

Juneteenth

Racist cops, statues under siege

By Betsey Piette

On Juneteenth — June 19, 1865 — also known as Freedom Day, enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, were told they were finally freed. Abraham Lincoln’s issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, declaring that all enslaved people in the Confederate states would be forever free, took over two and a half years to affect them.

Juneteenth has been celebrated by African Americans for 154 years. While corporate U.S. history focuses on Lincoln and the Union Army freeing the people enslaved by the Confederacy, W.E.B. Du Bois argued that around 500,000 Black people freed themselves from slavery by walking off plantations. Many joined the Union Army and helped the Union win the war. Their withdrawal of labor from the plantations was a devastating blow to the South’s economy.

For many Black communities, Juneteenth rather than July Fourth is considered their true independence day. Now Juneteenth 2020 will go down in history as a turning point as many municipalities declared it an official holiday. Fueled by weeks of protests against systemic racism, thousands turned out in cities large and small to celebrate and demand recognition of Juneteenth as a national holiday marking the end of slavery in the U.S.

Trump’s racist rally fizzles

Donald Trump’s efforts to use Juneteenth to galvanize his racist, right-wing supporters at his first major

campaign rally in 2020 — in, of all places, Tulsa, Okla. — fizzled by all accounts. Public outcry forced him to change the rally date to June 20. Turnout was far from the 1 million he bragged were registered to attend.

Two-thirds of the 19,000-seat BOK Center remained empty. Six staff members turned up COVID-19 positive. Yet that didn’t stop Trump from delivering a racist speech that downplayed COVID-19, blamed protesters for the low turnout, defended Confederate statues and threatened legitimate Black Lives Matter protesters with state repression.

Meanwhile anti-racism and anti-police brutality protests continue unabated around the globe. The following are reports from just a few that took place in the days surrounding June 19.

Manhattan, New York

Several hundred demonstrators gathered around City Hall in downtown Manhattan for the Juneteenth remembrance called by the December 12th movement on June 19. However, the tone of the demonstration was one of defiance rather than celebration. Organizers marched from City Hall to Wall Street to make the connection between the violence of the police and the capitalist ruling class they protect.

Within hours numbers swelled to over a thousand, with many different political tendencies attending. As has become common, there was interference from liberal reformers. This time, it was representatives from

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Juneteenth, New York City.


WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

"YOU PAY FOR THE KILLERS TO KILL YOU, IN THE NAME OF A BOGUS, TWISTED LAW, AND THEN PAY FOR THE STATE THAT DEFENDS THEM."

SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG HERE, AND IT'S THE SYSTEM ITSELF.

UNTIL THE SYSTEM IS CHANGED, NOTHING IS CHANGED: WE'LL JUST BE OUT IN THE STREETS AGAIN CHANTING A DIFFERENT NAME."

Mumia Abu-Jamal



PROTEST POLICE TERROR

JULY 4th @ 12 NOON

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WHERE THE RIZZO STATUE USED TO BE

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WW COMMENTARY

Finishing the unfinished revolution

By Larry Holmes

The following is a slightly edited talk given June 19 by Larry Holmes, Workers World Party First Secretary, during the WWP webinar on “Juneteenth and the Black Lives Matter Rebellion.”

This Juneteenth is probably going to be one of the biggest Juneteenths in a long, long time. That’s because of the uprising against the racist police that has been going on for the better part of a month since the lynching of George Floyd. In a sense, the Juneteenth occasion is a reminder that every step in the struggle for Black Liberation in this country has been compromised, with one step


forward and two steps backward.

Even though the Emancipation Proclamation had been in existence for more than two years, a lot of enslaved people of African descent, particularly in Texas, but elsewhere in the South, did not know that they were free. That is the significance of June 19.

It’s important to note the heroic figures who don’t get enough credit for this struggle against slavery, like John Brown and Nat Turner. They favored an armed insurrection by enslaved people, supported by progressive whites as a way to end slavery. That is not the way it ended up.

The Northern capitalists came in with their army and ended slavery legally, not

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FREE MUMIA NOW!

"YOU PAY FOR THE KILLERS TO KILL YOU, IN THE NAME OF A BOGUS, TWISTED LAW, AND THEN PAY FOR THE STATE THAT DEFENDS THEM.

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P H I L A D E L P H I A

WHERE THE RIZZO STATUE USED TO BE

tinyurl.com/july4mumia

Support the Marxist voice for LGBTQ2S+ rights



Pride march in New York City, 2019.
WW PHOTO : BRENDA RYAN,

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. Then in 1993, we published “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.” Read it at www.workers.org/books.

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 LGBTQ2S+ 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.

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WW COMMENTARY

This rebellion is about much more than police violence

By Monica Moorehead

An earth-shattering rebellion against police violence and systemic racism just completed its fourth week, culminating with tens of thousands of protesters in the streets on Juneteenth (June 19) on a countrywide scale.

That is the historic day that the chains of enslaved people of African descent were finally broken from the wretched plantations in Texas in 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law on Jan. 1, 1863. While the struggle for total Black Liberation is far from being over, it has certainly taken center stage on a global scale like no other time since the 1960s.

This rebellion has already won important concessions from the powers that be and continues to sharply expose, on a class-wide basis, historical and present-day white supremacy in all forms. Police brutality is the immediate catalyst and most acute crisis, ignited by the public lynching of George Floyd by Minneapolis police on May 25.

Who would have thought it was conceivable that just a month ago corporate bosses like Nike, the NFL and other big corporations would be giving their workers a paid holiday on Juneteenth—which is not even a federal holiday? Juneteenth is a state holiday in 47 U.S. states, so could it become a federal holiday, sooner rather than later, due to the ever-changing political climate?

What is the impact of this rebellion on decades-long, embedded racist culture? Since the U.S. government’s betrayal of the most revolutionary period for Black people — Radical Reconstruction in the 1860s and 70s — Black people have had to endure continued degrading, less-than-human treatment. This included demeaning representations in movies like “The Birth of a Nation” in 1915 and “Gone With the Wind” in 1939, along with generations of images on food products like Aunt Jemima syrup and pancake mix, Uncle Ben’s rice, Mrs. Butterworth’s syrup and more.

Mega-companies such as PepsiCo and B&G Foods that promote these racist stereotypes recently announced that the images—derived from 19th century minstrel shows and 20th century Jim Crow segregation—will no longer be used.

But the question is: Why did it take a rebellion in the streets to force these cultural changes that should have been made decades ago?

Rebellion rising

Now, just as high school students around the country followed in the footsteps of former National Football League quarterback Colin Kaepernick in taking a knee to protest police brutality and systemic racism four years ago, many more are carrying out other forms of protests on a broader scale.

More and more Black student-athletes are speaking out against the ugly, racist remarks they have had to endure from their football coaches — including at football powerhouses Clemson, Iowa and Oklahoma State — and have pledged to take a knee when the sports season resumes.

The entire graduating class at Sam Houston High School in San Antonio, Texas, refused to stand when the national anthem was played. Liana Morales, an Afro-Latinx of Dominican descent, refused to sing the “Star-Spangled Banner” at her virtual high school graduation in New York City after the lynching of Floyd. She explained, “With everything that’s happening, if I stand there and sing it, I’m being complicit to a system that has oppressed people of color.” (Wall Street Journal, June 22) Instead she performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” widely recognized as the Black national anthem.

These two examples are just the tip of the iceberg of the various kinds of protests young people are taking against police

violence and racism, in addition to their being out in the streets in vast numbers.

Confronting proslavery symbols and towns

Much of the spotlight has been on the large, historic protests against police brutality taking place in big cities like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland, Denver and elsewhere—and rightfully so.

But protests in smaller, more isolated cities and towns, especially in the South, are just as politically significant, if not more so. Why? Because many of these places have been strongholds for white supremacist, Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi views for decades — if not centuries.

In some places, for white protesters to bravely carry “Black Lives Matter” and “White silence = violence” placards has been nothing short of a revolutionary act as they show which side they are on. These unarmed protesters have gone face-to-face with armed, ultra-right militias — and they have refused to bow down to white supremacy.

Whether the protesters were ten or a couple of hundred in number, these anti-racist demonstrations are a psychological defeat for Trump’s racist worshippers everywhere. And this is happening as more and more police are becoming demoralized from the steadfast opposition and demands to “Defund, disarm, abolish!”

A tidal wave has erupted with the removal of pro-Confederacy and pro-colonial statues and symbols all over the country. None of them are safe anymore from the wrath of this righteous uprising, whether the protesters deface them, pull



Bubba Wallace

them or burn them down on their own, or if they force city officials to remove them. The same is true with Confederate flags, still embedded in some state flags or revered by reactionaries on college campuses like Ole Miss—but whose days are numbered.

Striking down Confederate flags

Probably the biggest story of all in dealing with the Confederate flag has been its removal from all events of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing. NASCAR is a 72-year-old institution that has flown Confederate flags officially and allowed its fans to bring the pro-slavery flag into the stands.

Bubba Wallace, the only full-time Black NASCAR driver, demanded that NASCAR owners ban the flag from its races, which CEO Jim France Jr. agreed to. Wallace proudly competes wearing his “I Can’t Breathe” T-shirt and drives a car that displays the “#Black Lives Matter” slogan.

Now NASCAR officials have announced that a noose was found in the Wallace competitor’s stall on June 21, the first official racing day ever without Confederate flags at the Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. A noose historically promotes the lynching of Black people. Wallace described this as “a despicable act of racism and hatred [that] leaves me incredibly saddened and serves as a painful reminder of how much further we have to go as a society.” (Washington Post, June 22)

NASCAR has promised an official investigation, saying only someone who had security clearance could have carried out this cowardly act. Also on June 21 a “Defund NASCAR” plane with a Confederate flag attached to it was flown over the same race.

Wallace’s fellow white drivers and other well-known athletes have responded with #IStandwithBubba on Twitter and before the race, expressing their anti-racist solidarity with him against this hate crime.

The rebellion against racism will continue to raise this critical question in a crucial way: Which side are you on in the overall struggle? Not only against white supremacy, but also against a capitalist system founded on racist exploitation. □



June 4 protest against police brutality in Anna, Ill., where African-American residents were forced to leave almost a century ago.

Coast to coast, marchers declare ‘Black trans lives matter!’

