



End police brutality with union solidarity

By Ed Childs and G. Lechat
Lynn, Mass.

A rally and march against police brutality called by UNITE HERE Local 26 — a union representing hotel, casino and school dining hall workers — drew upwards of 500 to the Commons in the center of this working-class immigrant city on June 26.

A former manufacturing center that fell on hard times, Lynn is home to Latinx, Black and white workers. Many labor in the hospitality and institutional food services industries that Local 26 represents.

The Lynn Police Department, on the other hand, is disproportionately white in composition.

When the Lynn cops brutalized two Black Local 26 members who work in the dining halls at Tufts University on June 15, in the midst of the Black Lives Matter uprising, their racist motives seemed obvious.

June 15 was the same night that Victor had moved into the apartment where he and his friends were sitting on their front porch to finally eat the housewarming dinner they had been preparing for hours. Under the pretense of responding

to a noise complaint, cops coming out of 13 Lynn Police Department vehicles assaulted Victor and Alex, as well as their friend Scott.

Cops beat the three workers, failed to inform them of their rights or of any charges. Then the cops further injured them with a “rough ride” in a police van as the cops deliberately made them fear for their lives. Ultimately they were charged with assault on a police officer. They were detained for hours before finally being bailed out.

Local 26 responded to the racist attack on its Black members with a petition

that has collected about 5,000 signatures and the June 26 rally that ended in a march and sit-down occupation that blocked traffic in front of the police station for about an hour.

Labor actions during this 2020 BLM rebellion have joined union, Black and anti-police brutality issues in a way rarely combined since the days of the Detroit Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM) in the 1960s. The Seattle Longshore union held a one-day strike in solidarity with BLM on Juneteenth (June 19) and the Seattle Labor Council passed a

Continued on page 8



WW PHOTO: MIRINDA CRISSMAN
Houston, July 4: Thousands shout, ‘Shut down Fort Hood!’

Women of color devalued under capitalism Who killed Vanessa Guillén?

By Teresa Gutierrez
San Antonio, Texas

The case of Pfc. Vanessa Guillén has sparked a movement.

Since April 23, the family and friends of Guillén had been asking Army officials “Where is Vanessa?”

Pfc. Vanessa Guillén went missing on April 22 from Ft. Hood, Texas, the Army base she was assigned to, in Killeen about 60 miles from Austin.

On June 30, the family of Vanessa Guillén received an answer when the remains of her body were found at the Leon River, about 25 miles from the base.

Had Vanessa been a rich white man, the likelihood that higher-ups would have worked 24/7 — and mobilized all means at their disposal to find him — would

have been 100 percent better.

But it took almost two months to get to the bottom of Vanessa’s disappearance. And it took a huge effort by Vanessa’s family to get any attention at all from higher-ups.

From day one, Vanessa’s family solicited Army officials, went to the press, contacted celebrities, mobilized family and friends to find out why she was not returning their calls or contacting them.

They knew something was wrong. Vanessa had told her family that she was being sexually harassed by someone on the base, but had feared reporting that. On the day she went missing, she had decided to report the harassment.

News accounts state that she probably let her harasser

Continued on page 8



Boston offs Columbus 10

Anti-racist actions 6–7

Empire’s Mount Rushmore

- Editorial Trump’s trash talk 10
- Indigenous blockade delays rally 11

Syria 3 Palestine 11



Philadelphia, July 4.

PHOTO: TAHIR ASAD/VIRTUOUS LION PRODUCTIONS

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Feds resume executions

Open San Quentin!

Free Mumia!

FIRE on fire for BLM

4

4

5

5

After cops dismantle CHOP Seattle anti-racist protests continue

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

After 3 1/2 weeks of anti-racist organizing at the Capitol Hill Organizing Protest (CHOP), Seattle cops raided and closed the six-block encampment on July 1. They invaded with a massive force of police and the FBI. Over 40 people were arrested during the raid, but arrestees totaled at least 69 after more were arrested for protesting the raids.

The CHOP was created after Seattle cops evacuated the Capitol Hill East Precinct. The precinct had been hit with a barrage of protests after the murder of George Floyd. CHOP became a 24/7 demonstration/encampment as part of an outpouring of national anti-racist actions, which are still in progress.

The July 18 Workers World article, “CHOP Seattle: Imagining the police-free future” described CHOP as having “a system of collective responsibility and accountability, centered around the concepts of mutual aid and direct democracy. The organizers quickly erected tents where donated food and supplies were collected and distributed free, based on need, not ability to pay. Dozens of tents provide everything from medical care to legal advice to literature, all for no charge.”

Demonstrations moved out of CHOP every night and marched on the downtown Seattle police precinct. The CHOP was Black community-led and -defended.

Big business politicians and news media, led by Trump and Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, regularly defamed and disrespected CHOP. There were several suspicious shootings just outside the CHOP barricades. The mayor and the media have harped against CHOP for being somehow responsible for the shootings, even though CHOP had nothing to do with them. Two youths died in the shootings, and CHOP medical volunteers had to assist

and take those shot to the hospital, since the cops and medical first responders hadn’t shown up when called.

The only person who invaded CHOP with murderous intent was a man who told the cops that his brother was a cop in the East Precinct. This man invaded CHOP with his car and tried to run people over. He failed because Dan Gregory, a Black activist and hero, grabbed control of the steering wheel and stopped him. (Seattle Times, June 13) The invader then pulled out a gun and shot Gregory in the arm.

This provocateur was eventually taken into custody by the cops and released on bail the next day!

The July 1 police raid followed Mayor Durkan’s executive order declaring CHOP an illegal assembly. Cops evicted homeless people living there and threw all their belongings in the trash, which has been a regular occurrence in Seattle.

There had been at least 100 tents in CHOP. The cops also went after the anti-racist signs and artwork that decorated the entire site.

Demonstrations have continued on the borders of CHOP, while the cops have moved back into their precinct.

Po Leapai protested with others on the perimeter. His cousin, Iosia Faletogo, a Samoan, was shot in the back of the head and killed by a Seattle cop a year and a half ago. “The Black community supported us after my cousin got killed, and that’s another reason I’m out here,” he said. (tinyurl.com/ybv2urn4)

On July 3, hundreds of people marched from the construction site of a new youth jail to the main King County Jail downtown. The protest demanded the release and amnesty for all those arrested at CHOP and earlier demonstrations. While CHOP may have been dismantled, the anti-racist protests show no sign of letting up in Seattle. □

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

this week

♦ In the U.S.	
End police brutality with union solidarity	1
Who killed Vanessa Guillén?	1
Seattle anti-racist protests continue	2
Union begins struggle against COVID-19 layoffs . . .	3
Federal executions set to resume.	4
Release San Quentin prisoners immediately!	4
Protesters say: ‘Free Mumia!’	5
U.S. imperialism means we can’t breathe!	5
Black Lives Matter rewrites history.	6
Elijah McClain’s life mattered	7
Activists oppose legal shield of cop violence	7
SCOTUS decides 5-4 win for abortion rights.	9
Two more monuments to racism bite the dust . . .	10
Lakota treaty defenders block highway	11
♦ Around the world	
Deadly new sanctions on Syria.	3
‘Day of Rage’ against Zionist annexation	11
♦ Editorial	
Mount Rushmore defense of genocide	10
♦ Noticias en Español	
Desmantelar policía escolar	12
La economía de COVID.	12



Join us in the fight
for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment 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 seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth

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

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

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

Since 1959, 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 WWP branch near you. □

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Deadly new sanctions on Syria

By Judy Bello

This slightly edited guest article was originally published June 12 on the web site of the United National AntiWar Coalition (unac.notowar.net).

On May 20, President Trump signed into law the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Embedded in this bill, a housekeeping bill of sorts where yearly “defense” appropriations and priorities are spelled out, was the basic text of the 2019 Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act. Perhaps the [details] were buried here because [there was no] bipartisan support, but there is certainly no reason to think that was the case. The war on Syria has had bipartisan support for the duration.

The bill is named after a presentation that was a fraud, [a set of pictures allegedly taken by Syrian military photographer].

These Caesar photos, which first emerged in January of 2014, were claimed to be 55,000 photos of people tortured to death by the Syrian government, brought out by a military defector. The subsequent research was paid for by the Qatari government and overseen by a law firm, Carter-Ruck, which had previously worked for Turkish President [Recep Tayyip] Erdoğan. The photos are real but who are the subjects? Nearly two years later, Human Rights Watch published an article that was light on analysis and made many baseless claims about the data.

A few months after that, in March of 2016, Rick Sterling published a detailed analysis of the Caesar photos and the context in which they were published. On reviewing the photos, Rick says that they appear to be record-keeping photos from the morgue of a hospital in a war zone, and included the dead from both sides. (tinyurl.com/y7j4vpkm)

Sterling says in summary: “The photos and the deceased are real. But how they died and the circumstances are unclear. There is strong evidence some died in conflict. Others died in the hospital. Others died and their bodies were decomposing before they were picked up. The photographs seem to document wartime situations where many combatants and civilians are killed. It seems the military hospital was doing what it had always done: maintaining a photographic and documentary record of the deceased. Bodies were picked up by different military or intelligence branches. While some may have died in detention, the big majority probably died in the conflict zones. The accusation by ‘Caesar,’ the Carter-Ruck Report

and HRW that these are really victims of ‘death in detention’ or ‘death by torture or death in [Syrian] ‘government custody’ are almost certainly false.”

Punishment, not protection

The Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act doubles down on secondary sanctions which punish those who have any economic exchange with Syria, including aid. Though technically made anonymous, the bill was not killed, but rather hidden in the 2020 NDAA.

Even the name didn’t really die. “Caesar” just became a meme which refers to the most severe sanctions on the Syrian people and attempts to justify them. But, six years after the Caesar files appeared, and three years after the claims that the photos of Syrian government victims were debunked, why secretly enact these sanctions now?

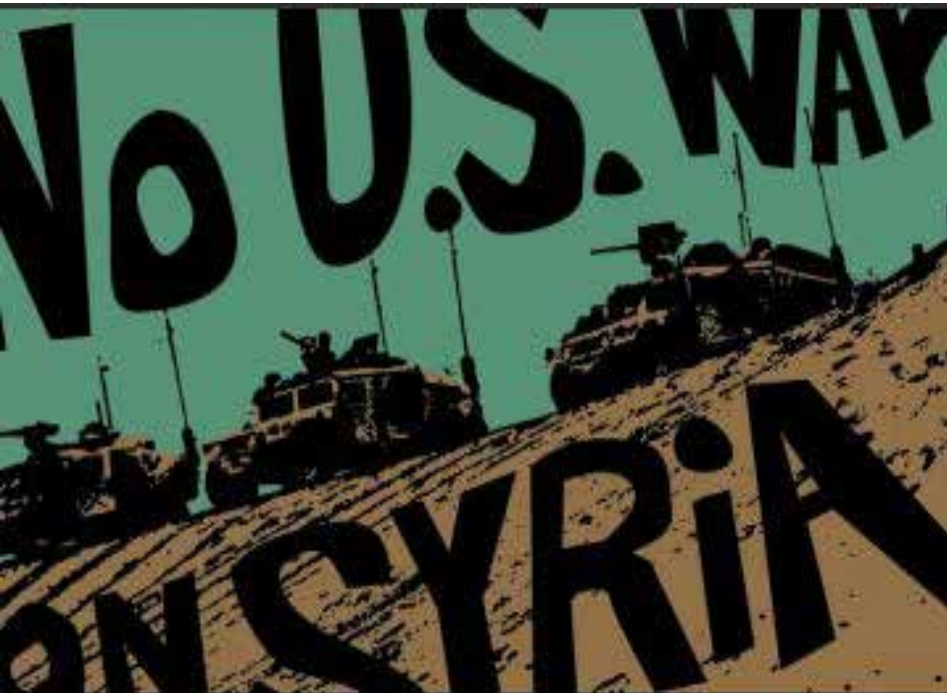
This set of sanctions are an attempt to land a death blow on the Syrian government while the world is focused on other problems. The U.S. has lost the hot war [in Syria]. The U.S. has been unable to poison the world against Syria beyond close allies. The Assad government has restored order to the most populated areas of the country and also houses at least half of the displaced persons from other areas.

