Kānaka Maoli protect sacred land in Hawai‘i

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

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/y4x9m4qc)

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/yy3yeq0k) 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 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‘uhonua 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/yuxi2hja)

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 ‘ōwi (Native Hawaiian) land in

Continued on page 7
Eric Garner supporters rally at killer-cop’s home

By Nathaniel Chase

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 racial 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. Raymond 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 Raymond, who is resisting severe harassment and intimidation while incarcerated, go to rayseymurta.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 modern incarnation of 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)

The struggle for justice has become clearer as Erica’s weight heavily on the ER. Shortly before her death, she said, “I’m struggling 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 working class and the multiracial, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to pose the question at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the working and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the working class and the multiracial, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to pose the question at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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Protesters 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 Precinct on the scene where Pantaleo killed Eric. 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 try, we can find you in history.”

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 resolved to expose the NYPD as paper tigers — to be crumpled and swept into the dustbin of history.

“Struggle for justice”

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Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:
By Monica Moorehead

Philadelphia

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 Rep. 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 four are to be joined on July 25 by 12 other congresswomen brought on the invite 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 we have 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 supremacy, and he is allowing, frankly, a neo-Nazi lynching 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 Hayer 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 about-face. 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 are unleashing violent attacks on them in social media. A white Gretna, La., cop openly 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 multiracial 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 North Minnesota 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 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 just 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 working class.

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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 — had met with Palestinian activists and supporters.

Tlaib became U.S. representa-
**Ohio**

A crooked river and a crooked economic system

By Martha Grevatt

Cleveland

To many the phrase “burning river” might seem like some old-timey, crooked river image, but for Ohioans, the Cuyahoga River is a real thing.

That day in 1969, when flammable pollutants floating in the river were ignited by a spark made by a passing train, it was 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 apocalyptic 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 1969 fire cost $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 into the river, which was burned under the shadow of Republic Steel.

After residents complained of foul-tasting drinking water, tests done as early as 1938 showed that the Cuyahoga River had a “horrible odor” and was “suffocating.” (Encyclopedia of Cleveland History) The word meaning “place of the jawbone.”

The 1967 election of Mayor 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 LGBTQ+ 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.

Congressmember 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 Cuyahoga, 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 Europeans 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: racial 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 neighborhood. In 1966, 29 people were arrested in a four-day riot that started after the police killed a young girl in this neighborhood.

The 1967 election of Mayor 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.

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

Of all the things that have changed in the past 50 years, the technology that is behind the fight 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 have to have 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, who famously ran 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.

Janet and John Africa are still behind bars. Orie Lumumba closed the program with a call to action. "Riverfest," held on this year’s anniversary of the famous Cuyahoga River fire.

**Contiuned on page 9**
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 a 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, have won a first contract with Ornville 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.

The National Domestic Workers Alliance, founded in 2007 and representing 2 million workers, was created to help 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 higher health 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.

The UAW should reject these bogus arguments. Labor costs are estimated to be only 5 percent of the cost of a car. But another way, only 5 percent of sales revenue goes to the worker. This comes to less than $1 billion for the three companies combined, not much more than their combined profits of about $16 billion in 2018. The average, four hours of labor to 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.

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, sharecroppers, and other two companies to follow the “pattern.”

This bill, fought for since 1968, will establish rules so the growing numbers 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 higher health 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.

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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 hire-buying 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 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 movement. Wages and benefits have 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.

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-Sep-

tember. For the first time in decades, UAW International President Gary Jones has raised the specter of a strike.

At GM, UAW 1199W President 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.

Some $5 billion in corporate 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: a $500 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 16)

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 twr- tier pay scale that paid future hires less than higher-seniority “traditional” workers doing the same work. This unequal and divisive for-

moral wage structure, as basic union principles were abandoned 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 structure for a decade. They approved a sec-

ond contract that brought new, “in-progress” workers 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 out by the companies to agree. It is past time 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.

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Prime Day wildcat strike and picket shakes Amazon

By Harvey Markowitz

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 reported 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 Bradly told her story of developing a foot injury— for which workers’ compensation claim 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 grandmother, 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 can’t 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 117.

Phyllis Ibrahim, a young Somali worker, emphasized the big picture of the workers’ concerns. “We need a picket at a lot of pickets. If everyone 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 walked on the picket line, Mohamed 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.”

**Intensity of labor described**

Working at an Amazon fulfillment center requires learning a dizzying amount of terminology. K-saws, R-saws, “water spiders” and other such new words are all part of the cutting edge in sorting merchandise that arrives on someone’s doorstep in two days. Without its (UTO), workers who call that Amazon is listening in on their conversations and using “machine learning” algorithms to preempt the thoughts of workers.

Amazon has reached the top of capitalist accumulation, not only at the cost to taxpayers through billions in government contracts and tax exemptions, but especially through the toll of its workforce. Workers are monitored for productivity at all times on their shifts, which has engendered a culture of camaraderie in which co-workers observe that treatment of workers “is not uncommon for them to give easier tasks to workers who are momentarily struggling so that the work group is not punished for lagging productivity.”

One benefit that workers are grateful for at Amazon is their quarterly allotment of unpaid days off (PUCO), which we believe to be a less extensive of this extent are received at a set schedule to a limited extent. A parent might be able to attend their child’s soccer game by taking UTO. But workers say Amazon is fully aware that the bosses who came up with this benefit can take it away.