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

“Say his name! Tony McDade!” These words rang out on June 20 as hundreds of Clevelanders, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and allies, marched to the theme, “All Black Lives Matter.” They took to the streets to raise the name of Tony McDade, a Black trans man killed by police in Tallahassee, Fla., and to link the mass Black Lives Matter movement to Pride month.

Riah Melton, a Black trans woman murdered in Liberty Township, Ohio, June 9 was also honored. After being found slain, Melton was deadnamed and misgendered, her lifeless body referred to as “it” by the police and media.

Marchers carried dozens of home-made signs, many reading “Black Lives Matter” and others with messages specific to oppressions faced by trans people of color, including many murders, at least 14 in the first half of this year. Demonstrators marched for several miles through Cleveland’s Near West Side, ending at Edgewater Park on Lake Erie.

This was one of many “All Black Lives Matter” marches that have brought out tens of thousands across the country this month. On June 14, 25,000 marched in Los Angeles, followed by 15,000 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the next day. More marches have taken place in Chicago, Boston, Columbia, S.C., and other cities.

In Ohio’s capital, on the same day as the Cleveland march, Black Queer

Intersectional Columbus demonstrated outside the mayor’s home. They raised 12 demands: Resignations of Mayor Ginther and Police Chief Quinlan, freedom of assembly and of the press, free all incarcerated people, take cops out of public institutions and social services, defund Columbus Police Department, end qualified immunity for police, end Ohio’s “felony murder” rule that protects cops, change the city’s name of “Columbus,” and remove racist statues, abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement and immediately distribute reparations.

The Columbus demonstration was a welcome departure from official celebrations of LGBTQ2S+ Pride in recent years,



Cleveland, June 20.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

which have largely become corporatized “parades.” Political demands, if there are any, have been limited to addressing homophobia and transphobia.

Many more events are planned, both live and virtual, to make Pride Month a month of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter upsurge throughout the U.S. □

1921 racist terror in Tulsa

Black survivors demand reparations

By Monica Moorehead

This slightly edited article first appeared in the March 16, 2005, issue of Workers World.

“The morning that the riot started we heard the shooting ... just a couple of blocks from the end of Greenwood on Archer. After we heard the shooting, I came to ... Jackson’s Funeral Home. It was also right on the end of Greenwood, a few doors down. He (Samuel Jackson) had not been long purchasing a new ambulance. ... We went to the undertaker. ... One of the young men that drove during the funeral sessions was also going out to the garage to get the ambulance. There was an old mill right across the tracks, right on Greenwood. You could look out of the mill; they could look right over and see us. While the boy was trying to unlock the door to get the ambulance ... somebody white shot out. ... They were up in that mill which was probably four or five stories high, and they shot out of that mill and hit the boy on the hand. ... Blood shot out his hand. I’m standing right behind him. He dropped the keys and we ran to the back part of the funeral home by the dead folk.”

— Otis Clark
(Feb. 13, 1903 — May 21, 2012)
(reparations4blacks.blogspot.com)

The year was 1921. The place was Oklahoma. And the incident — the Tulsa race riot. This event got next to no notice when it happened almost 84 years ago, but for the survivors, like 102-year-old Clark, it’s like it happened yesterday.

On May 31, 1921, racist whites carried out a brutal attack against what was then known as “Black Wall Street,” a segregated section of Tulsa where the Black population established prosperous businesses. These racists killed and maimed hundreds if not thousands of Black women, men and children and burned almost all of their businesses and homes to the ground.

None of the survivors received any kind of apology, compensation or any public recognition that this massacre happened.

It was 80 years later that the Oklahoma State Legislature offered an official apology to the survivors based on a three-year study of the massacre performed by a Tulsa Race Riot Commission that began in 1997.

Lawyers, law students, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, survivors of the massacre and other supporters held a news conference and rally March 9 on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to file a petition with the court to demand long overdue reparations denied to the survivors in the lower courts. Those in attendance



Otis Clark, Tulsa Massacre survivor.

included Clark, historian John Hope Franklin and U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters.

A federal district court dismissed the Oklahoma lawsuit in 2004, stating that the incident happened too long ago for compensation to be granted.

Odinga Harrington from the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America told why she attended the rally: “Reparations are long overdue

for the victims of the Tulsa riots, and reparations are long overdue for the descendants of slaves throughout the country.” (Amsterdam News) □

Tulsa Black community fights for justice in 2020

The descendants of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre in Oklahoma continue their struggle for reparations and accountability by keeping alive every year the memory of the crime against humanity committed against the most prosperous Black community in the U.S. at that time. In the face of a June 20 racist mobilization organized by Trump’s militia and supporters, the Black community responded again with Juneteenth 2020.

A day-long Juneteenth gathering, followed by an all-night vigil, was held in the Greenwood Cultural Center in the Historic Greenwood District. The center, with its records and photos of the massacre, with monuments and plaques commemorating many of the Black community businesses and



Black Wall Street Memorial.

homes, was protected by this communitywide effort.

The Greenwood Historical District continues to demand reparations from the insurance companies that refused to honor signed fire insurance contracts with Black business owners and home owners whose property was destroyed by white supremacist mobs. Those same insurance companies still exist and must pay the insurance claims to the families.

Indigenous communities in Tulsa and throughout Oklahoma continue to support the demand for reparations for the Black community and for honoring the numerous treaties violated by white-owned oil companies in their grab of Indigenous land during the 1920 oil boom.

— Report by Sara Flounders

On the picket line

By Sue Davis

Workers stage 540 wildcats in support of BLM in June

As of June 19, Payday Report’s “Strike Tracking Map” showed 540 wildcat strikes in support of Black Lives Matter in the first three weeks of June. The week of June 8, #ShutDownStem strikes saw academic scientists go on strike at 109 locations across the U.S. The Washington State General Strike saw workers participate at over 250 locations across the state on June 12. Between March and May, Payday reported 260 strikes demanding personal protective equipment, hazard pay and other working conditions needed to cope with the pandemic. A total of 840 strikes have been recorded since early March.

Communication Workers statement against racism

An example of statements made by many unions opposing racism and the murder of George Floyd is that of the Communication Workers (CWA) issued on May 29: “The bosses, the rich and the corporate executives ... have used race as one of the most effective and destructive ways to divide workers. Unions have a duty to fight for power, dignity and the right to live for every working-class person in every place. ... If we are to make progress, we must listen to the experiences and

stories of Black CWA members, Black workers and the Black community. We must join together — every one of us — to dismantle this system of oppression. This means every white union member, Black union member, Latino union member and every ally, must fight and organize for Black lives. ... We must move to action.”

On June 11, CWA members nationally “took a stand against racism by stopping work and reflecting for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck.”

Bay Areas unionists march against racism and for police reform

At least 3,000 union members took part June 13 in a march from Oakland, Calif., to Berkeley in support of Black Lives Matter. They called for funding to be redirected from the police to community services and for holding police accountable for their actions.

The protest was organized by Service Employees Local 1021 and other local unions and organizations, including American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299, the Alameda Labor Council, Ryse Youth Center and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Dwight McElroy, chief steward of Local 1021, explained that all unions need “to make a massive contribution toward the elimination of systemic racism, beginning with police reform. We are not only people of color; we are also people of consciousness, and people of consciousness can no longer stand by.” (dailycal.org, June 13)

AFL-CIO out of touch with member unions

The AFL-CIO showed just how out of touch it is with the vast majority of its member unions, when its board issued a statement June 8 that it would work with its law enforcement members to bring about change: “We believe the best way to use our influence on the issue of

police brutality is to engage our police affiliates rather than isolate them.” (The Intercept, June 18)

Calling out McDonald’s racist hypocrisy

When the McDonald’s corporation released a tweet after the vicious murder of George Floyd and other Black people, Deatric Edie, a Black worker in Florida, issued a powerful response to “the racist and offensive tweet.” Calling out company policies that “force hundreds of thousands of Black and Brown workers to live in poverty,” Edie wrote, “You cannot claim to be against ‘inequality, injustice and racism’ while lobbying against paid sick days during a pandemic, putting profits ahead of workers’ safety, ignoring sexual harassment and fighting efforts of Black and Brown workers to join together in a union.”

Edie denounced the multibillion-dollar global company for “denying us a living wage, hazard pay during a pandemic, personal protective equipment to keep us safe and paid sick leave to protect our co-workers and customers.” To sign a petition calling for \$15 an hour and union rights, visit fightfor15.org/.

Seattle health care workers demand COVID protections

University of Washington Medicine staff and workers from the UW campus rallied at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle on June 14 calling for better protections from COVID-19 and protesting planned furloughs and lay-offs, after UW Medicine claimed \$500 million losses during the pandemic. The health care workers, represented by Washington Federation of State Employees, accuse the university of failing to implement “basic public health guidance designed to flatten the curve, including proper notification to staff regarding exposure, the installation of sneeze guards to protect staff and the public, and the distribution of personal protective equipment.” (Associated Press, June 14) □

BLACK AND INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY DEEPENS

San Francisco, June 19



PHOTOS: PERRY MATLOCK

As pent-up anger against white supremacy boils over in the uprising after the murder of George Floyd, Black and Indigenous solidarity in California is taking down statues of Junípero Serra—the hated boss of the California mission system, which enslaved and murdered thousands of Native people during Spanish colonization. In San Francisco, on Ohlone lands that have seen multiple protests against colonizer statues and street names for years, Juneteenth demonstrators toppled the Serra statue in Golden Gate Park on June 19.

—Report by Stephanie Hedgecoke

Syracuse, N.Y.



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

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

Over 2,500 people chanting "Black Lives Matter" gathered in Syracuse, N.Y., on June 6. Brought together by BLM Syracuse, CuseYouthBLM and the Muslim charitable organization Raha Syracuse, the multigendered, predominantly young and white crowd included the Syracuse Teachers Association.

An Indigenous Peoples contingent represented three continents and more than seven nations in solidarity with Black lives. Nikeeta Slade, BLM organizer, received thunderous

applause when she said: "Like the old union slogan, this is a 'which-side-are-you-on' moment. If you are not for Black people, oppressed people and workers, then you are on the side of the murderous police of the state."

At the rally's close, CuseYouthBLM and Last Chance for Change led about 1,000 young people in a march through downtown—the seventh consecutive day they marched through Syracuse.

—Report by Minnie Bruce Pratt

'We are unified as Pueblo on the removal of monuments that glorify murderers'

The uprising in response to the murder of George Floyd has become a movement against white supremacy. Generations of anger have exploded against settler colonialism and slavery and all white-supremacist historical monuments. In New Mexico, the Pueblo Nations still seethe against the genocidal conquistador Juan de Oñate, who led Spanish troops to conquer and occupy the Rio Grande Valley.