But as long as Syria is still intact, the war against [that country] will be escalated on some front. Regardless of the term “regime change,” the war is a hybrid war against the people of Syria. The demand is that they change their identity and their way of life along with their leadership.

Syria has suffered under increasing U.S. sanctions for decades. After the beginning of the war in Syria, the sanctions were hardened and deepened with increased third party sanctions to include other countries in the sanctions. Either those abide by U.S. sanctions against Syria or suffer sanctions and economic penalties themselves.

The Caesar Act sanctions have completely isolated the Central Bank of Syria. They impose secondary sanctions on any country or corporation that trades with Syria or even provides aid to Syria. They attack Lebanese banks that have so far supported Syrian trade, causing economic mayhem in that small and largely impoverished country. Only the biggest and boldest of their allies can take the risk of any kind of economic engagement with Syria.

The dollar value of the Syrian Lira has plummeted to 1800:1 from 47:1 before the war. There are rumors of capital flight through Idlib, the last enclave of Al Qaeda in Syria, and other armed



groups funded by U.S. dollars. According to the Guardian, the Lebanese currency is falling as well because Lebanon and Syria are traditional trading partners. According to the Syrian Arab News Agency, U.S. Envoy James Jeffrey claimed that the collapse of the Syrian currency is due to U.S. policies. In northern Syria, Turkish-backed militants are moving capital out of the country, while Erdoğan is enforcing the use of Turkish currency in the areas where his people have control.

Devastating consequences

People in Syria can’t get basic necessities of food and medicine. The war has devastated Syria’s independent manufacturing sector. Mercenaries paid by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey deliberately dismantled factories over the last decade, looting the machinery or destroying it before laying waste to the buildings that housed it. Earlier U.S. sanctions have denied Syria the most basic ingredients of pharmaceutical manufacturing. Tom Duggan and Mark Taliano detail the list of imports forbidden to Syria in their recent article, “Western Governments Collectively Punishing Syrian Civilians with Criminal Economic Embargoes.” (unac.notowar.net, June 7)

The U.S. is occupying half of Syrian oil and gas fields, forcing Syria to import these fossil fuels. Earlier this year, U.S. troops occupied about half of Syrian wheat fields and burned them. On June 11, Global Research published Arabi Souri’s article and video “Hearing Is Not Like Seeing: NATO’s Terrorists Burning Syrian Wheat Crops,” documenting Turkish-backed militants burning crops in northern Syria.

Syria has gone off the radar for

activists, but not for the relentless U.S. imperialist warmongers. They have upped the ante once again, on a country suffering from nearly 10 years of war. You hear that in Syria, “rebuilding” is being undermined by the economic sanctions, but you don’t hear that even people who had food and medicine through the war now can’t get it. They can’t get oil and gas for cooking and heating. Their money is worthless and even the government is struggling to feed them because their money is worthless.

Siege warfare

This is siege warfare. The people cannot feed their children. There are no resources for the sick and elderly. While the rest of the world is busy fighting COVID-19, Syrians are finally starving. It is hard, I think, to imagine this kind of cruelty even as vindictiveness. Even if the government of Syria was run by a cold-blooded serial killer and a pack of hyenas, which it is not, the sanctions target the people of Syria, the victims of a terrible war instigated and perpetuated, armed and funded by the United States and its allies.

The “Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act” should be renamed the “Caesar Syrian Civilian Genocide Act.” And yet, with the COVID-19 pandemic going on; with the dysfunction of the U.S. economy leaving hundreds of thousands unemployed and food insecure, without medical insurance and on the brink of eviction; with gunboats off the coast of Venezuela and nukes moving to the Russian border in Poland, there is silence around Syria. And, isn’t that convenient?

How can we put an end to it? Hands off Syria! End the Syrian Sanctions! □

Labor union begins struggle against COVID-19 layoffs

By G. Dunkel
New York City

On the last day possible, June 30, the City University of New York announced it was going to lay off 3,000, or more than 20 percent, of the 13,000 adjunct teaching staff, who are represented by the Professional Staff Congress, American Federation of Teachers Local 2334.

The PSC announced a major suit against CUNY on July 2 based on a violation of the requirements of federal COVID-19 stimulus money it received because it “has not kept people employed

to the greatest extent practicable.” In effect, CUNY has the money from the package, has spent some of it for its students, but is abandoning the adjunct staff.

These layoffs will also affect thousands of students who want to get the education these teachers can provide, but who now won’t get the courses they need.

Besides the lawsuit, the PSC announced a petition campaign, car caravans and extensive deliberations within the union about “disruptive job action during the fall semester in order to save lives, save jobs and save CUNY.” □

“CUNY should treat its hard-working adjuncts with more respect than this. We are in a pandemic, and the university has a moral responsibility to protect its most vulnerable workers.”

-- Heather Robinson, York College

#CUNYSummerofStruggle
#CutCovidNotCUNY

Quote from PSC Petition calling on CUNY administration to stop layoffs and maintain health insurance. June 2020

Before Republicans convene Federal executions set to resume



By Gloria Rubac

The federal government plans to execute four people this summer in Terre Haute, Ind., even though the condemned prisoners have not been able to meet with their attorneys for more than three months due to the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. Attorney General William Barr announced the executions to take place on July 13, 15 and 17, with a fourth set for Aug. 28.

With his approval rating falling in the polls, President Donald Trump seems to be trying to re-energize his reactionary, law-and-order base by reviving the federal death penalty.

Since that death penalty was approved in 1988, the U.S. government has put to death only three people. The most publicized case was that of Timothy McVeigh, who bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, killing more than 160 people. All three federal executions were during the George W. Bush presidency.

There are now 62 people on federal death row, with no one executed since 2003. Death Penalty Action gave this background on the four men scheduled to die this summer:

Daniel Lee (July 13): Not only have two federal judges, both appointed by Republican presidents, found on two different grounds that Lee’s death sentence was unfairly obtained and should be invalidated, but the victim’s family members all oppose the execution and believe a life sentence is appropriate.

Wes Purkey (July 15): Legal ruling on the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits executing someone who lacks a rational understanding of the basis for his execution. A pending lawsuit argues that executing Purkey would be unconstitutional because he suffers from schizophrenia, Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, and

a lifetime of trauma -- all of which have left him unable to comprehend why the federal government plans to kill him.

Dustin Honken (July 17): His death sentence was imposed for murders committed in the state of Iowa, which abolished the death penalty in 1965, and which could have prosecuted him in state court. Additionally, his trial and sentencing were plagued by misconduct and ineffectiveness of counsel, who failed to adequately inform the jury of Honken’s severely dysfunctional background or his mental health problems.

Keith Nelson (August 28): Nelson’s case is tainted by issues of ineffective counsel, which warrants a case review in court.

Why kill people now?

With no federal executions for 17 years, the big question is “Why kill now?” It seems unconscionable to execute anyone during a pandemic the likes of which have not been seen in a hundred years.

Scheduling these executions during the pandemic is a reckless decision that will affect hundreds of people — from investigators, lawyers and prison employees, to families of both the victim and the prisoner. People will be coming together from all over the country, increasing the odds of infection.

Attorneys for the four men scheduled to die will have to choose between jeopardizing the best preparation of their clients’ defense and risking their own health by seeing them in person.

Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, questioned why the Justice Department would prioritize federal executions over the lives of those who might be exposed to the virus in the process. “Nobody has to be executed now,” he said. (New

York Times, July 1)

But the Republican National Convention is meeting this summer to nominate President Trump for a second term. To use the federal executions to mobilize Trump’s political base looks like a weaponization of the death penalty.

Political executions

Barr has said over and over that the Justice Department must carry out justice -- a bitterly ironic assertion when heard during this period of so many police killings, and of White House threats to the millions protesting the racist nature of the U.S. law enforcement system.

Samuel Spital, director of litigation for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, commented to the New York Times on Justice Department resources being allocated for federal executions. “It would be nice if they used those resources to address the widespread problem of police violence against Black people,” Mr. Spital said. (July 1)

The death penalty, whether used by individual states or by the federal government, has a long history of being used against poor people and particularly against people of color. In fact, the death penalty is a legal means of carrying out lynchings.



Gloria Rubac (right) has worked against the death penalty for over 35 years and is a leader of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement. She visits and writes to prisoners on death row.

Release San Quentin prisoners immediately!

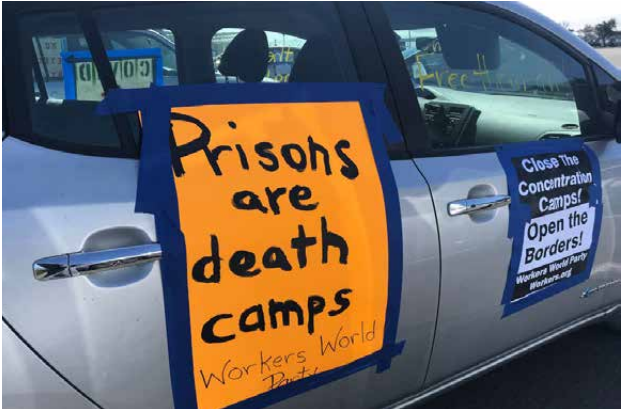
By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

July 5 — After a large prisoner transfer to San Quentin State Prison dramatically increased the COVID infection rate there, prisoners and advocates have stepped up their campaign to win the release of thousands of elderly, ill and vulnerable people inside.

COVID-19 infections are spiking at astronomical levels in overcrowded U.S. prisons, jails and detention centers. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ranks at the top of the list for callous and reckless endangerment of prisoners’ lives.

As of July 2, more than 1,300 prisoners at San Quentin tested positive for COVID-19 — about a third of the facility’s population. A jump in the number of cases directly followed the CDCR’s decision to move more than 121 prisoners from the California Institution for Men in Chino at the end of May. CIM at the time had over 500 reported cases of COVID-19 and at least 15 COVID-related deaths. Over 16 of the transferred prisoners tested positive for the virus.

Spurred by this human rights crisis, two Bay Area coalitions have been working overtime to put pressure on Gov. Gavin Newsom to begin releasing large numbers of prisoners. The coalition No Justice Under Capitalism is fighting for the lives of prisoners during COVID-19. Efforts led by the Ella Baker Center and Re:Store Justice also include the participation of people inside.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Car caravans mobilized in California for the release of prisoners during the COVID pandemic.

On June 27, the latter coalition sponsored a Day of Action outside San Quentin to present the “Demands of The Incarcerated Community”: “The only way to control the spread of this global pandemic (inside prison walls and beyond) is to grant releases, stop ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) transfers for those released, and reduce California’s prison population.”

The demands also include an end to transfers, prisoner access to personal protective equipment and free tele-visiting privileges. In-person programs and visits have been shut down, severely impacting the lives of the people inside. A recent Sacramento Bee editorial called COVID-19 in prison a death sentence and urged Gov. Newsom to act immediately to save lives by releasing prisoners. (July 2)

No Justice Under Capitalism put together two major car caravans. On July 1, the coalition brought the fight to

Sacramento, the state capital, by organizing people to make public comments, in person and virtually, at the California Senate hearing on the COVID pandemic in the prisons.

