

# Step one, movement demands ‘DEFUND POLICE!’

By Monica Moorehead

June 8 — Today marks the two-week anniversary of the public legal lynching of George Floyd by four Minneapolis police officers. Thousands have filed by his open casket to pay their respects. And on June 9, Floyd will be buried in his hometown of Houston.

Within this two-week span, a rebellion has spread like wildfire, starting in Minneapolis, with the burning down of a police precinct, then throughout the U.S. in every state and then across the world in multiple cities on almost every continent.

Millions of people worldwide have been out in the streets in solidarity with the demand “Black Lives Matter,” now transformed into an international mass struggle. This global rebellion has put the repressive police force on trial for all forms of brutality, especially murder, against Black and other people of color. But white supremacy has also been put on trial as the very foundation upon which police violence rests to safeguard profits

for the rich.

This rebellion has helped to generalize the issue of racist oppression by bringing international attention to others who have lost their lives besides Floyd — Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Manuel Ellis, Laquan McDonald, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Tony McDade, Sandra Bland and too many others.

Within days, statues glorifying the Confederacy and other pro-slavery monuments have been physically removed or defaced by protesters. Officials, mainly in the U.S. South, were forced to bring them down by the rebellion. The people of Philadelphia forced the city to once-and-for-all remove the repulsive statue and mural of fascistic former Mayor Rizzo.

In Bristol, England, a statue of a 17th century slave catcher was brought down, his neck stomped on and then thrown in the river. Even the statue of the late British imperialist Prime Minister Winston Churchill was defaced with the word “racist.” The offensive statue honoring the colonial butcher of the Congolese



Tens of thousands protest June 6 in Philadelphia. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



In Oakland, Calif., on June 5, a memorial to Tony McDade, killed by Tallahassee, Fla., police on May 27. WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

## Black Lives Matter solidarity No Pride without justice!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Fifty-one years ago cops assaulted and arrested LGBTQ+ people — mostly Black and Latinx people — at the Stonewall Bar in New York City. That police raid and resulting queer resistance sparked three days of rebellion and ignited the modern LGBTQ+ movement in the U.S. and around the world. Leading the

street battles against the cops were trans women of color like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. That June rebellion was the origin of the current LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

On June 2, NYC cops were again beating and arresting queer people of color at the Stonewall Inn. Hundreds had gathered there as part of the rebellion against police

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people, King Leopold II of Belgium, was finally taken down in Antwerp, Belgium.

Along with resistance to police presence at protests has come an incredible amount of brutality and arrests in the thousands. Protesters, young and old, Black, Latinx, white, Indigenous and Asian have been pepper sprayed and teargassed; injured by rubber bullets and swinging batons; and knocked to the ground. These indiscriminate brutal attacks by the police have also happened to the media.

This repression has not stopped the spontaneous mass outpouring of protests in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, Philadelphia, Houston and elsewhere, despite curfews. The biggest protests so far took place last weekend in Washington, D.C., where “Black Lives Matter Plaza” was established by Black Mayor Muriel Bowser, along with humongous “Black Lives Matter” lettering painted on the National Mall in front

of the White House. Next to it activists painted “Defund the Police.”

**Police budgets steal vital services**

While Congress is currently debating police “reforms,” legislation initially introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Black Lives Matter movement has been demanding the defunding of police budgets for years. Kailee Scales, managing director of Black Lives Matter Global Network, stated: “It is important to remember that modern-day policing has its roots in slave catching. These systems were created to hunt, maim, and kill Black people.

“As we have seen in the example of George and many others in this month alone, the police are a force of violence that profiles, harasses, and inflicts harm on Black communities without accountability — and with far too many resources.” The police reportedly killed over 1,000 people

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### Special issue dedicated to George Floyd

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# California labor condemns police murder of George Floyd

By Dave Welsh

This is big. Seemingly out of nowhere, the “silent majority” of the working class took to the streets in towns and cities across the land — in a time of COVID-19 lockdowns and state-ordered disruption of normal human interactions — to condemn the police lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Organized labor didn’t lead it, but it did join in this historic, largely spontaneous movement against police impunity and the entrenched system of white supremacy that lies behind it.

Longshore unions plan to shut down West, East and Gulf Coast ports on June 9 — stopping work for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the duration of Floyd’s streetside, slow-motion execution at the hands of Minneapolis police.

“We’re living in a recurring nightmare in America,” said the California Labor Federation in a June 4 statement. “Over the past few weeks we’ve seen the senseless killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, Tony McDade and George Floyd. And for centuries, our brothers and sisters have been murdered for no other reason than the color of their skin.

“Every time a Black person is brutalized by the police, individuals and organizations condemn it. When racism leads to a modern-day lynching, we express shock. But



PHOTO: INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE WORKERS UNION

International Longshore Workers Union leaders traveled from California to Houston to attend George Floyd’s memorial service, June 8.



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

these scenes repeat, over and over. We’re on a vicious loop that ignores the desperate need for change and cements the systemic racism that’s plagued our nation since its founding.”

The California labor statement called for ending the school-to-prison pipeline by creating decent jobs and “zero tolerance of police officers who commit any acts of violence against our communities.”

## “A once-in-a-generation call to action”

On the same day, four Bay Area central labor councils, representing half a million working families, issued a joint statement entitled, “Unions must help lead the fight for racial justice.” The statement asked, “What type of society do we want for our grandchildren? Do we want more schoolhouses or more jails? More teachers or more police?

“This is a once-in-a-generation call to action. The fight for racial justice is our fight.”

It’s no secret that the mainstream of organized labor has been slow to act against white supremacy and police violence. You could say this has been an “Achilles heel” of the unions — an obstacle to uniting with the great mass of unorganized workers, the gig workers, the migrants and farmworkers, including members of oppressed nations and nationalities within the borders of the United States. We’re talking about uniting the most numerous and essential class of all, the working class, without whom no commodity would be produced and no service would be performed.

One thing the murders of George Floyd and the others have illuminated for all to see is, first of all, how brutal and corrupt is the system of the exploiters and oppressors and, second of all, how quickly and powerfully the many sectors of the working class can spring into united action to confront them.

Welsh is a retired letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service and a current delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council.

## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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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# Racist Rizzo statue taken down

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

Philadelphia city officials removed the hated Frank Rizzo statue, long a target of demonstrations against police brutality and white supremacy, on June 3.

As Philadelphia police commissioner from 1968 to 1971 and mayor from 1972 to 1980, Rizzo targeted Black activists, including members of the Black Panther Party and MOVE, harassing, beating and arresting them. The Philadelphia Inquirer published a Pulitzer Prize-winning expose in 1977, revealing that the Rizzo administrations covered up rampant police brutality.

Rizzo's statute, placed prominently near City Hall in 1988, has been criticized by many people who object to honoring a man whose bias against the Black, Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities is well documented. The Philly Coalition for REAL (Racial, Economic and Legal) Justice initiated a petition to remove the statue in 2016.

On May 30, thousands of demonstrators, calling for justice for George Floyd, surrounded and attempted to topple the 10-foot-tall bronze statue. Demonstrators threw red paint on the statue and tried to set it on fire.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney had promised to take down the hated 2,000-pound statue, but delayed carrying out his promise. Then Kenney prioritized cleanup of the statue on May 31, further fueling the campaign for removal.

**Rizzo, the Black Panthers and Mumia**

A Workers World article, "Why Rizzo's statue must come down," by Scott Williams, said this about Rizzo on Aug. 24, 2017:

"Rizzo remains infamous for his record of dividing the working class with the poisons of racism and fascism. A precursor to Donald Trump's authoritarian, male-chauvinist persona, Rizzo embodied white supremacist thuggery. Rizzo

famously bragged in the 1960s of his growing police force of 9,000 cops as strong enough to 'invade Cuba and win.'

"Like Trump, Rizzo ruled in a time of capitalist decay. In 1951, Philadelphia had over 2 million residents and over 355,000 manufacturing jobs. By 1990, Philadelphia had lost over 400,000 residents and had only 85,000 manufacturing jobs.

"Technology eliminated millions of jobs across the U.S. and more were exported by globalization. Being 'tough on crime' became politically useful as a way to deal with the economy's unemployed victims, many of whom were Black. Rizzo, a Democrat, was the icon of that racist, anti-worker movement, whose goal was more exploitation of the working class, including mass incarceration of the Black community and more police oppression.

"One of Rizzo's most public roles as police commissioner and mayor of Philadelphia was to destroy progressive political movements. 'Rizzo the Raider' led a violent crusade as police commissioner, becoming notable as a violent captain by crushing a November 1967 high school student protest.

"In 1966, Rizzo led raids on the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which he claimed had 'hoards of dynamite, guns and ammunition.' This proved to be false. In 1967, he would raid the offices and arrest leaders of the Revolutionary Action Movement and later the Students for a Democratic Society based on false accusations of terrorism.

"Rizzo even said, 'The Black Panthers should be strung up.' He attempted to annihilate the radical left, especially the Black Panthers. In 1970, Rizzo led a raid on multiple Panther offices just a week before the major Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention met. Rizzo's cops carried out a full public strip search of Panther members, which would be published on the front page of the next day's Philadelphia Daily News.

"Mumia Abu-Jamal, a prominent journalist and now political prisoner, consistently criticized Rizzo's racist policies on public radio and in the press. To counter Mumia, Rizzo developed a police file on Mumia — over 800 pages long — of information gathered via wiretaps and other counterintelligence practices.

"Rizzo's police created a list of 18,000 activists to keep intelligence on, most of whom were Black radicals like Mumia. This racist harassment and anti-Mumia sentiment [remains] the cause of Mumia's incarceration to this day."

**Rizzo's war on MOVE**

"One cannot mention Rizzo without mentioning his war against the Black Liberation organization MOVE. Rizzo brutalized MOVE, most notably in the 1978 showdown which raided the MOVE compound, leading to the arrest of the MOVE 9. [All were finally released by February 2020.]

"Although not in office in 1985, Rizzo can still be seen as guilty of helping to create the conditions of the MOVE bombing in May of that year. Philadelphia police dropped a bomb on the MOVE home, killing 11 members, including five children.

"Because bourgeois legality doesn't consider racism a crime, Rizzo's connection to corruption, not his racism, led to his downfall from the favor of the ruling class. Rizzo's police were later found guilty of widespread extortion, racketeering, bribe-taking, illegal gambling and theft of over \$400,000 worth of cocaine from drug sellers."