The year 1598 began centuries of Spanish oppression. In 1599 after Spanish troops defeated Acoma Pueblo after a fierce battle, Oñate killed 800, ordered all Indigenous Acoma Puebloans enslaved, and ordered his men to cut off a foot of every male warrior over the age of 25. Indigenous resistance peaked in the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, led by Po'pay, which was the second-largest setback to Spanish colonialism in the hemisphere, driving the Spanish out for 12 years.

This June 15, after Oñate statues had been removed in Española and Alcalde, dozens of protesters rallied at the site of one in downtown Albuquerque. Armed right-wing militia elements came out to oppose the demonstration. One of them, who pushed three women and maced another, was then pushed out of the demonstration when he pulled a semi-automatic weapon and fired off shots, wounding Scott Williams, a demonstrator. The statue was removed by the city of Albuquerque the next morning. (tinyurl.com/yamjdnuva) The following is a Pueblo Action Alliance statement on demonstrations around Oñate Statues in Española (Tewa Territory) and Albuquerque (Tiwa Territory), N.M.

By Julia Bernal, Sandia Pueblo, Environmental Justice Director of Pueblo Action Alliance

Yesterday was a historical moment in the town of Española, N.M., where the long-standing statue of Oñate celebrated the genocide of the Pueblo Indigenous people of New Mexico. Rain clouds gathered over the museum that protected this figure of rape and colonialism. I could feel our ancestors surrounding us with their blessings during the removal of the Oñate statue that stood too long on stolen Tewa Pueblo territory. The Tewa, Tiwa, Towa, Zuni and Keres language keepers unitedly organized against Spanish conquest that threatened our ways of life and kept us from practicing our sacred ways of life.

And yet, to this very moment, we are unified as Pueblo on the removal of monuments that glorify murderers. We should be proud of this moment. We should be proud every day. And we should never let the colonial disease desecrate our ways of life and our sacred places.

But the scene wasn't the same in Tiwa Territory, present-day Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Oñate statue at the "La Jornada" monument outside of the Albuquerque Museum gathered many Indigenous relatives, one of our youth interns and local community members to demand the removal of this statue as well. Those supporting the



Pulling down hated statue of conquistador butcher, Juan de Oñate.

removal were unarmed demonstrators, but were met with the N.M. Civil Guard — a self-organized, white-supremacist militia who have been showing up at Black Lives Matter actions and other actions, intimidating protesters with their exposed firearms and military garb.

Last night, the incident escalated when the counter-protester, Steven Ray Baca, showed up to the protest instigating those in attendance. He was first seen moving through the crowd, seemingly looking like an "ally." It was [not] until he started harassing those in the crowd, when a womxn blocked him from the statue and he threw her to the ground, injuring her. A few defended themselves against him, which further escalated the situation and put the crowd in danger. In Baca's irrational rage, he then maced a womxn of color, while two other men came to their defense, and that is when he pulled out a gun and shot three or so times, wounding an ally. [Scott Williams] is still in hospital, and you can donate to his [and other protesters'] legal and medical fees] here. (tinyurl.com/y9h8mr85)

The Albuquerque Police Department riot police came to the scene only after a person was injured. They arrested the N.M. Civil Guard militiamen and Steven Baca. But what was the most troubling to witness was how these domestic terrorists were treated. We have seen countless videos of police inflicting violence and brutality on unarmed Black, Indigenous and people of color, and yet these men were able to sit on their asses comfortably and unharmed. We feel as if their arrest was to remove these men from another dangerous situation as riot police then began to administer tear gas and rubber bullets at the unarmed demonstrators. Many of our relatives were harmed by these less lethal weapons and no de-escalation methods were administered. Just straight violence to those only armed with signs and their voices.

This type of violence against the community displays the uplifting of white supremacy; the police weren't there to protect anyone except their allies. The APD has been seen coercing with N.M. Civil Guard, and some have

even heard on their police scanners that these men are "friendlies." We identify both the APD and N.M. Civil Guards as enemies to Black, Indigenous and people of color and demand their abolishment. These military forces don't and will not protect us.

As the Environmental Justice Director of Pueblo Action Alliance, and as a Tiwa womxn, I do not consent to the violence continuously happening on stolen Tiwa Territory. Our ancestors didn't just die for the revolution of Pueblo people, but they also killed to ensure that we are the surviving descendants of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. That we remain the descendants of the war in Acoma and the descendants of any war on Pueblo territory. We will not be forgotten and we will fight until the day we thrive in peace.

We are the extension of 1680 and we are not going anywhere. We will continue to occupy our ancestral homelands and continue to fight for Indigenous liberation, sovereignty and revolution. Kherkem/Thank you to everybody that stood for what was right and advocated for these racist monuments to be removed and hopefully destroyed. Our thoughts, prayers, and energy go to the victim and the victim's family. Thank you on behalf of Pueblo Action Alliance coming from Tiwa territory. Let's see to it that all these monuments never exist in our territories ever again.

Additional statements from Pueblo Action Alliance

"A testament to a lineage of tyranny and oppression. Standing at the door of reconciliation for my Indigenous people is a constant reminder of slavery, genocide, and sexual assaults on our women. Yesterday was a double-edged sword—we continually de-escalated the tensions between our people and the domestic terrorist that is the N.M. Civil Guard." — Trenton DeVore, PAA Youth Intern

"Yesterday's incident added another layer of historical trauma that our people will continue to need to heal from. As a mother and lead with our Youth Internship, it is my duty and role to ensure that I continuously do the work to break the harmful cycles that perpetuate violence against our youth and peoples. This means calling out systemic racism that is embedded in every inch of our society. I will not remain silent. We, PAA, will continue to uplift our peoples, for us to continue to thrive. It is our lifework as the descendants of Pueblo Revolutionaries." — Reyes DeVore, Community Outreach Director

"Strength to those who rose up to the evils yesterday. I love my people. I love those who show no fear, are connected to our just cause, to our communities, to each other, and the rights to live: to breathe. We know the truth of when it comes to being heard, seen, respected — our voices have been silenced for way too long. Enough is enough! The cowardly actions of the N.M. Civil guard only further gives us fuel in seeing this struggle through. Statues and struggle yesterday, Revolution today, Liberation tomorrow." — Sheldon Tenorio, Creative Strategist □

Racist cops, statues under siege

Continued from page 1

the Office of the Mayor who approached organizers and tried to lead the march. However, the liberal presence was drowned out by more radical groups.



WW PHOTO: BILL SACKS

New York City children's march.

In the evening, the demonstration converged with several others in Washington Square Park. The energy level of the crowd was high and the police decided to keep their distance. Before the demonstration ended, protesters knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time the police officer knelt on the neck of George Floyd when he was murdered.



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

Manhattan

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Over 15,000 people took to the streets on June 14, as part of the Brooklyn Liberation March for Black Trans Lives. In a true show of Black Trans power, the event was organized in a week's time by The Okra Project, Marsha P. Johnson Institute, For The Gwols, Black Femmes in the Arts and G.L.I.T.S. (Gays and Lesbians Living In a Transgender Society).

After a transformatively loving rally, the sea of people, clad in white, walked from Grand Army Plaza to Fort Greene Park. The silent march was designed to make a safer space for Black Trans people and give a nod to the NAACP's 10,000-person Silent Protest Parade for Black Lives down Fifth Avenue in 1917.

The Brooklyn event was a massive, Black Trans-led, socially distant march with a physically accessible route. It was an outpouring of love for Black Trans people — the real beginning of Pride 2020.

Queer people know there would be

no Pride without Black people. Reclaim Pride is back in New York City this year with their second annual march on June 28 — the Queer Liberation March for Black Lives and Against Police Brutality.

After weeks of rebellion all over the world, conservative media outlets have tried to force the narrative that this season of protest is drawing to a close. But these massive organizing efforts are proof of the opposite. The movement is gaining momentum. And if we center Black Trans lives in our struggle for collective liberation, we will win!

Buffalo, N.Y.

People's Pride: Solidarity In The Spirit Of Stonewall, held June 21, was created to express solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives going on here and around the world. The speakers addressed the history of Buffalo's own Conde Peoples III who helped strike down sodomy laws in New York. Other speakers included two Black poets who discussed white appropriation of the Black Lives Matter movement, racism and cultural appropriation. The final speaker spoke about living as a Black disabled queer person and the effects of racism.

Philadelphia

Multiple events took place in Philadelphia on June 19. Demonstrators gathered at the African American Museum, marched through Center City chanting, "Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter!" At City Hall they merged with another group of demonstrators who were blocking traffic. The demonstrators ended with a protest against police violence in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. City offices were closed in honor of Juneteenth, as were several businesses.

The Philadelphia chapter of Black Lives Matter and We Want Freedom for Black Philly celebrated with an event called Jawnteenth at Malcolm X Park in West Philadelphia. Several hundred people marched from the park down 52nd Street as motorists honked in support. Residents along the street, where police had violently attacked demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets on May 31, stood on porches with fists in the air.

Muda Bey, with the Revolutionary Black Panther Party of Philadelphia, called Juneteenth the true independence day for people of African descent: "A lot of people don't understand that July Fourth for them and July Fourth for us looked totally different. So this is our true Independence Day, and I encourage every Black person and every person in the African diaspora to celebrate Juneteenth because this was when you were rightfully free." (Inquirer.com, June 20)

Former prisoner Robert Saleem Holbrook, with the Human Rights Coalition and Abolitionist Law Center, called for releasing political prisoners including Mumia Abu-Jamal: "We need to start lifting up restorative justice, but more importantly, we need to bring our political prisoners home."

Raleigh, N.C.

Juneteenth in Raleigh, the capital of North Carolina, began in a somber mood. The previous evening, Raleigh police had engaged in an extremely high-profile arrest of two organizers from NC BORN (Building Our Revolution Now) — both Black women. NC BORN has hosted daily



Buffalo, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: EZRA ECHO

actions for three weeks, protesting police, prisons and the carceral system in general. (bit.ly/3djFIRd)

With big plans for Juneteenth, NC BORN and the Raleigh Demands Justice Coalition (raleighpact.org/pledge) began gathering in the streets at 11 a.m.