On July 5, the group organized a car caravan to Gov. Newsom’s home in the small town of Fair Oaks outside Sacramento, with a rally in a nearby park. Prisoner rights advocates, allies, former prisoners and family members spoke out against the governor’s refusal to grant large prisoner releases in response to the crisis.

Both coalitions are continuing their campaigns to stop the deaths of prisoners due to COVID-19, medical neglect and unforgiving incarceration. The “Demands of The Incarcerated Community” are being circulated through Twitter and social media, including the slogan “Incarceration should not be a death sentence.” (#StopSanQuentinOutbreak). □

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal! Build Workers World!

The U.S. has the highest percentage of its population in city, county, state and federal prisons—more than any other country in the world and disproportionately people of color. That’s not even counting detention centers for im/migrants who flee their homes to escape U.S. crimes of imperialist aggression. Here they are brutally mistreated, some even suffering cruel separation from their children.

Don’t let Fourth of July fireworks distract you from the streets and from formulating ways to dismantle the deadly, institutionalized, second-class system that oppresses Black, Brown and Indigenous people. That systemic inequality and injustice are responsible for the biggest proportion of those dying from the pandemic being people of color.

What would really show solidarity with the already vibrant Black Lives Matter movement here and abroad? Raising the struggle to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal so it becomes a worldwide cry. The very reasons why Mumia is in jail are that he used his voice and his pen to expose racism, especially the role of police terror in Philadelphia. Then the system framed him, denied him a fair trial and attempted to kill him. Mumia’s case

personifies everything wrong with the world’s largest center of incarcerated workers: the U.S.

Those who understand how this racist, classist, capitalist system works were in the streets over the last four decades to save Mumia’s life and promote his message. Workers World was there, demanding his freedom from the get-go. Now WW’s Prisoners Solidarity Committee is promoting an internationalist call to Free Mumia.

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We’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — sign up today!

In Philadelphia on July 4

Protesters say: ‘Free Mumia!’

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

“Y’all are the ones we’ve been waiting for,” Pam Africa from International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the MOVE Organization said to a crowd of hundreds outside Philadelphia City Hall on July 4th. “Y’all are the ones we’ve been waiting for. You’re powerful. And what I like about you? You don’t back the fuck down.”

Neither the hot sun or the nearly 100-degree heat deterred the several hundred protesters who assembled in front of the city’s Municipal Service Building, where a monument to white supremacist Police Commissioner and Mayor Frank Rizzo was recently torn down.

The protest, demanding the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners, had already been going on for three hours before Pam Africa addressed the large crowd. Police failed to prevent the marchers from shutting down the major roadways in the heart of Center City Philadelphia. The police finally retreated back to the adjacent intersections when the march wound its way south to the other side of the City Hall.

Standing next to a statue of Octavius Catto, a Black civil rights activist who was murdered in the street by a racist white man in 1871, Pam Africa stated, “We come from an era when we demonstrated in the streets about police brutality. The politicians came along to say, ‘We’ll arrest them. You all go home. We’ll have a trial.’ That went on year after year after year. At this point we have resisted the beatings, the maimings, the killings. And it keeps coming back.

“We keep getting more powerful. In the year 2020, they understand. We’re not playing with these motherfuckers.”

Dictatorship of the FOP

Speakers pointed out the stranglehold that the Fraternal Order of Police held over the city’s political structures. A recent ruling by a Black judge, Leon Tucker, acknowledged that prosecutorial



Philadelphia, July 4.

PHOTO: TAHIR ASAD, VIRTUOUS LION PRODUCTIONS



PHOTO: LINDA RANDOLPH-RAGIN

and judicial misconduct in Mumia’s case should at least grant him a new trial. Mumia said the ruling felt like the first time his case was heard by someone who wasn’t in the pocket of the FOP.

The rally and march was called by a vast coalition including the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Mobilization4Mumia, Workers World Party, the International Action Center, We Charge Genocide, Red Fist, Philly REAL (Racial, Economic and Legal) Justice, Black Alliance for Peace, and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. Solidarity protests were held in Germany, France, and across the United States demanding Abu-Jamal’s immediate release.

Protests have been held every July 4th since 1982 to expose the gross judicial and prosecutorial misconduct in the trial of Abu-Jamal, who was a Black Panther, a friend of MOVE, and former president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. He was shot by police in December 1981 and framed for the shooting death of a cop.

“I wanna point out,” Pam Africa explained, “that on July 4th, 1982, Judge [Albert F.] Sabo said to the jury: If you don’t want to stay here over the holidays, you come back with a decision. The trial was a railroad, now. July 2nd, they came back with guilty. July 3rd, they came back with the death penalty. July 4th, they went home to party. Ever since that day there has never been a July 4th that we didn’t turn the motherfucker out!”

In a sworn affidavit, the court stenographer at Mumia’s trial swore that she heard Judge Sabo say in his chambers, “I’m going to help them fry the n*****.”

Mass movements have saved Mumia’s life

This coming Aug. 17 marks 25 years since then-Gov. Tom Ridge signed Mumia’s first death warrant. Thousands stopped the execution on Aug. 12, 1995 in an emergency demonstration in Philadelphia. Millions for Mumia was formed as a global movement in 1999 when protests worldwide took place on April 24, Mumia’s birthday, to successfully prevent a second planned execution from going forward.

In 2011, Mumia was finally taken off of death row; now the state is trying to keep him in prison until he dies.

Pam Africa continued: “Some of y’all was seeds in your daddies when this first happened. And then you became that bigger life in your mama who was in these streets. And y’all learned from them. And here you are now on the front lines. At one point I was really scared, like what are we going to do? Who’s gonna take the reins? And I feel so good, so fucking proud, that I stand here and I see revolutionaries! Ready! If you gotta burn the motherfucker down, burn this motherfucker down!”

Kempis Ghani Songster of the Amistad Law Project also addressed the crowd. Songster was 15 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison. He finally won his release in 2017, after 30 years behind bars.

He recited this passage from Frederick Douglass’s germinal text, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”:

“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. O! had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, to-day, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced.”

As protesters paused to drink water and eat watermelon provided by stalwart abolitionists from Food Not Bombs Solidarity, Mumia Abu-Jamal himself was able to call in and speak to the crowds.

“This is a special time,” Mumia said. “A time like someone my age has not seen in many years. But it’s a time that’s finally here. And that means it’s the right time.”

“I just called to let you know I love you all.” (Hundreds shouted back, “We Love You!” and “Free Mumia!”) “I feel it. I thank you all. I think of you all. And I will be with you all. Y’all keep doing what you’re doing. I’ll keep doing what I’m doing. And we will meet in the whirlwind.” □

U.S. imperialism means we can’t breathe!

Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere released this statement on July 5.



Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere (FIRE) is in solidarity with the global rebellion for Black lives. It is right to rebel against police terror. The same racist, sexist, police violence used to terrorize people at home is deployed by law enforcement agencies

like ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (Customs and Border Protection) against migrants in “defense” of borders. That same violence is extended and expanded upon by the U.S. military across the globe. Fighting this violence at home and violence abroad is the same struggle, same fight. U.S. imperialism means we can’t breathe!

We are collectively engaging in an international effort to dismantle violent, racist structures. We understand that all monuments to white supremacy and colonialism should and will be toppled. This includes borders and all forms of human caging, including jails, prisons and detention centers.

We know Black people are disproportionately criminalized and brutalized by law enforcement. Black people are also disproportionately targeted for deportation. According to a study completed by the Black Alliance for Just Immigration,

“While Black people represent just 7.2% of the undocumented population in the U.S., they are greatly overrepresented in the immigration legal system. Over 20.3% of people facing deportation because of criminal charges are Black.”

The police, ICE and the Pentagon use similar tactics to control communities of color at home and abroad. We’ve seen police slash through water bottles and supplies at aid stations for protesters, like we’ve seen ICE destroying water barrels for migrants crossing the scorching southern U.S. border. Like Israeli soldiers murder Palestinian children, ICE has shot children at the Texas border. Every day white supremacist “law enforcement” tries to make Black and Brown people disappear.

The global rebellion against racist police terror has dealt a serious blow to law enforcement’s genocidal efforts to erase communities of color. That erasure is backed by this country’s highest

court that’s sitting on land stolen from Indigenous people. The U.S. Supreme Court endows corporations with the “right” to destroy the earth for monetary gain and empowers law enforcement to brutalize Black and Brown people without facing any consequences. Other recent SCOTUS decisions did not give “rights” to LGBTQ2S+ people and migrants — we’ve had to battle for every advance we’ve won. We do not want crumbs of liberation; we want the whole damn meal!

During this rebellion for Black Liberation, incredibly important wins have been generated. We plan to see a day when we have won everything, because as Fannie Lou Hamer said, “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.”

We are in solidarity with those engaging in acts of resistance, both in the streets and in human cages. No cages! No borders! Defund and abolish the police, ICE, and the U.S. military! □

IN FIVE WEEKS

Black Lives Matter rewrites history

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

July 7—A people’s tidal wave against white supremacy has swept through the U.S. since the police murder of George Floyd on May 25. The assertion of power by the people against racist oppression has defied curfews, tear gas, deadly weapons, mass arrests and unjust laws.

In only five weeks, this people’s power has changed the political and social landscape of the U.S. — and secured new forward positions from which to battle for more victories.

The New York Times, “newspaper of record” for the capitalist ruling class, had to acknowledge the movement’s power, saying Black Lives Matter “might be the largest movement ever,” involving an estimated “26 million people” in the U.S. On July 3, the Times cited more than 4,700 demonstrations in about 2,500 small towns and big cities since Floyd’s death — still only a partial list. Large, militant protests took place again on July 4 and are continuing.

Led and inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, the protests represent an unprecedented rejection of white supremacy by white people. By July 3, according to the Times, more than 40 percent of U.S. counties had a protest. Nearly 95 percent of those counties had a majority white population — nearly three-quarters were more than 75 percent white.

A new consciousness is emerging about the racist function of the police. A June 3 Monmouth University poll found 54 percent of people in the U.S. supported both the protests and the burning down of the Minneapolis precinct station of the cops who murdered Floyd.

The five weeks since Floyd’s murder reflect the truth of Lenin’s statement about revolutionary change: “There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.”

Groundwork for the last few weeks was laid by decades of local, regional and national organizing by Indigenous activists, a sustained network of Black and Brown liberation groups, the Reproductive Justice movement led by young women of color, low-wage workers’ centers, im/migrant rights and union activists, and LGBTQ2S+ and disability rights organizations.

The focused, unrelenting power of the people’s protest has now gained significant victories and forced long-fought-for concessions.

A people’s history is written

Big Media coverage has focused on huge corporations and organizations acknowledging Black Lives Matter, as they scramble to deal with the seismic shift in public opinion — and their bottom line. The National Football League commissioner issued a public apology for the league’s racism. NASCAR banned Confederate flags at all its events. Nike made Juneteenth — celebrating the end of slavery in the U.S. — a paid holiday for employees.

FedEx — stadium sponsor for Washington, D.C.’s NFL football team — is exerting pressure to get rid of the team’s racist, anti-Indigenous name and emblem. Indigenous groups have demanded this change since the 1970s and began national protests in the 1980s. Now Big Business has finally had to respond to anti-racist mass pressure exerted by their own workers and by the economic impact of the historic shift in consciousness.

