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 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 Ales, 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

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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 know she was going to report the harassment.

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Continued on page 8
The July 8 Workers World article, “CHOP: Seattle anti-racist protests continue” by Jim McMahan.

The CHOP (Capitol Hill Organized Protest) site in Seattle began as a peaceful demonstration of anti-racism. It became a 24/7 demonstration/encampment as police and federal forces attempted to evict the protestors on July 1. As police moved back into the precinct, the CHOP continued its peaceful protests.

CHOP medical volunteers had to assist with the shootings, and CHOP had nothing to do with them. Two youths died in shootings just outside the CHOP barricades. The mayor and Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, regularly defamed CHOP, while the cops have moved back into their precinct. Cops evicted homeless people living there and threw all their belongings into 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 Leopai protested with others on the perimeter. His cousin, Iosia Faleto, 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/yv2rqnj)

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.

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 mobile 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 enervating quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ 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 have a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else—unless they can pay for it.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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 be socially owned and distributed 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.
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 last-minute addition 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 this 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 detective. The subsequent research was paid for by the Qatari government and overseen by a lawyer from the Protektor-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 included the dead from both sides.

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

On the last day possible, June 30, 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 “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.”

Labors 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 15,000 adjunct teaching workers who are represented by the Professional Staff Congress, American Federation of Teachers Local 2334.

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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 Syrian civilians. Nearly two years later, 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 position the world against Syria and 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.

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 leaving the buildings that housed it. Earlier U.S. sanctions have denied Syria the most basic ingredients of pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The Caesar Act sanctions have completely isolated the Central Bank of Syria. They impose secondary sanctions on any country or corporation that even provides aid to Syria in its effects. The Caesar Act sanctions are the most extreme sanctions on Syria in its history.

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 ever been powerless.

There is no [bipartisan] support, but there is certainly no reason to think that this was the case. The war on Syria has had bipartisan support for the duration.

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! ☑

“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

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

#CUNYSummerofStruggle
#CutCovidNotCUNY

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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 campaigns to win the release of thousands of elderly, ill and vulnerable people.

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 cull and reckless endangerment of prisoners’ lives.

As of July 2, more than 1,300 prisoners at San Quentin tested positive for COVID-19—a bout 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 3,000 reported cases of COVID-19 and at least 15 COVID-related deaths. Of over 16 transferred prisoners tested positive for the virus.

Squeezed by 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.

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 state that transfers for cull and prisoner endangerment is “a reckless decision that will affect hundreds of people — the investigated, incarcerated and prison empleado — and 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 Rasmussen, 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 worsenization 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.

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

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The death penalty, whether used by individual states or by the federal government, has a long history of being used against poor people and 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.

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 reaction, 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 of 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 incompatible 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 obtained 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 with the influence 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 been seen in a hundred years.

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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. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) transfers for those released, and reduce California’s prison population.

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In Philadelphia on July 4

Protesters say: ‘Free Mumia!’

By Ted Kelly


‘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. Not in 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 shuttling back and forth 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, we 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 and judicial misconduct in Mumia’s case should at least grant him a new trial. Mumia said the ruling felt like the first time in all the years he was locked up 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 murder of White Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. Twenty-two years later, a friend of MOVE, and former president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, Mumia Abu-Jamal released.

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 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 are seeds in your daddies’ wombs 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!”

Kempi Ghan 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.

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*****.’

A motherfucker down.

A motherfucker down.

A motherfucker down.

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 whirlwind.

For it is not light that is needed, but a time like someone my age has not had to battle for every advance we’ve won. A time like someone my age has not had to battle for every advance we’ve won. A time like someone my age has not had to battle for every advance we’ve won.