By 2 p.m., the chief of police called a press conference — at the city's whitest precinct, about 10 miles from the arrest and protest site — where he dropped all charges against NC BORN organizers and opened investigations into the officers responsible. Members of the City Council began to openly call for defunding the police.

The people were empowered. The oppressors were afraid. The movement celebrated with a block party, with Black Raleigh joining protesters on horseback, a community meal from Food Not Bombs, artistic and cultural celebrations — and before long, a march to the Capitol.

Numbers soon swelled into the hundreds until protesters finally began scaling the 75-foot memorial to enslavers on Capitol grounds and affixing ropes to two statues. A series of clashes followed, first between protesters and police, then between a business-aligned group and Black socialist organizations, over access to the statue. Police from the State Capitol, Raleigh, Wake County and even the State Highway Patrol were called to defend the monument until at last the police exhausted their reinforcements and were forced off the monument after about an hour of struggle.

The Confederate statues were eventually pulled from atop their pedestals and dragged through the streets of a city now emptied of law enforcement. The two monuments were strategically left in Raleigh — one suspended from a traffic light and the other on the steps of the courthouse, as Wake County cops, in comical levels of military gear, cowered inside the building.

The crowd dispersed safely and returned to the streets the next day when they witnessed a crew removing the remains of the white supremacist monuments from the Capitol grounds.

Decatur, Ga.

After almost three years of struggle, the "Lost Cause" Confederate monument in front of the DeKalb County Courthouse was taken down on June 18. Erected in 1908 — the year the Georgia Legislature passed



Raleigh, N.C.

PHOTO: SMASH RACISM RALEIGH

a constitutional amendment denying Black voting rights — the statue has symbolized white supremacy for 112 years. Community groups Beacon Hills Black Alliance for Human Rights and Hate Free Decatur led the campaign that forced the removal on the eve of Juneteenth. Hundreds gathered in the square, cheering as it was disassembled and hauled away on trucks.

San Antonio, Texas

Three days of Juneteenth actions in San Antonio brought anti-racist activists into the streets again. There were two marches on June 19 and one on June 20. On June 21, a caravan of over 80 cars wove through the city honking and displaying Black Lives Matter placards.

Makasi Motema, Sawyer Eason, Ezra Echo, calvin deutschbein, Dianne Mathiowetz and Shelley Ettinger contributed to this article.



San Antonio, Texas

WW PHOTO: SHELLEY ETTINGER



PHOTO: SAWYER EASON

Brooklyn, N.Y.



Decatur, Ga.

PHOTO: DECATURISH

Juneteenth

ILWU shuts down 29 ports along the West Coast

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

Taking bold stands against systemic racism and oppression is nothing new for the Bay Area’s Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10. The union has organized work stoppages to protest many injustices from apartheid in South Africa to the police murder of Oscar Grant to the Israeli bombing of Gaza. Local 10 was instrumental in organizing the Million Worker March in 2004 and bringing back the militant tradition of May 1, International Workers’ Day, to the San Francisco Bay Area.

When Local 10 put out a call for action on Juneteenth (June 19, 1865, is the date the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas after the Civil War) to protest police terror against George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and all the victims of police brutality, every single ILWU local joined in to shut down the entire West Coast.

On June 19, longshore workers brought shipping commerce to a halt from Vancouver to San Diego. This work stoppage cost the ship owners and ports tens of millions of dollars.

In Oakland, ILWU Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91 organized a march and a car caravan under the union banner: “An Injury to One Is an Injury to All.” On the morning of Juneteenth, thousands of people on foot, in cars, on bicycles and even on motorcycles showed up at the Port of Oakland.

The opening rally included speeches by “the real Clarence Thomas” — the retired ILWU Local 10 leader — as well as scholar and activist Angela Davis and actor/ activist Danny Glover, calling in from home. ILWU Local 10 President Trent Willis spoke and helped chair the opening rally.

Then the march and car caravan took off slowly toward downtown Oakland. Thousands of demonstrators wearing masks, many carrying homemade signs and banners, streamed across the Adeline Overpass down to the city streets. ILWU members and supporters stopped traffic to allow the huge protest to work its way up Broadway. On this day, not only did all work stop at the Port of Oakland — all traffic in Oakland ground to a halt!

First stop was the Oakland Police Department headquarters, where Michael Brown Sr., whose son



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN
ILWU Local 10 President Trent Willis, with other union members, speaks on June 19 about their militant West Coast action.

was killed in Ferguson, Mo., in 2014; the parents of Oscar Grant; and other victims of police terror spoke out for a citywide campaign to defund the OPD and invest in Oakland’s communities. Cat Brooks of the Anti Police-Terror Project called on everyone to support this effort as well as the campaign by the Black Organizing Project to end the school police department, creating “police-free schools.”

Finally the march reached Oscar Grant Plaza (renamed by the people after Grant’s 2009 murder by Bay Area Rapid Transit police). The plaza was filled beyond capacity with thousands of demonstrators, and the streets were clogged with hundreds of cars from the caravan. Closing speakers included ILWU members, community activists and family members of those killed by police—all expressing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

One special guest speaker was hip-hop artist, rapper and movie director, Boots Riley, who comes from Oakland. Riley talked about the political significance of the shutdown. He asked everyone to imagine what would happen if this wasn’t just a one-day shutdown of West Coast ports. He said the financial costs of an indefinite shutdown would be unimaginable, but that’s what would be needed to make change happen.

Riley said, “We need to show them we ain’t asking, we’re telling. We’ll stop the world and make them motherf— ers jump off.” (SFGATE.com, June 20) □



PHOTO: WEST SEATTLE BLOG
International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Juneteenth 2020.

Seattle longshore workers stop work on Juneteenth

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Longshore workers and supporters in Seattle marched on Juneteenth as part of a strike of 29 ports from California to Canada. Seattle’s Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Locals 52 and 19 marched, along with local Black leadership, from the Local 19 union hall down the waterfront to Pier 46 for a rally.

Hundreds of marchers chanted “Black Lives Matter.” There was representation from the Inlandboatmen’s Union in the ILWU and a large delegation of Filipino internationalists from BAYAN USA.

At the rally, march organizer Gabriel Prawl, the first Black president of ILWU Local 52, spoke and then read a solidarity statement from the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, echoing the demands of the Black Lives Matter movement.

ILWU Local 19 President Rich Austin spoke in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. Family members of people killed by the cops also spoke.

A Latinx member of the Highline Education Association/ National Education Association spoke of their successful petition for the Seattle-King County Labor Council to expel the Seattle Police Officers Guild.

After the rally, the march traveled to the Washington Department of Corrections. The longshore workers, along with supporters, demanded justice for six work-release prisoners, who had been disciplined at work and sent back to prison simply for insisting on personal protective equipment at work! Now back behind bars, the six, mostly prisoners of color, are showing symptoms of COVID-19 due to the lack of protections.

The demonstration demanded freedom for the six, health care for prisoners and an end to mass incarceration. A copy of these demands was signed by many organizations and fixed on the DOC’s front door. □

U.S. to Palestine, stop racist police terror!

By calvin deutschbein
Durham, N.C.

As the uprising rocks the U.S., increasingly the veil over policing — a form of neocolonialism — is wearing thin. In the Triangle area of North Carolina, home of the Demilitarize!Durham2Palestine movement, solidarity with Palestinians — world leaders in struggle against racist occupation and colonial-state violence — is more important than ever.

As the United States is the central sponsor of Israeli apartheid, those of us in the U.S. can support Palestinians by stopping the flow of resources.

One way the U.S. upholds the Israeli occupation is by using dollars from massively overfunded police departments — which often make up about half the general budget of towns and cities, not to mention federal, state and county agencies — to pay the Israeli Defense Force to “train” officers.

These police “exchange programs” create the worst of all possible worlds: The oppressive techniques of U.S.-based police bodies and the occupation of Palestinian areas combine to thwart Black Liberation in the U.S. as well as Palestinian freedom.

In the midst of the recent uprising here in Durham and Raleigh, police

increasingly turned to techniques learned from the IDF, even as they faced newfound calls for defunding.

Exchange programs take place all across the U.S., from Vermont—where Vermonters for Justice in Palestine prevented an Anti-Defamation League-backed exchange program from taking place—to New York, Los Angeles and, perhaps most infamously, Ferguson, Mo., the site of the police murder of Michael Brown in 2014.

Demilitarize!

Durham2Palestine has been opposing these programs in their city.

The largest program in the U.S.—Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, based in Atlanta—trained the current Durham Chief of Police Cerelyn Davis, who was a deputy chief in Atlanta before moving to Durham. Her presence ignited the Demilitarize!Durham2Palestine movement in 2016.

GILEE also trained former Atlanta Chief of Police Erika Shields — who just stepped down after her officers murdered Rayshard Brooks — as well as Atlanta’s Interim Police Chief Rodney Bryant.

Bryant’s training—by the Israeli National Police Department—focused specifically on “counterterrorism.” In the midst of uprisings rocking the city and the nation,

Bryant was trained and chosen to escalate neocolonialist state terror in Atlanta.

Occupation serves U.S. empire

Palestinians know all too well that police are an occupying force; occupied territories there are frequently likened to open-air prisons. Freedom of movement is denied under apartheid policies that confine Palestinians, not just to inside the settler colonies, but often within their own homes.

In occupied Hebron, Israel Defense Forces conduct night raids of homes, detain Palestinians indefinitely, kettle (box in) children and bombard them with tear gas, and commit massacres on an almost annual basis. Palestinians have had to live with having tear gas fired into their own homes.

Palestinians were the first to experience “riot control” technologies, such as “sound canons” designed to cause as much pain to as large a crowd as possible, and various forms of injurious weapons such as sponge batons or “rubber bullets” and the use of “tasers” as a form of torture.

The oppression of Palestinians is part of the

broader global trend of the U.S. empire, though the tactics used for ethnic cleansing in Palestine were first developed and set in motion by the British empire. The techniques refined there have been put in place elsewhere, from U.S.-Saudi involvement in Yemen to the U.S.- and European Union-backed Moroccan occupation of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to U.S. police departments oppression of Black, Brown and Indigenous people.

Ferguson to Sahrawi, Vermont to Yemen, Durham to Palestine, Atlanta to Nicaragua, occupation is a crime. Free Palestine! Free them all! □



PHOTO: DEMILITARIZE!DURHAM2PALESTINE
Demilitarize!Durham2 Palestine at the annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street, joining over 200 social justice organizations, Feb. 8.

