Kick cops and corporations out of Pride!

Pressure is building to kick cops and corporations out of Pride marches and events in LGBTQ2S+ communities across the U.S. Activist resistance to the state and to capitalism is intensifying this year, the 50th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion in New York City, which was sparked by a violent police raid.

For five decades the New York Police Department has refused to apologize for the harassment, the raid, the beatings and arrests at the Stonewall Bar in 1969. Finally, on June 6, current commissioner James O’Neill issued a vague “sorry.”

His apology was promptly rejected by organizers of NYC’s alternate Reclaim Pride as a symbolic public relations stunt “for the government” to execute “gay people.” (think progress) On June 8, armed neo-Nazis threatened Detroit Pride while police provided an escort for the white supremacists. On June 22, at St. Pete Pride in Florida, a cop contingent marched close behind the Sex Workers Outreach Project, sparking fears about safety and surveillance.

Returning to radical roots
But alternate Pride organizers are challenging the state and returning to the radical roots of the Stonewall Rebellion.

On June 9, in Sacramento, Calif., hundreds of demonstrators blocked the entrance to that city’s festival, carrying “No Cops at Pride” and “Black Trans Lives Matter” signs. Malkia Devich Cyril, a queer activist and leader in Movement for Black Lives, has denounced the police as “a force of terror for queer and trans communities.” (Guardian, June 13)

The new Pride is linked to the revolutionary acts of resistance in the three-day Stonewall street battles of 1969 led by trans people of color, gender-nonconforming homeless youth, queer draft resisters to the Vietnam War, Black gay fighters against racism and militant sex workers using their high heels as weapons.

The Stonewall Uprising challenged both big business with Mafia ties and the paid-off police department serving the state. Now the movement to reclaim Pride is again challenging the cops — part of the “armed bodies” of the state — and also

Continued on page 7

Many histories converged at Stonewall Rebellion, 1969

By Leslie Feinberg

Gay and lesbian historians who view history from a materialist vantage point have emphasized that while same-sex affection and sexuality appear to have existed in all epochs of human society, the conditions of capitalism were required for the development of a distinct political and social minority identity: gay and lesbian.

But Stonewall was not just a product of capitalism, but of national oppression as well. The historians accurately describe the Stonewall Rebellion as a qualitative development that is a social product of capitalism. They point out that the ascendency of capitalist production in the United States created a vast class of “wage slaves” — workers who owned nothing but their ability to labor. The organizing of a large-scale workforce also centralized laborers, creating large-scale

Continued on page 6
SIGN UP! Join the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for profit.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out the multinational, multigender and multigenerational 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 on immigrants, minority, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else—unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with student debt, including wrongful death, malpractice and inadequate health care.

Mumia Abu-Jamal should receive cataract surgery immediately! Mumia should be released now not only because he can receive better health care outside of prison, but also because he is an innocent man.

Save Mumia’s eyesight and demand his release!

Sign the petition at tinyurl.com/mumiaeyes.

Call: Dr. Courtney P. Rodgers—(757)773-7851 and SCI Mahanoy Superintendent Theresa A. DelBalzo—(717)-773-2158. Tell them to approve Mumia’s cataract surgery immediately.

3 Call: PA Gov. Tom Wolf—(717)-787-2950; PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel—(717)787-2577; Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner—(215)-686-8100. Tell them to release Mumia Abu-Jamal NOW because he can receive better health care outside of prison and also because he is an innocent man!

ACT NOW

Mumia’s vision has rapidly deteriorated. It has been confirmed that Mumia currently suffers from conditions that seriously threaten his eyes. These conditions include cataracts and detachment in both eyes. This threat seriously jeopardizes his life and wellbeing, as well as his journalistic profession.

An outside eye doctor is recommending surgical procedures to remove the cataracts in both eyes, but SCI-Mahanoy Dr. Courtney Rodgers is delaying scheduling the needed examinations and surgeries with Mumia’s outside ophthalmologist. Rodgers works for Corflex Solutions, a notorious for-profit prison and immigration detention medical company that, according to the Project on Government Oversight, has been sued at least 1,095 times with complaints alleging a range of charges, including wrongful death, malpractice and inadequate health care.

Meanwhile Mumia faces increasing nerve damage to his eyes. He is unable to read or do other things requiring normal vision. This delay echoes the years of delays Mumia experienced getting treatment for hepatitis C. By the time the DOC was finally forced by federal court to treat Mumia with the Hep C cure, it was too late to prevent cirsrhosis of the liver.

African Americans are 1.5 times more likely to develop cataracts than the general population and five times more likely to develop related blindness.

Not only is his overall health deteriorating as he is threatened by permanent blindness, his failure now to receive the immediate attention he requires is cruel and unusual punishment, especially as an innocent man who has been unjustly incarcerated for almost four decades.

Furthermore, considering his multiple ailments and the threat of blindness, we demand that Pennsylvania officials allow a real and humane “compassionate release” now, not the “fake compassionate release” of transfers from prison to care facilities that Pennsylvania will only grant when a prisoner is within a year of dying. Mumia’s family, friends and supporters are ready now to provide the health care Mumia requires if he were home.

Mumia is not alone in enduring these cruel and unusual assaults on the health of those aging and ill behind prison walls. According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 130,000 of U.S. prisoners are elderly, a 400% increase between 2002 and 2013. Mumia himself has noted the significant number of those confined at his own prison who suffer similar life-threatening illnesses that require immediate attention.

Mumia’s age older and older prisoners experience a torurous journey toward the end of their lives without any compassionate release. Once again, as we fight for Mumia’s right to treatment and for his release, we fight for the freedom of all the imprisoned from mass incarceration’s cruel and unusual conditions.