Meanwhile, the struggle goes on in the streets, literally, as huge BLM messages are being painted onto city streets. The original Washington, D.C., Black Lives Matter message traveled down 14th Street to the White House and then spread coast-to-coast from Sacramento, Calif., to Dallas, Raleigh, N.C., to Rochester, N.Y., and many other cities.

A people’s history of the U.S. is being written as everywhere reactionary monuments to racist colonizers, enslavers and white supremacists are dragged from pedestals. North to South the people have brought down statues of Confederate leaders and generals like Davis, Lee and Jackson; U.S. presidents like Teddy Roosevelt; and contemporary Philadelphia top-cop mayor Frank Rizzo. On July 4, another statue of genocidal Christopher Columbus was toppled in Baltimore, Md., and shoved into the waters of the Inner Harbor.

As these symbols come down, protest is changing the capitalist narrative in popular culture. After thirty-two years of pro-cop propaganda and racist stereotyping, the television “reality” program “COPS” was canceled.

Meanwhile, on June 11, Merriam-Webster announced

it had enlarged its definition of racism to include “systematic racism.”

Activists in motion are rejecting “performative activism” — when “thoughts and prayers” are offered instead of actual material aid. When the prestigious Poetry Foundation sent out a perfunctory “solidarity” during the uprising, poets organized, forced the top white leadership of the board to resign and demanded, among other items, a hefty portion of PF’s \$257 million endowment be redistributed by giving directly to Black community organizations.

Won by rebellion

Across the country, the demand “Defund the Police” is now a struggle to reallocate city and county spending away from cops and into social services. Boston is cutting \$12 million from its police budget, Los Angeles \$100 million to \$150 million, with money to go to Black community services.

In San Francisco unarmed social workers, rather than militarized police, will now respond to “noncriminal” crisis calls. The Seattle City Council banned city police from using or purchasing tear gas, blast balls, rubber bullets and other weapons. One billion dollars will be cut in 2021 from the New York Police Department’s monstrous \$7 billion budget — a drop in the bucket, but an important concession wrested by the BLM movement.

The uprising has forced the U.S. Congress to initiate a process to limit the 1033 Program, which funnels military equipment to local police departments. Communities like Durham, N.C., have organized to stop the militarization of local police, especially the funding of training programs run by Israeli security forces, which specialize in military occupation.

The “Abolish the Police” movement, which began in Ferguson, Mo., after the 2014 police murder of Michael Brown, is winning significant victories. A “veto-proof” majority of the Minneapolis City Council voted to disband the city’s existing police force, opening a path to community control. School boards in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Denver, Seattle, Portland, Ore., San Francisco and Oakland, Calif., have ended the use of cops in their school districts — shutting down the school-to-prison pipeline.

The battle against racism and the fight for workers’ rights are inextricably intertwined — and the protests have broadcast that fact. During the uprisings, transit unions in Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Boston refused to transport protesters arrested by the police. In Minneapolis, Boston and Pittsburgh, unions also refused to transport the police! On Juneteenth, a political strike against racism and police terror by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union shut down 29 West Coast ports from Washington state to San Diego, Calif.

Strikes and workplace actions have accelerated, together with BLM protests. Over 500 were documented by independent labor newsletter Payday Report during the first three weeks of June.

Strong actions have been led by Black worker-athletes, like the Kansas State University football players who announced they would boycott games unless the university



A statue of Christopher Columbus is toppled into Baltimore’s Inner Harbor on July 4.

dealt with racist incidents. Similar intervention from Black professional and college athletes generated pressure that ended in the permanent takedown of Mississippi’s state flag with its Confederate symbol. (clarionledger.com, June 29)

An entire women’s professional softball team, the Scrap Yard Pitch, quit their jobs in protest after their owner tweeted President Trump a photo of them at attention during the national anthem, using them against the BLM movement. Sixteen of the 18 players are white, two are Black, but they were united in tweeting such messages as “We stand with the Black community.” (themarysue.com, June 26)

Unrelenting cop murders and extreme police brutality toward protesters has exposed the role of cops under capitalism as protecting property rather than people. One result is a challenge to existing unions to throw cop associations out of labor organizations. On June 27, Seattle’s Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council expelled the Seattle Police Officers Guild. The Writers Guild of America, East has called on the AFL-CIO to expel police groups from its ranks.

More yet to win

The coast-to-coast uprising has advanced the struggle against racism and police brutality immeasurably in just five weeks. From that forward position, more is yet to be won, as cop repression and murders continue daily.

The campaign to end cop immunity from prosecution — “qualified immunity” — is crucial. The cop killers of unarmed Elijah McClain in Aurora, Colo., and sleeping Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., have so far not been charged with any crime.

Some mild reforms have been passed — the state of New York recently repealed a law that kept police disciplinary records secret. But these are not the stringent crackdowns necessary to punish the up-to-now untouched police.

One of the killers of Elijah McClain felt so invulnerable that he joked about a photo other cops made mocking McClain’s chokehold death. The cop was fired for that laughter — but he has not even been charged for killing McClain. Community organizer Terrence Roberts commented: “That is the culture that we’re fighting, where a police officer can murder a Black man, a Black child, and keep his job and stay on the force so he can go make fun of this child.” (ny1.com, July 5) □

Milton, Mass.

Rally protests anti-racist teacher’s suspension

By Lyn Neeley

Hundreds rallied on Juneteenth (June 19) in Milton, Mass., calling for an end to systemic racism in school curriculum and voicing support for Zakia Jarrett, an African-American sixth-grade English teacher. Jarrett was briefly put on administrative leave June 5 for her remarks on police violence during a lesson on racism.

Jarrett, who has taught for 18 years, used the last line of the poem “Allowables” by Nikki Giovanni as a metaphor for racism. The line reads: “I don’t think I’m allowed to kill something because I am afraid.”

Jarrett explained that killing out of fear leads to

systemic racism and unconscious bias and that the men who killed Ahmaud Arbery did so because of the color of his skin, not because of something he did. She said they were racist, and that there were many police officers who are also racist and kill out of racism.

Jarrett’s online lesson was recorded by someone with access to the class. In violation of district policy, that person illegally sent a 13-second clip of Jarrett saying that “many police officers are also racist,” to Milton Police, state troopers and other members of the community. Jarrett felt terrified and unsafe and complained that the person who illegally recorded and weaponized her lesson

Continued on page 7

Abolish the police!

Elijah McClain’s life mattered

By Monica Moorehead

Elijah McClain was a 23-year-old massage therapist who lived in Aurora, Colo., outside of Denver. He was 5 feet, 7 inches and 140 pounds. He was also a violin player who used his talent to soothe animals.

Elijah McClain was killed August 24, 2019. What was his crime? Walking while Black and unarmed. The police officers who killed him were white.

Similar to the hoodie-wearing Trayvon Martin — the 17-year-old African-American teenager murdered by racist vigilante George Zimmerman eight years ago in Florida — Elijah McClain was targeted because he wore a mask due to a health condition — and because he was Black. While McClain was out getting iced tea for a relative, the police stopped him because someone reported he looked “suspicious.” Sound familiar?

McClain was listening to music and did not hear any commands the police gave him. The cops pounced on him and put him into not one, but two illegal chokeholds, so that he lost consciousness. When the emergency medical team arrived, McClain, already subdued, on the

ground and handcuffed, received a heavy dose of the sedative ketamine.

McClain’s sobbing, pleading voice can be heard on the cops’ body camera recording. He is saying, “Oh, I’m sorry. I wasn’t trying to do that. I just can’t breathe correctly.” (Washington Post, June 29) McClain then went into cardiac arrest, was pronounced brain dead and died days later after he was taken off a ventilator.

None of the police officers who killed McClain were arrested for murder. The Aurora district attorney decided not to file charges, saying he was sure there would be no conviction.

Finally, on July 1, almost a year after McClain’s death, the Aurora Interim Chief of Police, Vanessa Wilson, made the decision to put the officers responsible on paid administrative leave after pictures emerged on social media showing Aurora cops mocking the chokehold that killed McClain. Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced the McClain case would be reopened for review.

Viviana Weinstein, an anti-racist activist in Denver, told WW, “You know that the police murder case of

Elijah McClain is over a year old. The tipping point was reached after George Floyd’s murder by police. The year-long suffering that Elijah’s family has gone through brought out cries from the Black community in Aurora.

“The family said: ‘Every time this happens our whole community suffers trauma. Our safety is at risk every day. The police murder us and rape us over and over every day. We do not need murderers who call themselves protectors.’”

Weinstein continued: “Marty Newman, a lawyer for the McClain family, said, ‘All the officers should have been fired long ago. Two of the three watched and stood by while Elijah was tortured and murdered. If one had spoken up, he would be alive today. But they didn’t.’

“The APD (Aurora Police Department) has a long racist history. And now the Aurora Police Association no longer supports the police chief because she fired those officers [who took the photos]. So much for the bad apple theory.

“Another supporter has said, ‘You cannot reform your way out of this and make kinder police. Justice means



Elijah McClain

dismantling the whole apparatus.”

The Black Lives Matter-led uprising, which erupted from the public police lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, has helped to elevate to the national level so many other cases of police terror, both in the present and the past. For instance, on July 4 in a park in Maplewood, N.J. — half a continent from Colorado — a violin memorial was held for McClain.

In Aurora, protesters have vowed to demonstrate in front of the local police precinct until the police are charged and arrested. And over 2 million people have signed a petition demanding justice for Elijah McClain. Go to tinyurl.com/ycjerscz to sign the petition. □

Raleigh, N.C.

Activists oppose legal shield of cop violence

By calvin deutschbein

Bulletin: As of 7:30 on July 6, NC BORN reporting that the mansion action was successful in securing the veto of the harmful SB168 bill.

At 1:01 a.m. on June 26, the Senate of the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 168 and sent it to the governor to sign. The bill was 17 pages of regulations attacking most remaining forms of oversight in custody deaths by law enforcement.

The bill was the state government’s direct attack on the anti-police and anti-prison mass uprisings taking place across North Carolina, especially in Raleigh and Charlotte.

In North Carolina, all documentation of police misconduct, including use of force, vehicle pursuits, individual officer stop data, and other hiring and policing policy, is classified in personnel files and made inaccessible under public records requests.

However, medical records used by the state Department of Health and Human Services about treating people subjected to police violence or of autopsies of deaths are still available. SB168 would limit access to all medical records, placing even these documents beyond the reach of the public.

The Triad Abolition Project, a Winston-Salem-based decarceration group, and NC BORN, the statewide Black-led socialist group based in Raleigh, immediately came together to demand a governor’s veto of SB168.

The project launched a statewide pressure campaign. NC BORN, already in the streets as they had been daily, marched on Gov. Roy Cooper’s Executive Mansion and set up a 24-hour encampment outside. July Fourth was the fifth day of round-the-clock protest at the mansion and the 35th day of daily anti-racist, anti-incarceration protests. Though police have repeatedly

arrested those perceived to be core organizers, the protests have nevertheless carried on.

Organizers were especially moved to action by the case of John Neville. On May 30, the Triad Abolition Project wrote: “State records show that 2019 was a record year for jail deaths and suicides. The records show that over 40% of deaths involved supervision failures. Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office submitted a death report of John Neville that is missing all information regarding supervision; it’s missing the name of the jailer and reports of when John Neville was OK and when he was in distress; his cause of death is listed as ‘unknown.’”

DHHS did not investigate the jail after John Neville’s death. The medical examiner’s report has not been produced. If not vetoed by the governor, SB168 would allow the medical examiner’s report to remain shielded from the public.