**Deeper change needed**

Removing a statue is much easier than responding to calls for deep reforms in policing and the criminal justice system, especially when many people are calling for defunding—and even abolishing the police.

Though people are celebrating the hated symbol's removal, the city's act of



Rizzo statue, May 30. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Rizzo statue removal, June 3.

taking it down may be a case of too little, too late. A movement is growing every day to bring down the entire system of racist terror and white supremacy that the statue only represented. □

# Historic protests topple monuments of racism

By **Minnie Bruce Pratt**

People poured through U.S. streets the first week of June, as if answering Martin Luther King Jr.'s cry: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Those torrents of people are carrying out a mighty change through the U.S., and a prime example is pulling down the racist statues erected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as propaganda for

the "Lost Cause" of slavery. Outrage over the death of George Floyd has re-ignited determination to end the "honoring" of racism with physical symbols.

Around the U.S. — but most importantly in the South — monuments to white supremacy are falling under the weight of protests sparked by anger at George Floyd's murder.

In Richmond, Va., the first capital of the Confederacy, protesters on May 31 surrounded and defaced the statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee, a rallying point for racists. The statue has sat since 1890 on affluent Monument Row where other Confederate leaders are also memorialized.

On June 3, as protests against racism accelerated, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced the state-owned statue would be removed. Two days later the entire Richmond City Council approved it, including several former hard-line racist opponents.

Unwilling to wait for Northam, protesters in Richmond used ropes on June 6 to topple the statue of another Confederate general in the heart of the Virginia Commonwealth University campus.

In Birmingham, Ala., on May 31, protesters pulled down the Confederate soldier statue from atop the Soldiers and Sailors Monument erected in 1905. The next morning a city-ordered crane began to haul away the memorial's last remains.

In Montgomery, Ala., the last capital of the Confederacy, while other protesters gathered a few miles away on June 1,

four people tore down a Lee statue erected in front of Robert E. Lee High School. On June 5, the city of Mobile, Ala., a port city, suddenly removed the statue of Confederate Admiral Rafael E. Semmes after days of protests about the death of George Floyd.

The mayor of Indianapolis, Ind., announced plans to remove a Confederate soldiers monument erected as a grave marker in 1912 and relocated in 1928 because public officials active in the Ku Klux Klan wanted it to be more visible. In the 1920s Indiana's governor, more than half the state legislature and an estimated 30 percent of all "native-born" white men in Indiana were KKK members.

The campaign in the U.S. to bring down the physical emblems of slavery and racism intensified in 2017 after white supremacists and neo-Nazis violently rallied in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 11 and 12, killing one anti-racist protester and injuring scores. The racists' pretext for invading the city was to protect a Lee statue.

A unified left force pushed the far-right back in Charlottesville, and two days later, on Aug. 14, a left coalition in Durham, N.C., with active leadership by Workers World Party, pulled down a Confederate statue outside the old Durham County Courthouse.



Toppled Confederate statue, Birmingham, Ala., June 1.

**Honoring George Floyd**

George Floyd was born in Fayetteville, N.C., and one of his sisters still lives in nearby Raeford, N.C., where his body was brought for a memorial. Raeford is a country town with a population of less than 5,000 people — but thousands more came there on June 6 to honor Floyd. When the hearse arrived bearing his coffin, chants began in the crowd, "Black Power!" and "No justice, no peace!"

On May 30, in Fayetteville, N.C., protesters encircled the Market House, a historic building at the center of downtown. From 1790 to 1865, enslaved Black people were sold at that site about every two months. Local protesters, well aware of this history, burned a U.S. flag at the building and then set fire to the Market House itself.

*Pratt, a white, anti-racist activist born and raised in Alabama, organized for many years in Fayetteville, N.C.*



Protesters surround racist monument of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Va., June 6.





# Prisons and class war

By Mirinda Crissman

*This is an edited version of a talk given during the “What Road To Socialism?” webinar held by Workers World Party on May 16.*

Abolitionist Ruth Wilson Gilmore lays out in her book, “Golden Gulag,” the political climate in the state of California that gave rise to prison expansion. California had an incredibly huge and diverse economy preceding its prison boom, in which the number of people behind bars increased 450 percent between the 1980s and early 2000s.

Prior to the prison boom, California saw heavy policing around the end of the Vietnam war. There was high unemployment and high inflation. The series of crises resulting from this period produced all kinds of surpluses — of workers, land, finance capital. State capacity was also rapidly shifting from social welfare to domestic warfare.

While crime began to slow, societal production was being arranged around prison expansion. Republicans and Democrats alike were elected on the false premise that they could keep people safe by locking up criminals — a policy that just exacerbates existing inequalities, disappears people and destroys communities.

According to the Sentencing Project, 70 million people in the U.S. have criminal convictions. Simply because they’ve been convicted of a crime, the majority of these people are barred from holding most jobs. An estimated 10 million migrant workers, according to Pew Research, are not documented to work in the U.S. The sum total,

80 million people, nearly half of the U.S. labor force, mostly people of color, but also one-third white, are all criminalized in ways that are detrimental to all working people.

### New Orleans: historic strike

New Orleans sanitation workers, on a historic strike asking for hazard pay and protective gear, were replaced by incarcerated workers paid \$1.33 per hour — at most 13 percent of the sanitation workers’ hourly pay of \$10.25. They will likely not receive adequate protection. (Payday Report, May 9) This pits already exploited sectors of our class against one another.

Wilson Gilmore describes the structure of racism as vulnerability to premature death, which we see so starkly in this global pandemic. Those with access to centuries of stolen resources are able to avoid spaces where they would come into contact with the virus and are more likely to have access to health care.

In our organizing as the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, that opposes the use of capital punishment on the political grounds that its use is structurally both racist and anti-poor, this phrase often comes up: “Those who don’t have the capital, get the punishment!”

In Texas, the killing capital of the country, which leads in the number of legal lynchings, we feel the afterlife of enslavement embedded into the social order of control known as mass criminalization. From the plantations during slavery to convict leasing of labor to modern-day prisons, this oppression has existed.

While we acknowledge that people of color are disproportionately affected by

these institutions, Wilson Gilmore said, “[A]nti-criminalization and effects of perpetual punishment have to be central to any kind of political, economic change that benefits working people and their communities, or benefits poor people, whether or not they’re working, and their communities.” (“Prisons and Class Warfare,” interview, historicalmaterialism.org, Aug. 2, 2018)

What has happened in California is different from what has occurred in Illinois, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas or in the 38 countries where the U.S. has had its hand in shaping policing and prisons. These differences mean local assessments are needed.

Revolution and abolition are ongoing processes. We must not stop remaking ourselves and the world. Otherwise, we risk shifting or mutating the means of colonial and capitalist world-making further into the future. Abolition of these institutions is about presence and the connections and structures we build with one another along the way. Abolition is a theory of social change; it is a strategy, and it’s about making things.

Abolitionists use tactics like divestment campaigns, prison moratoriums and building a caring community by shifting the fruits of our labor to address the root causes of harm and suffering.

### United struggle blocks new prisons

One of the many ways California abolitionists were able to halt the state’s self-described “biggest [prison system] in the history of the world” was by aligning against powerful governors and prison guard unions and by organizing the

California State Employees Association, part of an enormous public sector union in the state.

Together abolitionists and workers slowed down a state that had opened a prison every year for 23 years almost to a halt — it only opened one prison between 1999 and 2011. They made it impossible for new jails and prisons to be constructed.

All the different sectors of our collective class are bound to one another. Our liberation lives on in our ability to use all levers and all tactics to work across and with the things that make us different. Our liberation is bound to unemployed people, undocumented workers, incarcerated workers and to each other.

A broad understanding of class and the myriad interlocking oppressions working against us is necessary in our fight to resist mass criminalization and the further categorizing of people into more easily conquerable sectors. An injury to one is an injury to all.

As Audre Lorde said, “Revolution is not a one-time event. It is becoming always vigilant for the smallest opportunity to make a genuine change in established, outgrown responses; for instance, it is learning to address each other’s differences with respect.” (“Learning from the ’60s,” speech, Malcolm X commemoration weekend, Harvard University, February 1982)

*Crissman (they/them) is a member of the WWP Houston branch and a co-editor of “Tear Down the Walls,” the prisoner page of WW newspaper. They write and organize around prison abolition, anti-imperialism and the environment.*

## BEHIND THE WALLS

# ‘This jail is a COVID-19 hot spot’

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

The National Black United Front in Houston toured the Harris County Jail on May 19, Malcolm X’s 95th birthday, to observe the conditions facing the prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic. Black prisoners make up half of those incarcerated, despite being only 18 percent of the Harris County adult population.

The public report issued by NBUF explains that, with over 8,000 prisoners and 2,000 staff at the third largest jail in the country, the Harris County Jail is a hotspot for the virus to spread.

Kofi Taharka, national chair of the NBUF, told Workers World, “Prisoners are stacked on top of each other. Every American should spend one night in jail. It is not fit for humans, particularly during an international pandemic. Social distancing? The sheer number of prisoners, guards, medical staff, custodians makes that impossible.”

Only 1,500 prisoners had been tested by the day of the tour, but one-half tested positive and three had died. Many prisoners told NBUF of being tested but never being informed of the results.

“The population is housed in very close quarters, in bunk beds in pods of 24 people. This jail is a COVID-19 hot spot. There is considerable fear and frustration among the prisoners,” Taharka said.

“There is no place in the Harris County Jail where I saw social distancing being practiced.”

### Major crime: 75 percent of incarcerated in jail are awaiting trial!

Prisoners said they were given only one mask per week. NBUF was told that because judges are not working due to the virus, bail isn’t being set very often, and most prisoners can’t afford bail anyhow. Seventy-five percent of those incarcerated are awaiting trial — never convicted of any crime.

Convicted prisoners were anxious to leave and be sent to the state prison system. One frustrated man told NBUF, “I’m ready to go to TDCJ [Texas Department of Criminal Justice] but can’t. They’re not accepting any new prisoners.”

A Department of Justice investigation in 2009 found that conditions in the jail and treatment of inmates were unconstitutional, and excessive use of force was often unchecked.

Between 2005 to 2015, 199 people died in custody at the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. Of those who died in the jail, 85 percent had not yet been convicted of a crime. University of Texas postdoctoral fellow Amanda Woog has documented nearly 7,000 in-custody deaths in Texas.

Over 2,000 additional people in Texas and almost 100,000 more across the country could die from COVID-19 without jail population reductions, according

to an April report by the American Civil Liberties Union. “The rate of incarceration in the U.S. has become the country’s Achilles heel,” said Udi Ofer of the ACLU’s Justice Division.