Mumia Abu-Jamal should receive cataract surgery immediately!

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party branch near you:

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you: workers.org/wwp

Workers World

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011.
Phone: 212.627.2904
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Managing Editors: John Calcottino, LetiLani Dowell, Martha Greavatt, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: Ben Carroll, John Steffen
Production & Design Editors: G. Armasby, Sasha B. Williams
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Sue Davis, S. Hedgecock
Contributing Editors: G. Dinkel, K. Durkin, Teresa Gutierrez, Betsy Piette, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Alberto Garcia, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas
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By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

MOVE 9 member Edward (Goodman) Africa was released on parole on June 21, following prior releases of Debbie, Michael, Janet and Janine Africa. MOVE 9 member Merle and Phil died in prison.

Edward Africa was born and raised in Philadelphia. Prior to joining MOVE, he experienced the street oppression faced by many Black folks in the city. Initially resistant, he realized he was the white media that MOVE had white members, Edward eventually began to work with MOVE "because what they were doing was more complete than anything I had ever known." In and out of jail from the age of 16 in 1965 until he joined MOVE in 1973, Eddie was then frequently stopped by Philadelphia cops. When he refused to be searched, he was beaten when he resisted. As a result, he was charged with assault and resisting arrest. He was arrested Aug. 8, 1978, during the Philadelphia police assault on MOVE. Eddie wrote about himself: "I'm one of the MOVE 9. We were each wrongly convicted of murder, assault and conspiracy by the late Judge Edwin S. Malmed and each sentenced to 10 to 60 years in prison." (onamove.com)

Africa has four grown children and several grandchildren whom he has never been with except for brief prison visits. He will be living with family in Philadelphia.

He states on the MobilizingMumia Facebook page, "I want to say that I had no intentions of becoming a revolutionary; this system encouraged me to be one. I'm not a revolutionary; JOHN AFRICA provided the direction."

Despite serving over 40 of their 30-to-100-year sentences, two remaining MOVE 9 members, Charles and Delbert Africa, remain unjustly imprisoned. When recently paroled in May, Janet and Janine Africa stated that they have no cause for celebration until all their brothers are released.

CENTENNIAL OF RED SUMMER: A pivotal moment against racist terror

By Terrea Mitchell

During the Red Summer of 1919, a wave of white-supremacist terrorist attacks was unleashed against Black Americans. From February to November, white mobs and gangs carried out anti-Black riots and lynching to uphold the status quo— as they saw it—and keep Black Americans in their place.

While mainstream sources referred to these acts as "riots," they were really acts of "anti-Black collective violence," according to historian David Krugler in his book, "1919, The Year of Racial Violence: How African Americans Fought Back." African Americans were not rioting. They were fighting back, countering tack and repelling violence. They were resisting.

From 1917 to 1923, white mobs destroyed dozens of Black towns and communities, murdering thousands of African Americans, injuring thousands more, and displacing tens of thousands. The year 1919 marked the zenith of these terrorist attacks.

Many catalysts led up to Red Summer: Veterans were returning home from World War I, causing a glut of workers in the job market. Black Americans were migrating en masse from the South to Northern cities, bolstering numbers. Black sharecroppers in the South were organizing to stop exploitation of their labor and debt peonage. Many Black folks in Knoxville, Tenn., were fighting back, counterattacking and repelling violence. They were resisting.

The first large-scale so-called riot occurred in Jenkins County, Ga. Police officers and biased court systems in 1919, across the country, Black residents faced hostile law enforcement. The fight for justice

The media openly and routinely described Black Americans in a racist tone, using bigoted language. The "blame-the-victim" narrative, still used today when police execute a Black Brown, Indigenous or trans person, was fed by rumors and lies. The fight for justice

Finally, on the third front, African Americans fought for justice. Black Americans faced hostile law enforcement officers and biased court systems in 1919, just as we do today. Black self-defense and armed resistance as unprovoked violence against whites. The media openly and routinely described Black Americans in a racist tone, using bigoted language. The "blame-the-victim" narrative, still used today when police execute a Black Brown, Indigenous or trans person, was fed by rumors and lies. The fight for justice

The nationwide movement started by Black elites who used respectability politics as a pillar. This was a self-help movement started by Black elites who used respectability politics as a pillar. This was a self-help

Today, African Americans' rights to digitate their experience, to organize for their communities, to equality and dignity are under attack. We must remember the most important lesson of Red Summer: Resist and fight back against the oppression and repression by those who would destroy us—even if we die trying.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOVE

From far left: Fred Riley; Carlos Africa; Eddie Africa; his son, Little Eddie; daughter-in-law Sukona; and Raymond Africa Jr. KANGAROO COURTS

Reeved Africa released after 40 years

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOVE

By Betsea Mitchell

Black veterans were determined not to go back to dehumanizing, oppressive Jim Crow after their service in World War I, so they laid the groundwork so that Black Americans would have a voice in their future. That voice would be MOVE.

Black veterans and civilians. This was a self-help movement started by Black elites who used respectability politics as a pillar. This was a self-help

Across the country, Black residents were fighting back, counterattacking and repelling violence. They were resisting.

Black sharecroppers in the South were organizing to stop exploitation of their labor and debt peonage. However white violence increased and Black Americans faced hostile law enforcement officers and biased court systems in 1919, across the country, Black residents faced hostile law enforcement. The fight for justice

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Philadelphia on horizon in Domestic Workers drive

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Domestic caretakers, nannies and house cleaners are, like farmworkers and people with disabilities, excluded from many local, state and federal workplace protections, including minimum wage, overtime and health and safety and sick benefits.

As mostly women of color, domestic workers are subjected to all the abusive sexist and racist horrors so common within the U.S. patriarchal, white-supremacist capitalist system. Mostly immigrants and often undocumented, they work in highly responsible yet difficult jobs for low pay and are often under threat of deportation at a moment’s notice.

