de las reglas se resuelvan en varios estados.

Este es el primer intento de convertir el programa de atención médica del Título X, diseñado en 1970 para promover la igualdad de género y de clase para los pacientes de Medicaid, totalmente en lo opuesto.

El primer cambio al Título X fue en 1976, cuando la Enmienda Hyde imponía una enorme carga a los pacientes del Título X al prohibir el pago federal de

abortos para cualquier persona, excepto las sobrevivientes de violación e incesto, o las mujeres cuya salud estaba en peligro por el embarazo. Actualmente, 17 estados eligen cubrir los abortos del Título X con fondos estatales.

Ahora, esta nueva regla de mordaza doméstica promueve un programa de atención de salud anti-integral basado en la teología que prohíbe que todas las clínicas de atención médica financiadas por el Título X discutan las opciones de aborto. Y aquellos que brindan servicios de aborto deben establecer instalaciones separadas prohibitivamente costosas con diferentes procedimientos contables.

Además, por primera vez, esta revisión abre el financiamiento a los “centros de crisis para el embarazo” y las organizaciones religiosas para que puedan promover más fácilmente sus programas de lucha fanática contra el aborto, la “planificación natural de la familia”, el anti-feminista, el anti -LGBTQ2S +

La política de raza Negra conocida a nivel nacional, Stacey Abrams, acuñó el término “embarazo forzado” para describir la ley contra el aborto recientemente aprobada en Georgia. Se aplica correctamente al ataque de Trump-Pence en los destinatarios del Título X.

Este movimiento profundamente

reaccionario del estado patriarcal, anti-clase obrera, con su agenda de derechas, supremacía blanca, anti-mujer y anti-género que no cumple con la agenda, está estableciendo reglas que niegan los derechos, en lugar de afirmarlos o ampliarlos.

Este ataque flagrante ha generado la oposición de muchas ramas de las comunidades médicas, legales, civiles y de derechos humanos y en todos los niveles de gobierno.

El estado de Washington se encuentra entre los que se retiran del Título X. Utilizará “solo fondos estatales para su programa de planificación familiar para minimizar cualquier duda sobre si los médicos podrían hacer referencias de aborto”. (Política, 11 de julio)

La Dra. Leana Wen, presidenta de Planned Parenthood, el objetivo principal de la regla revisada, señaló que la organización no solicitará financiamiento del Título X. Ha reservado fondos para cubrir esa contingencia.

En una declaración, Wen dijo: “Esta es una noticia devastadora para los millones de personas que confían en el Título X ... para la atención primaria crítica y preventiva. Continuaremos luchando para bloquear esta peligrosa regla que le permite al gobierno censurar a nuestros médicos y enfermeras por hacer su trabajo”.

Entre muchas clínicas y grupos de atención médica que ahora rechazan los fondos del Título X está la Community Healthcare Network, que recibió \$700,000 en 2018. El CEO Robert Hayes dijo al sitio web Jezebel: “No cometeremos negligencia médica aquí. No vamos a mentirles a los pacientes”. (11 de julio)

Este es un punto de inflexión en la sociedad estadounidense, para individuos y organizaciones. Es un momento de “de que lado estas?” en esta campaña criminal, lleno de odio, anti humano de Trump-Pence, en la frontera y en el dormitorio.

Solo hay un lado en esta guerra de la clase dominante. ¿Está usted por los derechos humanos completos para todas las mujeres y las personas con no conformidad de género? Si es así, ¿unirás tus brazos en las barricadas para luchar como nunca lo hemos hecho antes?

Eso es necesario para acabar con este sistema capitalista que se basa en el genocidio, la violencia racial y el robo de salarios profundos, la misoginia sistémica y la opresión de clase.

Es hora de reconocer la interseccionalidad de las opresiones y mostrar solidaridad en la lucha unida por un mundo donde se promuevan y honren los derechos humanos de todas las personas. □