“We expected it to be bad, but this is even worse than we thought, and it really should be a wake-up call to everyone,” Ofer said. “The United States has a unique challenge that other nations are not facing, and that is the fact that we are the biggest incarcerator in the world.”

The National Black United Front has been a prominent force in Houston’s African-American activist community for decades. Their request to tour the jail was accepted, due to their activism and presence in events affecting their community. NBUF has led many struggles against police brutality and police killings. The sheriff himself, along with his staff, actually led the tour.

On Malcolm X’s birthday, NBUF holds annual Feed the Hood events around the country. This year in Houston they distributed 75 bags of nonperishable

groceries, toiletries and supplies and 75 specialized kits to unhoused people, which included masks and hand sanitizers.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 at the jail, Taharka concluded there must be an extreme reduction of prisoners in the jail and an increase in court proceedings to process people out of jail. Also lawyers must be allowed to visit their clients. □



Kofi Taharka outside the Harris County Jail, May 19.



# Will U.S. troops be used against protesters?

By John Catalinotto

June 5 — Four days ago, the White House called on the U.S. military to deploy in U.S. cities to “dominate” the streets. Over the next three days, two former chairs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spoke out against this deployment. So did Trump’s own former and current secretaries of defense, the latter knowing it would likely get him fired.

Reacting to Trump’s threat, at least three organizations of anti-war military veterans called on service members from the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard to refuse to deploy against demonstrators opposing racism.

While the president stopped broadcasting his threats, and some National Guard and federal troops have been called back, they may still be used against the civilian population. The tumult within the military apparatus over Trump’s threat raises two key questions: Where does this opposition come from? What does the generals’ reluctance mean for the anti-racist movement?

To answer the first: The generals and admirals fear that using military force against the African-American community and its allies could wreck whatever cohesion exists within the U.S. Armed Forces. The Pentagon has built a professional — that is, a nonconscript — military over the last 45 years since the debacle in Vietnam. The use of troops — who are 40 percent or more people of color — against the civilian population could destroy its morale and boomerang against the brass.

The generals’ reluctance indicates the possibility for the movement to reach out to the rank-and-file soldiers. Weakening the morale of the U.S. Armed Forces means weakening the worldwide grip of U.S.-based monopolies and banks. This would be a step forward for the people of the U.S. and the world.

### Dissent from above

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who was rumored to already be on his way out, openly contradicted Trump on June 4.

“The option to use active duty forces in a law enforcement role should only be used as a matter of last resort,” he said, “and only in the most urgent and dire of situations. We are not in one of those situations now. I do not support invoking the Insurrection Act” of 1807. (CNN)

Esper, normally a Trump toady, would speak out like that only if he already was under pressure from the military hierarchy to stop the use of U.S. troops in the cities. Retired top officers, who speak more freely on political questions than active officers, gave further proof of this. These included former JCS chairs Admiral Mike Muller and Gen. Martin Dempsey, as well as former Secretary of Defense James Mattis, all of whom ravaged Trump.

No one should mistake these military officers’ motives. They have spent their lives serving the interests of U.S. militarism and imperialism. They have ordered troops into illegal wars and occupations against Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria and threatened Iran and Venezuela. This time they believe that Trump’s orders to deploy federal troops against anti-racist protesters threaten their military.

### Resistance from below

The organization of antiwar veterans About Face: Veterans Against the War has circulated a petition aimed at National Guard members that reads: “We ask that you stand up for Black lives by standing down. We know the consequences you may face for disobeying orders. Many of us have faced them ourselves.” As of June 4, some 700 veterans had signed this call to refuse duty. (tinyurl.com/y9xkxxnc)

Veterans For Peace, another such organization, circulated a statement calling on “all military leaders and personnel to refuse deployment. We, as veterans, know the terrible aftermath of participating in actions that are morally wrong against communities in other countries. Now is the time to refuse to participate in orders that are unjust.” (veteransforpeace.org)

Courage to Resist reports in a June 4 article that it is already “currently assisting members of the National Guard who

resisted Trump’s orders to violently attack people on the streets of Washington, D.C., peacefully and lawfully protesting racial injustice.

“One Guardsman who is resisting Trump’s orders originally hoped to join medical missions assisting in natural disasters. Addressing the current situation he says, ‘I can’t do it. Even looking at my uniform is making me feel sick that I’m associated with this, especially after [a National Guard unit] shot that man who owned that barbecue shop’” in Louisville, Ky. (couragetoresist.org)

### How demonstrators act

No one can predict for certain how soldiers under discipline will react to the president’s orders. That there is dissent at the top and that there is already resistance from individual rank-and-file service members is a sign that resistance is possible, even within a “professional,” nonconscript army.

Consider the African revolutionary leader, Amilcar Cabral, when dealing with a similar challenge. Cabral was the head of the organization that directed the liberation war against Portuguese colonialism in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

In 1963, despite his enormous tasks in building a guerrilla movement and governing parts of his country, Cabral took time to write an appeal to the Portuguese conscript soldiers and officers who were occupying Guinea-Bissau.

His message, carefully explained, can be summarized as: (1) Those Portuguese troops who continue to fight Africans in the

#TROOPS FOR BLACK LIVES

“Military intervention to repress righteous protests against racist police killings will only lead to more killing of innocents.”

ABOUT FACE

WHY VETERANS SAY #STAND DOWN FOR BLACK LIVES

interest of the imperialist corporations can expect to never leave Africa alive. (2) Those who desert or resist will get the full support and protection of the liberation movement.

It took another 11 years of fighting, but the war-weary Portuguese military finally revolted against Portugal’s fascist government, overthrowing it and ending the wars against the African colonies of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

While it is hard to predict what will happen next in the U.S., the events of the past weeks show that nothing is impossible. A movement that encourages and defends soldiers who resist and appeals to the troops, even as it challenges them, can make a difference.

Catalinotto is author of “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions,” World View Forum, 2017. The book’s appendix contains an English translation of Cabral’s 1963 appeal to Portuguese troops.

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.

TURN the guns around  
Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

# In Buffalo, N.Y.: Viral video exposes police lies

By Victor Enrique

June 7 — As the uprisings against police brutality throughout the last week have shown, Buffalo, N.Y.’s elected officials can no longer hold together the conflicts embedded within it.

During the first weekend of rebellion beginning May 30, riot police teargassed and shot rubber bullets at crowds, as over 1,000 people gathered across Buffalo. By midweek, they switched tactics. On Wednesday, June 3, police knelt alongside protesters in Niagara Square. This gesture, under the guise of “solidarity,” barely veiled its real objective of trying to appease protesters into bending to their will. A short time later, the imposed 8 p.m. curfew came into effect.

Still, demonstrations continued to grow in both size and strength. On June 4, after a handful of protesters were kettled and arrested downtown, demonstrators avoided arrest in an organized defiance of the curfew by marching into a nearby multinational community. However once the curfew hit, riot police took the streets with brute force. Caught in a now-viral video, police shoved 75-year-old Martin Gugino backward, causing his head to slam against the sidewalk.



Elderly protester Martin Gugino left bleeding by police.

Until the video emerged, the police department publicly stated, and media repeated, that Gugino had “tripped and fallen.”

This viral video circled the world, as people everywhere were horrified and condemned the brutality of cops, who they saw marching right past the unconscious protester. One of the officers who previously knelt on Wednesday, John Losi, prevented another officer from rendering Gugino any aid as he lay bleeding on the sidewalk. The farce of his previous

solidarity gesture couldn’t be clearer.

The following day the demonstrations doubled in size. The city was forced, by the disgust and anger being expressed, to suspend and then bring charges against the two cops who assaulted Gugino. Gugino is not only a longtime activist, he went to Cuba with the 2018 Che Brigade (Canada’s volunteer work brigade in solidarity with Cuba).

In support of those two police officers, all 57 active members of the riot police, the Emergency Response Team, resigned

from that squad. And when the two cops appeared in court for their arraignment, many hundreds of Buffalo police completely filled the street outside in support of the two, showing exactly whom they intend to “protect and serve” going forward.

Buffalo is one of the most segregated cities in the U.S., with Main Street, which runs the length of the city, cutting it in half. About 85 percent of the city’s Black residents live on the East Side of this divide, often experiencing over policing and a blind eye from city officials.

These demonstrations have been multiracial and have bridged some of the gap between residents of Buffalo’s East and West sides — now standing in solidarity to demand defunding the police and an end to police violence. In the days following Gugino’s assault, huge, energetic spirited demonstrations continued to defy the curfew. There was a greatly lessened police presence.

Over 650,000 people signed a petition calling for firing the two officers. On Sunday afternoon, the Mayor withdrew the 8 p.m. curfew. The people of Buffalo showed that we never needed the police to keep us safe and that they are in fact the danger we face! □



# Growing revolt by Black journalists

By Betsey Piette

In an historic week that has witnessed demonstrations, too numerous to count, against police brutality in the aftermath of the brutal murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police on May 25, another anti-racist movement is growing.

As reports surface of police intentionally targeting journalists across the U.S, especially Black and Brown reporters, journalists of color are speaking up and taking action against decades of major publications refusing to address racism — especially in two notable newsrooms — the Philadelphia Inquirer and the New York Times.

On June 4, 44 journalists of color at the 200-year-old Philadelphia Inquirer staged a sick-out strike one day after forcing a public apology from the Inquirer editorial staff for a blatantly racist headline — “Buildings Matter, Too” — posted on June 1.

This article addressed plans to repair property damages to buildings and infrastructure following May 31 anti-racist protests in communities of color that exploded in an expression of outrage over unaddressed systemic racism.

The journalists issued a collective statement detailing what they see as decades of management ignoring their concerns and the glaring lack of people of color on

the editorial staff since the retirement of Black editor Acel Moore in 2005.

In a June 3 letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer management these reporters stated: “As journalists of color, we do more than report on the community — we are the community. We do our best to give the community a platform to be heard. We strive to represent the voice of the people.

**‘We’re tired of ...’**

“It’s no coincidence that communities hurt by systemic racism only see journalists in their neighborhoods when people are shot or buildings burn down. It takes commitment to correct and improve that relationship. It is an insult to our work, our communities, and our neighbors to see that trust destroyed — and makes us that much more likely to face threats and aggression. The carelessness of our leadership makes it harder to do our jobs, and at worst puts our lives at risk.