Like many gig workers, domestic workers are isolated from thousands of other workers doing the same work, and they deal with ever-more-demanding bosses as individuals.

Despite such harsh working conditions, courageous domestic workers across the U.S. are making significant strides to get Domestic Worker Bill of Rights (DWBR) legislation passed. Those protections they hope will ensure respect, professionalism and safety on the job for millions of women. Nine states (New York, Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon, Hawaii and New Mexico) and the city of Seattle have already extended DWBR protections to domestic workers.

According to the National Domestic Workers Alliance, over 2 million people in the U.S. do domestic work. There are 67 million domestic workers worldwide, according to the U.N. International Labor Organization.

Enduring legacy of slavery

Philadelphia is home to an estimated 16,000 domestic workers who make an average of $8,000 annually, according to analysis by University of Pennsylvania professor Pilar Guadalupe-Pons.

A nanny and member leader of the Philadelphia Domestic Workers Alliance (Philly DWA), Annie Johnson wrote in a March 4 guest editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer: "We don’t get the basic labor protections other workers do. We don’t qualify for minimum-wage and overtime protections. We aren’t protected by the federal Civil Rights Act, which governs gender and racial discrimination.

Residential areas in South and Southwest Philadelphia surround the 1,400-acre refinery. Officials are now revealing the plant in 11 days. The facility was a problem for surrounding communities for years. A major catastrophic accident — the explosion that rained large chunks of debris on their property. It marked the second fire at the refinery in 11 days.

Residents of the city, and as far away as Deptford, N.J., reported seeing smoke or fire that day. "Do you know how scared I was this morning to walk out of my door by the explosion? I do everything I can to close my windows and keep this pollution out of my house. But when these fires happen, it seems there really is nothing we can do to protect ourselves," one Deptford resident told Philly Thrive reporter Lydia Bennett, said.

The pollution from the refinery is a silent killer, and we’re breathing that in. It’s taken the lives of babies, elders and workers in the city’s community of color.

Refinery explosion threatens Philadelphia

A massive explosion at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery in the predawn hours of June 21 lit up the sky with a fireball so large it was captured by a 7-mile radius. The multinational, working-class community known as the 7th Ward, just across the river from downtown Philadelphia, is a moment’s notice.

Participants in the rally included Philadelphia Jobs with Justice, Domestic Employers Network Community, Legal Services of Philadelphia, Pathways PA, Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals, Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition, United Food & Commercial Workers of PA and other allies.

The bill would mandate:

- Workers are entitled to up to five days of paid time off (PTO). The PTO will likely be a tiered system based on time worked.
- Employers must use a contract to specify hours, pay rates, schedules and other employment terms.
- Workers are guaranteed paid rest and meal breaks (a 10-minute rest break for every four hours worked consecutively and a 30-minute meal break after more than five hours). Live-in workers such as nannies and caregivers are guaranteed one unpaid day off after working six consecutive days.
- The city will create a "portable benefits" system for workers’ hours to follow them, not the employer, meaning those with multiple employers can still accrue enough hours to qualify for paid time off.
- Freedom from discrimination and sexual harassment, protection against retaliation; and
- Employers must provide two weeks’ notice before terminating an employment contract (four weeks if the worker is live-in), except in cases of "significant misconduct."

A Domestic Work Working Group will meet this summer to develop a proposal for a Domestic Worker Standards and Implementation Board to monitor enforcement and regulation.

Nicole Kligerman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Domestic Workers Alliance, told the Philadelphia Inquirer she expects the board to create "template contracts" for workers. If an individual doesn’t have a contract, it will be presumed they’re working under the city’s template contract.

The rally ended with a chant the DWBR use at their events; everyone starts in low voices chanting “Unity! Dignity! Power!” over and over, increasing in volume each time, and finally ending in one loud voice: “Unity! Dignity! Power!”

"Enough is enough — we have to act before half the people in South and Southwest Philly are dead," said Sonya Sanders, Philly Thrive member and Greens Ferry resident. “Do you know how scared I was this morning to be shaken out of my sleep by the explosion? I do everything I can to close my windows and keep this pollution out of my house. But when these fires happen, it seems there really is nothing we can do to protect ourselves." 18

Another Philly worker, homeowner and Philly Thrive member Lydia Bennett, said.

The pollution from the refinery is a silent killer, and we’re breathing that in. It’s taken the lives of babies, elders and workers in the city’s community of color.

Refinery explosion threatens Philly communities

By Betsy Piette
Philadelphia

We don’t get workplace safety protections. We don’t qualify for any amount of leave. We work without breaks. We don’t get workplace safety protections. We don’t have the ability to unionize. And we’re not protected from retaliation if we do speak up about the ways we’re abused and taken advantage of. It’s no mistake we’re denied these basic protections — it’s part of the enduring legacy of slavery. Domestic workers and agricultural workers were left out of 1930s labor law because the vast majority were Black descendants of slaves.

This means that, in the poorest major city, we are among the lowest paid and most exploited of the working poor. The vast majority of us are women of color — Black and immigrant women, many of whom are undocumented. Domestic workers frequently experience wage theft, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, threats to call Immigration and Customs Enforcement if we speak up about our working conditions, daily instances of racism and prejudice and employers who refuse to pay and who barge into living quarters after work hours are done for live-in nannies and caregivers.”

Philadelphia: Pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights!

On International Domestic Workers Day, June 20, about 30 Philadelphia-area domestic workers and their allies rallied outside City Hall. After hearing speeches from domestic workers and several City Council supporters of the bill, they entered City Hall where DWBR legislation was officially introduced. The bill will go up for a vote this fall. Once passed, Philadelphia would not only be the largest city to do so, it will also be the most ambitious standards-raising law on the books across the industry.