Cops attack Raleigh encampment

Police have subjected the encampment at the Executive Mansion to raids and violence. In mid-afternoon of July 1, a multi-police-agency team converged on the demonstrators and placed four under arrest, including an NC BORN leader who had previously been singled out for a targeted arrest.

Because police arrests of NC BORN leaders were so obviously political, magistrates had been unwilling to co-sign them, and none of the leaders faced charges. In the July 1 arrests, the police charged the demonstrators with vandalism. The cops used the pretext that demonstrators had written “VETO SB168” on sidewalks outside the mansion.

Despite the cop raid, demonstrators successfully held the camp, and all those arrested were freed within a few hours after arguments by members of the National Lawyers Guild.

The next day, July 2, police struck

in the early morning hours, believing demonstrators would be unprepared. The cops targeted security lookouts and medics and arrested 11 people. But the news galvanized public support, and the demonstration grew to its largest yet, even as arrests were taking place.

A few hours later those arrested were freed, and the movement was stronger than ever.

On July 3, as police once again converged on the encampment, a group of activists staged a solidarity march to divide the police forces. This action led to a traffic blockade during Friday rush hour on Capital Boulevard, a major Raleigh thoroughfare. The cops responded with an additional 18 arrests, bringing the total NC BORN arrests to 35 in 33 days. All demonstrators were freed by legal teams within hours, the main encampment remained secure, and once again numbers



PHOTO: SMASH RACISM RALEIGH

Street art classified as vandalism to justify Raleigh Police Department raid.

grew.

NC BORN’s counterprogramming for “Independence Day” — arts, culture, food and celebrations of liberation — went off without a hitch and without arrests. The people reclaimed their space and continued their ambitious political program for abolition of all forms of violence by the capitalist state. Free them all! □

Rally protests anti-racist teacher’s suspension

Continued from page 6

was not punished — but she was.

The decision to punish Jarrett triggered immediate, widespread outrage among parents and teachers. They wrote a letter and sent angry emails to school officials condemning the district’s response. Jarrett was reinstated later in the day on June 5. Jarrett said that Principal William Fish asked her to admit that she shouldn’t have made the comments, but she declined his request.

The incident also prompted hundreds of people to sign a petition to develop a districtwide anti-racist curriculum.

Although Milton is a mainly white suburb about 9 miles from Boston, with a 70 percent white middle school

population, the community protest became part of the nation’s Juneteenth uprisings. The demonstration was organized by the Milton Educators Association, a member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, which is affiliated with the National Education Association. The protest also included outrage at the death of George Floyd at the hands of racist police.

A recent national study revealed that out of about 500 teachers, most teachers from white, conservative districts did not feel they had community support to teach anti-racist curriculum. Only 30 percent felt sure that parents would support curriculum that dealt with race and racial violence. □

End police brutality with union solidarity

Continued from page 1

resolution to expel the city’s cop organization this year.

First union rapid response

Local 26 may be the first union that has led a rapid response to defend against a racist attack on its own members. This may be a unique action, but it should be repeated whenever members experience such injustice.

This is certainly the first time that every member in the approximately 10,000-strong local received an urgent text. It notified them to show up in defense of the two members and to oppose the police. Local 26’s action represents an important leap forward for the labor movement.

In contrast to past times where perhaps the union president made a bold statement or a petition was drawn up by a few of the rank and file, this time, as soon as the leadership learned of the incident, they coordinated the entire union to provide urgently needed solidarity. Local 26 also instituted an excellent practice:



Lynn, Mass., June 26.

WW PHOTO: ED CHILDS

Union members should absolutely call their union when they have been unjustly attacked.

Many in the crowd, union members and officials, backed the call to expel police “unions” from labor bodies like the AFL-CIO. Leaders from United Steelworkers Local 8751, which represents the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, floated the idea — which got a friendly reception — of drafting a statewide resolution to kick

cops out of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. Their goal is to make this resolution a model for a national campaign.

Besides Local 26 leaders and hundreds of members, there were strong showings from Lynn Teamsters; IUE workers from the nearby General Electric plant, where workers are primarily white and Latinx; Service Employees; and Communication Workers. The North Shore Labor Council brought its banner and a contingent of

area teachers, nurses, firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

There was also tremendous solidarity from dozens of Tufts’ students. Two of them said that Local 26 members belong as much to the Tuft’s community as students do. Community groups fighting against police brutality locally and the statewide Mass Action Against Police Brutality gave speeches on Lynn Commons and in front of the police station.

MAAPB leader Hope Coleman told of calling an ambulance for Terrance, her disabled adult son, in 2013 only for him to be murdered by the Boston Police who responded. The police department considered the murder “justifiable.” Coleman’s story was a powerful reminder of how dangerous every police interaction is for people of color.

This was especially true for young Black people like Terrance, as well as Victor and Alex from Local 26. Speaking out right in front of the LPD building was a risk, said Alex. As the crowd took a knee and raised a fist, he said, “This will make me a target, but that’s OK. I was born a target.” □

Who killed Vanessa Guillén?

Continued from page 1

know she would be reporting him the next day. Vanessa worked with her harasser and had to share difficult workspace with him every day.

Tragically, there seems no doubt her abuser took matters into his own hands and murdered her right then and there. He later killed himself as law officials moved in to arrest him after they found her body.

Who really killed Vanessa Guillén?

Guillén told her family she hesitated to go to her chain of command for fear that something worse would happen. This fear to report harassment runs rampant in the U.S. Armed Services. Why? Because there is an extreme culture of misogyny in the military.

The enormous institution of the U.S. military is not a benign force created to do good in the world. It is a repressive occupying force. Like the police who terrorize Black and Brown people here at home, its real purpose is to dominate, occupy and kill for the 1%.

According to The Nation, the annual U.S. defense budget exceeds \$1 trillion. (May 2019)

What is this money for if not to occupy Afghanistan or bomb Yemen or Palestine? That money should be spent instead on COVID relief or to fund the broken health care system — not war abroad.

The military may be advertised as a place to get education or acquire skills to get a good paying job when you leave. But

in reality, it is a killing machine.

And its killers are trained to be desensitized to violence. We may never know the demons or the racism or the abuse Vanessa’s killer himself received in the Army to lead him to commit violence himself.

#IAmVanessaGuillen

Since Vanessa’s disappearance, the hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillen has gone viral. Many female service members and veterans have shared their difficult stories about harassment and assault.

This is not news. On many occasions, dramatic stories have emerged about extreme sexism in the military. And due to the Me Too movement, women and their allies are pushing back like never before.

Vanessa’s life could have been saved. She did not have to die if serious efforts had been put in place long ago to address the horrendous harassment rife in the military.

Lupe Guillén, Vanessa’s sister, told National Public Radio on July 3 that her sister had been too afraid to report the harassment “because no one would listen to her, just like the other girls from #IAmVanessaGuillen. They [the military] take ... harassment ... as a joke.”

In fact, in an example of internalized misogyny, a female retired Air National Guard colonel wrote on social media: “Sexual harassment is the price of admission for women in the military. If you’re gonna cry like a snowflake about it, you’re gonna pay the price.”

Well, Vanessa paid the price all right.

But it is a price women are no longer willing to pay. Posts on the hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillen reveal how young women especially refuse to be quiet any longer.

Women have posted these comments: “I have struggled for years ... to be vulnerable and tell my stories. I have never fully told my parents the things that happened to me in regards to sexual harassment and assault I endured in the Marines. I have NEVER told my husband about being raped in the military.”

“It is hard to put all of the times I was verbally and physically assaulted into a coherent essay.”

“We are women and men who serve and [have] served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. We have all been sexually harassed and assaulted. In the past week, your Facebook or Twitter feed has been flooded with us telling our stories in an effort to bring attention to the fact that Army Pfc. Vanessa Guillén has been missing for over two months after having told her closest family members she was sexually harassed at work.”

“The common thread among all of our stories is that we were afraid to come forward, and that if we did, we would face reprisals and retaliation. Sexual harassment and assault in the U.S. military [are] rampant, with no signs of change unless the way reporting is handled and investigated is massively changed.”

Under capitalism sexism and racism go hand in hand. In the case of the soldiers in Vanessa’s base, let it be known that Ft. Hood, called the “Home of America’s Hammer,” is named after Gen. John Bell Hood, who was a Confederate general.

Imagine a Black or Brown person having to see that every damn day.

Vanessa did not die in vain

The family of Vanessa Guillén are heroes. With their persistence and refusal to suffer alone they have sparked a movement. Throughout Texas — in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, the Valley and elsewhere — marches were held and thousands of people came out to demand justice for Vanessa, to demand change. Latinx women have been



Vanessa Guillén.

propelled to demand #mylifematters, #womenslivesmatter.

Members of Guillén’s family have collectivized their pain and are continuing to fight for change. They have traveled to Washington several times and are calling for congressional inquiries into the chain of command that failed to save Vanessa’s life, as well as an investigation into the handling of the investigation.

Furthermore, the family is pushing for legislation that would call for a process of unbiased investigation into charges of harassment within the military. The family’s lawyer said the process would be similar to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and not be part of the military command.

Vanessa’s death occurred in a moment in history where massive upheaval is underway. There is a rebellion going on in this country not just in the streets, but in the hearts and minds of the people.

Everything is being questioned. Why must young women fear reporting sexual harassment? Why must men be driven to carry out such heinous crimes? Why does the military exist at all? Who is the military defending the people from, when it has been shown that the real enemy is in the White House and on Wall Street?

Why must a young, amazing Latina have to die just because she is a woman?

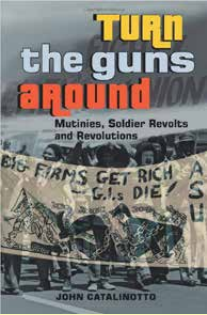
These are the questions and answers that are being raised today. Vanessa did not die in vain. □

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

by John Catalinotto

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, John Catalinotto’s ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

– Pvt Larry Holmes,
GI resister and organizer for the
American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74.



Available at
online booksellers.

SCOTUS decides 5-4 win for abortion rights

By Sue Davis

On June 29, the Supreme Court issued a much anticipated decision in *June Medical Services v. Russo*, the first reproductive justice case since anti-abortion Trump appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh joined the court

The Louisiana case is a copy-cat replay of the *Whole Women’s Health v. Hellerstedt* case decided in 2016. That decision struck down a Texas law requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at hospitals within 30 miles of their offices. Written by Justice Stephen Breyer, the decision affirmed that the law imposed an “undue burden” on women (and gender-nonconforming people) seeking abortions because it forced the closure of half the abortion facilities in Texas after it was enacted.

That severely limited access, both geographically and financially, affects those who choose to assert their reproductive right to abortion, especially women of color, youth, rural women, low-wage workers, im/migrants, women with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence. As Breyer pointed out in his brief, abortion restrictions are coercive policies that disproportionately harm Black and Brown communities that already face structural racism.

The concept of “undue burden” became the court’s litmus test that abortion regulations must pass, which originated in the 1992 *Casey* decision. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* the court upheld the constitutional right to have an abortion, established in *Roe v. Wade* (1973). And it provided a legal standard for analyzing restrictions on that right based on whether or not it imposed an “undue burden” on women who choose abortion. (Nearly 30 years ago, no justices considered the reproductive rights of gender-nonconforming people.)

So why did the court agree to take on the Louisiana case when it had so recently overturned the Texas case? Because the composition of the court had changed with Trump’s anti-abortion appointees. And Trump’s influential, right-wing, majority white, anti-abortion followers, an avid base of Catholic and Evangelical church-goers, were hoping and praying that the new court would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. A lot was riding on the decision.