“We’re tired of shouldering the burden of dragging this 200-year-old institution kicking and screaming into a more equitable age. We’re tired of being told of the progress the company has made and being served platitudes about ‘diversity and inclusion’ when we raise our concerns. We’re tired of seeing our words and photos twisted to fit a narrative that does not reflect our reality. We’re tired of being

told to show both sides of issues there are no two sides of.”

**‘We demand a plan, with deadlines’**

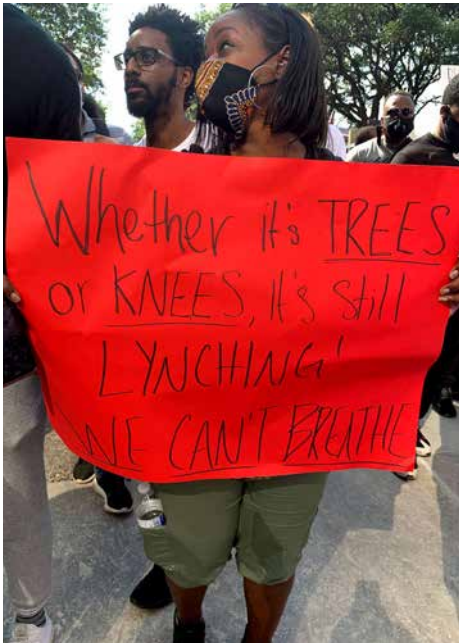
“It is an act that pains us, knowing that now more than ever it is our duty and responsibility to uplift the marginalized voices of our community. But in this moment, it is more important for us to stand alongside those who have risen up against systemic racism and inequities and call on the Inquirer to do better. To be better.

“We demand action. We demand a plan, with deadlines. We demand full, transparent commitment to changing how we do business. No more ‘handling internally.’ No more quiet corrections. If we are to walk into a better world, we need to do it with our chests forward — acknowledge and accept where we make mistakes and show how we learn from them. Your embarrassment is not worth more than our humanity. This is what it means to ‘give a damn.’”

On June 7, the Inquirer announced that Executive Editor Stan Wischnowski, who joined the paper in 2000, and signed the public apology issued by the newspaper, had tendered his resignation.

**New York Times writers revolt**

On June 3, the New York Times faced its own “open revolt” when over 800 staff



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC  
Protester near Houston City Hall on June 2, part of a 60,000 person march.

members publicly expressed outrage over its editorial decision to publish an op-ed by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) calling for military intervention in “violent riots” entitled, “Send In the Troops.” Several N.Y. Times reporters called in sick in response.

The Times editorial page editor, James Bennet, tried to defend the publication of Cotton’s op-ed as a “both sides” argument. On Twitter, it was noted that “running this put N.Y. Times Black staff in danger.” On June 7, Bennet resigned. □

# Journalists reporting on Black uprisings under attack

By calvin deutschbein

At 5 a.m. in Minneapolis on May 29, Omar Jimenez, a Black CNN reporter wearing press credentials and reporting live on camera on the rebellion against the police murder of George Floyd, was arrested along with the news crew. About a block away, a second CNN crew of white journalists were left unchallenged, even as police rained terror upon the Black demonstrators in both areas. (cnn.com, May 29)

Across the U.S., law enforcement officers have beaten, arrested, gassed, fired upon and bullied journalists into collaboration, while police have rioted to assert their power to carry out extrajudicial executions. They have been most violent toward the few Black journalists they encounter.

### Targeting media to avoid accountability

As the uprising took place in Minneapolis following four police officers torturing George Floyd to death on camera, thousands also took to the streets in

Louisville, Ky., to protest the police killing of Breonna Taylor when they fired live rounds into her home during a no-knock raid on March 13. Louisville became one of the first communities to join the uprising.

Just hours after the arrest of Omar Jimenez, police approached a news crew with CBS affiliate WAVE 3 News in Louisville and fired what WAVE 3 reported as “pepper bullets” directly at the crew. (wave3.com, May 29)

Back in Minneapolis, police began pepper spraying journalists, first backing them up against walls and targeting the press corps rather than individual reporters. Journalists formed human shields and used protective gear to protect themselves from spray and tear gas fired by riot police, despite having shown their press credentials. (latimes.com, May 30)

Police across the U.S. have been clear that their attacks are motivated by the possibility of facing any accountability — collectively or individually — for decades of terror inflicted especially on Black communities. That was clear in Raleigh, N.C., on May 30 when independent journalists reported being heavily gassed as they were struggling to track the types of munitions being used against protesters.

Their concern is that the broad use of tear gas, military style humvees and other first-time use of weapons against civilians may be a trial run for the Republican National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., in August. Independent journalist Charlie McGee reported that “the tear gas is skewing my journalistic rigor.” (tinyurl.com/y8xt455)

That evening, Copwatch, which tracks police misconduct and violence nationally, reported that Raleigh police ran out of tear gas and had to use expired gas that often contains cyanide, further increasing its toxicity. (indyweek.com)

On June 1, a crowd of right-wing vigilantes beat up WHYY journalist Jon Ehrens in the Fishtown area of Philadelphia. In Pittsburgh, a KDKA cameraman was



Philladelphia Workers World joins June 6 march.  
WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

brutally beaten on June 6 while filming a protest.

**Journalists who align with police**

Under the constant threat of police violence, many news outlets opt to openly align with the police. WRAL, a white-aligned Raleigh-based news station, is well known for a tendency to run police statements as news and film activists’ faces, which are later used in court by prosecutors.

At an event at the University of North Carolina co-sponsored by the Black Congress and Black Student Movement, organizers explicitly requested white journalists not film Black demonstrators without consent. Independent media reported that WRAL refused to comply with this request, even as other outlets chose to honor it. (tinyurl.com/9384067)

These and similar incidents highlight the importance of Black journalists and why police may be so eager to target them.

**History of attacks on Black journalists**

The Root reporter Michael Harriot was with the press corps after a protest on June 4 in Atlanta. He was the

sole Black journalist in the group. Fresh from political repression of protesters, police approached the group of journalists, but only arrested Harriot, who was subjected to violence and abuse while in custody. Officers ordered him to remain motionless and tightened cuffs on him to the point they could not remove them without digging wire cutters into his skin. (theroot.com, June 5)

Targeting of Black journalists by police is not a new phenomena as the case of former Black Panther, award-winning journalist and now political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal reveals. In the early 1980s, Abu-Jamal was the president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, and his news broadcasts and commentaries were heard on numerous radio stations.

As a former police commissioner and later mayor, Frank Rizzo, in one of many abuses of power, compiled an over 800-page file on Abu-Jamal in an effort to target him. When the MOVE 9 were arrested and charged with murder of a police officer in 1978, Abu-Jamal was publicly threatened by Rizzo for his reporting on the case.



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD  
Protest in Manchester, Conn., June 7.



# From Palestine to Minneapolis

## Our power is in the streets

By Susan Abulhawa

*The following remarks were prepared for a rally at LOVE Park in Philadelphia on June 4.*

My name is Susan Abulhawa, from Workers World Party, and I bring revolutionary greetings and solidarity from Palestine, where Palestinians have been marching in the streets of Jerusalem, Ramallah, Haifa, Gaza and beyond in support of Black lives over the past few days. I am here not as an ally, but as your comrade in arms, as your comrade in struggle.

We also need to acknowledge that the owners of the store that called the cops on George Floyd are Palestinian. That is not something our community will ignore. It's something to be ashamed of.

It needs to be said, repeated and understood, that minorities in this country — including Brown immigrants like myself and that store owner and other minorities — are afforded rights and protections by law, not because white men in power so generously gave them to us; and not because we ourselves fought for them, but because Black people took to the streets to demand equal rights for all.

Because Black people fought and died for those rights. Because Black people made this country the democracy it was purported to be at first, but it wasn't until the Civil Rights Movement and until Black people made the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 a reality — to end quotas on nonwhite people coming into the country.

I have been robbed of everything my ancestors built in Palestine for 2,000 years, and I have been forced to live my life in exile, banned from my homeland, away from my culture, my language and my history because foreign colonizers with big guns and a lot of money decided I was not the right kind of human being to inherit my heritage.

But I will not say that I know what it's like to be excluded wholesale the way Black people in this country are because that would be a lie. I am still afforded some privileges that Black people are denied, even though

I have those privileges because of the struggle of Black people.

### Linked by oppression and solidarity

Every day in Palestine there is a Palestinian somewhere with an Israeli soldier's knee on his neck. Every moment in Palestine there is a Palestinian being stopped, checked, frisked, humiliated, arrested, beaten or shot. We can say that we know what it's like, and to some extent that is true. But we've not been terrorized for 400 years. Our ancestors weren't kidnapped from their villages and flung across the world into unspeakable bondage that has only just changed form, but not truly ended.

That is why I'm here. I'm here because I am forever bound to Black America by love, pain, gratitude and a shared revolutionary history that goes back to times before I was born. You inspire us and you inspire the world. Your struggle is bringing people pouring into their streets all over the world.

The masses are hungry for revolution. Everywhere in every corner. We are tired of the colonizers, the 1% who get their wealth by looting the hell out of all of us. The billionaires who got their money by bombing and destroying every country they couldn't control with puppet regimes.

This is our time to stand together for a real revolution. This is no longer about charging the cops or even convicting them. This is about the fact that working-class families don't have decent schools for their children. That getting a college education means you will spend the rest of your natural life paying interest to banks.

It's about being away from your babies to work three jobs and still not being able to pay your bills. It's about your zip code or the color of your skin dictating your destiny no matter what potential or gifts you are born with.

It's about the fact that there is now a trillionaire in the world, whose extraordinary wealth was gained off the backs of underpaid, exploited or outright enslaved labor, not to mention the destruction of nonhuman life and planet alike.

It's about the masses not being able to live simple, dignified lives while the ruling class has the ability to



Palestinian artist, Waleed Ayyoub, honors George Floyd.

give \$1 trillion per day to prop up Wall Street during the pandemic.

This is a moment that will not come again exactly the same, and we intend to seize it to create a better world. The U.S. government and Israel have been exporting death, surveillance and looting all over the world. In fact, the tactic of suffocating with a choke hold or a knee to the neck comes precisely from Israeli military training of U.S. police forces, including in Minneapolis.

Together we will export revolution. We will export our love and solidarity for the downtrodden everywhere — our solidarity to everyone willing to take to the streets to demand a more just world, a better world, a more equitable world.