The facility is responsible for 72 percent of diesel air pollution and 98 percent of sulfur dioxide air pollution in Philadelphia, according to a 2017 study by the Institute for Policy Studies. "This means that, in the poorest major city, we are most exposed to pollution from the refinery," said Nicole Kligerman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Domestic Workers Alliance, told the Philadelphia Inquirer she expects the board to create "template contracts" for workers. If an individual doesn’t have a contract, it will be presumed they’re working under the city’s template contract.

For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects. For the greatest accessibility, residents want a public land with community-owned energy projects.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

'Rehire the workers'

By Siddika Degia
New York

The Laundry Workers Center, along-side groups like the People’s Power Assemblies, held a picket line June 22 in front of the Sunshine Shirt Laundry Center in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N.Y. This emergency demonstration was called after the laundromat decided to fire the workers after telling them they were closing up shop. But the laundry was in fact not closing and is still receiving clients.

The two workers, Ricarda and Maria, are owed $250,000 in back pay from chemical burns, physical abuse and wage theft. The firings are an obvious form of retaliation against the workers who spoke up and demanded fair wages and safe working conditions, and because the workers and the community have been pressuring the laundry every week with demands for the back pay.

Management has definitely been feeling the pressure. That is what led to one of the workers, Ricarda, being physically assaulted by the landlord of the laundromat while passing out flyers in the community.

However, the community and the workers are not silent about the laundromat firing the workers unjustly. As a spokesperson in the People’s Power Assemblies said at the rally: “Rehire the workers, rehire them now or else the community will haunt you. We will come to your home, we will come to any new laundromat you open in the neighborhood, and we will continue pressuring you until you rehire the workers and give them what you owe them.”

Disability Pride rocks Philadelphia

By Worker World
New York
City Disabilities bureau Philadelphia

Many hundreds of people with disabilities and their allies commemorated Disability Pride Week by attending Philadelphia’s 8th annual Disability Pride Parade June 15.

In a highlight of the rally before the parade, Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Resources Independence for Everyone Thomas H. Earle led the crowd in a song. Like the Raging Grannies, who rewrite lyrics of popular songs in protest against war, racism and injustice, Earle changed Harry Belafonte’s Banana Boat lyrics to “Olmead, Olmead, daylight come, and I want to go home!”

Olmead v. L.C. was the most significant civil rights decision for people with disabilities. Based on the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1999 upheld Olmead’s provisions of the qualified right of people with disabilities to receive state-funded supports and services in the community rather than being forced to live in institutions or nursing homes— if there is appropriate support in the community; if the disabled person chooses to live in the community; and if such accommodation is deemed “reasonable” when considering the overall needs of the entire disability community.

The Olmead decision was based in part on a successful disability civil rights precedent in Philadelphia argued by the Disabilities Law Project in 1996.

The parade featured many colorful costumes and puppets, and a festival followed the parade. Several New Yorkers traveled to Philadelphia and told everyone about the Disability Pride Parade coming up next month in New York City for the fifth consecutive year.

New York’s disability community will gather in Madison Square Park July 14 at 10 a.m. Then we will roll, ride, scooter and walk from Madison Square Park down Broadway for a Disability Rights Festival from noon to 3 p.m. at Union Square Park.

30th anniversary of Pastors for Peace Caravan celebrated in Bay Area

Judy Greenspan
Berkeley, Calif.

Friends of revolutionary Cuba gathered at the Berkeley Fellowship Hall in the Bay Area on June 18 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan, which has consistently broken the U.S.-enforced blockade on that country.

The evening was sponsored by a coalition of groups, including Task Force on the Americas and the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity. Along with the Venceremos Brigade, which just celebrated its 40th anniversary, the Caravan provides humanitarian aid and support to the Cuban people.

The event featured two special guest speakers. Catherine Murphy, a San Francisco-based filmmaker who produced the well-known film “Maestra” about the 1961 Cuban literacy campaign, represented Pastors for Peace. A Cuban educator, who was the youngest participant in the literacy brigade, also spoke. The educator has worked for nearly 60 years since the brigade, as an activist and then as a teacher, supporting the revolutionary process in Cuba.

The Cuban educator recalled the campaign with great fondness. “I was the youngest child in the campaign, and it was all made possible because of the work of the entire Cuban people,” she noted. “Everyone had a role to play and this was the foundation of our entire education system.”

Both featured guests emphasized that education at every level, as well as health care, are completely free in Cuba.

There was much discussion about the U.S.-enforced blockade of Cuba and how harmful it has been to the Cuban people. Recent actions by the current U.S. administration will make it harder for people to travel to Cuba and almost impossible for people to visit the U.S. from Cuba. With recent activation of Title III of the Helms- Burton Act, counterrevolutionary Cubans and U.S. businesses can now lay claim to property that they “owned” (or stole) prior to the revolution.

Allies of Cuba were urged by Murphy and other speakers to visit Cuba soon and show their support. The evening’s special Cuban guest was optimistic about her country’s continued support of other struggles and peoples around the world.
industry and dense urban living, with same-sex living situations and relative anonymity.

They trace the devastating eco- nomic dislocation of the 1929 capitalist Depression that shook the working class and the subsequent widespread exodus from rural areas and small towns to these cities in search of wage work. World War II drew massive segments of the population into same-sex working and living situations, and left large same- sex-loving populations in cities where soldiers were discharged and dumped from the ranks of the military. And 1950s Cold War repression inevitably generated resistance.

These overall conditions under capital- ism, heated to critical mass by oppression, led to the development of LGBTQ communities and to a fightback consciousness.