If the court affirmed the Louisiana law, it would force the closure of two



CREDIT: OREOLUWA ADEGBOYEGA—SISTERSONG

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective Executive Director Monica Simpson speaking at Reproductive Justice rally in Georgia, June 28, 2019.

clinics, leaving only one in the state. (At present five states have only one clinic: Mississippi, Missouri, North and South Dakota and West Virginia.) It would also give anti-choice politicians in 15 states in the South and Midwest a green light to shutter clinics affecting more than 19 million women of reproductive age (15-44).

Guttmacher Institute analysis estimated that “patients in entire regions of the country may be forced either to travel long distances to obtain abortion services or be left without access to care.” (May 21)

Surprising, but ultimately consistent decision

Those on both sides of the abortion issue, who well understand the very different consequences of this decision, were surprised when Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the progressive members of the court in a 5-4 vote.

“I joined the dissent in *Whole Woman’s Health* and continue to believe that the case was wrongly decided. The question today however is not whether [that case] was right or wrong, but whether to adhere to it in deciding the present case.” He then affirmed the *Casey* decision and its emphasis on “undue burden,” which, he stated, was obvious in the Louisiana case, given it would leave only one clinic in the state.

“I cannot view the record here as in any pertinent respect sufficiently different than in *Whole Woman’s Health* to warrant a different outcome,” Roberts concluded. Thereby he chose to honor the precedent set by the Texas case — even

though some legal eagles point out that he has sidestepped precedent in other cases.

A longtime commentator on women’s rights, Dahlia Lithwick interpreted Roberts as saying: “Come back to me with the right road map and I’m all yours.” Or “Lie better next time.” She continued: “Roberts is telling states wanting to impose all sorts of needless regulations that it doesn’t matter if they’re utterly without health benefits, so long as the burdens on women are not that bad.” (Slate, June 29)

However, not only did the vote devastate the anti-abortion camp, but it confused some in the reproductive rights community. Had Roberts become a swing vote between the conservatives and the liberals, replacing Justice Kennedy?

No. An influential cluster of pro-choice court watchers unanimously agree: Roberts is, at rock bottom, a lifelong conservative totally opposed to abortion.

So why did he abandon the antis? Because Roberts is more concerned about maintaining the institutional status of the highest court in the country — as the

revered, ultimate arbiter of the law of the land that is supposedly above bipartisan politics. He’s also aware of his personal legacy as chief justice.

In keeping with the recent progressive turn in the national political climate after the police lynching of George Floyd and the nationwide upsurge in support for the Black Lives Matter movement, Roberts chose to create a trifecta of progressive 2020 court opinions.

In addition to *June v. Russo*, Roberts contributed to the recent ruling that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects all LGBTQ2S+ employees from discrimination based on sex. He played a decisive role in the 5-4 decision affirming the right of over 700,000 DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) youth to remain in the U.S.

Roberts, by giving a nod to the current leftward turn in the country — and away from regressive, racist, patriarchal, fascist Trumpism — is shoring up the reputation of the Supreme Court and stepping away from some really reactionary decisions. Notably, *Citizens United* in 2010 that granted First Amendment rights to

corporations so they could join wealthy donors and invest in political candidates. (How else do you think Trump got elected?) And the 2013 opinion, *Shelby County v. Holder*, which gutted the Voting Rights Act and opened the door for the rampant, nationwide attack on voting rights.

As the lawyer at the Center for Reproductive Rights who argued for *June*, Julie Rikelman, told the *New York Times*: The decision “will lead to more litigation, not less.” (June 29) The struggle for reproductive justice continues. All those who stand against injustice, racism and sexist oppression need to carry forward the fight for reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy for all. □

In keeping with the recent progressive turn in the national political climate after the police lynching of George Floyd and the nationwide upsurge in support for the Black Lives Matter movement, Roberts chose to create a trifecta of progressive 2020 court opinions.

BOP gana campaña para desmantelar departamento de policía escolar

Continúa de la página 12

una mejor comunidad y una mejor educación para nuestros hijos, y hoy estamos aquí para apoyar eso”.

¿Cómo ganaron?

¿Qué trajo esta tremenda victoria? Según los organizadores de la BOP, una combinación de factores hizo la diferencia.

En la conferencia de prensa de la victoria del 25 de junio, el director ejecutivo de BOP, Jackie Byers, dijo que la presión ejercida por la organización de BOP era estratégica: “Los sistemas e instituciones no se autocorrigien. Son empujados por las organizaciones de las comunidades que exigen el cambio de estos sistemas. Vimos a miembros de la junta escolar que estaban en oposición y que se mudaron en los últimos meses”. Señaló que los miembros de la junta escolar hablaron sobre las miles de llamadas y correos

electrónicos que recibieron de todo el país e incluso de Canadá.

La Gerente de Desarrollo y Comunicaciones de BOP, Jasmine Williams, quien presidió la conferencia de prensa, agradeció a todos los aliados de la comunidad, incluido el sindicato de maestros. Ella dijo que BOP no podría haber ganado esta victoria sin estas organizaciones comunitarias y laborales. El presidente de la Asociación de Educación de Oakland, Keith Brown, dijo que, dado lo que está sucediendo en este país con el asesinato policial de George Floyd, es más importante que los maestros se solidaricen con la visión de BOP.

Brown concluyó: “Debemos ser honestos en que en la institución educativa, muchas de nuestras familias negras han tenido experiencias negativas dentro de nuestras escuelas. Como educadores en Oakland, es el momento de reconocer eso ... y examinar nuestras prácticas como educadores”.

En una conferencia de prensa anterior, el Director Organizador de BOP Black señaló que se estaban ganando campañas similares en todo el país para cancelar o rescindir los contratos policiales debido a la fuerza de la rebelión nacional contra la brutalidad policial y el asesinato. A nivel local, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de San Francisco y el Distrito del Colegio Comunitario de Peralta se vieron obligados a terminar sus contratos con la policía. En Portland, Oregon, el alcalde Ted Wheeler anunció que “toda la unidad de oficiales de recursos escolares llamada División de Servicios Juveniles se disolvería”. (Blogtown, Portland Mercury News, 4 de junio)

Black, sin embargo, recordó a todos que la victoria de Oakland es única. “Queremos desmantelar efectivamente, desmantelar por completo, todo el departamento de policía de la escuela”. En la conferencia de prensa posterior a la victoria, Black declaró que esto era

solo el comienzo. “Es muy importante que tengamos comunidad en la mesa. ... Si bien estamos muy emocionados de ganar la eliminación del departamento de policía del OUSD, también estamos adoptando este próximo nivel de lucha”.

La Black Organizing Project se está preparando para una lucha continua para mantener a la policía fuera de las escuelas y cambiar el clima y la cultura actuales allí. Desiree Mims, una líder miembro de la BOP, lo dijo claramente: “Esta victoria es historia, pero no nos detendremos aquí. Se lo debemos a Rahim Brown, quien fue asesinado por la Escuela de Policía Skyline, se lo debemos a George Floyd, cuyo asesinato inoportuno e injusto se convirtió en el catalizador del impulso que necesitábamos para volver a subir a la junta. Esta victoria es para nuestros hijos. Le pedimos que mantengan la presión porque este viaje recién comienza y seremos libres”. □

Mount Rushmore defense of genocide

A monumental outrage

WORKERS WORLD 
editorial

Just when we thought things couldn't get worse.

The July Fourth speech, delivered at the foot of Mount Rushmore by the bigot-in-chief, reminds us that under the capitalist system, things can always get worse. Especially when the occupant of the White House seems to have zero boundaries when it comes to outlandishly offensive and medically dangerous comments, positions and actions.

As a civilian boss in the private sector, Trump would probably be even more candid. One can picture him carrying the signs, spotted since his election, that read, "I'm a racist and proud of it." It's not hard to picture him carrying a Confederate flag, sporting a swastika or openly proclaiming fascist pride once he leaves public office (the sooner the better!).

As U.S. president, he has to cloak his message in rhetoric upholding "democracy."

The freedom fighters rebelling in the streets are tearing down—and pushing the state to tear down—monuments to the slaveocracy and slaughterers of Indigenous people. To punish them for their heroic actions, Trump bragged that he would impose a 10-year prison sentence.

To Trump and his cheering minions, the righteous rebellion in the streets represents "the very definition of totalitarianism." The president even went so far

as to call it "a new far-left fascism that demands absolute allegiance." This turns reality on its head.

White supremacist goons and cops have injured many protesters, some fatally. Yet it's anti-racist activists arrested since the lynching of George Floyd who have been charged with felonies, with some facing decades or even life in prison.

What is Mount Rushmore?

South Dakota was annexed by the United States in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The U.S. government then allowed settlements there, breaking earlier treaties made with the Indigenous Lakota Nation. U.S. Lt. Col. George Custer invaded the Black Hills in 1874, violating the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty that had left the unceded Black Hills with the Lakota, for whom the Hills are sacred.

After Custer discovered gold, fortune-seeking white miners invaded the Hills. In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states. Like all 50 states, from Alaska and Hawaii to New England, South Dakota is land stolen from the Indigenous population.

Thunǵáʃila Šákpe ("The Six Grandfathers") or Igmúthą́nka Pahá ("Cougar Mountain") to the Lakota, the mountain was renamed after Charles Rushmore, a wealthy businessman who

frequented the area on hunting and prospecting trips in the 1890s. The massive desecration began in 1927 with removal of huge amounts of granite to create the familiar busts of the four U.S. presidents. This work took 17 years and cost almost \$1 million—a hefty sum of tax dollars in 1944.

The sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, was a KKK member, who previously helped construct the massive Confederate monument on Stone Mountain, Ga. Borglum's son Lincoln, who completed Rushmore after his father's death, envisioned more desecration by setting in stone the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Louisiana Purchase and the Panama Canal Treaty.

Whose heads desecrate the Black Hills?

The presidents depicted—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abe Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt—represent various stages in the development of the U.S. imperialist empire. The two so-called "founding fathers" were wealthy members of the slaveocracy with vast tracts of land. Lincoln, portrayed as the benevolent leader who singlehandedly ended slavery, essentially freed the slaveocracy states for capitalist expansion.

Roosevelt, according to Trump's version of history, "led the famous Rough Riders to defeat the enemy at San Juan Hill." This

imperialist stage of capitalist development does coincide with the U.S. seizure of Spanish-held colonies in 1898; Puerto Rico remains an impoverished U.S. colony. But San Juan Hill is in liberated territory—socialist Cuba—something a thousand Mount Rushmores can never erase.

Trump's gushing nostalgia over the falling monuments is reminiscent of Alabama Gov. George Wallace declaring in 1963: "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever."

We don't know how long the gigantic, lucrative tourist trap will continue untarnished—hopefully not much longer. Courageous Indigenous treaty defenders were able to hold up Trump's fascist hate rally for several hours.

We look forward to the day when each and every monument to the slaveocracy and genocide is taken down and destroyed. Workers World Party is committed to eradicating, not just these hated flags and statues, but every trace of the capitalist system that spawned the crimes against humanity these objects symbolize.

The fascist gang assembled at Mount Rushmore is dangerous, as is the rhetoric that pulled it together—the threat must be taken seriously.

But we are hopeful! As the monumental movement still unfolding has reminded us, nothing is set in stone. □

Boston Two more monuments to racism bite the dust

By G. Lechat
Boston

Black Lives Matter rebellion power brought down two controversial statues here, one of Christopher Columbus in the traditionally Italian-American North End, and the Downtown "Freedman's Memorial," a replica of a better-known bronze statue in Washington D.C. Boston is a famously parochial "city of neighborhoods"—historically racist neighborhoods.