Attica, 1971

‘Ready to die for their just demands’

By Tom Soto

In September 1971, prisoners at Attica Correctional Facility in New York state staged a rebellion that drew international attention to the struggle of incarcerated workers. Prisoners requested that the Prisoner Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party intervene on their behalf during negotiations. New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller eventually ordered a massacre that led to the deaths of over 40 people. The following is an excerpt of PSC member Tom Soto’s eyewitness account. Soto died earlier this month at the age of 77.

There is one scene I’ll never forget. I was leaving the prison for the last time, late Sunday night. As I entered corridor A leading into the liberated area there was a brother whom I happened to know personally standing on security. His arms were folded as he faced 40 machine guns on the administration side. On his shirt he was wearing a [Prisoners Solidarity Committee] button. Today, I don’t know if he is alive.

Another thing I’ll never forget—a brother whom I rapped with a long time noted the ring on my finger and asked about it. I told him it had been made from



Attica, 1971.

an American fighter bomber shot down by Laotian women over Laos. I gave it to him, and he considered it to be a very dear show of solidarity between the PSC and the prisoners and the Indochinese people.

As I left, I knew that I might never see these men again. The atmosphere was filled with tension. There were many hugs and kisses, many goodbyes, many messages to families on the outside. Yet there was also an incredible strength and determination among all the prisoners to fight for their just demands or die in the attempt.

Finally, I’d like to add that the prisoners don’t view themselves as criminals. They know that they—the Black people, the Puerto Rican people, the poor

white people—are not “criminals” but oppressed people, driven by poverty. They know that they have been denied jobs; they have families to support; and they know that the only way for poor people to survive, for those with no hope of getting jobs, was through stealing \$20 or \$100 or \$200, in other words, crimes of survival.

They see themselves as victims of a racist society which oppresses and exploits their people. They see the Rockefellers, the Mellons, the big corporations, the banks, those who rob and steal their labor for profit, as the real criminals.

The inmates always told me that they had no intention of killing any of the hostages. They took them because there was no other way to redress their grievances.

The guard-hostages were the only thing that stood between the prisoners and sudden death. As it turned out, Rockefeller decided to sacrifice even the guards rather than to give in to the just demands of the prisoners. The blood of all the dead is on his hands.

But one thing the rulers of this country never seem to learn—they think repression, repression and more repression will end the oppressed peoples’ uprisings. In fact, just the opposite is true. The men at Attica were so oppressed, so tortured, so brutally treated that finally they chose to revolt and even die rather than endure life behind those walls any longer. They knew that many would die, yet they chose the dignity of struggle rather than the misery of submission.

The Attica uprising was an historic event. It will live forever in the hearts and minds of the oppressed around the world. If the class solidarity shown there is any indication of the future, the cause of the oppressed and poor cannot fail. No prison rebellion in U.S. history has ever been so politically conscious and so determined. The Prisoners Solidarity Committee felt honored to have been invited by the prisoners to support them and is pledged to continue our work on their behalf. □



Philadelphia police

Too late to reform, time to disband

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Police Department, the fourth largest in the U.S., is one of the oldest municipal police agencies, founded in 1854. Its history has been marked by patterns of police brutality, intimidation, coercion and disregard for constitutional rights.

Recently, a statue of former Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo (1967-71), whose tenure is synonymous with racist police brutality, was finally removed. While welcomed, simply removing his statue changes nothing fundamental. It is only a first step.

Philadelphia Mayor James Kenney had ordered the removal of the hated statue in the middle of the night on June 3, robbing activists, who for years had fought for its removal, the pleasure of taking it down themselves. Back in 2017, Philadelphia REAL (Racial, Economic and Legal) Justice had launched a campaign called “Rizzo Down.”

The removal came days after thousands of peaceful marchers filled the Benjamin Franklin Parkway protesting the police murder of George Floyd. They were

violently attacked by local and state police using tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets. On June 10, it was reported that Kenney on May 31 had authorized the use of “less than lethal munitions” to respond to protests in the city.

During major protests in Center City on May 30, the most serious weapon used by police against protesters had been tear gas and limited pepper spray. Yet the following day, in predominantly Black neighborhoods, police used tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets extensively against protesters and residents.

Multiple federal investigations: no fundamental change

The Philadelphia Police Department has been the target of numerous investigations by the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice. The U.S. Attorney’s Office in Philadelphia investigated Rizzo as far back as 1977.

A federal investigation conducted in the early 1980s resulted in the conviction of 31 Philadelphia police officers, including several involved in the arrest and conviction of Black journalist and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is still behind bars.

The most recent DOJ investigation in 2015 ended with pages of recommendations and the appointment of yet another commission to carry out recommended reforms.

District Attorney Larry Krasner was elected as a reform candidate. In January 2018, shortly after taking office, he released a list of 29 cops whose names appeared on a “do not call” list for district attorneys to avoid calling as trial witnesses because their alleged misconduct made their testimony suspect. Not one has been dismissed from the PPD.

In 2019, the Plain View Project outed more than 330 Philadelphia police for racist, homophobic and violent Facebook posts. The police commissioner at the time, Richard Ross, was due to dismiss several of these officers. Instead, it was Ross who was suddenly forced to resign under allegations of sexual misconduct. All police cited by the Plain View Project’s investigation remain on the force. Philadelphia officials then dismissed many of the allegations.

While the victims of police brutality in Philadelphia are too numerous to count, the number of police who were convicted as a result—and served any jail time—can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

In 1985, Philadelphia police, with the backing of then Mayor Wilson Goode, dropped a bomb on the MOVE family house in West Philadelphia, murdering 11 men, women and children. To date, not one of these cops or city officials have been held accountable for this racist crime—despite the fact that there is no statute of limitations on murder.

ending stop-and-frisk. While proposing fully funded independent police oversight, they stopped short of calling for such a body to have the right to subpoena, fire or charge police.

Under community pressure, the city appears to be backing down on plans to build a \$22 million police station in an historically Black neighborhood in North Philly. Yet despite the good intentions of some progressive council members, their reforms are just another attempt to save a police department that is beyond redemption.

The oppressed communities have moved on.

Twelve Black organizations and individuals released a platform of 13 demands on June 5 under the banner: We Want Freedom—End the War Against Black Philadelphians NOW!

The preface reads: “During this time of rebellion against police terrorism and state violence, we, the radical Black organizing community in Philadelphia, make the following immediately actionable demands upon the City of Philadelphia to abolish—by which we mean to permanently and holistically eliminate—the structures of policing and related state violence endangering our communities. Until our demands are met, we will be in the streets demanding justice for the Black community.”

Philadelphia Police Department beyond redemption

Fourteen City Council members sent Mayor Kenney a list of police “reform” demands on June 9. They address long-standing problems, including disproportionate funding for police at the expense of vital community services and

Their demands include: no Police Department budget increase; no criminalization of Black resistance; immediate and permanent remove of all symbols of state violence; end military occupations of the Black community; end all carceral systems; immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal and all Black political prisoners; abolish the Fraternal Order of Police; disband all private police departments; and economic justice now.

The full list of demands and signers is available on Facebook at We Want Freedom for Black Philly. □



Philadelphia protest, June 6.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Black workers resist union-busting Boston gentrifier

By Workers World Boston bureau

A June 16 action for eight laid-off workers — organized just four days after the announcement they had been fired — drew about 100 people. They were protesting at their place of work, College Bound Dorchester/Boston Uncornered, on a quiet residential street on the Tuesday morning.

With these latest layoffs, CEO Mark Culliton targeted one-third of the remaining youth services employees working for his company, College Bound, after workers declared their intention to unionize as Uncornered United-Service Employees (SEIU) Local 888 on June 2. College Bound is a “further education” preparation program, while Boston Uncornered hires neighborhood leaders impacted by violence to be mentors in the program. The company website advertises the programs as “opportunities to turn away from the ‘street corners’ for good.”

The UU mentors are Black and Brown neighborhood leaders who have demonstrated social influence and skill at developing young people by drawing on their own challenges and experiences. These workers are demanding that Culliton recognize the union and that he reinstate those illegally fired in retaliation for organizing. Uncornered United’s Facebook



WW PHOTO: G. LECHAT

On June 16 workers protested firings during their organizing drive at a Boston nonprofit.

page asks supporters to sign and share a petition and contact Culliton supporting their demands.

As workers spoke out at the June 16 rally, they described a quintessentially capitalist story of structural racism and gentrification. Technology instructor Joe Taché explained that Culliton reduced his company from 94 workers to fewer than 25 in a decade: “At the same time, in 2010, Culliton’s salary was \$140,000 and now it’s \$185,000 ... a raise of \$45,000. That’s more than any of us make in a

year!” Taché noted that in 2020 Culliton probably made even more.

Another worker pointed out that big banks and corporations oppress workers — and so do nonprofit entrepreneurs. Workers detailed how Culliton exploits and disrespects them, maximizing donations by publicly narrating selected painful details from their personal stories without consent, then excluding them from decision-making.

Culliton, a white graduate of the University of Michigan with a Yale MBA,

calls himself “the vision behind the solution,” highlighting his school-privatization credentials on the company website. His biography suggests Black and Brown trauma is a profitable problem for him.

Meanwhile, the company’s advisors, instructors and mentors, on call 24/7 for their youth clients, earn between \$30,000 and \$40,000 — an unlivable wage in the hyper-expensive Boston area.

Just three days before the layoffs, Culliton raised \$650,000, evidence that his motivation in the firings was retaliation, not response to the recession. He had certainly removed workplace activists in the past.

At the close of the rally, workers marched to Culliton’s fancy house — presumably valued above a million dollars in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood where once multiple working-class families were crammed into triple-decker housing.

Protesters blocked midday traffic, chanted and leafletted essential workers of color in the streets, receiving a friendly reception. As they attached flyers to Culliton’s door, workers loudly appealed to his neighbors — home because of the pandemic — to help Culliton see the light. They also announced that they encourage people anywhere in the world to give him a call and support the workers’ struggle. □

Finishing the unfinished revolution

Continued from page 1

so much because they opposed slavery on a moral basis, but because the slaveocracy economy had become a hindrance to further U.S. capitalist industrialization. This is why the North, the Northern bourgeoisie, betrayed what is still the most revolutionary epoch of the Black Liberation Movement.

That was the period we call Reconstruction. It was about a decade long, mainly after the Civil War, when Black people really had power and self-determination, self-control and self-government in much of the South. But as many of you know, Reconstruction was crushed by Ku Klux Klan terror, with the support of the North, the Northern bourgeoisie.