But national oppression was a key factor in the fightback at Stonewall as well. It is no accident that a widespread rebellion, which drew its leadership from the most oppressed, ignited in an era of national liberation struggles in the United States, Asia and Africa.

The Vietnamese people inspired youth of all nationalities, in the U.S. and all over the world, by demonstrating that the long fight for their sovereignty and right to self-deter- mination was an uncontrollable force, even in the face of Pentagon might.

The rising strength of national lib- eration struggles in the U.S. — Black Power, the American Indian Movement, the Young Lords, the Chicano/Mexican movement, and organizations of militant Asian youth — stirred great pride in the oppressed and around the planet.

The waves of these movements created more room in their wake for women and LGBTQ people of all nationalities to struggle against oppression based on sex, sexuality and gender expression.

The youth of color in leadership in the sustained battles against the police in Greenwich Village on three hot sum- mer nights in June 1969 — many of them homeless youth who struggled to survive on the streets of a city that had no right to define and defend their own bodies, sexual- ities and gender expressions. Their struggle was rooted in a long history of battle against capitalist exploitation and imperialism for the right of self-deter- mination and national liberation.

It is hard to overstate the significance of the Stonewall Rebellion.

Gay American Indians (GAI) made a dynamic contribution to this under- standing in its groundbreaking 1988 book entitled “Living the Spirit.” In this contribution, GAI expressed their own histories of the diverse forms of organization on this continent — many of them still pre-class, based on cooper- ative labor and matrilineal bloodlines — before the colonial military assault which seized the land later used for white settler farming, as well as railroads and other industry.

In an essay in the book titled “Sex/ Gender Systems in Native North America,” Midnight Sun (Anishnabe) emphasized that the 400-year history of colonial ethnographic research on Indigenous peoples on this continent omitted and distorted reports about the sex and gender relations they observed, “especially where these deviated from the bipolar European norm of the heterosex- ual ‘man’ and ‘woman’ and contradicted the bipolar European norm of the heterosex- ual ‘man’ and ‘woman’ and contradicted the bipolar European norm of the heterosex-

Colonization, Midnight Sun concluded, attempted to systematically destroy the diverse economic, ideological — and sex/ gender — systems of Indigenous societies on this continent.

The catastrophic impact of slavery

The history of African-American youth who fought hand-to-hand combat with police at Stonewall is rooted in the his- toric struggle in this hemisphere against enslavement and for national liberation.

To overlook the earth-shattering impact of slavery on social relations in this coun- try when or now would be tantamount to ignoring the catastrophic impact of a meteor strike in shaping the history of the planet.

The tens of millions of African peoples who were taken prisoner, endured the horrors of the Middle Passage and were generated as a by-product of industrialization was popularized and disseminated through the new ladies’ magazines and romantic novels, white women came to be seen as inhabitants of a sphere totally severed from the realm of productive work. The cleavage between the home and the public economy, brought about by industrial cap- italism, established female inferiority more firmly than ever before.

However, she explained: “The economic arrangement of slavery contradicted the hierarchical sexual roles incorporated in the new ide- ology. Male-female relations within the slave community could not, therefore, conform to the dominant ideological pattern.”

By mid-19th century, she noted, seven out of eight enslaved Black people — female and male — were toiling on the plantations.

Davis stressed: “Because husbands and wives, fathers and daughters were equally subjected to the masters’ absolute authority, the promotion of male supremacy among the slaves might have prompted a dangerous rupture in the chain of command. Moreover, since Black women as workers could not be treated as the ‘weaker sex’ or the ‘housewife,’ Black men could not be candidates for the fig- ure of the family head, necessarily not for ‘family provider.’ After all, men, women and children alike were all ‘providers’ for the slaveholding class.”

In terms of the division of labor within the home life of enslaved families, she added: “Moreover, from all indications, the division of labor between the sexes was not always so rigorous, for men would sometimes work in the cabin and women might tend the garden and per- haps even join the hunt.”

Davis concluded, “This bears repeating: Black women were equal to their men in the oppression they suffered, because their men’s social equals within the slave community; and they resisted slavery with a passion equal to their men’s.”

And centuries later, the descendants of those who resisted slavery were battling the police in the streets at Stonewall for the right to define their own sexuality, gender and sex.

Many histories; many identities

While colonialism and imperialism have used bullets and bibles to reshape social relations — including organization of the sexes and genders and expression of sexuality — and destroy the economies of oppressed peoples, the struggles of the nationally oppressed have also had a deep and significant cultural impact on the opposition nation.

For example, the Harlem Renaissance—which included such a powerful and lyrical articulation of defi- nite same-sex and gender-nonconforming expression for a long time during the period in the histories that converged in Greenwich Village decades later.

The Stonewall Uprising, there- fore, was not an articulation — as though from one throat — of one sexual minority that has existed in all places, in all historical epochs, without previous voice. Nor did it represent the emer- gence of a central identity that represents sexual liberation in a form so universal that its visibil- ity can be used as a global marker for who is, or is not, “out of the closet” and proud.

The role of Latinx leadership in the Stonewall insurrection demonstrates that global roads of history led to the rebel- lion. Their parents and grandparents were forced by the super-exploitation of U.S. capital, and the dictatorships that enforced it, to leave their own countries — with their own systems of sex, gender and sexuality — to travel to this country to work and live.

Stonewall combatant Sylvia Rivera was a transgender teenager who had lived homeless on the streets of New York City since she was 10 years old. She was Venezuelan and Puerto Rican — and was one of many Latinx who fought in hand- to-hand battles with police at Stonewall.

For some of the Stonewall combat- ants, numerous oppressions overlapped in their own lives — racism, misogyny, transphobia — like multiple burdens that create great strength.