If nothing else, this moment proves that the only real power we have as ordinary people is in the streets. It took just two weeks of us being out here for them to finally remove that damn Rizzo statue. We don't have power in their courts; they're rigged. We don't have power through their ballots; those are rigged, too. They're giving us a choice of which racist, capitalist motherfucker to vote for as president. We have a third choice, and it's right here. In the streets. □

## These looters pocketed \$11.7 billion

By Deirdre Griswold

Who are the real looters? They wear elegant business suits, not hoodies or jeans. They dine at fancy restaurants, not hotdog stands. They hang out in boardrooms, not on street corners.

They don't rob banks. They ARE the banks. They are the U.S. financiers who punish the poor by charging overdraft fees when a check bounces. They raked in \$11.7 BILLION that way last year.

The people who were penalized the most were those with bank balances averaging less than \$350. (New York Times, June 4) Sometimes, the banks racked up charges against these depositors even after their accounts had been closed.

But you don't see cops rushing into the banks, guns drawn, to arrest the directors who are systematically robbing poor people. Of course, the really big money-men, the ones who own the banks, wouldn't be there anyway. They're much too busy enjoying their wealth to do anything like work.

With so many tens of millions now jobless because of

COVID-19, the money that banks get that way — by robbing the poor at their lowest moments — is expected to balloon this year as more checks bounce for lack of funds. Many, many people are living virtually on the edge; just paying a small bill can push them over. And, then, on top of being penniless, they're faced with a bank fine.

And what about the many people who are too poor to have any money at all in a bank? Who can barely make it from paycheck to paycheck? Or have no paycheck at all because they can't get any kind of job and must rely on food banks to stay alive?

It is cold consolation that, because they haven't got anything that can be taken away, they can't be robbed in this way by the banks.

Capitalism is working very well at what it is intended to do: make more money for those who already have money, the real looters of society. Those who do the real work of producing everything that is needed to stay alive get back barely enough to live themselves.

Capitalism can't be reformed; that is its nature. Like a deadly virus, it must be destroyed and replaced by a new social order — one that is run by and for the multinational, multigender working class. People are rising up right now against the uniformed thugs who carry out the orders of the silk-suit looters.

Most forceful in this magnificent coast-to-coast



Union contingent in Philadelphia June 6 march.

rebellion are those in our class who have been most beaten down by this oppressive, racist system.

Polls show that the majority of the population sympathize with the demonstrators. Looters in silk suits, look out! The day of reckoning for your squeezing every possible dollar out of the poor is coming. □



Protest in Queens, N.Y., on May 30.



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

2,500 people chant "Black Lives Matter" in Syracuse, N.Y., on the traditional land of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee Confederation on June 6.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

## Journalists under attack

Continued from page 6

In 1981, Abu-Jamal was framed for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer and received the death penalty, later overturned in 2001 for constitutional violations. Abu-Jamal's case, currently in appeals, is once again in the spotlight as Philadelphia activists forced the removal of Rizzo's statue early in the morning of June 3.

While imprisoned, Mumia Abu-Jamal continues to work as a journalist. In 1994 his commentaries were slated to run during a NPR series on prisons on "All Things Considered." After NPR bowed to pressure from the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, Abu-Jamal and Prison Radio filed a lawsuit against the station. You can find Abu-Jamal's work today in Workers World, most recently on prison guards. (tinyurl.com/yaxcq5jo)

Workers World will always be in full solidarity with those under attack for fighting for Black Liberation. Free the Press! Free the People! Free Mumia! □



# Antiracist protests for George Floyd circle the globe

By John Catalinotto

The massive popular and antiracist reaction to the cop murder of George Floyd in the epicenter of world imperialism has inspired an equally massive reaction worldwide. Hundreds of thousands have marched, not only in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests in the United States, but also against local manifestations of insidious racism.

The U.S. spreads its pro-imperialist culture through the world on the wavelength provided by Netflix, Disney, the internet media and even the music airways. This cultural dominance has now boomeranged on the U.S. rulers and struck a blow against Washington’s imperialist allies.

Even the corporate media have covered the breadth and depth of the worldwide protests. Al Jazeera provided one of the most inclusive lists, along with an interactive world map as of June 7 at [tinyurl.com/yasd8gg5](http://tinyurl.com/yasd8gg5).

In one of the most satisfying actions of the weekend, demonstrators in Bristol, England, removed the statue of Bristol-born slave trader Edward Colston and dumped it into the river.



Demonstrators take down a statue of 17th century “slave trader” Edward Colston and throw it into the river in Bristol, England.

Colston grew rich in the 17th century transporting over 100,000 enslaved people to the New World — dumping overboard the bodies of 20,000 who died during the passage. He then bought his way into the hearts of the English ruling class, who called him a “philanthropist.” Bristol’s current population, now 14 per cent people of color, disagree.

### Solidarity from Global South

In this time of capitalist economic crisis and pandemic, the population in the countries facing super-oppression from world imperialism nevertheless came out in solidarity with African-American people and with George Floyd.

According to Al Jazeera, in Africa there have been demonstrations in Pretoria and Capetown in South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria; Monrovia, Liberia; Accra, Ghana; Tunis, Tunisia; and Dakar, Senegal.



Dakar, Senegal.



Nairobi, Kenya.



Pretoria, South Africa.

In South America, mass protests took place in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. To the north there were protests from Mexico City to Vancouver, B.C.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Mexico City, Mexico.

In Asia, there were protests in South Korea; Tokyo, Japan; and Quezon City in the Philippines.

Workers World received a solidarity message for the U.S. working class from the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist), which “marched in the streets and organized demonstrations in the metropolises and numerous small towns throughout India,” including in the



Seoul, South Korea.



Tokyo, Japan.



Kolkata, India.

major city of Kolkata, West Bengal.

The Palestinian people’s strong identification with the Black struggle in the U.S. led to demonstrations in East Jerusalem and other actions. (See article this issue.)



Protest in Hebron, Occupied West Bank, one of many in Occupied Palestinian lands, in honor of George Floyd and Eyad Hallek, a young Palestinian man with special needs who was killed by Israeli soldiers on May 30 in Jerusalem. In Bethlehem, demonstrators carried signs reading: “Black Lives Matter, Palestinian Lives Matter!”

An especially good development occurred in countries where European populations settled historically, and the rulers and owners pushed aside Indigenous populations. In Australia, the protests morphed from actions in solidarity with George Floyd to demands for the rights of the original population of the island continent.



Melbourne, Australia.

### Massive demonstrations in NATO countries

Antiracist solidarity demonstrations were massive in Europe, especially those countries in Western Europe whose governments and armies are usually lined up with U.S. imperialism in NATO. This time even the governments—many of which are in a difficult relationship with the Trump administration—had to at least speak out publicly against U.S. racist police.

From Istanbul in Turkey to Belfast and Dublin, from Helsinki and Stockholm to



Istanbul, Turkey.



Dublin, Ireland.



Helsinki, Finland.

Lisbon, dozens of big cities, and many more small ones, including dozens all over Germany, were the sites of antiracist demonstrations. Besides targeting structural racism in the United States, demonstrators raised slogans against the European ultra-right.



Paris, France.

In France protests took up demands regarding victims of French police brutality. In Germany activists protested the assaults by neo-Nazis on migrants and refugees. The real enemy of the workers in Europe are the big banks, especially those of imperialist Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States — the old colonial powers.

### Impact of U.S. protests

Communists abroad have expressed to Workers World the impact of the U.S. protests. A letter to Workers World from the Union of Galician People (Spanish state) read: “The murder of George Floyd has brought home to the world the existence of a decent people and working class [in the U.S.], who confront injustice in the streets and have even been able to force Donald Trump to seek refuge in the White House bunker.”

Fronte Popolare in Italy writes, “Everybody knows that any success, any step forward for the oppressed in the U.S., is a success and step forward for the oppressed of the entire world.” □



Lancaster, England.



Vancouver, Canada.



Indigenous people perform the Haka, a traditional Maori dance, in honor of George Floyd and Black Lives Matter in Christchurch, New Zealand.



PHOTO: OMAR HAJ KADOUR

In war-ravaged Idlib, Syria, Aziz Asmar and Anis Hamdoun said they painted the mural to memorialize George Floyd “to call for peace and love” worldwide.



# Step one, movement demands ‘DEFUND POLICE!’

Continued from page 1

in the U.S. in 2019, 25 percent of them Black. (Huffpost.com, June 4)

The demand to “defund the police” has evolved into a major focus of this rebellion in light of all the budget cuts taking place for years in areas of social funding, especially health care, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic’s disproportionate impact on communities of color.

The rebellion has helped to bring “defund the police” to the forefront and is heard the loudest from ground zero of the uprising — Minneapolis.

On June 7, at a rally in Minneapolis, the majority of that City Council—9 of 12 members—jointly announced plans to defund and eventually disband the police department, receiving broad support. This development will fuel the fires of national protests, which everyone will be gauging.

In their joint statement, the council members commented, “Decades of police reform efforts have proved that the Minneapolis Police Department cannot be reformed and will never be accountable for its actions. We are here today to begin the process of ending the

Minneapolis Police Department and creating a new, transformative model for cultivating safety in Minneapolis.” (nymag.com, June 8) The local group, Black Visions, first proposed the plan to the community and the City Council.

Minneapolis is one of the most segregated cities in the U.S. This unprecedented rebellion has torn off the liberal facade this city has been hiding behind for years. The city is 60 percent white, 20 percent African American and 10 percent Latinx. The police department is 9 percent Black. The overall percentage of arrests over the past 10 years has been 60 percent Black.

The overwhelmingly white police department has been an occupying force in the Black community, not to protect and serve. Seventeen complaints, including murder, were made against Derek Chauvin, prior to him using his knee to murder Floyd. Only one complaint was heard.

The City Council wants to use the police budget for other forms of public safety and social programs for the communities, especially mental health programs. Whether this plan is actually implemented or not, especially with

Mayor Jacob Frey expressing opposition, remains to be seen. To bring it to fruition, it will take more sustained mass pressure to oppose any pushback.

### LA and NYC announce reductions in police funding

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that \$150 million of that city’s police budget will be used for social programs as part of its defunding process. This is just a drop in the bucket, considering that the total annual police budget for LA in 2018 was over \$1.5 billion, 25 percent of its total budget.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced plans to reduce the gargantuan \$6 billion 2019 police budget by \$1 billion, which is around 8 percent of the total city budget. New York City is the most populated U.S. city with 11 million people—the vast majority of them people of color. It has the largest U.S. metropolitan police force, which has brutalized and detained thousands of protesters—some for days—over the past two weeks on behalf of Wall Street and big real estate interests. Most of the protesters have finally been released, but repressive policy remains intact.



