Iran stays firm as U.S. threatens attack

By Deirdre Griswold

Are the days over when Washington could shake its big stick and the rest of the imperialist world would immediately fall in line?

The Pompeo-Bolton-Trump gang of conspirators in Washington seems to be having a hard time lining up their imperialist partners/rivals behind an attack on Iran. Their attempt to create a global crisis over the damage inflicted on June 13 on two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, which suffered no loss of life and were in no danger of sinking, was met with much skepticism—not only from the general public but from West European heads of state.

Even these fellow imperialists are well aware that U.S. preparations for an assault on Iran are based on a pack of lies—and to go along with them would put their own interests at stake.

The so-called “proof” offered by Washington that Iran was behind the attacks has been widely rejected, including by the owner of at least one of the tankers. That ship, the Kakura Courageous, is owned by a Japanese company. It was attacked while the prime minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, was actually making a state visit to Iran, despite U.S. sanctions.

The idea that Iran would choose such a moment to attack a Japanese ship is ludicrous, to say the least. Nevertheless, as flimsy as the U.S. arguments to attack Iran are, Washington has been going ahead, trying to line up support from at least some of the European imperialist powers for an aggressive move against the oil-rich country. And on June 17, Trump ordered another 1,000 U.S. troops to the Middle East.

War threats haven’t worked

Iran has defied the pressure. On the same day, Iran announced that it intends to resume its production of nuclear fuel, which it had agreed to suspend in 2015 in exchange for lifting severe economic sanctions.

Iran’s move should come as no surprise. The Trump administration had already announced—a whole year ago—that it was pulling out of the 2015 agreement. It has since doubled down on the sanctions, trying to starve the Iranians into submission.

So why should Iran continue to honor the deal when the U.S. had already killed it?

At the time that Washington pulled out of the deal, Continued on page 10
Pensacola Pride

Revolutionary queer and trans people protest anti-Black national anthem

By Devin Cole and Julianna Cordray
Pensacola, Fla.

At this year’s Pensacola Pride festival, there was a defiant protest of the organizers’ decision to ignore nearly 200 petition signers and led off the festival with the pro-slavery U.S. national anthem. A group of trans-class people, mostly transgender people, voiced their principled dissent.

As the anthem was being sung at the beginning of Pride celebrations, protesters unfurled a banner that read, “O say, can you see? Francis Scott Key supported slavery!” They held it up in front of the stage for the anthem’s duration and then marched with the banner around Seville Square Park where booths were set up.

This protest was led by Strive, an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-racist transgender advocacy organization. Several of its members are currently candidates in Workers World Party, and two of the candidates participated directly in the action, as well as this writer, a leader of Strive.

The protest came after several weeks of attempts to have the national anthem removed from Pride. Strive made a public statement outlining in detail the history of the song and the anti-Black, usually overlooked third verse, and the fact that Francis Scott Key was a fierce critic of abolitionism and proponent of slavery. The anthem is anti-Black, racist and outdated, and therefore has no place in Pride or in any sectors of the LGBTQ2S+ movement.

The Gay Grassroots organizers of Pensacola Pride acknowledged this anti-Black history, but chose to keep the anthem, citing, “their love of the military” over the protests of hundreds of Black and Brown, queer and trans people who worked for its removal.

Strive’s line that racism and imperialist war are fundamentally contradictory to the goal of LGBTQ2S+ liberation.

LGBTQ2S revolutionaries at Pensacola Pride in Florida on June 15.

After being told by Gay Grassroots that “silent, respectful protests” would be allowed, Strive, marshaled to be greeted by a hostage negotiator cop, who seemed to know about Strive’s protest before it even began. Gay Grassroots claimed that their organization had not called the cops — but someone must have.

Strive’s protest continued, despite this attempt at intimidation. Strive and allies put up an “empty-chairs” vigil to honor the 13 transgender women of color murdered in the U.S. so far in 2019. Tribute was also paid to Nigel Shelby, a 15-year-old gay Black woman who committed suicide in April due to bullying in Alabama.

In effect, the cops were called out on LGBTQ2S+ people because of a silent protest and a vigil dedicated to murdered Black transgender women and a gay man.

After the protest, Strive attempted to set up a booth to distribute materials to the people – zines, buttons, papers and hygiene products. Strive did not register as grassroots in the Sullivan Square Park where booths were set up.

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!

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

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**Friendship Caravan to Cuba challenges travel restrictions**

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

Members of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization/ Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan to Cuba received a warm and enthusiastic welcome in Philadelphia on June 12 at a gathering hosted by the Philadelphia International Action Center. The 30th Cuba Caravan will travel to Havana and Cienfuegos from June 22 to July 5, visiting 40 U.S. cities before they depart.

A diverse audience of over 50 people attended the event at Calvary United Methodist Church. It was ennobled by Black Alliance for Peace; Comité Boricua Filadelfia-Camden; Socialist Unity Party; Struggle; La Lucha; International Workers Solidarity Network; and Workers World Party/Mundo Obrero.

Cuba is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Revolution in 1959, the U.S. government has imposed a criminal blockade on the socialist island. However, in recent months, U.S. imperialism has sharpened its attacks against Cuba and Venezuela, intensifying criminal sanctions against both countries, and supporting an attempted coup in Venezuela.

Inspired in part by the revolutionary example set by the Cuban people, the Bolivarian Revolution began in Venezuela in 1999 to build a socialist society there, under the leadership of Hugo Chávez. The bond of solidarity between Cuba and Venezuela has been and still remains unbreakable.

The solidarity event with revolutionary Cuba, Venezuela and other countries in Latin America and around the world under threat from U.S. imperialism took on new importance in light of the travel restrictions imposed June 4 by the Trump administration on U.S. residents traveling to Cuba under the People-to-People travel option, which is usually selected by educators and students.

In Philadelphia, some of those supporting the Friendship Caravan to Cuba were, left to right, Berta Jouvert-Ceci, Michelle Strongfields, Gail Walker, Megan Murray, Carmen Guerrero, Pam Africa and Yahne Ndgo.

Women speakers praise Cuba

An impressive, multinational panel of women activists addressed a question posed by Philadelphia WPP moderator Megan Murray about what solidarity Cuba means to them. Pam Africa, minister of confrontation for the MOVE organization, stressed the humanitarian care income. In Cuba, 40,000 people participated for example for all. She spoke of the warm reception she received when traveling to Cuba on behalf of U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Carmen Guerrero, immigrant activist with the Coalición Fuerza Latinoa, responded: “Cuba is an example of ‘Si, se puede!’ (Yes we can!) for their policies of peace, brotherhood, liberty, humanity and justice. For people in my home country of Mexico, there are many killings and disappearances, Cuba shows that when the people have the power we can do many things together.”

Yahne Ndgo, activist with Black Alliance for Peace, told of her month-long experience living in Cuba earlier this year. There she found she couldn’t access funds from her bank account because of U.S. restrictions. Just buying eggs for breakfast became a burden until her Cuban neighbors turned up at her door with eggs and other food to share.

