



Chicago protest, Nov. 27.

Chicago protests block streets, shops Justice for Laquan McDonald

As we go to print, Chicago Police Superintendent, Garry McCarthy, has been fired Dec. 1, due to mass anger over the police murder of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in Oct. 2014. The police video of the murder was just released to the public 15 months later. To add insult to injury, the officer charged with McDonald's murder is out on bond.

By Jill White
Chicago

Nov. 30 — Despite driving rain and cold, thousands of protesters marched on Friday, Nov. 27, closing off Chicago's posh Michigan Avenue shops to shopping, and demanding the resignation of the police chief, the state's attorney and the mayor.

Protesters then linked arms, blocking entrances to the Water Tower Place Mall and luxury stores like Tiffany's, Saks and Neiman Marcus. The Apple Store closed for five hours. A huge Black Lives Matter banner sprawled across the entrance to Victoria's Secret.

This mass message of anger and determination followed the city's release of a dash-cam video showing 17-year-old Laquan McDonald's brutal murder. McDonald was shot 16 times, as he lay on the street, by police officer Jason Van Dyke last October. The video exposed the lies of the state's attorney and the Fraternal Order of Police claiming McDonald had lunged at police.

As demonstrators blocked the entrances to the stores they chanted, "16 shots! 15 months!" to highlight the brutal killing and the time lapse before Van Dyke was charged with murder.

One police witness even stated that while McDonald lay on the ground, clearly dead, he had to stop Van Dyke from reloading and continuing to shoot. Van Dyke has a history of 18 complaints filed against him of overt racism and brutality, but these complaints never led to action.

The mayor's role

Following a closely contested election last April, the City Council quietly settled with McDonald's family for \$5 million. In September, the Chicago Tribune filed a lawsuit alleging that Mayor Rahm Emanuel "violated state open records laws by refusing to release communications about city business conducted through private emails and text messages." The Tribune accused the mayor's office of "a pattern of noncompliance, partial compliance, delay and obfuscation" in handling the public's requests to see records.

Meanwhile, for the past 400 days, Van Dyke was working a desk job and receiving full pay. But an investigative reporter forced the public release of the video for Nov. 24 under court order. Anticipating the community's reaction to the video, Van Dyke was arrested on Nov. 23 and charged with murder. Although city officials claimed they were outraged at the injustice and police violence the tape showed, they had sat on it for over a year.

For two nights following the video's release, Black Lives Matter and allies led street protests that shut down major intersections downtown. Following a peaceful rally, police jumped one of the leaders, Malcolm London, an internationally known poet, artist and educa-

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Day of Mourning:

'We are not conquered.
We are as strong as ever!'



Mahtowin Munro

Moonanum James



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN; PHOTO: HANNAH KIRSCHBAUM; PHOTO: MEGGAN RODRIGUEZ

March across from Plymouth Rock, Nov. 26.

The 46th annual National Day of Mourning organized by the United American Indians of New England, rallied, marched and afterwards ate together in Plymouth, Mass. to debunk the hundreds-year-old racist myth about "Thanksgiving." According to the organizers, a multinational, multi-generational crowd of 1,200, came from mainly the Northeast. Indigenous peoples performed a sacred ceremony and spoke in their own name on the historical genocidal treatment of Na-

tive peoples throughout the Americas since 1492 up until the present, along with ongoing resistance. The speakers were UAINE co-leaders, Moonanum James and Mahtowin Munro; Juan Gonzalez; Tio-kasin Ghosthorse; Vanessa Inarunikia and elder, Bert Waters, who read a moving greeting from political prisoner Leonard Peltier. You can read the full speeches of James, Munro and Peltier at workers.org. Go to tinyurl.com/hga5975 to view the rally and the march.

— Monica Moorehead

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Building towards a socialist future

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

This article is based on a talk given at the Nov. 7-8 Workers World Party national conference in New York City.

The great revolutionary V.I. Lenin said that when communists are victorious “on the world scale,” we should build public bathrooms in all the largest cities — out of gold!

Not for beauty, he said, but as a memorial for the millions and millions of people who died in world wars for profit. To say to the workers who survived: “War for gold and for profit is over! In a communist world, this is all gold is good for.”

The world is now off the gold standard as a monetary measure. The capitalist class, with manipulative sleight-of-hand, replaced gold with the U.S. dollar — flimsy pieces of paper, nowhere near as durable or glamorous as gold. But the dollar still represents something immensely powerful.