Vehemently defended and reinstalled after multiple direct actions, Columbus was finally carted away on June 10. A plan to remove the towering tribute to Northern white paternalism—showing Lincoln and a kneeling Black man in rags—was then announced on June 30.

Like most Confederate memorials that served to reinforce Jim Crow, these pieces say more about the moment they were unveiled than the history they allegedly depict. Their arbitrary origin stories challenge the narrative that they represent "history" and therefore should endure.

Columbus: It's not history

The Columbus statue appeared in 1979 on the initiative of people involved in the racist opposition to school desegregation in a nearly decade-long battle. A key figure behind the statue was Arthur Stivaletta, who even brought a Confederate flag to a racist 1976 "anti-busing" rally. (Boston

Globe, March 1, 1976)

The arrival of the statue commemorating Columbus was never about "history," but the goal of those who put it up was racist intimidation. It appeared just at the time non-white families had to show up in what they knew to be hostile neighborhoods.

Workers World Party member Ed Childs, one of the many WWP members actively involved in the defense of Black families from racist attack during the desegregation struggle, explained what happened then. WWP took a cue from the leadership of the Boston Indian Council—now called the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICB)—and has been protesting the statue for the last four decades.

Kevin White—Boston's mayor in 1979—attended the statue's dedication to troll for re-election votes from the racists he was criticized for coddling. (Boston Globe, Oct. 22, 1979) White's ultimately unsuccessful challenger, Joseph F. Timilty, spent that October day with Black community leaders.

The 1979 ceremony gave the appearance of government backing or broad community support for the statue. What it really amounted to was giving a wealthy building contractor—one with a reactionary political agenda—an outsized imprint. Besides his open racism, Stivaletta's main claims to fame were publicly burning the

Vietnamese Liberation flag in 1969, along with the Iranian flag in 1979 and the Soviet flag in 1981 on Boston Common. He was reactionary on an international level.

The statue's June beheading was the second for the unpopular and controversial 15th century adventurer. Following Indigenous leadership, even 21st century Italian-Americans have petitioned against the statue and for Indigenous People's Day to replace Columbus Day. Some also propose that Sacco and Vanzetti—Italian-American worker-anarchists persecuted and executed during the rabid anti-immigrant political climate in Massachusetts in 1927—replace Columbus as the standard bearer of Italian heritage. These two workers better represent the working-class immigration story relevant to today's descendants. BLM inspiration finally finished something many have long wanted to see.

'Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves'

In 1879, the "Freedmen's Memorial" was supposedly the vision of emancipated Black enslaved people. Indeed, "African Americans, mostly soldiers, contributed the cash," wrote Kirk Savage in "Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America," but "white sponsors collected the money and decided how to spend it." (page 92)

The stereotyped rendering of a "Freedman" has always bothered Tory Bullock, a local Black artist. "This man will never stand; he will always be on his knees," he said in his viral video entitled "Boston, We Need to Talk [from] Your Black Friend." He asked Black viewers, "Does that make you feel empowered ... respected?" Bullock's petition calling for removal collected almost 13,000 signatures before the announcement of its removal arrived days later.

Bullock also indicted the city in 2014 for uneven investment in historical preservation that had neglected the storied Strand Theatre in the heart of the Black community. This neglect exposes the hypocrisy of those who argue that the removal of racist monuments shows no appreciation for history.

In Boston, the median net worth of Black residents—who when they were children riding buses to desegregate schools had stones thrown at them—was \$8 as of 2015, according to "The Color of Wealth in Boston," a study headed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. This fact sits in hypocritical tension with Boston's liberal reputation.

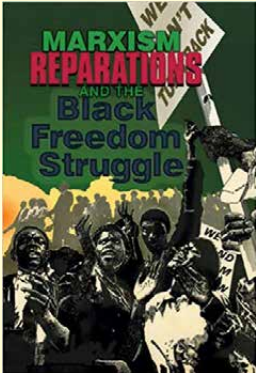
But even in Boston there is a new people's consensus to eliminate monuments that reinforce racism. Removing these objects is necessary and contributes to the reckoning with Northern racism that is also needed. □

Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.
Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination ♦ Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery ♦ Black Youth: Repression & Resistance ♦ The Struggle for Socialism Is Key ♦ Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights ♦ Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice! ♦ Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior ♦ Racism & Poverty in the Delta ♦ Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions ♦ Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation ♦ Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion

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COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

To protest Trump rally Lakota treaty defenders block highway

By Stephanie Tromblay

On the heels of a campaign rally at the site of the 1921 Tulsa, Okla., white-mob massacre of Black Wall Street, President Trump continued a tour of white supremacy symbols with a July 3 rally and fireworks at Mount Rushmore. This monument to settler colonialism is in the Black Hills, the Paha Sápa, also known as He Sápa—lands sacred to the Lakota Nation, lands also historically significant to the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Omaha Nations.

Under the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the Black Hills are unceded territory of the Oglala Lakota. Mount Rushmore is 25 miles southwest of Rapid City, S.D., and about 40 miles west of Pine Ridge Reservation. Before the event, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier said, “The president is putting our tribal members at risk [of COVID] to stage a photo op at one of our most sacred sites.

“Visitors look upon the faces of those presidents and extol the virtues that they believe make America the country it is today. Lakota see the faces of the men who lied, cheated and murdered innocent people, whose only crime was living on the land they wanted to steal.” (Indian Country Today, July 2)

Lakota treaty defenders drove vans across Highway 16 at the checkpoint for rally traffic from Keystone, S.D., to the monument, then disabled them.

About 150 treaty defenders—youth, families and elders—danced, chanted and flew flags of the Oglala Nation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the American Indian Movement. Signs called for ending 500 years of genocide, stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline and upholding the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie to return the Black Hills to the Lakota people. (Rapid City Journal, July 3) Chants heard included, “Land Back” and “We Can’t Breathe.”

They blocked Trump-supporters traffic for about three hours before cops and S.D. National Guard attacked with pepper spray and arrested 15 people. (Rapid City Journal, July 4)

Fireworks in high-risk forest on unceded lands

At his rally, Trump said, “We will never abolish our police or our great Second Amendment.” (Rapid City Journal, July 3) The Second Amendment confirmed the legal basis of settler militias, historically used to kill Indigenous people and hunt down escaped enslaved Africans.

Trump said, “Our nation is witnessing a merciless



Indigenous protesters blocked roadway to Trump rally at Mount Rushmore, July 3.

campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values and indoctrinate our children.” Under a new executive order from Trump, people who deface or tear down statues will face a minimum of 10 years in prison.

The president, who removed protection from Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase Escalante, and threatens the Grand Canyon with uranium mining, announced a new “National Garden of American Heroes.” The garden will feature statues of several presidents and a range of proposed historic figures, from Davy Crockett and Billy Graham to Harriet Tubman, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Antonin Scalia.

After the speeches, fireworks were set off at the monument, in the middle of a forest where fireworks had been banned for years due to the danger of a forest fire.

The Indian Wars and Mount Rushmore

President Ulysses Grant gave permission in 1874 for Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer to lead a 1,000-man military expedition with prospectors and journalists into the Paha Sápa, where they “found” gold—the world’s only veins of rose gold. A gold rush ensued; within a year 1,000 miners invaded. (tinyurl.com/ybcv6xnd)

Newspapers demanded annexation. Congress offered money to the Lakota, who said, “The He Sápa are not for sale. One does not sell their holy land.” (Tim Giago, Rapid City Journal, July 3)

Congress stole the Black Hills; Grant sent in the U.S. Army and started the genocidal Plains Indian Wars. On June 25, 1876, the Lakota, Dakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations defeated the 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, when those Indigenous nations were attacked at their annual winter convocation. The buffalo herds were brutally destroyed, and in 1889,

Congress cut rations in an attempt to starve out the Lakota. The war ended with the 1890 Wounded Knee Creek massacre of Big Foot’s band, who were starving and attempting to reach the reservation in a brutal northern Plains winter.

Gutzon Borglum, a member of the KKK, carved the faces of four presidents into the mountain, known as Six Grandfathers to the Lakota, from 1927 to 1944. Mount Rushmore depicts two members of the slaveocracy. And Abraham Lincoln, the president who issued the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation, ordered the mass hanging of 38 random Dakota prisoners in the 1862 Dakota uprising against the settler state of Minnesota.

‘The Black Hills are not for sale’

In a legal fight begun in the 1920s to reinstate the Lakota Nation’s claim to the Black Hills, the U.S. Court of Claims awarded \$17 million in 1979 for the Black Hills and added \$85 million in interest. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Claims \$102 million award on June 30, 1980.

But the Lakota Nation again said, “The Black Hills are not for sale.” The nine tribes constituting the Lakota Nation have never accepted the money, which with interest is now equal to about \$2 billion.

July Fourth, commemorating the “independence” declaration of the settlers in the 13 colonies against England, represented the settlers’ ability to take over the trade of enslaved people in North America and to continue to send militias into Indigenous nations to murder, enslave and steal the lands, to create more settlements and sell more enslaved African people. Beginning in 1776, the settlers flooded into Ohio territory, which the Crown had forbidden them to do.

During the highway blockade, organizer Nick Tilsen, Oglala Lakota of NDN Collective, tried to negotiate with the National Park Service on the removal of treaty defenders and the vans parked in the middle of the road. “We ain’t going nowhere,” Tilsen said. “This is our land. This has been our land for thousands of years.” (Indian Country Today, July 4) Treaty defenders ask supporters to contribute to the Black Hills Bail and Legal Defense Fund (bhlegalfund.org).

As the uprising in solidarity with Black Lives Matter shows no sign of slowing down, Indigenous and Black solidarity deepens and lifts these connected struggles.

Tromblay’s heritage is Huron nonstatus and mixed Southeast nations undocumented.

‘Day of Rage’ against Zionist annexation

By Judy Greenspan

When Palestine is under attack, what do we do? Unite and fight back!

And that’s just what thousands of protesters did across the U.S. on July 1, the day Israel annexed 30 percent of the West Bank. More cities had demonstrations in the days that followed. At least 40 actions were organized by Al-Awda and other Palestinian groups to oppose the further annexation of their land and to demand freedom for Palestine.

The Israeli plan to annex a large section of the West Bank—which was illegally stolen from the Palestinian people in 1967—follows the U.S. Embassy move to Jerusalem and the growth of “Jewish-only” settlements in occupied Palestine. As demonstrations throughout the world from Palestine to San Francisco have already shown, more and more people are opposed to the U.S.-backed Zionist occupation.

In San Francisco a car caravan organized by Al-Awda, the Palestine Right To Return Coalition; Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC); the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM); and others occupied the streets of this city’s financial district, stopping all traffic for three hours in front of the Israeli Consulate.



July 5, Cleveland. WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

The protest, organized as “A Day of Rage—No to Annexation, Defend Palestine”—began at City Hall where people gathered to decorate their vehicles with banners, placards and flags. The event was changed from a march to a caravan due to the spike in COVID-19 cases and concerns about the safety of the participants.

The action ended in front of the Israeli Consulate where loud chants of “From the River to the Sea—Palestine will be free!” could be heard for several city blocks. One of the speakers, Hatem Bazian, a long-time Palestinian activist and scholar, began his talk by acknowledging the Indigenous Ohlone land on which the protest was being held and the current Black Lives Matter movement unfolding in the streets. Bazian explained that these struggles are directly linked to the Palestinian fight for liberation.