Ndgo said: “I witnessed a human drive to be part of community versus what you see under capitalism where people are taught to extract as much as they can for themselves. Cuba is the example that another reality is possible.”

Keynote speaker Gail Walker, executive director of IPCF/Pastors for Peace, opened her talk by acknowledging a young Black woman in the audience who had just applied to study medicine at Cuba’s tuition-free Latin American School of Medicine. She said, “Cuba’s scholarship gifts to young people to study medicine are intended to be passed on as gifts to the communities they will eventually serve.”

Walker recounted Cuba’s key contributions in the field of health care, which include developing treatment for diabetes, fighting Ebola in Africa and setting up clinics in Haiti. She addressed Cuba’s contributions to hurricane preparedness, environmental justice, education and the struggle to combat homophobia. Walker noted that women comprise nearly half of the membership of the National Assembly and three of six Cuban vice presidents.

Another advancement Walker noted is that Cuba has taken measures to limit the scope of gentrification displacing countless Black and Brown communities in the U.S. “Cuban law restricts any one individual from owning more than two homes — one in a municipality and one in the countryside or at the seashore.”

Despite ban, ‘caravans will go on’

Walker addressed the travel ban, noting that her father, the Rev. Lucius Walker, founder of IPCF/Pastors for Peace, who died in 2000, first initiated a people-to-people caravan to Nicaragua in 1988. There, two people were killed by a Contra rocket and one person was wounded.

“The U.S. criminalizes Cuba, starting with the Kennedy administration, is nothing short of genocide,” stated Walker.

“Trump’s policies are nothing but an extension of this. He is trying to frighten people from going to Cuba, experiencing it and making up their own minds. Trump isn’t the ‘people-to-people’ travel, but not the ‘solidarity-with-people’ visa travel option, which is usually selected by educators intent on supporting opposition inside Cuba to the current government.”

Walker continued: “What Trump has done will have a chilling effect and to some extent it is working. But travel to Cuba is not a crime. We have been indoctrinated about Cuba since birth with so many negative connotations thrown at us. Our intent is that people should see for themselves. We do this as an act of civil disobedience.”

In concluding, Walker emphasized: “We know we face potential fines and even jail terms, but the U.S. blockade and travel ban against Cuba are wrong. They are criminal. We will continue to do caravans until we see this policy change once and for all.”

**Women strike across Switzerland for equal pay and more**

By Kathy Durkin

Wage. Time. Respect. That was the motto of the 24-hour “Women’s Strike” for gender pay equity, equal rights, respect and an end to gender-based violence, which swept Switzerland on June 14. Hundreds of thousands of women and people of all genders from labor unions, women’s rights and allied groups, educational and faith-based institutions, and even farms marched, rallied and struck.

Colorful banners flew from bridges and buildings in major cities. The color purple was visible everywhere, including in clothing, because of its symbolism with European women’s suffrage movements.

Women labor leaders called the law “meaningless.” It so enraged women that they then began planning a national protest. Labor unions got involved, and USW, an umbrella group of 16 Swiss unions, was instrumental in organizing the June 14 strike.

As the cost of living skyrocketed in Europe’s least “family-friendly” economy, and gender pay inequality grows, this struggle will continue.
By Martha Grevatt
For three days, June 12-14, workers at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., voted whether to allow the United Auto Workers to represent them. The union narrowly lost the election, 813 to 776. Over 90 percent of the plant’s 1,700-plus workers voted.

Compared to the last union-wide vote in 2014, which saw 712 to 626 against the UAW, the unionched closer to securing a win.

The need for union representation is glaring. Workers’ no. 1 complaint is the high rate of injuries at the plant, caused by line speed-ups that are forcing them to work out of fewer workers. Repeatitive motion injuries are commonplace, and injured workers are routinely put back on the job with little regard for their injuries.

Other big issues are last-minute shift changes and overtime scheduling that make it hard for workers and their families to plan their lives. The company was not going to address these or other issues on its own as a matter of conscience. Volkswagen, which of the $14.50 hourly wage, voted to stay neutral, now wants to keep Chattanooga union-free. For four years after the National Labor Relations Board certified that the UAW that an election involving all the plant’s hourly workers could not go forward because of the smaller unit’s vote. The NLRB bought VW’s frivolous argument and denied the UAW’s petition to hold an election in late April. This would have been shocking, except for the fact that, with four unionized members appointed by Trump, anti-labor rulings have become routine. After the union filed a new petition, the June election was set.

Delays bought union busters time

The UAW took signed authorization cards from a majority of the VW hourly workers when it went to the NLRB in April. Why the loss? Delaying the election gave VW and other union-busters time to mislead and frighten the workers into rejecting the union. There were constant ads on radio and billboards warning workers to prejuduce and warning of “domination” by the Detroit-based union. Management gave out free T-shirts that read, “One Team: I am Volkswagen.” Workers were required to attend company-run morning meetings where speeches and leaflets conveyed a one-sided message. Workers were harassed for wearing union stickers or passing out union literature. VW CEO Frank Fischer himself addressed the workers; he claimed a vote for the union would be a “disaster” for the company.

Tennessee Governor Bill Lee addressed one meeting, emphasizing his negative views of the unions. The state had given VW over half a million dollars worth of tax breaks to lure the company to Tennessee. Governor Lee and other politicians implied that voting union could trigger a loss of incentives. Without the incentives, politicians suggested Volkswagen would cancel expansion plans to build a new electric vehicle in Chattanooga.

To court workers, the company also made some improvements — which they would all make anyway — including cooling the plant, more desirable sched- ules and ouster of unpopular managers. The monumental level of propagandizing and fearmongering over more than two months was enough to tip the scales in the company’s favor.

How can the UAW win?

Asian and European auto companies have over 30 plants in the U.S., almost all in Southern states and all non-union. Nissan defeated a union drive in Canton, Miss., in 2017 by using scare tactics sim- ilar to VW’s. A victory at VW could have implications for other foreign-owned transplants — which would in turn boost organizing across the South.

UAW is demanding changes in the labor laws that allow corporate intimidina tion to take place. “Over a period of nine weeks — an unprecedented length of time due to legal gamesmanship — Volkswagen was able to break the will of enough workers to destroy their majority,” said UAW Organizing Director Tracy Romero.

The VW vote exposes the fraudulent character of “democracy” under capital- ism. There is no real right to vote if companies can threaten to close plants or fire workers for organizing.

Some workers, however, claimed they weren’t against having a union, they were just against the UAW. These may be face-saving claims, but they could be an honest reaction to real problems inside the UAW.

So far nine people — UAW Chrysler Department officials and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles executives — have been convicted in a bribery scandal, with more under investigation. FCA gave lavish amounts of money to UAW leaders, allegedly to get them to sell members an inferior contract in 2015.