New York City protest.

Where the national debate goes, whether to defund, disband, dismantle or even to ultimately abolish the police, will depend a lot on the lasting power of the uprising and which organized voices have the most political influence. That such a debate is happening now is an important, positive development.

It indicates that the angry and fed-up masses, led by the Black Lives Matter movement, not only want to be heard. They understand that actions speak louder than words, and they want these actions, in the form of concessions, to take place sooner rather than later to help end racist violence and suffering. □

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

## No Pride without justice!



Continued from page 1

brutality and racism following the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Black Lives Matter protesters united at the original site of the rebellion to emphasize that the heavy hand of police violence falls disproportionately on queer people of color, particularly on trans women.

A third of Black trans women who have interaction with police report that cops always assume they are sex workers. (hrc.org, 2019) Nearly 90 percent of trans women assumed by cops to be sex workers suffer police harassment and abuse, including verbal, physical and sexual assaults. (transequality.org, December 2017)

At the June 2 action, people called out the names of Nina Pop, a trans woman of color murdered May 3 in Sikeston, Mo.; and Tony McDade, a Black trans man shot and killed by police in Tallahassee, Fla., two days after cops killed Floyd. As the crowd began to disperse shortly after the 8 p.m. curfew, cops attacked and inflicted multiple injuries, including on ACT UP-NY member Jason Rosenberg whose arm was broken.

On May 31, the Detroit Queer Activist Coalition held a similar protest focusing on police brutality against LGBTQ2+ people of color, especially Black and Indigenous people. Using the city’s monument to the great Black boxer, Joe Louis, as a platform, DQAC founder Dorian Minley announced demands: an end to policing as it exists in the U.S. and “an end to second-class citizenship, white nationalism, class stratification, wage slavery and violent ostracism from the greater society.” (tinyurl.com/y8bd6plc)

**Queer liberation marches for Black lives**

The commitment by the larger LGBTQ2+ community that Black Lives Matter was dramatically affirmed on June 3 when the Los Angeles Pride organization, Christopher Street West, announced that, instead of canceling its annual June march because of the coronavirus pandemic, LA Pride would be a Black Lives Matter

solidarity march. A CSW statement read in part, “It is our moral imperative to honor the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who bravely led the Stonewall uprising, by standing in solidarity with the Black community against systemic racism.” (tinyurl.com/yawua2tf)

On June 4, the Reclaim Pride Coalition of New York City also announced a Queer Liberation March for Black Lives and Against Police Brutality for the traditional last Sunday in June. The RPC press release emphasized: “Black Americans and their children have suffered disproportionate abuse at the hands of the white supremacist power structure. The most marginalized among Black communities — like Trans people, Immigrants, Disabled people, Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and Neurologically Diverse people — live under an even greater risk.”

### ‘Solidarity matters now more than ever’

Strong expressions of support for the Black Lives Matter uprising have come from LGBTQ2+ communities, from labor organizations to gay bars. In D.C. on May 31, the offices of Pride at Work, an AFL-CIO-affiliated group, suffered damage when the building that housed PAW was partially burned during the maelstrom of the protests.

PAW Executive Director Jerame Davis said the next day: “Black lives matter more than any building or its contents. LGBTQ people are found in every community, including Black and Brown communities, and when our communities are under attack, like the rest of the labor movement, we stand up and fight back. We know there can be no peace without justice and that our rights weren’t won easily or peacefully. Solidarity matters now more than ever.” (lgbtqnation.com, June 1)

LGBTQ2+ bars have shown solidarity during the BLM marches — and braved retaliation from the cops. On June 1, in downtown Raleigh, N.C., workers at the Ruby Deluxe Bar set up a first aid station in the parking lot and began passing out water bottles and granola bars

to protesters. Suddenly cops from the Wake County Sheriff’s Office showed up and ordered everyone to leave — including the bar owner — and fired shotgun flash-bangs at the owner and workers. (truthout.org, June 3)

On June 1 in Des Moines, Iowa, workers at the Blazing Saddle bar saw that cops were teargassing local BLM marchers. The workers put together first aid backpacks and went outside to tend to protesters in “agonizing pain.” The bar’s security camera footage shows what happened next: A van pulls up and armed cops in riot gear pour out. They hold employees at gun point at the door while searching the bar. Cops eventually arrested three people, including one who needed medical care. (tinyurl.com/y9s57chz)

**Cops Out of Pride!**

The continuing crisis of police, white supremacist violence against Black people

and other people of color, and the impact of that violence on LGBTQ2+ communities is intensifying the cry for “Cops Out of Pride!” Arrests by cops and imprisonment are generally wreaking havoc in queer communities. A 2019 American Bar Association report stated that LGBTQ2+ people in the U.S. are incarcerated at a rate three times higher than the general population. (tinyurl.com/yadqsjkc)

In Indianapolis on June 4, the board of directors of Indy Pride announced it would no longer have a police presence at any of its events, including the Indy Pride Festival. The directors’ statement read, “The first Pride marches were protests against police brutality led by Brown and Black people. This is the time for our community to listen to communities affected by violence, to protest with them, and to support them in all ways possible.” (tinyurl.com/ydhtt8lb) □

Support the Marxist voice for LGBTQ2+ rights

Ever since the Stonewall Rebellion erupted June 28, 1969, Workers World has covered the global struggle to end homophobia and all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming communities.

WW has consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, WW ran a series of articles that led to publication of “The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal” in 1976. And then in 1993, we published “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.”

Then in the 1990s, WW Managing Editor and globally recognized transgender leader Leslie Feinberg wrote a series of 25 articles later published in pamphlet form as “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.” They were followed by the series “Lavender & Red” about socialism and the LGBTQ2+ struggle. In 2012 Feinberg wrote in defense of African American transgender woman CeCe McDonald,

who was charged with manslaughter after defending herself from a racist, bigoted attack.

WW helps to build mass struggles, like what’s going on now in the streets from coast to coast. This righteous outpouring of rage and protest over the racist cop murder of George Floyd comes as the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacts Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples.

Please help us get out the word. For a donation of at least \$75 a year — or \$100, or \$300 or much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up online to donate each month.

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



# FTP! Cops out of labor movement, youth in!

The American Federation of Labor was founded in 1886 and the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1935. The two union federations merged in 1955. For most of this time police organizations — wrongly referred to as unions — were not affiliated with the U.S. labor movement.

The International Union of Police Associations, comprised of local police groups, like the Fraternal Order of Police, the Police Benevolent Association and others, was not chartered by the AFL-CIO until 1979.

If the federation is to uphold its Mission Statement—its stated purpose is “to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our nation”—the AFL-CIO must immediately expel the IUPA.

Consistently, police associations side with their members against the communities they occupy and routinely subject to brutal, all-too-often deadly force. They defend the violent suppression of recent Black Lives Matter protests, which has led to several deaths and numerous injuries.

Their contracts have a long list of protective disciplinary guidelines — which most employers would never agree to—making it nearly impossible to hold cops accountable for misconduct, including murder.

A prime example is Bob Kroll, the president of Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis. Calling on Kroll to resign, Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bill

McCarthy explained, “Kroll has a long history of bigoted remarks and complaints of violence made against him. As union President, he antagonizes and disparages members of the Black community. He advocates for military-style police tactics making communities less safe and the police force more deadly.”

“Despite his conduct, Kroll was reelected with an overwhelming majority.”

Kroll, who now defends the killers of George Floyd, is hardly exceptional. As a resolution passed by Seattle’s MLK Labor states, “Systemic racism exists in the City of Seattle Police Department.” The Seattle Police Officers Guild faces expulsion from the local labor federation if it does not affirm “that racism is a structural problem in our society and in law enforcement that until addressed creates undue harm on Black and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Color] communities.”

There are calls for stronger action, including a petition signed by thousands of union members calling for the AFL-CIO to expel the IUPA and for AFL-CIO-affiliated public sector unions with police units “to terminate their relationships with unionized police and correctional officers.” (tinyurl.com/ybcgbonv)

**Cops aren’t part of working class**

Some misguided union members might think that cop associations are merely

fulfilling their legal obligation — the “duty of fair representation.”

But real unions, historically, have not defended racist conduct. For example, during World War II, backward white autoworkers staged “hate strikes” to keep Black workers from getting jobs on the assembly line. The United Auto Workers told the auto companies to fire the racist workers.

More importantly, there is a fundamental distinction between labor unions, which represent the organized working class, and “fraternal orders” or “benevolent associations” that represent the uniformed goons of the capitalist state. The police represent an alien class interest. In communities of color they are essentially a colonial occupying force that consistently upholds white supremacy — which their membership organizations reinforce.

In the U.S., police forces began as armed bodies to support chattel slavery, or “slave catchers.” From the first strikes in the 1800s until today, the police have sided with the bosses and upheld capitalist wage-slavery. In addition, policing is a drain on city budgets already strained by falling tax revenues during an economic crisis and exorbitant interest payments demanded by big banks.

Why, we must ask AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka, are police allowed to be a

part of the labor movement? Yet he takes the pathetic position that “The short answer is not to disengage and just condemn.” (publicintegrity.org, June 5)

Supervisors who police workers on the job are not allowed, even by law, to join unions. A lone individual who crosses a picket line can be barred from union membership. It’s past time to expel the cops — police, prison and detention guards, border patrol and all armed agents of the capitalist class — and get their toxic presence out of the labor movement once and for all.

Growing class consciousness explains the mass popularity of the slogans “f — the police” and “all cops are b — ds. The acronyms FTP and ACAB (1312) have been spray painted from coast to coast. This is a working-class revolt.

These youth, many of them low-wage workers, are putting their lives on the line for Black Lives Matter. Theirs is exactly the awareness, energy and militancy that the labor movement desperately needs. These youth want to be organized into unions, not be targeted by police or be incarcerated. Not only should the cops be thrown out, the young, multinational working class that has taken on the state needs to be brought in to replace them.

FTP! Organize the youth!! ☐

## Rebellion empowers Black NFL players

By Monica Moorehead

June 8 — The global uprising against police brutality, beginning its third week in the aftermath of the public lynching of George Floyd, continues to make a profound impact on every sector of U.S. society. This is certainly true for the sports world — especially the National Football League, which supervises the most popular professional sport in the country.