The police, ICE and the Pentagon use such public outrage to gain and empowers law enforcement to make Black and Brown people disappear. 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 released this statement on the 4th of July 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 engaged 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 this in police crackdowns, 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 era is back 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 LGBTQ+ people and migrants — we’ve had victories in some instances 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 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 caging. No caging! No borders! Defund and abolish the police, ICE, and the U.S. military!
Black Lives matter rewrites history

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

July 7—A people’s tide 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 that swept the monument to slavery of George Floyd in Minneapolis was the biggest movement ever, involving an estimated “26 million people” in the U.S. On July 3, the Times cited more than 4,700 protests in just the first three weeks of June.

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. The Times gave George Floyd the biggest movement ever, involving an estimated “26 million people” in the U.S. 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 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 death reflect the truth of Lenin’s statement about revolutionary change: “There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks when nothing happens but revolution.”

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 Reparative 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 scrambled to deal with the moment’s 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. The National Basketball Association commissioner issued a public apology for the league’s racism—and their bottom line. The National Football League is now a stew in the 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 $120 million, with money to go to Black community services.

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. The protests have forced long-promised “reforms” and “transparency” in police departments. The Minneapolis City Council rewrote the city’s police code and 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 broadened 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, Pittsburgh and Boston, unions also refused to transport the police! On Juneteenth, a police strike against racism and police terror by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) in Oakland, Calif., shut down the 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 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 20)

An entire women’s professional softball team, the Scrap Yard Dash, 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 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)

UnrelentingCop murders and extreme police brutality against protestors 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 Juneenth (June 16) 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 placed on administrative leave June 3 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 Alnardo Aby are so did because of the color of his skin, not because of something he did. They 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, Jarrett posted an administrative leave June 3 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.”

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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. Was that 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.

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 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 Police Chief Vanessa Wilson, made the decision to put the officers responsible on paid administrative leave after pictures emerged on social media showing Aurora police reenacting a chokehold that killed McClain. Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced the McClain case would be reopened for review.

Activists oppose legal shield of cop violence

By calvin deutchbein

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 11:01 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 police violence or of autopsies of deaths.

If not vetoed by the governor, SB168 after John Neville’s death. The medical report of John Neville that is missing the name of the jailer and reports information regarding supervision; it’s missing the name of the jailer and reports information regarding supervision.

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 information regarding supervision.

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 singed 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 had paid their charges. In the July 1 arrest, the police charged the demonstrators with vandalism. The cops used the pretext that demonstrators had written “VETO SB168” on a sidewalk on the morning.

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 new 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 direct attack on the police forces. This action led to a traffic blockade during Friday rush hour on Capital Boulevard, a major Raleigh thoroughfare. The police 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 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!

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

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 their handling of 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 parents 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 expelled the city’s cop organi- zation this year.

First union rapid response
Local 26 may be the first union that has led a rapid response 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 has signed a boycott text. It notified them to show up in defense of the two members and to oppose the police. Local 26’s action represents a new front leap forward for the labor movement.

In contrast to past times where per- haps 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 inci- dent, the leadership and the entire union to provide urgently needed solidarity. Local 26 also instituted an excellent practice: the 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 8713, 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.

This is a 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 Latina; 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 dozes of Tufts’ students. Two of them said that Local 26 members belong as much to the Tufts’ commu- nity 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 harasser 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 reporting harassment came from her experience 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 Me Too movement from domestic to military, 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 lon- ger 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 vulner- able 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 [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 parents the things that happened to 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.”

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 Postwar coup.”

– Pvt Larry Holmes, GI reader and organizer for the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74.
On June 29, the Supreme Court issued a much anticipated decision in June Medical Services v. Russo. The court was asked to consider whether to overturn Roe v. Wade. A lot was riding on the decision. Many court watchers unanimously agree: the highest court in the country— as the road map for reproductive rights for the foreseeable future— was about to give anti-choice politicians in 15 states in the South and Midwest a green light to give anti-choice politicians in 15 states in the South and Midwest a green light to create a trjecta of progressive 2020 court opinions.