Each crumpled dollar we earn as workers under wage-slavery represents some of the value created by our labor. And each dollar hides something: the value of what we workers have created that is above and beyond what we receive for our work.

This is our stolen labor, our stolen lives, and our stolen dreams — all more powerful and beautiful than any shining gold.

We say “Workers and oppressed peoples of the world, unite!” to take back our stolen labor and build a workers’ world. But meanwhile we still have to survive in what Lenin called this “world of wolves,” among the predators of capitalism.

Workers World Party’s newly launched 2016 national election campaign comes at a critical moment. After years of economic turmoil, imperialist wars, anti-communism and right-wing racist, anti-immigrant, anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ attacks, workers in the U.S. are again wondering about and talking about socialism.

WWP candidates Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly represent and appeal to the hopes of millions who deserve to learn what socialism really is, and can be.

The high-tech/low-pay revolution has transformed the U.S. workforce. A majority of workers are now women, immigrants, LGBTQ people, Black, Latino/a, Native, Asian, and/or other people of color. They are already leading and will be in the vanguard of coming class struggles and a movement toward socialism. New movements like Black Lives Matter and Fight for 15 are showing the power in this struggle.

The WW election campaign gives voice to this broadening of the struggle as the candidates call for “Workers and oppressed peoples of the world, unite!”

But we still need money to seize the moment and build that unity.

So please donate as regularly and generously as you can to the WW Fund Drive. Every contribution strengthens our grip on the future. We have nothing to lose but the chains of capitalism. We have the power to forge our own engine of change, to know and seize each moment to build a socialist world.

Build Workers World to build a socialist world!
Send donations to *Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011. Please include your name and address. Or donate at www.workers.org*

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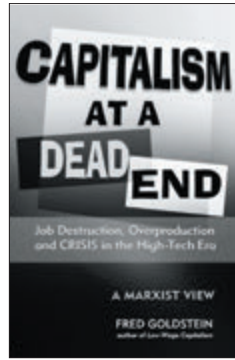
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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 56 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions. □

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Detained immigrants defy with hunger strikes

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Over 100 immigrant detainees in Alabama and California are continuing a surge of hunger strikes that began in March 2015 at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) internment camps.

On so-called Thanksgiving Day, almost 50 prisoners at the Etowah County Detention Center started “refusing food to denounce the inhumane treatment they endure in these facilities where their human dignity is ignored by the ICE agenda and immigration detention system.” (facebook.com/shutdownetowah)

The Adelante Workers Center of Birmingham, Ala., held a demonstration on Nov. 30 in support of the Etowah strikers at the detention center located in Gadsden, Ala. (adelantealabama.org)

According to Detention Watch Network, Etowah is one of the worst internment camps in the U.S. due to restricted access for visitors at its remote location, solitary confinement, poor or no medical care, lack of access to pro bono lawyers, no recreational facilities and rotting food.

The Etowah strikers were joined by other detainees at the Otay Detention Center in San Diego, the Theo Lacy Facility in Orange County and the Adelanto Detention Center in San Bernardino County, Calif. Many of the striking detainees are from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, crossing the Mexican border to the U.S. Some have been in detention for over two years, despite having passed initial interviews for asylum and having committed no crime. (notonmoredeportation.com)

The detainees issued the following



GRAPHIC: MOJUICY

Honor trans immigrant lives.

demands: “End to all detentions and deportations. End to the ICE detention bed quotas. End to indefinite detention. Release on parole or supervision for all asylum seekers held for more than 6 months. Improved conditions in detention (discipline, food, clothing, access to phones, medical access).”

“Bed quotas” refers to a little-known

Homeland Security policy requiring ICE to keep an average of 34,000 detainees per day in custody. The quota guarantees hefty profits for the 30 privately owned immigrant detention centers housing 49 percent of undocumented detainees.

Human suffering sparks fightback

The two largest for-profit prison companies are the Corrections Corporation of America and the GEO Group. (Washington Post, Oct. 13, 2013)

Inhumane conditions at the for-profit and state detention centers have sparked near constant resistance since March 2015. That month, mothers in the Karnes County Residential Center in Texas went on a work and hunger strike, demanding to be freed with their children.