This outrageous corruption is an out growth of the long-standing orientation of the International UAW leadership toward “partnership” with company management. For decades, concessions have been peddled to the rank and file to keep corpora tions “competitive” or “profitable.”

The Laundry Workers Center and the People’s Power Assemblies went to Flushing, Queens, N.Y., June 15, to demand the owners of the New TYS Laundromat pay the workers what they owe them. Throughout the neighborhood people could hear this chant: “Pay the Workers What You Owe Them, Wage Theft Is A Crime.”

As the chants rang out, people throughout the neighborhood stopped by to find out what was happening. The LWC explained that they were there to demand over $200,000 in back pay that New TYS Laundromat workers are owed along with $400,000 in damages they’re owed for having to work in unsafe and hazar dous conditions.

It was further explained that the owners of the laundromat were living in three-story housing in Flushing, while paying their workers low wages and also firing them.

The LWC and the PPA stated that they will keep coming to the owner’s neighbor hood to continue airing their dirty laundry until the workers get what they deserve.

— Report by Siddika Degia

The Free Library is allocated only $46 million for 2020, funding for police, prisons and “other criminal justi- ce” costs will total $8.2 billion. (tinyurl.com/y696r47x)

It’s common knowledge Black and Brown residents bear the brunt of police violence. Stop-and-frisk statistics from American Civil Liberties Union Pennsylvania prove it. And 81 percent of people shot by Philadelphia cops between 2007 and 2013 were African American, despite Black people accounting for just more than 20 percent of the city’s population. (tinyurl.com/y2hfnosp)

The Plain View Project reported on June 1 that 39 Philadelphia police officers posted racist, sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic and otherwise offensive content on Facebook. But City Hall continues to increase the police budget while inadequately funding education and library pro- grams for high poverty areas and communities of color. Its racist actions speak louder than words, revealing the underlying belief that police occupation of Black and Brown communities is more important than funding pro- grams to help lift those communities from deep poverty.

Philadelphia residents of every age and race need clean, safe and modern library services, not more police!
ABC’s of the capitalist crisis

Part 2

WW reprints here Part 2 of an article, slightly abridged, by Sam Marcry, the late chairperson of Workers World Party, that appeared in the April 12, 1992, issue of Workers World. Despite the years that have passed since then, his analysis is remarkably relevant to understanding the relations between workers and capitalists today. Part 1 can be found online at workers.org.

The Philadelphia Inquirer published a very revealing series of five articles on Oct. 20-28 of last year (1991) showing the ravages of the capitalist economic crisis with facts and figures. But to make any sense of this, “The Diagnosis of America,” took a fundamentally erroneous approach.

The writers, Donald L. Bartlett and James B. Steele, showed that the increases in the salaries of people earning more than $1 million have risen 2,184 percent during the 1980s, while the total dollars in wages that went to the middle class increased an average of just 4 percent a year, or 44 percent over the decade.

Their statistics, meticulously gathered from a variety of government sources, cannot be impeached. But it is not the salaries of the rich, the super-rich or the middle class that are the determining factor in the development of a capitalist crisis. What is crucial is who owns the means of production, who owns the big plants, the big establishments, the military-industrial complex. Suppose an inflationary trend happens that is so violent the currency becomes no more than a piece of paper. What happens then? Those who own the plants, equipment, means of transportation, etc., will still be the owners. But the salaried people and wage earners will get ripped off completely.

An inflationary trend that affects wages or salaries on all levels still leaves the capitalist system intact. What is fundamental is who owns the means of production and running the factory and characteristic feature of contemporary world relationships— that is, domination by a giant bank.

In their second article, “The Very Lucrative Business of Bankruptcy,” the authors also fall into error. In the course of examining the rising tide of bankruptcies, they say the winners are high-priced consultants hired to close companies, while the losers are workers thrown out of their jobs. They go on to show that the lawyers and consultants get huge fees—$787,500 for three hours of sorting files, over $1,000 for five hours spent on a plane, $562.50 for two and a half hours spent on a telefax, $900 for four hours of filling out forms.

There’s no question that these bankrupcy attorneys, advisers and consultants get enormous fees. This should be exposed. But to make them out as the super-devils in bankruptcy is just plain nonsensical. They must have their fees approved by the bankruptcy judge, which categorically negates this. Together with the bankruptcy judge and the federal district courts, they are part of a triinity that serves big business and the banks, particularly the biggest creditors. They are the ones primarily responsible for the restructing of capitalist industry over the last decade.

These writers, by pointing the finger only at the big fees of the high-priced attorneys and consultants, avoid the fundamental causes of the crisis. They absolve the capitalist class as a whole from responsibility for the ravages and destruction of human life and material. So while their research is valuable and impressive, at the same time it obscures what most needs to be clarified.

One of the most glaring omissions in these articles is the international character of the capitalist crisis. They do well when they point out the huge indebtedness created during the Reagan administration and the havoc it caused later. But it is dealt with as exclusively a national phenomenon. Britain, France and above all Germany and Japan, which contributed so much to U.S. indebtedness by buying U.S. bonds and stocks and investing in U.S. industry, are not mentioned at all.

For a long period the capitalist press incited workers into Japan-bashing because they said Japan was “taking over America.” Now Japan has its own economic crisis, so it is withdrawing its funds from the U.S., thereby aggravating the capitalist crisis. First the capitalist press and politicians bashed Japan for investing in the U.S. Now that it’s withdrawing, they’re bashing it even harder.

It’s part and parcel of the ruinous imperialist competition which, if it goes much further, can end up in warfare.

The international character of the capitalist crisis was first brought out in Workers World newspaper when the Bank of Commerce and Credit International collapsed, demonstrating that the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and more than a dozen Third World countries were involved. The fact that corruption was also involved was purely incidental. The main thing is that it demonstrated the international character of the capitalist crisis.

Lest that seem like yesterday’s wisdom, it’s important to note that just as the March 30 issue of Business Week trumpeted the emergence of a capitalist recovery, Olympia and York, the world’s biggest real estate property developer, announced it was seeking guidance from financial consultants and advisors because of its inability to deal with a $20-billion debt. The company owns dozens of the choicest real estate properties in New York City and abroad.

But the most interesting aspect of this giant financial and industrial complex is the banks that have supported it with loans and are now seeking to dismantle it. These banks are Citicorp, the biggest U.S. bank, and a half dozen Canadian banks including the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Nova Scotia. Other lenders include Chemical Bank, the Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, the Sumitomo Bank, Barclay’s P.L.C., Credit Suisse, Credit Lyonnais, and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

The capitalist press dins into the ears of the workers day in and day out, whenever the workers complain about jobs being shifted abroad, that we are living in an integrated world economy. But they never bring up the most quintessential and characteristic feature of contemporary world relationships—that is, domination by the giant banks.