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 along- side 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 commonly, 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 twoday 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. Weston’s sentiments were joined by calcating a bus 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 (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 employ- ees 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 speeds. “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, Phube Eckfeldt, Martha Grevatt, Johnnie Lewis, Jim McMahan and Lyn Neely contributed to this article.
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 insultng folk heroes such as Carlos Gallita 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 disgust- ing 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 prac- tices committed by successive colonial administrations that have plagued the island since famed genocidal conqueror Juan Ponce DeLeon invaded this beauti- ful 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 colo- nial entity have grown more acute for a 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 colonized economically by the United States for over 120 years. This board put in place austerity programs that are blatan- tant machinations of class conflict.

Refugees on our own island

The austerity drive aggravated an already decrepit economy, thus continu- ously leaving Puerto Ricans in the dark while billions of dollars are bought up everywhere 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 cit- izens 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 oth- ers have built up a rage in the hearts of Puerto Ricans, thus producing the out- pouring of demonstrations on the island and in the diaspora.

The protests have humanized a belea- guered 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 foot- steps 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 revolution- naries, must also adopt a proletarian internationalist outlook. For our oppres- sion under U.S. imperialism is an oppres- sion felt throughout the world. We must stand solidarity 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. Rosello 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 won its independence from 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 contin- uously 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 solidar- ity 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 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 elec- tion he has begun the policy of extrajudi- cial 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 peo- ples 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 pro- test 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 fol- lowing 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 condemned by the governor’s slow response to the crisis following Hurricane Maria, as well as government corruption.

Many protesters have drawn atten- tion to Puerto Rico’s status as a U.S. colo- nial territory that has negatively affected relief aid, and decision-making in rela- tion to the island.

Continued from page 1

what we call the state of Hawai‘i. It is the American state apparatus that contin- ues to play a role in enforcing astrono- mer 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.”

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

Kānaka Maoli protect sacred land in Hawai‘i

The Earther website paraphrased an email from Aurora Kagawa-Viviani, a Native Hawaiian Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawai‘i:

“This isn’t a moment for scientists to stay silent. ... That would make scientists complicit in oppressing Indigenous world- views.” (July 18)

Support the Kia‘i; donate to the Hawai‘i Community Bail Fund at hawaiicommunitybailfund.org. All dona- tions will be used exclusively to bail out protectors of the mauna. ☰
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 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 discussion 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” category for travel, continuing to spread misinformation about Cuban society, and lifting 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


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 through central Caracas.

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 guarantees.” “However, we are thus trying 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 program El Gran Debate, 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 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 million 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 Simonovis, 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].

Rodriguez 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. (...) [It] is 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)

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 Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, affirmed that there will be no presidential elections: “It is impossible. [...] There 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 perhaps most important — is that the talks go on.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba
by Leslie Feinberg

This ground-breaking book is a compilation of 25 articles about same-sex love and sex/gender variance in Cuba’s pre- and post-revolutionary history.

Available at major online bookstores.

Download it free from www.workers.org/books/
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 organisations 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.

It would be naïve of us to believe that Trump’s administration alone has unleashed a new kind of white supremacist oracy 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 capitalism 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 reviving 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 Chichewa struggle, of the Indigenous struggle for sovereignty. Oppressed peoples 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 of 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 capitalism’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. This is just as much, if not more, of a warmongering party as the Republicans.

Yesterday, without saying so, the global capitalist crisis is indeed very local. The manifestations of contradictions among the ruling class and ruling parties themselves 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.

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—for at least 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.\n
A crooked river and a crooked economic system

Continued from page 4

“Stop police terror, from Philly to the Philippines”

Dozens of people braved 90° 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, 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 ($805 million in 2018 alone), while it carries out a bloody drug war on the poor, military 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 Filipinos National Police officers involved in abusers, 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.

The city of Cleveland has a proud history of fighting against this system—from the 1936-37 General Motors strikes to the Black Panthers’ struggle for freedom in the class struggles ahead.
U.S., Britain: Hands off Iran

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 but are not nearly as obvious.

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 weapons 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 to contain 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 do not allow such delivery. 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 “politicians 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.”

Rival allies that partake 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 dock as a junior partner to Washington, making full use of the remnants of that empire.

“Shocked” by winning its case 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 with U.S. and its allies would dare to start another confrontation 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 Workers World New York Disabilities bureau

Many thousands of people with disabilities and our allies endured oppressive heat July 14 to march, roll, and ride in the streets of New York City for the fifth annual Disability Pride Parade, showing the spirit and having fun. Prizes were awarded for creativity in costumes and floats, demonstrating spirit and having fun. 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.

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“Shocked” by winning its case 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 with U.S. and its allies would dare to start another confrontation 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!

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, and ride in the streets of New York City for the fifth annual Disability Pride Parade, showing the spirit and having fun. Prizes were awarded for creativity in costumes and floats, demonstrating spirit and having fun. 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.
¡No redadas! ¡Cerráron los campamentos!

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Las masas han llamado: “¡Cerrá los campamentos!”

La convocatoria del 12 de julio para acciones de resistencia contra los campamentos sazó 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 participa-

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

Por Martha Grevatt

La Congresista de Nueva York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, inicialmente fue criticada por caracterizar a los centros de detención como campos de concentración. Ahora, los defensores del Título X discutan las opciones de los indocumentados y otros migrantes.ños, que confían en el Título X ...

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 diario Jezbel: "No cometemos negligencia médica aquí. No vamos a mentir 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 lado está que?" en esta campaña.