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

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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 Brett Kavanaugh filling the seat of Justice Antonin Scalia. And Trump’s influential, right-wing, majority white, anti-abortion followers, an avid base of Catholic and Evangelical churches, are counting on the next, new court to uphold the constitutional right to an abortion, established in Roe v. Wade (1973). And it pushed Roberts into abandon his longstanding antipathy to restrictions on that right based on whether or not it imposed an “undue burden” on women who choose abortion. (Notably, no one’s ever considered the reproductive rights of gen-der-nonconforming people.)

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Mount Rushmore defense of genocide
A monumental outrage

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 statue at Union Circle in dug-out D.C. Boston's mayor in charge 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 very definition of totalitari-anism.” 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.

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 and their land. As a response to the actions, Trump bragged that he would impose a 10-year prison sentence. To Trump and his cheering minions, the destruction of these statues represents “the very definition of totalitari-anism.” 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.

The July Fourth speech, delivered at July Fourth and the Downtown “Freedman’s Memorial,” a replica of a better-known statue at Union Circle in dug-out D.C. Boston's mayor in charge 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 very definition of totalitari-anism.” 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.

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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 Sâpa, also known as He-Sâpa—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 4)

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 300 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 300 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 attached 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 states’ rights and was historically used by white people and hunting down enslaved Africans. Trump said, “Our nation is witnessing a merciless 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 Daisy Crockett and Billy the Kid to Martin Luther King Jr. and Antonin Scalia.

After the speeches, fireworks were set off at the mound, and the middle of the place where fireworks were banned for years due to the danger of 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 Sâpa, 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)

Next year saw the proliferation of annunciation. Congress offered opportunity to the Lakota, who said, “The He-Sâpa are not for sale. One does not sell their holy land.” (Tim Giago, Country Today, July 4) Treaty defenders ask supporters, “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).

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

‘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 $87 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 this Ohio territory, which the Crown had forbidden them to do.

During the highway blockade, organizer Nick Tilsen, a member of the Oglala Nation of DSN 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. “There isn’t going nowhere,” Tilsen said. “This is 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).

The Black Hills 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—was approved in a meeting of President Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and three other unknown people. The annexation was met with horror and disappointment across the world.

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

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 on July 3 in Cleveland.

In San Francisco a car caravan organized by Al-Awda, the Palestinian Right To Return Coalition; Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC); and other organizations also spoke at the rally and led chants. One of the speakers, Hatem Bazian explained that these struggles are directly linked to the Palestinian fight for liberation. Speakers from AROC, PFM, 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 uprising 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 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 from the city block. 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, PFM, 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.

Jim McMahon and Martha Grevatt contributed to this article.

San Francisco, July 1.
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 todos los ciudadanos de Oakland. El 24 de junio, la Junta Escolar de Oakland votó por completo desmantelar y terminar la Escuela de Junio, la Junta de Oakland. El 24 de junio, la Junta Escolar de Oakland votó por completo desmantelar y terminar el Departamento de Policía de la Escuela Oakland. Esta acción provoca un distrito de la escuela, que se ha negado a considerar esta posibilidad. Al día 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. En abril, Jessica Black, directora organizadora de BOP, dio un período histórico en una conferencia de prensa antes de la votación del 24 de junio. Hablando de su campaña de 10 años, Black dijo: “BOP soñó con una sociedad donde no sólo negros pudieran entrar a las escuelas y ser valorados como seres humanos. Nuestro bolígrafo les dijo que la gente se solidarizaría con nosotros. Hemos luchado por esto. 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 no violentas, que incluyó eventos virtuales y presenciales. Hubo dos marchas en solidaridad con los jóvenes negros y latinos liderados por los organizadores juveniles de la Organización de Base de Oakland. Las manifestaciones y una caravana de automóviles por parte de maestros y educadores frente a las oficinas del distrito escolar de Oakland. La campaña de BOP tuvo un resumen del suelo y la Unión de la Escuela de Escuela Oakland. Fue un éxito de colaboración entre BOP y la Junta de la Escuela del Distrito 5 de Oakland, Rosie Torres. Torres ha sido la única miembro de la junta que 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 llevó a esta victoria. Ella añadió: “Solo porque estamos en una pandemia de salud no significa que dejemos de luchar para ser vistos como humanos. Nos enfrenta- mos con una injusticia en nuestra comuni- dad. Durante este tiempo de COVID-19, no significa que dejemos de luchar para ser vistos como humanos.