A scientific solution

Today there is scarcely any question that doesn’t lend itself to scientific solution, although it might take many years. So with all the economic tools available, not to speak of the new technology, why isn’t there even one bourgeois economist who will say, “Let us solve the economic crisis scientifically and eliminate it”? It’s because capitalist crisis can only be eliminated by abolishing the profit system itself and laying the foundation for a socialist society. To ask the capitalists to solve the capitalist crisis is asking them to sign their own death warrant.

Only the working class can solve the capitalist economic crisis, and then only by taking the wealth of society, the basic means of production, into their own hands and establishing a true workers’ socialist society.
Originally published Aug. 14, 2000, this column was part of Leslie Feinberg’s series of articles on the connections between LGBTQ2S+ and socialist history. The column was re-posted in Workers’ World on Aug. 13, 2020, to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion and to re-publish the column on an open-access basis.

Sunday, June 29, saw a lull between the battles [of the Stonewall Uprising], although many cops were patrolling the streets. Anita Bryant, a former beauty pageant winner hired to promote Florida tourism, wanted to only continue the merchant parade, not a “parade.”

Children (from Homosexuality), was to roll a crusade to overturn an anti-discrimination law in Florida. A week and a half after the riots, Bryant’s hate campaign, built by the Mattachine Society, had posted a leaflet issued by the Homophile Youth Movement that demanded, “Get the Mafia and the Cops Out of Gay Bars.”

As thousands of gays and lesbians—drawing to their leadership and ranks people of color, trans people, street youths—had waged pitched battles with the cops on Friday and Saturday during the early nights of the Stonewall Uprising, a fault line of political difference opened visibly wide between those who had the most to lose and those who had little to lose from fighting back, and those who favored not rocking the boat.

The cops smiled, soaking up a little sun in the Hamptons and Fire Island Pines eisen ignoring news of the rebellion or, as historian Martin Duberman noted, tended to condemn it as “reprehensible.”

The Mattachine Society had posted a sign on the Stonewall Inn reading, “We homosexuals plead with our people to please help maintain peaceful and quiet processions. We homosexuals seek only to live in peace, to do with people that came over from other areas. The straight movement moved in heavily that night as a support.”

The left wing of ‘gay liberation’

Reports of those of all sexualities who came in support included members of the Black Panther Party, Workers World Party, the Yippies, a group that called itself the Crazies, and other self-identified leftists. In reality, these were parties and organizations that already had memberships of diverse sexualities. And many of the LGBTQ2S+ people who fought the cops at Stonewall also self-identified as leftists and revolutionaries.

Struggle erupted around 10 p.m. A chanting crowd, estimated at 500 strong, met a motorcade of police with a shower of bottles.

By Martha Grevatt

It might not be obvious today, but the post-Stonewall movement for LGBTQ2S+ liberation began as a very radical movement. Even the names of early civil rights organizations, such as Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries and Gay Liberation Front—a nod to the National Liberation Front of Vietnam—bear this out. The May 1969 riots in the streets as multiply-oppressed gender outliers fought the cops for several days and nights.

In 1977 it was a few members of Workers World Party who initiated Cleveland’s first Gay Pride March—yes, a march and not a parade. The goal was to organize a militant response to Bryant, but we also wanted Cleveland to join the many cities that had been celebrating the anniversary of the rebellion.

At the time there were no LGBTQ2S+ community centers anywhere (although Cleveland Gay Pride Awareness Resources Foundation opened the first center in the country later that year). Going from bar to bar, disco to disco, we attempted to get a tech leaflet in every patron’s hand. The response was friendly, but how the march would turn out was a big unknown.

It was a victory when about 250 people came out to march, a huge turnout for Cleveland’s first Stonewall commemoration. The radical organizers used chants, signs and banners to make a militant statement, not only against Bryant and homophobia but all oppression. A banner signed by Youth Against War & Fascism attacked Bryant for also being racist and sexist. (YAWF, WWP’s youth group, had formed a Gay Caucus not long after Stonewall.)

There were no corporate sponsors or even bar floats—just grassroots queers in a blue-collar industrial town.

That historic 1977 march did not, unfortunately, start an annual radical tradition in Cleveland right away. The movement in Ohio shifted its focus to the state capital, Columbus, where statewide Pride rallies took off in 1982 as a result of the movement for economic justice, rather than a wider radical agenda.

The initiative to go back to marching in Cleveland—while still holding statewide Pride events in Columbus—once again came from the left.

In 1990 a lesbian Workers World Party leader argued for a march in downtown Cleveland. Moderate community leaders wanted to only continue the merchant parade. Police who tried to pick fights, however, were met with bold responses.

When one arrogant cop at Christopher Street and Waverly attacked his headache and hurled insults in the direction of passersby, an individual described as a "wildly ‘fem’ queen" slit the fuse of a firecracker and detonated it under his feet. The cop landed on his ass on the sidewalk.

The cop shouted and flailed with his club. When the same militant individual touched first one and then another of the crowd fought with the cop and was able to snatch his badge off his uniform.

On Wednesday night, widespread street fighting resumed.

That was the night the Village Voice coverage of the early events in the Stonewall rebellion hit newsstands. Some community members were so enraged by the anti-gay tone of the journalists that they debated the Village’s offices that evening. Carter states, “The second reason that rioting resumed in full force on Wednesday is because various radical Left groups were present.”

Participant Bob Kohler recalled: “There were more people rioting that could not be easily categorized, and a lot of that had to do with people that came over from other areas. The straight movement moved in heavily that night as a support.”

The left wing of ‘gay liberation’ Reports of those of all sexualities who came in support included members of the Black Panther Party, Workers World Party, the Yippies, a group that called itself the Crazies, and other self-identified leftists. In reality, these were parties and organizations that already had memberships of diverse sexualities. And many of the LGBTQ2S+ people who fought the cops at Stonewall also self-identified as leftists and revolutionaries.

Struggle erupted around 10 p.m. A chanting crowd, estimated at 500 strong, met a motorcade of police with a shower of bottles.

Police used their nightsticks to beat back the crowd. Eyewitness RonnB De Brienza described seeing a friend pummelled by police and dragged off to a parked car under arrest. “This was it,” he said. “From nowhere the crowd swelled to an estimated thousand, and the battle was on.”

Those who were there that night describe the battle between police and protesters as ferocious. Once again, those who were there that night describe the battle between police and protesters as ferocious.

It might not be obvious today, but the post-Stonewall movement for LGBTQ2S+ liberation began as a very radical movement.
The persecution of Caster Semenya

By Leilani Dowell

The ongoing persecution of South African runner Caster Semenya by the International Association of Athletics Federations has shone a spotlight on the ways sports, under the patriarchal structures of capitalism and imperialism, are used to police and define, in the most unscientific and racist way, rigid definitions of gender.

On May 1, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upheld a 2018 IAAF ruling that Semenya would have to medically reduce her naturally high testosterone levels to compete internationally. The IAAF has temporarily suspended the ruling after Semenya filed an appeal on May 29.