I asked Sylvia Rivera in an interview before her death, “What do you say when people ask you if you fought the police at Stonewall because you were gay or trans? Because of police brutality or racism? Because of being oppressed as a youth or because you were homeless?”

She answered with succinct eloquence: “We were fighting for our lives!”

The Stonewall Rebellion was a living proof that when many histories converged in the streets of an imperialist metropoli- lis — the capital of people — who did not share a common oppression wrote a new chapter of history, together, when they rose up to fight back against a com- mon enemy.

Originally published Aug. 4, 2006, this column was part of Leslie Feinberg’s series of articles on the connections between LGBTQ+ and socialist his- tory. The 120-part series “Lavender & Red,” which appeared in Workers World from 2004 to 2008, is available for free to download at workers.org/book/ gender-red.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

By Leslie Feinberg, author of Stone Butch Blues

This book is an edited compilation of chapters 86 to 110 from the Lavender & Red series in Workers World newspaper that began June 3, 2004.

It is available online at:

Reclaiming Pride
A desire to redirect a movement

By Colin P. Ashley

New York

On May 24 activists gathered in Washington Square Park to mourn the loss of three Black trans women who had been killed within weeks of each other. Those who gathered under the leadership of Bahor and Claire Legato are only three names of numerous trans women of color taken from us too soon. Their deaths point to a crisis of violence and hate impacting this community.

Sadly, many of the same activists were out only a few weeks later on June 11 to mourn the death of Layleen Xtravaganza Polanco, an Afro-Latinx trans woman who died in her cell at Rikers Island. That the criminal-legal system refused to take Layleen’s life-threatening medical condition seriously and put Layleen’s bail at $500, which was beyond her means, point to the ways in which state institutions specifically destroy Black and Brown trans women and remain complicit in the terror of all Black, Brown and working-class communities.

Black Trans Lives Matter!

These losses also point to a deeper issue in the wider LGBTQ2S+ community. It is because of the failure to protect the most marginalized in our community — our trans sisters of color — that many of us are seeking to “Reclaim Pride.”

With this the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, many of us have learned to speak of the roots of our movement in the language of opposing police violence. We have learned to uproot the names of Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. This is not enough. We must protect the living. We must redirect our movement.

As New York prepares for World Pride/StoneWall 50, the entire city has become a candlelight spectacle dedicated to rain- bow revolution. The spirit of fighting and the language of struggle are erased by the cooptation of capitalism. Police will be out in full force surrounding the movement to participate despite their continual threat to the oppressed. That parade will be satu- rated with politicians, corporations and police, all of whom to continue to use and/or abuse the LGBTQ2S+ community.

The Reclaim Pride Coalition has instead called the Queer Liberation March, a his- toric people’s march that will be political and celebratory. Its goal is to recenter the marginalized and to create a space in which the larger community can begin work to redirect our movement toward complete and total liberation for all of the oppressed.

This march was built through coal- ition in the spirit of the original uprising at Stonewall and in the spirit of inter- sectionality. We will be marching from Sheridan Square to Central Park, retrac- ing the route of the first 1970 Christopher Street Liberation Day March.

In honor of our dead, in honor of our freedom fighters, in honor of the Black and Latinx trans women whom we’ve lost, we will be Reclaiming Pride!

More information about the Queer Liberation March can be found at reclaimpride.org.

25 years of Pride @ Work

By Martha Grevatt

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the heroic Stonewall Rebellion, an event being commemorated throughout the year. On June 26th the LGTBQ2S+ movement and the labor movement joined in celebrating another major milestone: the 25th anniversary of the founding of New York Pride (PNY) and the LGTBQ2S+ Constituency Group of the AFL-CIO.

The celebration was held at the AFL- CIO national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Representatives from more than de- ced labor organizations and LGBTQ2S+ civil rights groups came, including Flight Attendants President Sara Nelson, Trans Equality Executive Director Marc Keeling, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and several board members of Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

Solidarity Awards were given to Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Shane Larson, former co-pres- ident of P@W; and Lambda Legal Staff Unit-Communication Workers. Lambda Legal Staff Unit organized in 2017.

Part of the Stonewall tradition

P@W was founded in 1994 in New York City as its first chapter. As a member of the LGTBQ2S+ Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the first 1970 Christopher Street Liberation Day and Pride parades, their banners are emblazoned with the timeless union slogan: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Worlds at Work and the labor movement joined in action in 1970 at Stonewall. In 1994 the name Pride at Work was adopted at the first national board meeting.

25 years of solidarity

One of P@W’s first campaigns as a fledgling organization was to pressure Chrysler to end anti-LGBT discrimination and add “sexual orientation” to the non- discrimination clause in its contract with the United Auto Workers. The language was added in 1990 at Ford and General Motors as well as Chrysler, with domes- tic partner benefits granted a year later. Current contracts also cover “gender identity” and “gender expression.”

In 1997 the AFL-CIO voted for P@W to become an official Constituency Group, joining the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Labor Committee for Latin American Advancement and APALA.

Over the years P@W has supported many LGBTQ2S+ workers in and out of unions. Examples include supporting a group of Native American and Indian workers who were fired for being gay, and challenging the state of Michigan over domestic partner benefits.

The group has educated the labor movement on LGBTQ2S+ issues and edu- cated the LGBTQ2S+ community on the needs of the labor movement. Over the years, many out LGBTQ2S+ workers have been elected to union office, including JoSette Jaramillo, president of the Colorado AFL- CIO; and Cal Noyce, former president of the Central Utah Federation of Labor.

P@W has taken many progressive stands, from demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal to endorsing the 2018 International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico.

Unions also marched and held receptions during the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The late United Farm Workers President César Chávez addressed the march.