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 la que 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 al solo a la pandemia de corona- navirus. La pandemia detuvo a grandes sectores de la economía mundial.

El último mensaje del FMI es que la crisis económica que aconteció en la pandemia es realmente grande.

Y aunque el FMI se niega a admitirlo, la evidencia es que el capitalismo y la eco- nomía 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 una recuperación del 5.4 por ciento en 2021. En contraste, para China, el FMI predice un crecimiento del 0.2 por ciento en 2020 y 8.2 por ciento de creci- miento en 2021.

La pérdida de producción en todo el mundo durante los dos años totales alcanzará $12 billones de dólares (límites de millones), según el FMI. La producción mundial bruta anual es de aproximadamente $50 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: ¿Cuál 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 cerra la puerta al objetivo de esa sociedad socialista, ¿qué demandas pue- den surgir dentro de los Estados Unidos que se esté considerando ahora para grandes sectores de la poblaci- ón para la lucha?

En marzo, el Congreso aprobó rápidamente el llamado programa de estímulo. Los billones de dólares asignados se des- tinaron principalmente a las grandes corporaciones. El Congreso agotó algunos de esos fondos a pequeñas empresas, a la vez que las grandes cadenas también se apoderaron de esos fondos.

Una parte más pequeña de los trillones de dólares asignados se destinó a la clase trabajadora: un pago de estímulo de $1,200 para todos los que no tienen ingresos grandes, más un pago adicional de $600 por semana de seguro de desempleo para las decenas de millo- nes de trabajadores destinados a perder sus trabajos, que no dura más que a finales de julio. Se suponía que el suplemento de des- empleo también cubriría a las personas que trabajan en el comercio de cambio- bas (trabajadores tratados injustamente como “autónomos”) y a cualquier per- sona 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 dificulta- des para conseguirlos.

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

A más tardar el 31 de julio, finalizarán los beneficios adicionales. Este estímulo fue el ventilador que mantuvo viva la economía durante los últimos tres meses. Sin ellos, decenas de millones de personas corren el riesgo de perder sus hogares y pasar hambre.

Dado que el gobierno federal no está tratando de reducir la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio, las personas también pueden perder el seguro médico.

Las demandas mínimas de la clase trabajadora son que el Congreso (1) propor- cione 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 trabajando y que han tenido sus documentos oficiales. Estas demandas pue- den amplificarse para incluir un ingreso adecuado y garantizado para todos.

El partido Workers World Party / Partido Mundo Obrero planteará una lista de demandas en marzo que aún son válidas. Esto incluye proteger todas las economías de salud durante la pandemia, es decir, no desalojar ni incu- tar viviendas. También atención médica gratuita y pruebas durante la pandemia. Y la clase trabajadora debería estar obligada a volver a trabajar en condiciones peligrosas.

Demanda 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 econo- micamente 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 gobier- nos a reducir los programas sociales, incluidos los que brindan atención médica y educación, para dar prioridad al pago de la deuda. Estos lugares compran con sede en los países imperialistas.

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

Los países imperialistas han saqueado el Sur Global durante siglos. Hoy en día todavía cosechan millones de dólares y el trámite de su dominio de la economía mundial, el acceso a datos, máquinas herramientas, inteligencia artificial, desarrollo científico y tecnología, sin hacerles bienes producidos en el Sur Global, espe- cialmente en materias primas.

Los imperialistas deben reparar a sus pueblos coloniales, como una forma de reparaci- ones como parte de la restauración de las economías de estos países y los siste- mas de salud pública que deben ser des- mantelados por los programas del FMI.

Y, por supuesto, la clase capitalista esta- doindependiente debe seguir siguiendo las reglas de reparaciones a los países des- mantellados por los programas del FMI.

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