Women athletes have been forced to undergo incredibly invasive and humiliating “tests” to “prove” their gender for more than 50 years. In 1966, every woman athlete competing in an international game had to participate in a mandatory inspection of their genitals.

Over time, the IAAF has required only women who have been “flagged” to undergo these procedures, which have ranged from visual inspection of breasts and genitals to chromosome tests and ultrasounds. Once deviations from some elusive “norm” are determined, the commission insists that athletes lower their testosterone levels through either surgical procedures or hormone replacement therapy if they want to continue competing.

Racist policing of sex and gender

Sports writer Dvora Myers points out that while these kinds of “normalizing” medical practices have routinely been practiced on the nonconforming babies and children in the U.S., they have not been standard practice in areas of the Global South. As a result, more athletes from these areas are subject to these kinds of invasive testing and regulating procedures.

In a 2012 presentation at an international sports science, medicine and education conference in Glasgow, Dr. Stephanie Bermon, the director of the IAAF’s Health and Science Department, acknowledged that, in contrast to synthetic testosterone, no studies have actually been done on the ways athletic performance is affected by testosterone produced by the body.

Myers states that this admission exposes the IAAF’s attack on Semenya, which is completely unscientific and random, as “a racist, sexist policy intended to police cultural ideas about what an ideal female body should look like and how it should perform.” The organization has narrowed its regulations to affect only middle-distance runners — in effect, a direct attack on Semenya, who continues to proudly defy these obstacles. The CAS May 1 ruling against Semenya audaciously declared that “discrimination is a necessary, proportionate and discriminatory means of achieving the IAAF’s aim of preserving the integrity of female athletics.”

Athletics South Africa, the national governing body for sport in South Africa, responded: “South Africa knows discrimination better, and CAS has seen fit to open the wounds of apartheid, a system of discrimination condemned by the whole world as a crime against humanity.” (athletics.org.za, May 1)

Centuries of attacks on Black women

The particular focus on Semenya has a centuries-old tradition in depiction and scrutiny of Black women’s bodies as unnatural and not womanly. In the early 1800s, Sarah Baartman, a Khoikhoi woman from South Africa, was displayed in England as a circus attraction. Under the pejorative name of the “Hottentot Venus,” the main focus of the living exhibit was Baartman’s “abnormally” large buttocks. The “Hottentot apron,” a name coined for the elongated labia of Khxikhoi women, had been sensationalized through travel journals and the tests of “naturalists.”

After Baartman’s death, the British government gave her body to renowned French naturalist George Cuvier, who dissected it and displayed her labia at a French Academy of Science meeting. Baartman’s skeleton and a plaster cast of her body were still on display at the Musée d’Histoire naturelle d’Angers until the late 20th century, when her remains were returned to South Africa as a symbol of postcolonial nationalist pride.

These kinds of actions — with a throughline to the IAAF’s rulings and regulations — set up a rigid definition of femininity that ignores the vast diversity of bodies, identities and expressions found in nature, and explicitly targets the bodies of Black women as the prime example of deviancy. It includes the scrutiny and ridicule of tennis sensation Serena Williams’ body, as well as her outspokenness in response to the racism and sexism she faces on the court.

And yet, in sports some advantages are celebrated — as long as they belong to the right bodies. Washington Post columnist Monica Hesse asks why acclaimed Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps’ documented genetic benefits — including double-jointed ankles and the production of less lactic acid (which causes fatigue) than the average athlete — are not subject to the same kinds of critique as Semenya’s testosterone levels.

Unregulated advantages of race, class, nation

Meanwhile, the advantages of race, class and nation are unregulated and, in fact, ignored in favor of a false narrative of equality, as if every athlete from every country has access to the best nutrition, training facilities and coaches.

Dutee Chand, who recently became India’s first openly gay athlete after going public about her sexuality, successfully challenged an IAAF ruling that would have required her to lower her testosterone levels in 2015. She stated: “This wasn’t just about me, but about all women like me, who come from difficult backgrounds. It is mostly people from poor backgrounds who come into running — people who know they will get food, housing, a job, if they run well.” (New York Times, June 27, 2016)

However, sports also have the potential to be a unifying, liberating force. Powerlifter Mary Gregory says, “In lifting, you see people of all different shapes and sizes under the bar, and it doesn’t matter what you look like or how big you are, how small you are, how pretty you are. It’s just about what you can do and what you might be capable of. That’s such an empowering thing, and it really gave me the strength to handle everything.” (Washington Post, May 19)

Gregory, a transgender woman, was stripped of 1 of the awards she won at a 100% Raw Powerlifting Federation competition in Richmond after officials claimed she should have competed in the men’s division.

Like Semenya, she has vowed to continue fighting to compete in the sport she loves. Semenya recently told the press: “I always run every day. For me it is my daily ritual, I really don’t have time for nonsense.” (theguardian.com, June 11)

In response to the takeover of Portland Pride by corporations and the cops, over a thousand trans people and allies rallied and marched June 15 to demand an end to the murder of Black and of color trans women and nonbinary people. In the past 30 days at least five have been killed in the U.S. and eight so far in 2019.

Other demands included housing, emergency shelter, health care for trans and nonbinary youth, abortion rights — specifically, reproductive justice and rights for Black women — and the end of racism, capitalism, ableism and patriarchy. Greater Portland Trans Pride Unity, a coalition of 23 community organizations, organized the event.

— Report by Johnnie Lewis

New York City

Outrage over death of transgender woman

Layleen Polanco.

Justice for Layleen Polanco protest, June 10.

Members of Workers World Party and New York City People’s Power Assemblies joined several hundred people in Manhattan’s Foley Square June 10 to demand justice for Layleen Polanco Xtravaganza, an Afro-Latina transgender woman who died June 7 while incarcerated at the notoriously abusive Rikers Island prison. Layleen Polanco Xtravaganza was an iconic member of the House of Xtravaganza, a well-known “house” in the U.S. ballroom scene and her death sparked outrage in the community.

While supporters at the rally called for a fully transparent investigation into the cause of her death, of which the NYC Department of Corrections had not released any details, they blamed the cause of her death on anti-trans violence in the so-called “criminal justice” system itself. Layleen Polanco Xtravaganza had been in Rikers Island for two months because she could not afford $500 cash bail. Even though she was placed in a special unit for trans people to prevent anti-trans violence, these measures did not prevent her death.

Rikers Island needs to be dismantled, along with the entire mass incarceration system in the U.S. After the rally, her supporters took to the streets and marched through downtown Manhattan.

— Report by John Steffin

Caster Semenya

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Ongoing recriminations from the Central Park Five case

The Central Park Five, from left to right, Kevin Richardson, Antwon McCray, Raymond Santana Jr., Korey Wise and Yusuf Salaam, attend the premiere of “When They See Us” at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, N.Y., on May 20.