The slaveocracy that had been briefly out of power was back in power on different terms, but more or less back in power. That’s why that epoch is called by many an unfinished revolution — the unfinished phase of Black Liberation.

In the next period was the great Marcus Garvey movement in the 1920s and early 1930s. We should talk about that sometime but not tonight. Then in the 1950s and 1960s, there was the movement led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and there was the more militant movement led by Malcolm X. Ultimately, there were the Black Panthers, who evolved into revolutionary internationalists and Marxists, which is just one of the reasons why they were so feared — and one of the reasons why the FBI and the police systematically destroyed them.

‘Tremendous, wondrous uprising’

I believe that what we’ve been seeing for three weeks in this tremendous, wondrous uprising, not only in this country, but all over the world, is another attempt to finish that unfinished revolution. No matter what happens, the police will never recover politically. They have been isolated. They have been exposed for what they are, and I think to a large extent that’s going to be permanent.

Schools and school boards want to break their relationship with the police. They want the police to get out of the schools. In a highly unusual, but very progressive move, labor councils want to kick so-called “police unions” out of the labor movement. We say so-called because they are not really unions.

Confederate statues are coming down by the dozens. Even statues of racists like former Mayor Frank Rizzo in Philadelphia and statues of Christopher Columbus in some areas. I believe even a statue of Thomas Jefferson, who was a big slave owner, was taken down.

This uprising is so significant that many unions are either taking an afternoon off, or going on a one-day work stoppage, or having demonstrations June 19, like the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

It also draws attention to what the official top leadership of the AFL-CIO is not doing. It is a disgrace that they recently issued a statement defending police unions. There is absolutely no reason — considering this tremendous revolution that’s been taking place everywhere — why these leaders didn’t call for some kind of general strike so that workers could come out, even if only for an hour, and solidarize themselves with this anti-racist, anti-white-supremacist struggle. But the leadership is not inclined to do that.

That’s another reason why the present leadership of the AFL-CIO really needs to be replaced by a more progressive and revolutionary leadership. I think that’s a struggle that has been going on. There’s a lot to say about that. But I think it’s going to pick up a lot of steam because of the events of recent weeks.

‘Unprecedented multinational movement’

There’s something deeper going on, something that has not necessarily been said outright yet, but it is there. Why is this uprising so multinational? Why are so many young white people involved in it, marching side by side with their Black

and Brown comrades? That’s a new development, we thought, in the Black Lives Matter movement over the past five or six years. But in recent weeks, it’s gotten even bigger and more unprecedented. Is it because they are better on a moral level? I don’t think that’s quite it.

I think that what’s happening in the world — the decline of capitalism, the exposure of capitalism and the pillars that it’s built on, and the impact that the demise of capitalism is having on young people, not only in this country, but around the world — is leading to a new level of consciousness. At least in an incipient way, it is very revolutionary. I think these struggles are multinational because whites are finally realizing that it’s in their interest to join with Black and Brown people.

This is because — as some of us old Marxists used to say, and we got it from Marx himself — white skin or white workers will really never be free under capitalism as long as Black people are either oppressed or enslaved — or people are kneeling on our necks and killing us. I think they get that. This is really the beginning of a revolution, at least in the view of some of us. The first part of it is smashing white supremacy. But it’s going on to the next level.

I think the young people, but not just the young people, are in motion. They are realizing they have no future under capitalism and that white supremacy and patriarchy are pillars of capitalism. They want to get rid of all that, not only in this country, but everywhere.

I think they understand — and more of us are understanding — that in a sense what Trump’s election was about was a desperate, reactionary attempt to stop the revolution from coming. They saw this coming. They saw the handwriting on the wall. But what we’re seeing now is the real revolt against that attempt — and it’s pushing it back.

Two competing paths in struggle ahead

As we move forward, we’ll see there will be two competing paths that this struggle is going to take. One path will be led by



Larry Holmes

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

the liberal bourgeoisie which is trying to catch up and sound like they’re on the right side, so they can co-opt the struggle with sloganeering and measures. This is what they do.

On the other hand, there are the masses who want to tear stuff down, and realize that even if the first thing you tear down is a statue, that’s just symbolic of the fact that we need to tear down systems like capitalism. These two paths will be contending, and that’s going to be a protracted struggle.

But for the masses to come out ahead, there’s going to be a time when it’s no longer sufficient for these uprisings to be spontaneous. They are great, and they accomplish a lot, and they push things forward.

But the time is going to come when the struggle needs to be organized, and revolutionaries will have to be involved and will need to influence it and lead it. That’s where we can really accomplish some of the revolutionary goals that we have. That requires organization.

That’s why there is Workers World Party. We are hoping that those of you who understand this, who are moving in that direction, will look into joining Workers World Party. Now is the time. It’s very decisive. What you do can make a big difference.

View this and other WWP webinars at workers.org/videos.

Defund means abolish police!

“Defund the police!” has leaped to the top of the demands that mass demonstrations have been making since the May 25 police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. After that city’s 3rd Police Precinct building burned to the ground to the cheers of a majority of the U.S. population, there was no way for the U.S. rulers to ignore this demand. (tinyurl.com/y7lsqoh5)

Something had to be done — and not just arresting and charging the killer cop and his accomplices with murder.

The message rang clear: Take the bloated budgets away from police departments. Starve them for funds. Cut off the tanks and armored cars. End this repressive, racist force that uses lethal power.

The openly racist president and his party attacked the “defund” slogan. His Democratic Party opponent Joe Biden was just as quick to say he would add funds for the police — for additional training in

“sensitivity.”

It was another reminder that both imperialist parties collaborate regarding the police. While they might argue over police procedures, both expect the police to continue their essential role. As Marxists, we know that this role is to stand above civilian society and impose the capitalist ruling class’s domination on all working people.

In all class societies, the police forces originated from those mercenary elements that the rich — landowners, slave owners, capitalists — hired to “keep the poor in their place.”

U.S. police evolved from those paid by the slavocracy to capture fugitive enslaved people. This origin has left its racist imprint on capitalist law enforcement.

Police protect the capitalists’ ability to exploit — that is, to steal — the wealth produced by working people (which capitalists call profits) and concentrate it

in the hands of a few. To the U.S. ruling class, police are the best servants.

A debate has arisen over what “defund the police” means. Originally, it meant to eliminate police budgets or “abolish the police.”

Some participants in the movement have argued for more limited demands, such as: Stop the Pentagon from supplying the cops with heavy military hardware like tanks and helicopters; cut police budgets by 10 percent and use the funds to supply social services to the people; establish civilian boards that answer to the community to recruit, train and run the police.

Workers World supports those forces in the movement that raise the slogan “Defund the police!” In the midst of an unprecedented uprising of the African-American community, one with broader support from the general population than ever before in U.S. history, any battle over

specific demands merges with this living struggle and pushes it forward.

The police and the racists will fight even the smallest reforms. A struggle to defund police must be won against not only the Trump forces but also against the Democratic Party establishment.

As Marxists who see the police as a central component of the state, a state that imposes the rule of the capitalists on the workers, we from Workers World especially solidarize ourselves with those who extend the demand “Defund the police” to mean “Abolish the police!”

Only by abolishing the racist, capitalist police — what Marx called “the bodies of armed men” that enforce class rule — and replacing them with popular organizations that answer to the working class and all oppressed sectors of the population — can the victories of today’s massive movement be made permanent. □

Why the Dreamers won

The Supreme Court for over 230 years has carried out the conservative goals of its creators. It has protected private property — including the “ownership” of human beings — and minimized the right of the poor to associate for united struggle. Currently, SCOTUS consists of a majority of conservative and reactionary judges, plus a few exceptions.

Thus, many people were stunned that on June 18 this right-wing court stopped the Trump administration — at least temporarily — from deporting the “Dreamers.” These Dreamers are the children of migrants who crossed U.S. borders with their parents when neither had official legal permission to live and work in the U.S.

An Obama-era program — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) — had given the children the right to remain here. Trump rescinded DACA. “Dreamers” refers to people covered in

the earlier DREAM Act, never passed, that would have protected 2 million undocumented youth from deportation.

The vast majority of the Dreamers’ parents have supplied their labor — often for low wages — in the most essential sectors of the economy — farming, construction, hotel and restaurant, plus hospital and other service work, including child care. Their children, the Dreamers, overcame poverty and language “disadvantages” (being forced to learn English) to finish school or other training.

It takes a particularly vicious politician to stoop to blaming immigrants for economic problems in the U.S. It takes a xenophobic criminal like Trump to use the immigrants’ children as a scapegoat to mobilize his own racist base.

Both the Dreamers and their parents deserve the right to stay in the U.S. and work, if they so choose. And they should

have the right to all the benefits that workers have won here — including Social Security, unemployment compensation, medical care, etc. Equal pay and benefits inevitably would aid all labor.

The SCOTUS decision — which allows the Trump administration an opening to revise its anti-immigrant tactics — was nevertheless a victory, a small step forward, important for the Dreamers.

The DACA movement itself and its supporters deserve credit for carrying out the struggle over the last few years to defend the Dreamers’ interests. This includes their campaign to abolish the immigration cop gang—aka Immigration and Customs Enforcement — and to close down ICE concentration camps holding migrants and spreading COVID-19.

However, it is important to understand why even reactionary SCOTUS justices voted against Trump.

Over the past month a Black Lives Matter movement has arisen 100 times stronger than before, impacting every social event. The Dreamers have been in solidarity with BLM and vice versa. This new powerful movement has swept monuments from the streets and cop shows from the airwaves. It has raised anti-racist literature to the top of the best-seller lists and put the existence of police on the list of points for debate.

SCOTUS must have had this in mind as it made its decision — along with the decision earlier in the week that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ2S+ workers from job discrimination.

While none of the victories has yet been made permanent, the wave of unprecedented global struggle is already something that even reactionary Supreme Court justices would like to avoid drowning under. □

U.N. Human Rights Council condemns racist violence

By Lyn Neeley

In the wake of international uprisings due to the lynching of George Floyd, the U.N. Human Rights Council held an emergency hearing on June 19. The council unanimously passed a resolution condemning systemic racism and racist police brutality against people of African descent in all countries, but particularly in the U.S.

More than 600 rights groups and 54 African nations called on the council to investigate the blatant police murder of George Floyd, as well as police violence against anti-racist demonstrators and members of the media.