Unions and workplaces have taken a stand against the homophobia and sexism that permeate the LGBTQ2S+ community and the labor movement.


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The convention established the organ-
Domestic gag rule: Time to fight the patriarchal state

By By Sue Davis

On June 18, Donald Trump announced his candidacy in 2020 for a new term. Only four days later, on June 21, anti-immigrant hostility and persecu-
tion came to a head.

The WCCNY and member Crispin Hernandez filed the suit, together with the Workers Justice Center of New York. Hernandez had left his job at Marks Dairy in Lowellville, N.Y., in 2015, when he began organizing with other workers after working at the dairy for 13 years—working 12-hour days, seven days a week, with no medical assistance—even when a cow stepped on his hand, mangling it. Worker housing was barren, and had sur-
rounding chemicals. Agricultural work in New York state is big business. Many workers are undocumented immigrants, particularly vulner-
able to exploitation, making organizing even more difficult. When Hernandez and other workers began to meet with WCCNY, management closed his account and local police, followed by arrest and subse-
tive deportation for this “crime.” For years WCCNY and other immigrant rights groups have leafleted, demon-
strated and even committed civil disobe-
dience to get access for undocumented workers to drivers’ licenses. The cam-
paign to get the Driver’s Light went valley-wide. Together: Luz Verde NY Manejando Juntos.

On June 17, a second historic farm-
worker win was passage of the Driver’s License Access and Privacy Act — the “Green Light Act” — the state Senate; it was signed into law the next day by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The act restores the right to obtain a license, regardless of immigra-
tion status, that existed in the state prior to 2011. Senator Luis Sepúlveda, who spon-
sored the bill, said to New York’s un-documented community: “We see you. You are here, and today we give you the right to move freely around this state without fear. (dream/immigrants) Despite these welcoming words, anti-immigrant hostility and persecu-
tion are still alive in New York state gov-
ernment, as they are at the federal level. County dekers in Erie and Oswego coun-
ties have declared they will refuse to pro-
cess the new licenses. (See related story from Buffalo, N.Y., in people.)

The struggle continues!

Fair labor victory

The May 23 court victory in Crispin Hernandez’s suit provided impetus for a third farmworker win. On June 19, the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act was passed by the state Senate. Passage of the bill was hailed as an “end run” victory. The time is set at [over] 60 hours, not at 40. Unemployment insurance was taken away from guest workers with this bill.

In a June 20 Facebook post, Fuentes expressed hope that a wage board created by the law would act quickly in lowering the threshold from 60 hours for farm-
workers to get overtime. “This is a mat-
ter of equity and fairness,” said Fuentes. “Those who labor in the fields, orchards and dairy barns work hard and deserve the same rights as others. It’s time New York State does the right thing.”

New York state

Three historic wins for farmworkers

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Syracuse, N.Y.

Farmworkers in New York State have won three historic victories in the last month through valiant worker-centered leadership and steady support from allies. In Syracuse, the driving force came from the Workers Co- operative Union of New York (WCCNY), a membership-based organization of low-wage workers advocating for and organizing workers to improve working conditions across the state.

In 1970 during the Nixon administration, it was challenged by Planned Parenthood, as well as information and referrals about abortion, to 4 million gender-oppressed people who receive their primary care services at WCCNY. When funds were exhausted, women were referred for or counseled them about the abortion, she denounced the rule’s decades-long, pro-life argument against reproductive rights on an equal basis with other state hourly workers, espe-
cially regarding issues like over-
time pay.

However, the powerful New York Farm Bureau, which mounted a furious campaign against the new rules, after the initial court suit, continued to fight a bitter rear-guard action to limit protections given to farm-
workers.

The result is a flawed bill that Rebecca Fuentes, a leader with WCCNY and at the new term. The WCCNY goal for the bill was “codification of farmwork-
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workers.
Seattle protest hits 'Homeland Security'

By Jim McManan
Seattle

An angry demonstration denounced former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson’s appearance in Seattle June 21 and voided裴然 at President Donald Trump’s all-around human rights abuse and plans for mass deportation of immigrants against Homeland Security’s invasion of their homes and communities.

The protesters exploded Johnson, who was speaking at the Seattle City Club’s annual luncheon at the state convention center, as the person who reinstated harsh border policies and family detention. They cited the convention center complex chanting: “Hey hey, ho ho, deportation has got to go!” The demonstrators slipped a banner inside and held it up in front of the stage when Johnson was speaking. It denounced immigrant detention and “kids in cages.”

The rally was chaired by WAISN Coordinator Monserrat Padilla, and representatives from a number of organizations spoke. “Homeland Security” was exposed as a fraud whose real purpose was war against immigrant workers. WAISN is a statewide coalition of 150 (growing) immigrant rights and solidarity organizations. As explained at the rally and in their literature, they “have organized teams of rapid response volunteers across the state to support our neighbors and friends in the event of an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raid or related community emergency.” In addition WAISN has a statewide hotline (1-844-RAID-REP, 1-844-724-7373) for immigrant and refugee families to report ICE/Border Patrol activity in the community.

Time to terrorize back
Trump is terrorizing migrant workers

By Teresa Gutierrez

Two weeks. Two weeks that undocumented workers and all im/migrants in this country will be living under increased tension and terror.

On June 17, Donald Trump, one of the most reviled U.S. presidents ever, announced that he would begin mass roundups and deportations of im/migrants.

On the eve of a June 18 campaign stop in Orlando, he said: “Next week [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] will begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States. They will be removed as fast as they come in.” (Politico, June 18)

His get-them-all-out attitude instilled fear. “I never know whether on their job, in court or at a stop light, they will be picked up.” Teachers report that the stress level for children of migrants has skyrocketed as they fear for their safety.