By Workers World New York City bureau

The four-part Netflix series “When They See Us,” directed by African-American director Ava DuVernay, has set off an avalanche of long overdue recriminations for the high-profile prosecutors who in 1989 framed up five African-American and Latinx youth in New York City. Known as the Central Park Five, the teenagers were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced as guilty for the sexual assault of a white woman, Trisha Meili, referred to in the press as the “Central Park jogger.”

The case garnered both national and international attention due to the extreme racist demonization of these youth, now in their 40s, by the New York Police Department, the courts and the mainstream media. Donald Trump, a public enemy number one, at one point referred to the Five as “animals.” However, in a June 11 letter, the association stated that in 2013: “Instead of taking decisive action to address the issue, Columbia Law School simply removed the Central Park Jogger case from Lederer’s online bio.”

The confession by Reyes in 2002 should have been a career-ending moment for Linda Fairstein, who actually called for the death penalty for the Five. She has also called for the release of unredacted evidence by Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance. The case has also been dramatized by Ava DuVernay’s series “When They See Us,” which aired on Netflix in 2019.

The series has also called for the Manhattan DA to fire Lederer, who is still serving as an assistant DA and is called “an arch reactionary” by Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance. DuVernay also said that the series dramatizes the emotional toll of the racist media frenzy and frame-up.

In the aftermath of the series exposé, Linda Fairstein, who in 1989 was head of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, has lost her job as lead prosecutor in the Shake Dowers, Dutton, as well as her agent, ICMP Publishing.

She has also resigned from the boards of Vassar College and Safe Horizon, a victims’ resource group.

Elizabeth Lederer, lead prosecutor in the case, has resigned from her job as a law professor at Columbia Law School. That action was called for by the school’s Black Students Organization, whose online petition received over 11,000 signatures as of this writing.

That petition also calls for Columbia to revoke Fairstein’s Award of Excellence, made by the university’s School of Medicine.

On Twitter there is a popular hashtag called #cancelLindaFairstein.

“When They See Us’ shines light on repression

Other demands prompted by DuVernay’s series include reopening all cases handled by Lederer and Fairstein between 1976 and 2002. Called for by New York legal defense groups and the city’s Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, these forces also call for the Manhattan DA to fire Lederer, who still serves as an assistant DA and is called “an arch reactionary” by Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance.

Raymond Santana, one of the five, has also called for the release of unretracted depositions, which would shed light on the extent of the police lying and coercion. It took DuVernay’s powerful dramatization of the NYPD’s racist coercive tactics to accomplish what many voices had been urging for years. After Sarah Burns’ excellent documentary, “The Central Park Five,” came out in 2012, the Columbia Black Law Student Association circulated a petition calling for Lederer’s removal.

However, in a June 11 letter, the association stated that in 2013: “Instead of taking decisive action to address the issue, Columbia Law School simply removed the Central Park Jogger case from Lederer’s online bio.”

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Activists demand ‘U.S. Hands off Venezuela!’
By Joshua Hans
Portland, Ore.
Activists and organizers with the Hands Off Venezuela PDX coalition hosted an event June 13 at the Sunnyside Community Center in Portland’s southeast neighborhood. Featured speakers were Dan Shea, president of the Portland chapter of Veterans For Peace, and Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center and Workers World Party representative.
The event was moderated by Christopher McLaughlin of Hands Off Venezuela PDX and Democratic Socialists of America.
Shea and Flounders traveled in March to Venezuela as part of a peace delegation, which included 2016 Green Party Vice Presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka and many others. These two reporters told of their experiences in a country which has recently been rocked by a U.S.-backed coup attempt and sabotage of its electrical grid after years of sanctions and imperialist interference. Shea and Flounders told of the massive support in Venezuela for the pro-socialist government led by President Nicolás Maduro and stated that sanctions were in stark contrast to the lies and distortions in much of the U.S. media.

Caracas
By Marco Teruggi
This article was published in pagina12.com.ar on June 10, translation by Michael Otto.

Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, has four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and Caribbean. All of them fit within a day and a night. They overlap. They create rhythms and especially for the many walkers who flee the daily downturns. In only 10 minutes the sky seems to have emptied. It’s everyday life in a city where the country’s national politics are almost totally concentrated. What happens outside the capital is news when it involves strategic territories in the geography of war.

One of those territories borders Colombia. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced the reopening (June 8) of the crossing between Venezuela and Colombia, a key border bridge that was transformed into a Hollywood set for a hostile attempt to Venezuela as part of a peace delegation, which included 2016 Green Party Vice Presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka and many others. These two reporters told of their experiences in a country which has recently been rocked by a U.S.-backed coup attempt and sabotage of its electrical grid after years of sanctions and imperialist interference. Shea and Flounders told of the massive support in Venezuela for the pro-socialist government led by President Nicolás Maduro and stated that sanctions were in stark contrast to the lies and distortions in much of the U.S. media.

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Iran's war on Iran

Continued from page 3

the German, French and British govern- ments said in a joint statement that the U.S. decision to re-impose sanctions on Iran was "deeply regrettable." It was an early sign that the U.S. ruling class could no longer rely on its "ally" and that the U.S. are already voicing their skepticism.

War on Iran

Where is Congress?

Where is Congress? In all this? This is the season when all eyes are sup- posedly focused on next year’s elections for both the presidency and the Congress, as though that will determine what hap- pens in the U.S.

The U.S. Constitution is absolutely clear: Only Congress can declare war.

But the last time that happened was in 1941. But not even in those days, when the U.S. declared war on Nazi-occupied Europe, was there any talk of Congress making any decision about war or peace.

The Pentagon is moving more troops to the area, and the Trump administration is ratcheting up threats against Iran.

It can no longer just be a rubber stamp for military aggressions. In fact both houses of Congress have long been major stock markets.

But not only that. The U.S. declared war on Nazi-occupied Europe, and when the U.S. has tried to stunt Iran's economic activity.

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No war on Iran! Stop this war before it starts!

Revolutionary queer and trans people protest anti-Black national anthem

Continued from page 2

people – an act of violence that endan- gers people who face disproportionately high rates of police brutality.

And the Pensacola cops were called at a Pride event that marked the 50th anniver- sary of the Stonewall Uprising, which was led by queer, gender nonconforming, trans people of color fighting police brutality!

No more war on Iran!

Bloody repression under the hated Shah eventually led to a mass uprising in 1979 that overthrew this oil-company puppet. A struggle among various classes for a new order resulted in today's Islamic government.

While conservative in some areas, this government has come to rely on its Western and financial support to maintain power.

The Saudis get their main support from the U.S. government and its allies in the region, which is ruled by the billionaire Saud monarchs. The U.S. government has long been a key partner in the region, providing financial and military support to the Saud monarchy.