On June 4, a dozen Black NFL players, whose average age is 25, released a powerful two-minute video asking the NFL to apologize for attacking players who protested police brutality almost three years ago, inspired by Colin Kaepernick or “Kap.”

In the video, the players demanded an end to police brutality and systemic oppression of Black people. The players called out the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and other Black people who have lost their lives to police violence in recent years. One of the players is quarterback Patrick

Mahomes, most valuable player in this year’s Super Bowl. New Orleans Saints receiver Michael Thomas — AP Offensive Player of the Year in 2019 — organized players from various teams to participate.

The next day, June 5, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell released an “apology” video from his home. Part of his statement reads: “We, the NFL, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest. We, the NFL, believe Black Lives Matter.”

He went on to say, “Without Black players, there would be no National Football League, and the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of Black players, coaches, fans and staff.”

One clear fact is true: Without Black players, there would be no NFL, since 75 percent of the players are African American. But out of 32 teams, only three have African-American head coaches and one a Latinx coach. There is not one Black owner; the majority of owners are either white billionaires or multimillionaires.

Goodell’s main role as commissioner is to represent the interests of these owners, 10 of whom are outright supporters of Trump.

These facts alone counter the insensitive remarks of Denver Broncos head coach Vic Fangio, who said on June 2 that there is no racism or discrimination within the NFL. He was forced to apologize on June 3.

### What about ‘Kap’? And the cops?

Two significant criticisms of Goodell’s statement are that he did not mention police brutality, especially the lynching of Floyd which ignited the current rebellion, and he did not mention Colin Kaepernick or apologize for his treatment by the NFL owners.

Kaepernick, the Black former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, sparked a national debate in 2016 when he first sat and then kneeled, during the playing of the national anthem before every game, to protest police brutality and racist oppression against Black people.

Sports figures in the U.S. and all around the world, both amateur and pro, started taking a knee in solidarity with Kaepernick’s symbolic protest. But he was released by the 49ers in 2017, despite having led the team to the Super Bowl and a conference championship in previous years. He still has not been picked up by any other team, not even as a second-string quarterback. Kaepernick sued the NFL owners for virtually “blackballing” him out of the league, when he had clearly made it known that he wanted to continue to play. The NFL settled out of court.

In September 2017, Trump publicly called the protesting players “SOBs,” setting off a blast of racist agreements, including by the director of the Michigan State Police. Players responded by taking a knee in protest throughout the 2017-18 season.

With the Goodell apology, NFL players and the public are asking the NFL

to acknowledge Kaepernick’s heroic stance — and to bring him back into the league, given that now the NFL says it supports “peaceful” protests by players.

Trump has already asked Goodell to clarify on Twitter on whether he will or will not punish players for taking a knee during the upcoming season.

### Drew Brees controversy

Drew Brees, Super Bowl-winning quarterback with the New Orleans Saints, made it clear in 2016, and recently in a June 3 Instagram, that he views taking a knee as being “disrespectful” to the U.S. flag. It appears he deliberately posted on June 3 because that was #BlackOutTuesday — when athletes were putting up a blank black post on social media to protest police violence.

Brees’ June 3 post mentioned nothing about racism or police brutality. That sparked a firestorm of criticism from NFL players, including his own teammates. On June 5, Brees retracted his statement with an Instagram apology, saying, “I would like to apologize to my friends, teammates, the City of New Orleans, the black community, NFL community and anyone I hurt with my comments yesterday. In speaking with some of you, it breaks my heart to know the pain I have caused.”

Trump, who originally praised Brees, then criticized him on Twitter, saying that Brees had nothing to apologize for and that every player should stand for “Old Glory with hand on heart or with a salute.”

Brees repudiated Trump’s “order” directly on Instagram with an even stronger statement: “Through my ongoing conversations with friends, teammates and leaders in the black community, I realize this is not an issue about the American flag. It has never been. We must stop talking about the flag and shift our attention to the real issues of systemic racial injustice, economic oppression, police brutality, and judicial and prison reform.”

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# No es un motín — ¡REBELIÓN!

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“matones”. El ha declarado que cuando comienza el “saqueo”, comienza el “tiro-teo”. Ha declarado que el movimiento “antifa” (también conocido como antifascistas) es una organización “terrorista”, y ha llamado a los gobernadores “imbéciles” si no “dominan” y arrestan a los manifestantes.

Por su sola presencia, es la policía la que incita a la violencia, no los manifestantes.

Trump hizo una amenaza para llamar a su base neofascista para enfrentar a los manifestantes antes de dar marcha atrás en esa amenaza. Miles de manifestantes se enfrentaron a los agentes del Servicio Secreto y a la policía local en el Parque Lafayette en Washington, D.C., frente a la Casa Blanca el 1 de junio. Durante varias noches, los fuegos artificiales explotaron lo suficientemente fuerte como para que los escuchasen en la Casa Blanca.

No se sabe cuánto durará este levantamiento, ya sean días o semanas o más. Hay un absoluto: esta rebelión no tiene precedentes por estar compuesta predominantemente de jóvenes, sino que es multinacional con manifestantes negros, latinx, indígenas, asiáticos y blancos



Filadelfia, el 6 de junio.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

que se unen. Se niegan a guardar silencio cuando se trata de ser solidarios con el movimiento Black Lives Matter y de condenar todas las formas de violencia policial.

Este levantamiento, al igual que la pandemia, ha impactado a todos los sectores de la sociedad estadounidense.

Destacadas figuras del deporte

aficionado y profesional se han pronunciado contra el racismo y, en algunos casos, asistieron a manifestaciones junto con artistas.

Los manifestantes se han arrodillado en las calles en solidaridad con el ex mariscal de campo de la Liga Nacional de Fútbol americano, Colin Kaepernick, quien se arrodilló por primera vez en

2016 en oposición a la brutalidad policial.

Este levantamiento también ha tenido un efecto dominó en todo el mundo, con acciones de solidaridad en ciudades de África y Medio Oriente, Australia, Bélgica, Brasil, Gran Bretaña, Alemania, Irán, Irlanda, Italia, Nueva Zelanda y otros lugares.

Los políticos liberales burgueses y reaccionarios y sus voceros de los medios de comunicación intentan abrir una brecha entre los participantes en el levantamiento, etiquetando a muchos manifestantes negros como “pacíficos” y muchos manifestantes blancos “anarquistas”.

Estos apologistas de la clase dominante temen cuán lejos y cuán profunda podría llegar esta rebelión para romper el frágil sistema capitalista, que ya se está recuperando de la pandemia de coronavirus y la crisis económica en curso.

¡Esta rebelión necesita solidaridad política, no aislamiento! Esa es razón suficiente para exigir: ¡Ningún estado policial! ¡Sin dictadura militar! ¡Amnistía para todos los arrestados! ¡Retirar a la policía y la Guardia Nacional! y ¡Sin justicia, no hay paz!.

# ¡Defiende a lxs resistentes y al levantamiento!

Continúa de la página 12

las ganancias o la propiedad de la clase capitalista.

### No hay futuro bajo el capitalismo

Los manifestantes son abrumadoramente jóvenes que trabajan o están desempleados, que son de nacionalidades y géneros oprimidos. Atrapados en la histórica pandemia de COVID-19, están perdiendo empleos en la crisis económica sin precedentes o arriesgando sus vidas para mantener empleos “esenciales” desprotegidos y mal pagados. Tal vez ellos o sus familiares o vecinos no pueden pagar el alquiler y están siendo desalojados de sus hogares o están enfermos, tal vez muriendo, porque la atención médica es solo para personas

con dinero. Se enfrentan a un futuro sombrío, si sobreviven al presente.

Y en medio de esta tormenta de opresión, los policías siguen ocupándolos, demonizándolos y matándolos, a sus seres queridos, sus compañeros de trabajo, miembros de sus comunidades. Estos jóvenes son testigos oculares de algunas de estas muertes, o las ven en video una y otra vez, consumiéndose con la pesadilla de que lo que les sucedió a George Floyd o Breonna Taylor podría sucederles.

Esta generación joven es la nueva generación de no tener nada que perder solo sus cadenas, y están liderando la batalla contra el estado asesino.

Ellos, y nosotros, necesitamos una solidaridad activa y estratégica para ganar.

Ya ha habido ejemplos inspiradores:

los conductores de autobuses sindicales en los Estados Unidos, la mayoría de los trabajadores de color, se negaron a transportar a los manifestantes arrestados. Una joven mujer blanca en la ciudad de Nueva York tiró al suelo a un policía en bicicleta después de golpear a una joven manifestante negra. La junta escolar de Minneapolis cortó los lazos con la fuerza policial de la ciudad, un rompimiento en la línea de la escuela a la prisión. Innumerables personas en todas partes están contribuyendo a fondos de fianza para los arrestados en las protestas.

A medida que el estado intensifica los ataques brutales contra manifestantes con gases lacrimógenos, gas pimienta, balas de goma y tropas armadas, nuestra solidaridad debe mantenerse.

Sería más solidario si los miembros de la Guardia Nacional del estado en todas partes se negaran a ocupar a sus amigos y vecinos con la fuerza militar. Para los manifestantes blancos, más solidaridad sería ir a las protestas y tomar el liderazgo de los organizadores negros. Se uniría más solidaridad con los negros, morenos e indígenas oprimidos para cortar sus fondos y dismantelar a la policía, desafiar un sistema legal injusto y luchar para liberar a todos los encarcelados.

Una nueva generación está liderando: contra el racismo y por la justicia, contra la existencia sin salida bajo el capitalismo y hacia un mundo mejor. No son “alborotadores”, son resistentes. Actúa en solidaridad con ellos y su levantamiento, ¡ahora! □

## Rebellion empowers Black NFL players

Continued from page 10

Many players, fans and analysts did doubt the sincerity of Brees’s first apology. But Brees’ detailed answer to Trump’s white supremacist message carried more weight because of its direct, emphatic rejection of the statement of a sitting U.S. president.

### How will the game be played?

As for the coming NFL season, there are a number of important questions to be addressed: Will the NFL make overtures to bring Kaepernick back into the league? Do the players have concrete plans to reach out to Kaepernick? Will the players take a knee during the upcoming games? How will the NFL hierarchy and bosses react if that happens? Will the NFL put pressure on owners to hire more Black head coaches and bring more people of color into front-office positions, now dominated by whites? Will Trump continue his racist diatribes against Black players, and how will the white players and coaches react?

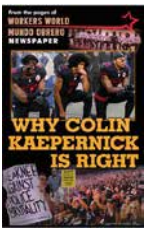
No one has a crystal ball to see the immediate future. One thing is for sure:



NFL players, on video, say Black Lives Matter!