Speakers from AROC, PYM, Palestine Action Network and other organizations also spoke at the rally and led chants. The large crowd, which stretched for 20 city blocks, honked horns and chanted for more than three hours. For the first time there was no visible pro-Zionist presence in front of the Israeli Consulate.

Black and Palestinian solidarity

On July 1, some 350 people rallied in Seattle. People demonstrated in front of the downtown Seattle police station. Demonstrators also demanded an end to police terror against Black communities in the U.S.

The rally, with Black, Indigenous (Coast Salish), Filipino and especially Palestinian speakers, made three demands on Seattle’s officials: 1) End the deadly exchange. The U.S. holds joint trainings between U.S. law enforcement agencies and Israel’s military officials. 2) Defund Seattle’s police department and use those funds for community-led health and safety systems. 3) End the contract with G4S, the world’s largest security company and a chief collaborator with Israel’s apartheid and occupation.

Palestinians and allies rallied and marched in downtown Cleveland on July 5. The rally was youth-led, with many young Palestinians speaking, along with a young member of Jewish Voice for Peace. Many speakers expressed solidarity with Black Lives Matter. A Zionist provocateur hurled insults and attempted to instigate physical confrontation, but he was unable to derail the protest. Militant marchers chanted, “Free, free Palestine.”

Among the numerous other U.S. cities that hosted Day of Rage actions were Miami, Tampa and Tallahassee, Fla.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Los Angeles; Detroit; San Diego, Calif.; Boston; Chicago; and Portland, Ore. Demonstrations were also held in many other countries.

Jim McMahon and Martha Grevatt contributed to this article.



San Francisco, July 1. WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

BOP gana campaña para desmantelar departamento de policía escolar

Por **Judy Greenspan**
Oakland, California

The Black Organizing Project (BOP), es una organización comunitaria liderada por miembros negros que trabaja por la justicia racial, social y económica a través de la organización de base y la construcción de comunidades en Oakland, California.

En medio de una peligrosa pandemia, la organización, Black Organizing Project, ha ganado una victoria sin precedentes para toda la comunidad de Oakland. El 24 de junio, la Junta Escolar de Oakland votó por unanimidad para eliminar, desmantelar y terminar por completo su propio Departamento de Policía de la Escuela Oakland. Esta acción provino de un distrito escolar que hasta hace un mes se negó a considerar esta posibilidad. Al día

‘No queremos más policías. Queremos que los fondos se destinen a servicios sociales y a construir una mejor comunidad y una mejor educación para nuestros hijos, y hoy estamos aquí para apoyar eso’

siguiente, la BOP tuvo una conferencia de prensa virtual de celebración posterior a la victoria.

Durante 10 años, la BOP ha trabajado incansablemente para llamar la atención sobre el trato racista e injusto que enfrentan los estudiantes negros en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Oakland.

Jessica Black, directora organizadora de BOP, dio una perspectiva histórica cuando habló en una conferencia de prensa antes de la votación del 24 de junio. Hablando de su campaña de 10 años, Black dijo: “BOP tuvo el sueño de que los niños negros pudieran entrar a las escuelas y ser valorados como seres humanos. BOP soñó que la gente se solidarizaría con nosotros. Hemos luchado por eso. Éramos demasiado radicales.Éramos el pequeño grupo negro que ha hecho cosas extraordinarias”.

El comienzo del sueño se ganó la semana pasada. Antes de la votación, BOP llevó a cabo una ambiciosa campaña de acciones de 10 días, que incluyó eventos virtuales y presenciales. Hubo dos marchas en solidaridad con los jóvenes negros y latinex liderados por los organizadores juveniles de BOP en Oakland y una manifestación y una caravana de automóviles por parte de maestros y educadores frente a las oficinas del distrito escolar de Oakland.

Lo que aprobó la junta escolar se llamó la Resolución George Floyd para Eliminar el Departamento de Policía de la Escuela Oakland. Fue un esfuerzo de colaboración entre BOP y la directora de la Escuela del Distrito 5 de Oakland, Rosie Torres. Torres ha sido la única miembro de la junta que siempre ha apoyado a BOP en su campaña para escuelas libres de policía.

Black declaró que fue la pandemia de racismo y asesinatos policiales lo que empujó a BOP a luchar más por la victoria durante COVID. Ella calificó la vigilancia policial en las escuelas y la comunidad como una pandemia. Ella dijo: “Solo porque estamos en una pandemia de salud no significa que dejemos de luchar para ser vistos como humanos. Nos enfrentamos a dos pandemias en nuestra comunidad. Durante este tiempo de COVID-19,

todavía estamos marchando en estas calles”.

BOP hizo un llamado a los aliados de la comunidad quienes salieron en gran número para apoyarlos. El 22 de junio, una manifestación denominada “Educators for Black Sanctuary” atrajo a cientos de maestros, educadores y trabajadores del distrito escolar que decoraron las aceras frente al edificio del distrito escolar con demandas de “escuelas libres de policía”.

No solo se ejerció el poder de la mano de obra, sino que la unidad entre la comunidad antirracista de Oakland y el sindicato que representa a los Oficiales de Servicio Escolar desarmados, que formaban parte del Departamento de Policía Escolar de Oakland, se consolidó firmemente. Su papel será renegociado como parte del Plan Popular para escuelas libres de policía.

Donneva Reid, segunda vicepresidenta interina del SEIU Local 1021 en Oakland, habló en la reunión de educadores y más tarde en la conferencia de prensa antes de la votación que apoya la resolución de George Floyd. Ella dijo: “No queremos más policías. Queremos que los fondos se destinen a servicios sociales y a construir

Continúa en la página 9

Demandas de la clase trabajadora en la economía de COVID

El Fondo Monetario Internacional emitió una advertencia el 24 de junio de que la economía mundial enfrenta una recesión aún más profunda de lo que se había proyectado anteriormente, mayor que cualquier otra desde la Gran Depresión de los años treinta.

Si bien muchos economistas advirtieron anteriormente sobre una recesión cíclica en la economía mundial, el FMI culpó del colapso actual solo a la pandemia de coronavirus. La pandemia detuvo a grandes sectores de la economía mundial.

El último mensaje del FMI es que la crisis económica que acompaña a la pandemia es realmente grande.

Y aunque el FMI se niega a admitirlo, la evidencia es que el capitalismo y la economía de mercado son completamente inadecuados para resolver estas crisis.

El FMI ahora predice una caída del 4.9 por ciento en la producción mundial en el 2020, con caídas más severas para la Unión Europea y los Estados Unidos, seguido de un crecimiento del 5.4 por ciento en 2021. En contraste, para China, el FMI predice un crecimiento del 1.0 por ciento en 2020 y 8.2 por ciento de crecimiento en 2021.

La pérdida de producción en todo el mundo durante los dos años totalizará \$12 billones (millones de millones), según el FMI. La producción mundial bruta anual es de aproximadamente \$90 billones.

El relativo éxito de China muestra la ventaja de una economía centralmente organizada en lugar de una economía organizada para maximizar las ganancias.

Dado el alcance del doble desafío, la pandemia y la economía, la pregunta clave a responder es: ¿qué debería exigir la clase

trabajadora para proteger a las personas más pobres y oprimidas de la sociedad y defender los intereses de los trabajadores?

Demandas en los Estados Unidos

Un poderoso punto ideológico y preciso es que una sociedad socialista, motivada por la solidaridad mutua y el esfuerzo hacia la igualdad de riqueza e ingresos, brinda la mejor oportunidad de superar las crisis actuales. El capitalismo falla.

Sin cerrar la puerta al objetivo de esa sociedad socialista, ¿qué demandas pueden surgir dentro de los Estados Unidos que puedan movilizar a grandes sectores de la población para la lucha?

En marzo, el Congreso aprobó rápidamente el llamado programa de estímulo. Los billones de dólares asignados se destinaron principalmente a las grandes corporaciones. El Congreso apuntó algunos de esos fondos a pequeñas empresas, aunque las grandes cadenas casi también se apropiaron de esos fondos.

Una parte más pequeña de los trillones se destinó a la clase trabajadora: un pago de estímulo de \$1,200 para todos los que no tienen grandes ingresos, más un pago adicional de \$600 por semana de seguro de desempleo para las decenas de millones de trabajadores destinados a perder sus empleos, que no dura más que a finales de julio.

Se suponía que el suplemento de desempleo también cubriría a las personas que trabajan en la economía de chambras (trabajadores tratados injustamente como “autónomos”) y a cualquier persona en la categoría de autónomos, así como a aquellos que perdieron su trabajo debido al COVID-19. Unos 40 millones

de trabajadores desempleados solicitaron beneficios; muchos han tenido dificultades para conseguirlos.

Este estímulo no logró cubrir a los trabajadores indocumentados que perdieron sus trabajos o se enfermaron y ese fracaso obligó a más personas a trabajar en trabajos que el virus hizo inseguros.

A más tardar el 31 de julio, finalizan los beneficios adicionales. Estos pagos fueron el ventilador que mantuvo viva la economía durante los últimos tres meses. Sin ellos, decenas de millones más de personas corren el riesgo de perder sus hogares y pasar hambre. Y dado que el gobierno federal está tratando de reducir la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio, las personas también pueden perder el seguro médico.

Las demandas mínimas obvias de la clase trabajadora son que el Congreso (1) proporcione pagos de estímulo adicionales a toda la clase trabajadora; (2) extender el seguro suplementario de desempleo al menos para el otro año; y (3) extender estos pagos a todos aquellos que han estado viviendo y trabajando en los Estados Unidos con o sin documentos oficiales. Esas demandas pueden amplificarse para incluir un ingreso adecuado y garantizado para todos.

El partido Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero planteó una lista de demandas en marzo que aún son válidas. Esto incluye proteger todas las viviendas, es decir, no desalojar ni incautar viviendas. También atención médica gratuita y pruebas durante la pandemia. Y nadie debería verse obligado a volver a trabajar en condiciones peligrosas.

Demandas en todo el mundo

Entre los países imperialistas de Japón, Europa occidental, Canadá y Australia,

la situación es muy parecida a la de los Estados Unidos, con más protección social y atención médica en algunos países.

Para los países que fueron colonias de los países imperialistas, o que aún son económicamente dependientes, principalmente en el Sur Global, las políticas del propio FMI han contribuido al desastre que enfrentan sus pueblos.

El FMI (Fondo Monetario Internacional), ha obligado a estos gobiernos a reducir los programas sociales, incluidos los que brindan atención médica y educación, para dar prioridad al pago de las deudas a los bancos con sede en los países imperialistas.

Por lo tanto, una demanda global mínima es que los pagos de estas deudas se cancelen sin penalización.

Los países imperialistas han saqueado el Sur Global durante siglos. Hoy en día todavía cosechan mega-ganancias a través de su dominio de la economía mundial, el acceso a datos, máquinas herramientas, inteligencia artificial, desarrollo científico y capital. Establecen precios más bajos en bienes producidos en el Sur Global, especialmente en materias primas.

Los imperialistas deben reparaciones a sus antiguas colonias. Deben pagar reparaciones como parte de la restauración de las economías de estos países y los sistemas de salud pública que han sido desmantelados por los programas del FMI.

Y, por supuesto, la clase capitalista estadounidense debe siglos de reparaciones a los pueblos indígenas, negros y morena y a la clase trabajadora en general.

¡Reparaciones ahora a través de pagos de ingresos! ¡Cancelar las deudas de todos los trabajadores y pueblos oprimidos! □



La Directora Organizadora de Black Organizing Project, Jessica Black, con la Vicepresidenta Interina Segunda de SEIU Local 1021, Donneva Reid (izquierda).