Floyd’s family and families of other victims murdered by the police also appealed to the HRC. Ben Crump, Floyd’s family lawyer, sent a tweet to the council, “encouraging the U.S. government to press federal criminal charges against involved officers and making recommendations for systemic police reform.” (tinyurl.com/ydh2r7p5)

In 2018 the U.S. pulled out of the HRC, which is now made up of 47 states. The U.S. vilified the council for not condemning Venezuela’s Chavista government, for welcoming the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for its critical stance toward

Israel, which included questioning Israel’s legitimacy as a sovereign state.

Many speakers at the hearing condemned recent actions by the U.S. The Iranian representative called George Floyd’s killing a “public execution.” Cuba’s spokesperson said severe racism in the U.S. is “not the exception,” but “part and parcel” of daily life. The Somali representative called this systemic racism more dangerous than COVID-19.

Zeid Raad al-Hussein, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, criticized President Trump’s new anti-immigration strategy of “zero tolerance” at the U.S./Mexico border. That measure has separated over 2,000 children from their families over the last two months. Al-Hussein reminded the council that the U.S. is the only U.N. member that has not ratified the three-decades-old Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, a human rights lawyer from the north of Ireland, responded to a statement made by U.S. Attorney General William Barr that blamed “Antifa” for causing violence and domestic terrorism: “The loose use of terrorism rhetoric undermines legitimate protests and dampens freedom of expression in the United States.” □

Honoring Che: Revolutionary hero, internationalist

“If you tremble with indignation at every injustice, then you are a comrade of mine.” Those are the words of Ernesto “Che” Guevara, anti-imperialist, guerrilla fighter and a leader of the Cuban revolution. This working-class hero is revered by revolutionaries and oppressed peoples worldwide. Che was born on June 14, 1928. CIA-directed Bolivian soldiers executed him on Oct. 9, 1967, in La Higuera, Bolivia.



Che Guevara and Fidel Castro.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro told his grieving country on Oct. 18, 1967: “Che died defending no other interest, no other cause than the cause of the exploited and the oppressed of this continent. Che has left a great heritage to the world. He left us his revolutionary thinking, his revolutionary virtues, his character, his will, his tenacity. He left us his example!

“Che carried to its highest expression revolutionary stoicism, the revolutionary spirit of sacrifice, revolutionary combativeness, the revolutionary’s spirit of work. Che brought

the ideas of Marxism-Leninism to their freshest, purest, most revolutionary expression. No other person of our time has carried the spirit of proletarian internationalism to its highest possible level as Che did.

“We must face the future with firmness, determination and optimism. In Che’s example, we will always look for inspiration — inspiration in struggle, inspiration in tenacity, inspiration in intransigence toward the enemy, inspiration in internationalist feeling!” (tinyurl.com/y7ku4jb5)

— Report by Kathy Durkin

Amazing facts about the virus

By Deirdre Griswold

Facts are stubborn things. Take the fact that the People’s Republic of China, with four times the population of the U.S., has had far fewer COVID-19 deaths, even though it was the first country to be confronted with this new disease. How do defenders of the capitalist system deal with that fact? They don’t. They just ignore it. Yet according to the website Coronavirus Update, which tracks the numbers of cases and deaths all over the world, the facts as of June 22 were these: The U.S. had a total of 2,356,715 cases of COVID-19 and 122,249 deaths. China had 83,396 cases and 4,634 deaths. When seen in relation to population size, the contrast is even more remarkable. For every one million people, the U.S. had 369 deaths. China had just three deaths per million people. WW wrote about this at the beginning of May. At that time, the U.S. had 206 coronavirus deaths per million people. In just seven weeks, that ratio has increased to 369 per million.

China’s figure has remained the same — three per million. Just one generation ago, China was still a poor country struggling to develop. The U.S., by contrast, has boasted of its economic and technological prowess for at least a century and a half. So what are the Chinese doing to combat the virus that the U.S. is not? It was only a few months ago that we saw accounts of how the Chinese government handled the serious outbreak of the virus in Wuhan. An immediate quarantine of the area was established. Contact tracing was implemented. Almost overnight, new field hospitals were set up to isolate and treat the sick. China may now be seeing a second wave of the virus—and is prepared to contain it as effectively as it did the first cases. How are they doing this? China’s strength relies on the solidarity of its people to work together in a time of crisis. It is impossible to ignore the difference in social systems behind these glaringly different outcomes. The U.S. is unabashedly a capitalist country, one where competition is hailed as a virtue—even though the wealthy

have the ultimate control. Also figuring into the spread of the virus in the U.S. is the racism that pervades this society. A recent study by the Brookings Institution on “Race gaps in COVID-19 deaths are even bigger than they appear” concludes that “The age-adjusted COVID-19 death rate for Black people is 3.6 times that for whites, and the age-adjusted death rate for Hispanic/Latino people is 2.5 times that for whites.” Racism pits people against each other and is particularly manifested in competition over jobs. To counter this, progressives have long fought for the slogan “A job is a right!” China is a country transformed by a socialist revolution that relies not on competition but on cooperation and human solidarity. It is not perfect. How could it be in a world still dominated by capitalist imperialism? But its response to the pandemic shows how far China has come in its journey to transform human relations. How different from the divisiveness that people in the U.S. get from the capitalist government, no matter which party is in power. To overcome the imposed divisions



Medical staff in Wuhan, China, celebrate after all coronavirus patients were discharged from temporary emergency hospital, March 9.

in the U.S. that keep the working class from realizing its power to create a better world, change is coming now from the cooperation of movements rising against racism, sexism, mass incarceration and the oppression of immigrants, as well as by people living with disabilities and LGBTQ2S+ people. Cooperation and solidarity: These are the greatest antidotes to any disaster, natural or human made. And a socialist system develops and strengthens these qualities among people. □

Maritime workers: Essential and mistreated due to COVID

By G. Dunkel

Over a million workers on 60,000 ships, moving hither and yon through the world’s oceans, transport 80 percent of the world’s trade. Container ships carrying cell phones, computers and frozen meat; ore, oil and chemical transports—all the necessities of modern life—need crews to move them safely and expeditiously. Crews at all levels work on contracts that generally vary from two to 10 months. Contracts can be extended by a month. After a worker’s contract is finished, they are guaranteed a free trip home by international agreement. Monthly salaries range from \$400 for trainees and \$1,000 for junior seafarers to around \$10,000 for captains. Some labor inspectors report that other companies pay as little as \$250 for a month’s work and no overtime. Seafarers generally come from poor countries like the

Philippines, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and also more developed countries like China, Ukraine and Russia. The work can be very hard, demanding and dangerous. Le Monde interviewed a French seafarer who spent five months at sea, working seven days a week, on the ship’s machinery, in temperatures often over 110 F. He considered mutilating himself on the ship’s gear to get off the vessel. A friend talked him out of it. (June 19) Countries and companies want their merchandise moved. The companies need to make profits. But while the merchandise can be unloaded, countries have their COVID-19 protocols in place, and will neither let the seafarers leave the boats or let other workers enter the country to take their place. At least 250,000 seafarers have finished their contracts and have no idea when they will be relieved. Similar numbers are stuck at home with no idea when

they will next get work. Both totals are rising by tens of thousands each week. Both the secretary general of the United Nations and Pope Francis have issued statements about the “involuntary servitude” being imposed on seafarers. The International Transport Workers’ Federation, a coalition of a wide variety of national maritime unions, has initiated an “Enough is Enough” campaign. The ITF issued a June 21 statement saying that “when seafarers have finished their extended contracts, they are fatigued physically and/or mentally and feel that they are not fit to continue to safely perform their duties at the level required of a professional. The responsible action at this point is not to extend their contract and request repatriation. “This is not an incitement to go on strike! Their contract has finished and, once a ship is safely in harbour, they have the right not to extend.”



Unionized maritime workers hold a sign with the slogan ‘I supply the world’

The ITF is saying publicly that they will support a worker’s right to refuse an extension and stop working. If enough workers on a ship exercise this right, the ship will have to remain anchored, which is what would happen if the ITF did call a strike. □

Denying health crisis won’t save jobs

By G. Dunkel

June 21—For the thirteenth week in a row, the number of initial claims the Bureau of Labor Statistics counts for unemployment insurance was over 1.5 million. Now every state plus the District of Columbia has begun the process of loosening the restrictions it had imposed in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Relaxing these public health measures, they argue, is necessary to restart the economy.

President Donald Trump and his cronies have put the virus in their rearview mirrors. His Coronavirus Task Force has stopped its briefings, signalling, “Do your own thing.” Trump has basically avoided the topic since he made some ridiculous suggestions for which he was soundly and rightfully mocked. But the situation of workers in this country has rapidly deteriorated. So rapidly that accurate figures are hard to come by. From having the tightest labor markets in decades at the beginning of February, the official unemployment rate rose to 13.7 percent in May. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics computes a more accurate rate, the so-called “U-6” rate, which reached 21.6 percent in May. This rate is considered by many economists to be the most accurate measure of a country’s unemployment because it includes the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed, underemployed and discouraged.

With one out of every five workers in the United States unemployed, the state-run unemployment insurance offices, poorly funded and partially privatized, have been overwhelmed with applicants. Millions of workers have had to wait weeks, sometimes even months, for their checks to arrive. The number of claims for unemployment insurance adds up to well over 41 million since the crisis began. In addition, some 700,000 workers who were self-employed or otherwise ineligible for state jobless benefits have filed new claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, a federal aid program. But the PUA is scheduled to sunset at the end of July, threatening a huge income loss for tens of millions of workers. Also going to end is a substantial amount of money that many workers have been receiving from the states. It is difficult to tabulate how many workers are with or without a job, are in a temporary situation or are discouraged workers with a side job, especially when floods of workers come into the labor market whenever they see the glimmer of a job. Therefore, economists and business analysts use the number of claims for unemployment insurance as a rough

and ready indicator of the health of the economy. That’s why they are so pessimistic, now that the number of claims has amounted to more than 1.5 million for the thirteenth week in a row. Many state and local governments are dreading July 1. The continuing economic collapse means many workers will not be able to make their July rent or mortgage payments. Evictions and foreclosures are expected to rise rapidly. State governments are also facing other big problems scheduled to pop on July 1, the date when many of their fiscal budgets begin. They are responsible for unemployment insurance, public health, public housing, education, fire fighting in medium to large cities and Medicaid — which provides health insurance for the poor. Their revenue — mainly from sales and income taxes — has been devastated by the economy’s collapse. Their response to the pandemic has been costly. This means the states will be forced to make deep cuts in public spending that will entail millions of layoffs and major struggles with public sector unions. This may well turn out to be a hot summer indeed. □





Las comunidades latinas en el norte de Nueva Jersey, 11 de junio.

editorial

Stonewall significa unirse para luchar

Los gobernantes reaccionarios de los EE.UU. intentan desalentar, dividir y derrotar a los pobres, los oprimidos y los trabajadores de cualquier manera posible, en cualquier oportunidad posible.