The NFL and other sports leagues will be forced to be more transparent in how they treat athletes of color, and white athletes like Drew Brees will be held more accountable to oppose the racism that Black athletes face constantly — on and off the playing field. This current rebellion has transformed the social landscape forever. □

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### Why Colin Kaepernick is right

Articles from Workers World / Mundo Obrero on the ongoing struggle against racist oppression.



### The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

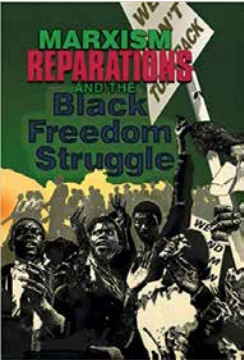
Examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation.

## Marxism, Reparations & 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 • 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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San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2 de junio.

## No es un motín —

# ¡REBELIÓN!

Por Monica Moorehead

1 de junio — Un levantamiento militante liderado por jóvenes, provocado por el terror policial, se extendió por los Estados Unidos como un incendio forestal y ahora está entrando en su segunda semana. Incluso Trump se declara orgulloso como el presidente de “ley y orden” al amenazar con la presencia de tropas federales en muchas ciudades, y la actual pandemia catastrófica de COVID-19, que resulta en más de 102.000 muertes y aumentos en los Estados Unidos, no ha podido contener este levantamiento provocado por un horrible asesinato policial grabado en video expuesto el 25 de marzo para que todo el mundo lo viera.

Durante casi nueve minutos, George Floyd, un hombre negro de 46 años, fue torturado y luego linchado por la policía de Minneapolis mientras yacía boca abajo y esposado en la calle. Un oficial de policía presionó su rodilla contra la garganta de Floyd mientras que dos oficiales de lo inmovilizaron sobre su estómago. Antes de que Floyd perdiera el conocimiento por completo, gritaba “No puedo respirar” y llamaba a su difunta madre. Floyd fue inicialmente detenido luego de ser acusado de usar un billete falsificado de \$US 20.

A pesar de que los agentes de policía, Derek Chauvin, Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng y Tou Thao, fueron despedidos después del incidente, ninguno de ellos fue arrestado de inmediato y acusado de la muerte de Floyd.

A John Harrington, comisionado del Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Minnesota, le tomó cuatro días anunciar que Chauvin fue arrestado y acusado de asesinato en tercer grado y homicidio involuntario en segundo grado. Los otros

oficiales aún no han sido arrestados ni acusados.

La familia Floyd exige que los oficiales Lane, Keung y Thao sean acusados de varios grados de asesinato y Chauvin sea acusado de asesinato en primer grado.

Una autopsia independiente realizada el 1 de junio, pagada por la familia Floyd, descubrió que la policía fue responsable de su muerte por “asfixia médica” cuando estuvo privado de oxígeno al cerebro durante casi cinco minutos. Murió en la escena, no en el hospital. Los hallazgos de esta autopsia contradicen los hallazgos iniciales publicados por el médico forense del condado de Hennepin, que afirmó que las condiciones preexistentes causaron la muerte de Floyd, no el homicidio de la policía.

El 26 de mayo comenzaron las protestas en Minneapolis y otras ciudades exigiendo justicia para Floyd y arrestos de los oficiales. En un acto audaz el 28 de mayo, los jóvenes incendiaron el tercer cuartel general del departamento de policía de Minneapolis, donde habían trabajado los cuatro oficiales.

Docenas de toques de queda declarados en muchas ciudades, respaldados por la presencia de la policía local y estatal y la Guardia Nacional, no han disuadido a los jóvenes de ejercer su derecho a permanecer en las calles para que se escuchen sus voces indignadas, incluso si tenían que hacerlo. tomar arrestos por “desobediencia civil”, si fuera necesario. Miles de personas han sido arrestadas por romper el toque de queda durante seis días de indignación política, expresada por la quema de coches de policía y el cierre de puentes e interestatales.

Incluso los periodistas de los principales medios de comunicación como CNN y MSNBC han sido detenidos o golpeados

indiscriminadamente con balas de goma y gas pimienta, junto con los manifestantes. Incidentes aislados de jóvenes, incluidos niños, recibieron disparos con pistolas Taser, rociados con pimienta y derribados por la policía antidisturbios fueron captados en video y mostrados en las redes sociales.

Los jóvenes manifestantes han utilizado tácticas guerrilleras para evadir a la policía, que está armada hasta los dientes con porras, balas de goma, irritantes químicos e incluso tanques. Los jóvenes solo han tenido rocas, botellas de agua, ladrillos e incluso patinetas para defenderse.

### La supremacía blanca y la violencia policial vinculadas

Los jóvenes están hartos no solo de lo que le sucedió a Floyd, sino también de los asesinatos policiales de Philando Castile, Jamar Clark y otras personas negras en Minnesota.

De hecho, este levantamiento, que se ha extendido a al menos 130 ciudades grandes y pequeñas de EE.UU., ha ayudado a exponer los casos de otras personas negras que recientemente perdieron la vida por la violencia policial. Estos incluyen a Breonna Taylor, la trabajadora de EMT de 26 años que fue baleada ocho veces en su cama el 13 de marzo por la policía de Louisville, Kentucky; Tony McDade, un transexual asesinado a tiros el 27 de mayo en Tallahassee, Florida; y David McAtee, un vendedor popular asesinado a tiros hoy, también por la policía de Louisville, solo por nombrar algunos.

Las protestas han relacionado estos casos individuales con todas las formas de violencia policial en las comunidades negras y morenas, incluidos los casos desproporcionados de acoso, arrestos y tiroteos. Se presentaron 18 denuncias contra

Chauvin por mala conducta; solo se escucharon dos.

Muchos de los carteles llevados en las protestas decían: “¡Abolir a la policía!” “¡Todos los policías son malos!” y “¡Todos los policías son bastardos!”

El racismo sistémico también ha sido un gran foco de las protestas. Los manifestantes citaron un incidente cuando Christian Cooper, un hombre negro que observaba aves en el Central Park de Nueva York el 25 de mayo, fue abordado por Amy Cooper, una mujer blanca. Llamó al 911 para decirle a la policía que “hay un hombre afroamericano que amenaza mi vida”, lo que lo puso en peligro.

Y los manifestantes levantaron el nombre de Ahmaud Arbery, un corredor desarmado que fue asesinado a tiros el 23 de febrero por los supremacistas blancos cerca de Brunswick, Georgia. La policía tardó dos meses en arrestarlos a ellos y a la tercera persona que grabó el video del tiroteo.

Los símbolos supremacistas blancos pro-Confederación no han escapado de la ira de los manifestantes, quienes han derrocado o difamado los monumentos de la Confederación en Birmingham, Alabama; Nashville, Tennessee; Richmond, Virginia; y Charleston, Carolina del Sur, se incendiaron las United Daughters of the Confederacy Memorial Building en Richmond y Market House, el sitio de una subasta de esclavos en Fayetteville, Carolina del Norte.

### Defensa global de la solidaridad

Trump ha sido llamado el “supremacista blanco número uno”, y con razón. Sus tweets se han referido a los manifestantes con la connotación racista de

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# ¡Defiende a lxs resistentes y al levantamiento!

¡La gente se levanta, se levanta contra la violencia policial! La furia ardiente se encendió en una tormenta de fuego en todo Estados Unidos cuando la policía linchó a George Floyd en Minneapolis el 25 de mayo.

Inmediatamente hubo indignación pública, después de ver cómo los supremacistas blancos mataron a Ahmaud Arbery mientras trotaba por su vecindario y después de invadir a la policía, mataron a tiros a Breonna Taylor en Kentucky mientras dormía en su propia cama. Todos eran negros; Todos están muertos.

La cinta de video de Floyd siendo linchado por un policía durante largos minutos de estrangulamiento deliberado impulsó a miles y miles de personas, trabajadores multinacionales, multigenero y personas oprimidas de todos los orígenes, a las calles.

La gente responsabilizó al racista “sistema de injusticia” y a la policía. El edificio del Tercer Recinto en Minneapolis, donde estaban estacionados los cuatro policías que mataron a Floyd, fue incendiado. En Nashville, Tennessee, el ayuntamiento y el palacio de justicia fueron incendiados. Los autos de policía fueron volcados y quemados en la ciudad de Nueva York, Rochester, Nueva York, Filadelfia, Atlanta, Cleveland, Los Ángeles y otros lugares. Y sí, la “propiedad” resultó dañada, la propiedad de los bancos capitalistas y las grandes cadenas: Wells Fargo, Starbucks y AutoZone se incendiaron y otros edificios quedaron atrapados en el incendio.

Durante siglos en los Estados Unidos, los supremacistas blancos, como agentes del estado o como vigilantes como el Ku Klux Klan que “trabajan de la mano” con

el estado (a veces uno y el mismo), han linchado a los afroamericanos y a otra gente de color con impunidad. Hasta el día de hoy, es casi imposible ser acusado de asesinato, y mucho menos de una condena, cuando un policía mata a una persona de color “en el cumplimiento del deber”.

Se necesitaron cinco días de protestas en todo el país y rebeliones físicas para arrestar a uno de los asesinos de Floyd. Ni siquiera fue acusado de asesinato en primer grado, mientras que los tres policías que ayudaron al asesino siguen caminando libres.

Está en marcha una intensa campaña de propaganda de la clase dominante para desviar la atención y la responsabilidad del estado, como principal instigador de la violencia contra el pueblo, y en su lugar culpar a los manifestantes.

Las autoridades estatales, como el presidente de EE.UU., están difamando a

los manifestantes rebeldes con palabras de código racista e intentando dividir el movimiento demonizando a la “izquierda radical”: anarquistas y antifascistas (antifa), a quienes Trump ha declarado un “grupo terrorista”. Los comentaristas de las grandes empresas están tratando de dividir a los manifestantes en buenas personas “pacíficas” y malas “violentas”, jóvenes blancos versus jóvenes negros y manifestantes “respetuosos de la ley” versus aquellos que solo estaban dañando la propiedad.

Y ahí está la palabra clave. La clase dominante dejará que mueran millones, siempre que su propiedad, y el sistema estatal que la respalda, permanezca intacta. Cuando los policías matan, son prácticamente intocables porque el “deber” de la policía es ante todo derrotar a las personas trabajadoras y oprimidas y evitar que cualquier protesta toque

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**editorial**