The Saud monarchs get a royal wel- come in Washington, while one of Donald Trump's first trips abroad after becoming president was to Saudi Arabia and the luxurious Saudi Royal Court in Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, where dissenters are dead and immigrants do all the dirty work, is an ally for the U.S. government renationalized the oil and has used much of the proceeds to raise the stan- dard of living of the Iranian people. At the same time, the U.S. has tried to stunt Iran's economic activity.

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Continued from page 2

a vendor because the organization was not selling anything (as is always the case). Also Strive did not pay the vendor a fee because the 875 fee is an outrageous amount of money to pay at a Pride event in a country that has such a low poverty rate.

In response to Strive giving away free materials to people, Gay Grassroots again called the cops – the second time cops were summoned against Strive in the same day at this so-called Pride event.

Despite not selling anything, Strive agreed to take its table down and con- tinued a successful distribution on foot, receiving much support.

But one cannot overlook the alarming reality that a "progressive" LGBT orga- nization called the cops on a group of transgenders and gender nonconforming people – an act of violence that endan- gers people who face disproportionately high rates of police brutality.

And the Pensacola cops were called at a Pride event that marked the 50th anniver- sary of the Stonewall Uprising, which was led by queer, gender nonconforming, trans people of color fighting police brutality!
Haitians in the streets stage general strike
By G. Dunkel

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. An audit, ordered by a Haitian court and released on the end of May, that between $2 billion and $4 billion in funds generated by Venezuela’s PetroCaribe oil-purchasing program were lost due to corruption during the two years José “El Chino” Merino of the Laval-Haided-Headed Haitian Party (PHHT) was president.

But it wasn’t just corruption that drew hundreds of thousands of Haitians into the streets throughout the country on June 9. Indignation has chewed up big chunks of income of the 60 percent of Haitians living below the poverty line ($2.40 a day). According to the World Bank, inflation is currently at 5 percent.

Jery Tardieu, who represents the relatively well-off community of Pétionville in the National Assembly, made the point in a June 12 AlterPresse interview that when Moïse became president, 60 gourdes (Haitian currency) could buy one dollar; now it takes 100.

On June 9, protests demonstrations June 9, which took place in Cap Haitien, St. Marc, Jacmel and Gonaïves, as well as Port-au-Prince, the capital, had a single demand: President Moïse resign and go to the polls with his cronies.

In Port-au-Prince, according to the June 12 Haiti-Liberté, “[O]pposition figures and reporters heard at least seven killed and over 200 wounded by gunfire from police and government-aligned gangs.” The march began peacefully, but when it reached the area around the Champ de Mars and the National Palace, the cops attacked.

On June 10, Radio France International reported that the cops used live rounds, while two buildings were set on fire. YouTube video clips show the demolition of such buildings taking into small groups and scattered over the area around the National Palace. The French embassy, a supermarket and a big movie theater were some of the targets singled out by protesters.

Then on June 10 and 11, Port-au-Prince was almost completely paralyzed by a general strike that shut down public transportation and most businesses, banks, schools, factories and government offices. According to Yves Pierre-Loius, news director of Radio Timoun, which is housed at the Aristide Foundation for Democracy, “[F]or these first two days, we can say the strike succeeded close to 100 percent.”

The general strike involved street barricades made from burning tires, rocks and billboards.

It is clear that certain significant bourgeois figures are now in opposition to Moïse and his cronies, who most certainly have been rejected by the masses of the Haitian people. Given that the United Nations Security Council is investigating about Haiti’s president, it’s conduct in the current struggle is going to play an important role in the outcome.

Portland march defends Philippine sovereignty
In May June, BAYAN USA-Pacific Northwest and Malaya Movement Pacific Northwest held a high-spirited march and banner drop off Portland’s Hawthorne Bridge to raise awareness about the U.S.-backed war that President Rodrigo Duterte is waging on workers and peasants in the Philippines.

The next the Portland Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines held “A From Portland to the Philippines” potluck. The event was a fundraiser to send local organizers to the Philippines to work with peasants and workers oppressed by U.S. military aid sent to the islands. PCHRP’s Facebook page reads: “Over 30,000 peasants, farmers, youth, human rights and land defenders have been murdered by President Rodrigo Duterte’s U.S.-funded War on Drugs. Communities are harassed and surveilled by local military and police to aid multidimensional corporations in their theft of natural resources to be exported overseas. While forests are logged, some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world are destroyed.” (Facebookportlandrp)

— Report by Lyn Neeley

#LulaLivre Free Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva

The following is a statement released June 11 by The International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, a network of concerned individuals from several countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean dedicated to help defend the sovereignty of developing nations. Formerly the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, the ICJ’s main objective is now to raise awareness among the people of the United States about the effects of the U.S. blockade against the Cuban people, and to defend developing nations.

Since 2016 we have been denouncing the illegal, media and parliamentary campaign against Dilma Rousseff, who was stripped from power, with the aim of destroying the Workers’ Party of Brazil (PT) and its historic leader Luiz Inacio “Lula” da Silva in order to prevent him from returning to the presidency.

On March 24, 2018, replacing her with the usurper Michel Temer, launching a fierce persecution against Lula, imprisoning him without evidence, violating his right to due process, and treating him as if he were a criminal. The electoral campaign ended "of the Democratic Party ended [U.S. President] Nixon's government.

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Sergio Moro, Dallagnol and all those who mocked the principle of justice to strip Dilma of power, condemn Lula and hand Brazil over to the hands of the fascist Bolsonaro are the ones who must be tried and condemned.

We hope our solidarity will reach the people and workers of Brazil who will paralyze the country, demanding respect for their rights and gains achieved, and the freedom of Lula, in the general strike they will carry out on June 14.

A lot of strength to the workers, peasants and students of Brazil. Much strength and hope to Lula who will soon be free. #LulaLivre. ❘
¡No hay guerra contra Irán! 

A medida que los años de la guerra de Estados Unidos contra inmigrantes se extienden a décadas, se hace difícil imaginar qué honorífico adicional podría infligir este gobierno capitalista de supremacía blanca a las personas que intentan encontrar un pequeño espacio de seguridad durmiendo cruzando las fronteras de los Estados Unidos.

Sin embargo, esta última semana ha traído noticias de otra injusticia brutalmente cruel. El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE.UU., a instancias de la administración Trump, anunció que ya no proporcionaría dinero para la educación, la recreación y la asistencia legal para los niños migrantes detenidos en instalaciones gubernamentales, es decir, en los campos de concentración virtuales donde los migrantes están encerrados.