Mire la táctica de operaciones psicológicas que intentó el supremacista blanco Trump al organizar su primer mitin de campaña 2020 en Tulsa, Okla., lugar de una horrenda masacre de personas de la raza negra por personas de raza blanca en 1921, el 19 de junio, la tradicional celebración negra de la Proclamación de Emancipación.

A mediados del Mes del Orgullo, la administración Trump-Pence lanzó otro ataque brutal contra personas LGBTQ2S+. El 12 de junio, el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos anunció la cancelación de todas las protecciones no discriminatorias para las personas LGBTQ2S+ para el acceso a la atención médica y el seguro de salud en virtud de la Ley de Asistencia Asequible.

Y el gobierno anunció deliberadamente esta noticia en el aniversario de la Masacre de Pulse 2016 en Orlando, Florida. Cuarenta y nueve personas fueron asesinadas allí el 12 de junio de 2016, en un club nocturno LGBTQ2S+, en su mayoría jóvenes de color queer, 90 por ciento latinx.

La orden del HHS dio a los fanáticos el visto bueno para negar el acceso de personas queer, no conformes con el género y personas trans a una cita con el médico, una prueba COVID-19, servicios de aborto y reproducción, la sala de emergencias y el seguro de salud.

El momento de la orden del HHS fue diseñado cínicamente para ser desmoralizante. No hay duda de que en medio de una pandemia global, esta decisión significa que más personas LGBTQ2S+ morirán. Ya más del 50 por ciento de las personas queer

experimentan alguna forma de discriminación en la atención médica; una de cada cinco personas trans no tiene cobertura de salud simplemente por su identidad trans. (tinyurl.com/yb4t4a6x)

Tía Sherèe Gaynor, profesora de ciencias políticas de la Universidad de Cincinnati, enfatizó que para las personas trans negras se les niega la atención médica: “Son capas de opresión, es transfobia además del racismo además de la opresión económica”. (npr.org, 12 de junio)

SCOTUS confirma inesperadamente las protecciones de discriminación

En un fallo sorpresivo del 15 de junio, la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos de mayoría conservadora parece haber contradicho el ataque de Trump. SCOTUS sostuvo que la ley federal existente prohíbe la discriminación laboral en base a la orientación sexual y el estado transgénero, una gran victoria para los activistas LGBTQ2S+ que han luchado por eso durante décadas.

La victoria se obtuvo de este estado capitalista solo porque las masas están en un movimiento tremendo, enojado y rebelde contra las múltiples opresiones, con una brillante participación y liderazgo de personas de color LGBTQ2S+. Tal concesión ha sucedido antes; la decisión de 1973 de Roe v. Wade que otorgó el derecho al aborto también fue forzada por un movimiento de masas fuera de un SCOTUS conservador.

Pero la estrategia de la clase dominante de divide y vencerás continúa. Fue revelado en otro fallo el mismo día de la victoria: SCOTUS rechazó una audiencia por casos que cuestionaban la inmunidad de los agentes de policía. Una demanda clave del movimiento Black Lives Matter es el fin de que los policías estén protegidos contra el enjuiciamiento por sus acciones brutales

y asesinas. Dos fallos, uno sí y otro no, diseñados para abrir una brecha entre quienes se unieron en este movimiento masivo.

Sin embargo, sabemos que cuando luchamos juntos, ¡ganamos! Este mes del Orgullo estamos en medio de una lucha histórica llena de esperanza y lucha contra el fanatismo: un levantamiento masivo multinacional y multigénero sin precedentes contra el racismo y la represión policial. En los Estados Unidos, desde Los Ángeles hasta Pensacola, Florida, hasta la ciudad de Nueva York, las personas LGBTQ2S+ son parte de este levantamiento y están vinculando las luchas compartidas por muchas comunidades de personas oprimidas.

Las raíces del Mes del Orgullo están en la rebelión: la Taberna del Gato Negro, la Cafetería de Compton y los levantamientos del Bar Stonewall de la década de 1960 cuando las personas queer, dirigidas por mujeres trans de color, lucharon por la liberación.

Miembros de STAR (Street Travestite Action Revolutionaries), combatientes en Stonewall, emitieron un manifiesto de 1970 que predijo las demandas que ahora se gritaban en 2020. STAR exigió el fin de la homofobia, el racismo, el encarcelamiento, el acoso policial y la discriminación laboral, y dijo: “Todos oprimidos las personas deberían tener educación gratuita, atención médica, ropa, comida, transporte y vivienda”.

El manifiesto terminó: “Queremos un gobierno revolucionario de los pueblos, donde los travestis, la gente de la calle, las mujeres, los homosexuales, los puertorriqueños, [los pueblos indígenas] y todas las personas oprimidas sean libres, y no sean jodidos por este gobierno que nos trata como a los escoria de la tierra y nos mata como moscas, uno por uno, y nos arroja a la cárcel para que nos pudramos. Este

gobierno que gasta millones de dólares para ir a la luna y deja que los estadounidenses pobres mueran de hambre.” (zagria.blogspot.com)

Con los levantamientos de Estados Unidos contra el linchamiento de George Floyd por parte de policías, millones de personas en todo el mundo han salido a las calles, juntas en solidaridad por la liberación de las personas y los trabaja-

dores oprimidos en todas partes.

A principios de la década de 1970, YAWF — Juventud contra la Guerra y el Fascismo, una unidad de Workers World Party, llevaba una gran pancarta: “¡Stonewall significa contraatacar!” [Stonewall means fight back!]

Sí, así es como se gana la lucha: luchar por la liberación de los demás como si fuera la nuestra, porque esa solidaridad nos traerá la liberación a todos.

Stonewall todavía significa contraatacar. Aplastar la opresión! ¡Lucha por el socialismo! □

Celebrando Juneteenth durante un levantamiento

Juneteenth conmemorado el 19 de junio, los afro-americanos conmemoran el aniversario del día en 1865 cuando las tropas sindicales llegaron a la isla de Galveston para informar a la gente esclavizada en Texas que el atroz sistema de esclavitud había terminado. El anuncio retrasado obligó a aproximadamente a 250.000 afrodescendientes a languidecer bajo el latigo durante casi tres años más después de que la Proclamación de Emancipación se convirtiera en ley el 1 de enero de 1863.

Si bien Texas fue el último estado del sur en reconocer legalmente la Proclamación, fue el primer estado en hacer que Juneteenth fuera feriado oficialmente en 1979. Actualmente, 47 estados reconocen a Juneteenth como feriado estatal, pero el Congreso no lo ha convertido en feriado federal. Sin embargo, la actual rebelión de masas, que entrará en su tercera semana a partir del 15 de junio, puede forzar su aprobación.

Mucho ha sucedido entre 1865 y hoy para los afro-americanos, tales como: Reconstrucción negra, linchamientos de Jim Crow, segregación y otras formas de opresión racista.

Desencadenado por la reacción al

linchamiento racista por parte de la policía de George Floyd en Minneapolis el 25 de mayo, el levantamiento contra el terror policial y la supremacía blanca sobre la que descansa ha llevado la conciencia hacia la izquierda entre la población estadounidense a casi toda velocidad. La brutalidad policial en todas sus formas, pero especialmente los asesinatos de personas negras, ha sido juzgada. Y también el racismo en general, pasado y presente.

Las estatuas representantes de la confederación y los símbolos de la esclavitud han sido derribados o prohibidos en Richmond, Virginia, infame por sus estatuas de la Confederate Row, incluida Robert E. Lee, a Nueva Orleans, desde Birmingham, Alabama, a Memphis, Tenn. Las banderas de la confederación ha sido excluidas de los eventos de carreras de autos de NASCAR, gracias al valiente piloto negro, Bubba Wallace, quien planteó esta demanda.

Los jugadores negros de fútbol americano universitario en grandes escuelas como la Universidad Estatal de Iowa y la Universidad Estatal de Clemson en Carolina del Sur dicen que se sienten más capacitados para hablar debido a

las protestas en todo el país y exponer el racismo que enfrentan de sus entrenadores blancos. Algunos jugadores de fútbol de Clemson, blancos y negros, encabezaron una marcha de miles de estudiantes en el campus el 13 de junio para exigir que el nombre del propietario de esclavos John C. Calhoun sea eliminado del Colegio de Honores de la escuela. Ganaron la demanda.

Nike, la Liga Nacional de Fútbol, Twitter y otras corporaciones están dando a sus trabajadores el 15 de junio con sueldo. Algunas de estas mismas corporaciones se han “comprometido” a contratar más trabajadores negros y a donar millones de dólares a organizaciones comunitarias. La presión masiva de base ganó estas concesiones de los CEOs con fines de lucro: no provino de la bondad de sus corazones.

Trump intentó difamar el legado de Juneteenth y minimizar la masacre de supremacía blanca de 1921 en Tulsa, Okla., en el vecindario llamado “Black

Wall Street” al realizar una manifestación de campaña de ultraderecha el 19 de junio en esa ciudad. Sometido a fuertes críticas, pospuso la manifestación por un día. Podemos esperar protestas justas contra Trump en Tulsa y otras ciudades de EE.UU.

Este levantamiento, que ahora tiene tres semanas, ha envalentonado y llevado a las masas de todas las edades y nacionalidades a las calles para defender Black Lives Matter y poner a la defensiva al neofascista Trump y sus

cohortes de CEO. Millones de personas aquí y en todo el mundo apreciarán el papel histórico de Juneteenth en la lucha en curso por la justicia social y la igualdad para los afroamericanos. Y millones de trabajadores y los oprimidos en todo el mundo comenzarán a comprender el papel esencial de esta lucha para unir a la clase trabajadora para luchar por poner fin a la explotación de todos los pueblos trabajadores y oprimidos. □

editorial

La brutalidad policial en todas sus formas, pero especialmente los asesinatos de personas negras, ha sido juzgada. Y también el racismo en general, pasado y presente.