And the crisis at the Southern border continues. More and more migrants at the Mexican border are being detained for 2-3 weeks had only one or two opportunities to shower. One said they hadn’t showered in three weeks. Hygiene and living conditions like this creates a risk of spreading infectious disease. It makes me concerned about the public health emergency.

It can be assumed that all detention centers have similar conditions. Stop the war of terror against migrants

Both Pelosi and Trump must hear from the workers in this country that all this policy is terror.

Some Democratic mayor or state officials have announced that they wouldn’t cooperate with ICE agents. This is nice optics, and an important gain. But it is only the U.S. working class — those who have some legal protections because they are documented — who can truly and genuinely stop this terror against migrant workers.

The war of terror on migrants is a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. A six-year-old child from India died in the desert near Arizona recently. Remarkably more and more migrants at the Mexican U.S. border are not just from Central America. They are from Cameroon, Bangladesh, Syria and so on. In unprecedented numbers, more and more workers are leaving their home-lands and going further than ever to find some relief from the global attacks of capitalism.

The migrant crisis is global. Let’s make our response global.

In September, young people from around the world have called for a general strike to demand an end to climate change. This movement must be intricably, genuinely connected to the migrant crisis.

A global strike is desperately needed to push back the terrorist war on our class. That is the way to stop this global war. ☐

Seattle protest hits ‘Homeland Security’
By Sam Ordóñez
Hondurans rebel at 10th anniversary of coup

2009 U.S.-backed coup

The-upsing was dev-aping just days before the 10th anniversary of the coup against Manuel Zelaya in 2009. Zelaya was deposed from office in June 2009 and then sent to Costa Rica. The military junta reinstalled the repressive pro-U.S. Shah. They empha-ized the solidarity between the Iranian people and the U.S. people, despite policies pursued by the U.S. government.

The Pentagon about where the U.S. drone zel-a was re-around the world. This quickly caused a fuel shortage in var-iou highways throughout the country. Key highways throughout the country were blocked by the police in a major protest against JOH's dictatorship and demanding that the current government stepped down. The protest was the culmination of many years of funding cuts and hydroelectric dams since 2009. The coup leaders were sortie funding cuts and hydroelectric dams since 2009.

Establishing socialism, for anti-imperial-ists, this decision is clear. World’s people of the U.S. and its oil companies from 1953 until 1979, when it won its real independence through a revolution. It is attempting to defend that independence.

The United States is the most powerful imperialist state and oppressor of the world’s people. The 2017 election was characterized by two forces for the worst dictatorships the con-tinent.

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The history of Honduras, like all of Latin America, has been defined by colonialism and the Honduran oligarchy, which has historically been used to crush social movements in neighboring countries. In 1954, it was the staging ground for soldiers financed by the U.S. to overthrow the JOH dictatorship and demanding that the current government stepped down. The protest was the culmination of many years of funding cuts and hydroelectric dams since 2009. The coup leaders were sortie funding cuts and hydroelectric dams since 2009.

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Establishing socialism, for anti-imperial-ists, this decision is clear. World’s people of the U.S. and its oil companies from 1953 until 1979, when it won its real independence through a revolution. It is attempting to defend that independence.

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June 22.
Ireland and the U.S. power

The corporate media have used recent protests in Hong Kong to attack and vilify the People’s Republic of China and the ruling role of the Chinese Communist Party, under the pretext of defending human rights. But behind the veil of the history, as well as all the ways the U.S. super-rich and their government in Washington carry out U.S. foreign policy, it is impossible to understand the forces behind these protests in Hong Kong, a city that the British Empire seized in 1842 and only returned in 1997. This statement from the International Action Center takes on these issues.

U.S. imperialism is the greatest enemy of the world’s peoples, who are struggling for a future with dignity, sovereignty and full human rights. Wall Street and finance for a future with dignity, sovereignty and full human rights. Without knowing the Party, under the pretext of defending human rights, it is impossible to understand the forces behind these protests in Hong Kong, a city that the British Empire seized in 1842 and only returned in 1997. This statement from the International Action Center takes on these issues.

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Por Sam Ordóñez

24 junio - El pueblo hondureño se encuentra desde la semana pasada en sublevamiento contra la dictadura de Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH). El paro nacional y las manifestaciones iniciadas el mes pasado por la Plataforma por la Defensa de la Salud y la Educación en Honduras han evolucionado a exigir la renuncia del presidente en respuesta a la fuerte represión que han sufrido.

A los médicos y los docentes se sumaron los transportistas, que se negaron a conducir y usaron sus camiones para bloquear ciertas carreteras. Esto provocó rápidamente una escasez de combustible en varias zonas del país, incluyendo las grandes ciudades.

El golpe estado de 2009

Este sublevamiento se está desarrollando a nivel de escuelas y de diversos organismos de la ciudad, como el sistema bancario, la petrolera y los trabajadores de la construcción. Las protestas se intensifican, y la lucha contra el imperialismo en Honduras sigue siendo una realidad vital.

Honduras

El pueblo se sublevará contra la dictadura

Por Sandy Dunkin

En 2018, el Parlamento suizo proclamó una ley que permitiría a las empresas que "estuvieran" las disparidades de pago por género, pero eso solo se aplicó a las empresas con más de 100 empleados. No incluía sanciones para las empresas que violaban la ley.

En Bérgamo, la capital, se manifestaron 100.000 personas, mientras que los trabajadores atacaron en fábricas. Allí, Rachel Luthy enfatizó: "Debemos luchar por la justicia salarial, derechos de aborto, tolerancia cero para la violencia domestic en el lugar de trabajo.

Eso dio lugar a la aprobación de la Ley de igualdad de género en 1996, que prohibió la discriminación de género en el lugar de trabajo.

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