En este momento, más de 13,000 niños migrantes están “alojados”, encarcelados, en más de 100 “refugios”, cárceles, en todo Estados Unidos. Estos incluyen a los niños que cruzaron la frontera solos, así como a aquellos separados a la fuerza de padres y familiares por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

Estos son niños que huyen de condiciones intolerables en sus países de origen, principalmente en América Central. Allí, la pobreza, la violencia y la agitación han sido fomentadas directa e indirectamente por los Estados Unidos en su intento de controlar y beneficiarse de la mano de obra transnacional. La mano de obra clase dominante está dominándose en la creación de una crisis de inmigración/migración fue claramente evidente en la reciente huelga general en Honduras. Un movimiento popular de masas salió a las calles para protestar contra el actual gobierno de derecha, brutalmente violento del país. Estos gobiernos fueron colocados encubiertamente por Washington en 2009 a través de un golpe militar contra Manuel Zelaya, el presidente elegido y progresista. La gente se ha ido de Honduras desde entonces debido a las horribles condiciones que resultaron de ese golpe. La reciente directiva de HHS que se niega a proporcionar educación, recreación y asistencia legal para niños encarcelados va el acuerdo de Flores de 1997, establece estándares para el tratamiento de niños migrantes bajo la custodia del gobierno. Pero esa burla de la legalidad no debería ser una sorpresa.

Los jefes capitalistas, y los políticos estadounidenses que gobiernan en su interés, solo se preocupan por obtener ganancias de los pueblos del mundo. Los servicios que se niegan a los niños encarcelados sin duda se consideran “adoros innecesarios”, especialmente si recortan el margen de ganancias de las empresas contratadas para proporcionar estos “refugios”.

Muchas de estas compañías son firmas relacionadas con el ejercicio como MVM, que proporcionó guardias a la CIA en Iraq, y General Dynamics. (“Contratistas de la Defensa están cobrando por la detención de niños inmigrantes”, The Daily Beast, 14 de junio de 2018)

Mientras que el complejo prisione-militar-industrial gana dinero por los niños, estos también están siendo usados como peones, junto con otros migrantes, en un juego político de alto nivel jugado por la administración Trump. La administración ha duplicado el tiempo en que los niños están encarcelados, lo que hace cada vez más difícil para los padres y la familia liberarlos. Al mismo tiempo, culpan a México por la “crisis en la frontera”, que ha sido creada por los EE.UU.

La directiva de HHS contra los niños encarcelados es tan clara como cualquier declaración de guerra. Elimina cualquier pretensión de proporcionar servicios de “cuidado” para ellos. Es una declaración de guerra de clases de los capitalistas transnacionales de los Estados Unidos contra los pueblos inmigrantes y migrantes, que muestra una disposición absolu-ta a continuar con el ataque genocida de encarcelar y matar a niños. Cuando el año pasado se desenmascaró la política de “separación familiar” de los Estados Unidos, alejando a los niños de sus padres y hermanos en la frontera, una protesta y protesta masiva detuvo esa crueldad, al menos en su peor forma.

La protesta debe vincular la liberación de los niños migrantes con el sufrimiento de los niños dentro de los Estados Unidos, cuyas necesidades se están sacrificando en el altor del gigantesco presupuesto de guerra de los Estados Unidos. La protesta debe vincular la liberación de todos los niños a la lucha contra el encarcelamiento masivo racista y la explotación del trabajo penitenciario en los Estados Unidos, donde se sacrifica la vida de tantas personas con fines de lucro. La organización debe hacer por la liberación de todos los niños como parte de la imparable oposición a las depredacio-nes imperialistas de los Estados Unidos en todo el mundo, ya que sus países y sus vidas se destruyen con fines de lucro.

Ahora se debe montar otra ola de protesta contra este uso y abuso de niños migrantes en beneficio de los carceleros corporativos. El clamor debe vincular la liberación de los niños migrantes con el sufrimiento de los niños dentro de los Estados Unidos, cuyas necesidades se están sacrificando en el altor del gigantesco presupuesto de guerra de los Estados Unidos. La protesta debe vincular la liberación de todos los niños a la lucha contra el encarcelamiento masivo racista y la explotación del trabajo penitenciario en los Estados Unidos, donde se sacrifica la vida de tantas personas con fines de lucro. La organización debe hacer por la liberación de todos los niños como parte de la imparable oposición a las depredacios-nes imperialistas de los Estados Unidos en todo el mundo, ya que sus países y sus vidas se destruyen con fines de lucro. 

¡No hay guerra contra Irán!

Mundo Obrero editorial

El gobierno de EE.UU. está acusando de que el 13 de junio, Irán atacó a dos barcos petroleros en el Estrecho deOrmuz, — el Frente de Alta Altura de pro-piedad noruego y el Kokuka Valeroso, de propiedad japonesa. La amenaza de una nueva agresión militar de los Estados Unidos en un área ya devastada por décadas de guerra es muy real. Todos los que se oponen a una posibilidad tan horrible deben hacer todo lo posible para detenerlo.

La acusación de los Estados Unidos es absurda. Los gobiernos de otros países imperialistas aliados en el pasado con los Estados Unidos ya están expresando su escépticismo.

¿Por qué demonios atacaría Irán a un petrolero japonés en el precioso momento en que el primer ministro de Japón visitaba Irán? Shinzo Abe, quien se encontraba en Teherán para conversar con el gobierno iraní, pidió a todos los países que se abstengan de tomar medidas que podrían aumentar las tensiones. Hizo la apelación justo después de una llamada telefónica con Donald Trump, quien inmediatamente culpó a Irán por los ataques y llamó a Irán “una nación de terror”.

Irán, por supuesto, no tiene buques de guerra, aviones o submarinos que atro-roen al mundo entero. Estados Unidos sí.

La administración de los Estados Unidos afirma que tiene un video de un ataque a una mina eran “falsos” porque el daño en el altar del gigantesco presupuesto de guerra de los Estados Unidos. Estados Unidos tiene una larga historia de inventar “objetos voladores” antes del ataque que podría haber sido una balas. El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores iraní, Mohammad Javad Zarif, calificó las acusaciones como parte de un complot de políticos depredadores en los Estados Unidos y la región.

Ní siquiera los medios de comunicación burguesas establecidos están creyendo el cuento de la administración de Trump. La revista New Yorker ya tiene un artí-culo en línea sobre las muchas excusas falsas que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha usado durante décadas para justificar su agresión militar. El artículo comienza: “Estados Unidos tiene una larga histo-ria de provocación, instigación o lanzamiento de guerras basadas en amenazas dudosas, endebles o fabricadas”.

Cita la explosión del acorazado Maine en el puerto de La Habana que usó Estados Unidos para generar el apoyo a la guerra de 1898 con España. Más tarde se demostró que el Maine explotó, no de una mina española, sino de un incendio a bordo. También nombradas como “ame-nazas” inventadas por los EE.UU. fueron el “ataque” falso del Golfo de Tonkin uti-lizado para justificar el envío de tropas a Vietnam en 1964; y la “inteligencia” sobre las “armas de destrucción masiva” ira-ques fabricadas para facilitar la invasión de Iraq en 2003.

Las amenazas muy reales de más ase-sinatos y caos, emitió ahora mismo por la clase dominante de los Estados Unidos y su máquina de muerte, claman por una oposición militante.

¡No guerra contra Irán! ¡Pongamos un alto a esta guerra antes de que comience!