In September, a hunger strike, work stoppage and other forms of resistance by multinational detainees at the Stewart Detention Center in Georgia were put down with SWAT-team force by CCA prison management. Stewart is one of the largest detainee centers with 1,800 beds. CCA earns \$60.50 per day per Stewart detainee and pays as little as a dollar a day for the “jobs” they do. (Workers World, Sept. 22)

In October, South Asian detainees stopped eating at the El Paso County Detention Facility in Texas. A few days later, other South Asian immigrants in solidarity began to refuse food at the LaSalle Detention Center in Louisiana.

At the end of October, women at the T. Don Hutto Facility in Texas began a hunger strike. In early November, over 400 men and women were on hunger strike at Adelanto in California.

The U.S. has the largest immigration detention infrastructure in the world, put in place after ICE intensified the hunting of human beings for deportation in 2003. Now the U.S. detains an average of 425,000 immigrants every year. (detentionwatchnetwork.org)

In October 2015, almost 5,000 unaccompanied migrant children were detained at the U.S. border with Mexico, almost double the number seized by ICE in October 2014. The number of family members crossing together, and jailed by ICE, almost tripled from last year. Most came from the Northern Triangle region of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. (telesurtv.net)

Those detained by ICE include all nationalities, sexualities and genders.

Undocumented trans activist Jennicet Gutiérrez interrupted a June reception for “LGBT Pride” given by President Obama to make this point. She added her resistance to that of undocumented detainees, saying in a later statement:

“Transgender immigrants make up one out of every 500 people in detention, but we account for one out of five confirmed sexual abuse cases in ICE custody. ... The violence my trans sisters face in detention centers is one of torture and abuse. ... There is no pride in how LGBTQ immigrants are treated in this country and there can be no celebration with an administration that has the ability to keep us detained and in danger or release us to freedom.” (Washington Blade, June 25) □

Demand an end to immigrant detention and deportation

By Jim McMahan

TACOMA, WASH.

On Nov. 21, a demonstration of 200 people marched on the Tacoma immigration prison. It was organized by “NW Detention Center Resistance.” The march was in solidarity with the struggle against the prison-industrial complex and the anti-immigrant detention and anti-deportation movement across the country.

As the demonstration marched through downtown Tacoma, it stopped at a huge half-block-long mural. The mural was dedicated to the struggle against immigrant detention.

At the rally in front of the detention center, an organizer, Maru Mora Villalpando, declared the march’s solidarity with the 1,500 prisoners inside, and with hunger strikers and prisoners’ struggles going on in Florida, Texas and California. An Ethiopian immigrant and refugee, Sarah, spoke out against the U.S.-organized war in Syria and beyond. She said the U.S. was the cause of the refugee exodus from Africa and Asia into Europe.

SEATTLE

Rally greets refugees

A rally of 300 people calling for welcoming refugees from Syria and elsewhere was held in Seattle on Nov. 28. Many carried signs against U.S. racism and war. The organizers called for unity and not to give in to fear mongering and Islamophobia.

Varisha Khan, a University of Wash-

ington student, strongly supported allowing Syrian refugees into the U.S. The other speakers, many from immigrant communities, were unanimous for the right of refugees to come to the U.S. Several religious and political representatives, including Congressperson Jim McDermott, spoke for welcoming refugees.

The last speaker was Miriam Padilla of Seattle. Her cousin, Noemi Gonzalez, a student in Paris, was killed in the ISIS attack there on Nov. 13. Gonzalez, “who was like a sister to me, was the child of immigrants and wanted a more just and humane world,” Padilla said. Padilla spoke of herself being a refugee. She criticized U.S. wars and policies in the Middle East as causing so much dying.

The demonstrators applauded mention of the Black Lives Matter march, which happened the previous day. □

Muslim women in hip-hop perform

The Hijabi Chronicles held the second “#MuslimWomeninHipHop #Expressions-ofResistance” showcase on Nov. 28 at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts in San Francisco. It was a beautiful, all-women, Muslim artistic event. In a national atmosphere of intense Islamophobia, these strong and talented artists used their art, rhymes, poetry and other forms of powerful expression to show their steadfast resistance.

The event, organized and emceed by Muslim hip-hop artist Alia Sharrief, included a panel discussion in which she and the audience asked the performers

BOSTON

Speakout defends Muslims

More than 100 people participated in a speakout at the Park Street Station in Boston on Nov. 21 to say, “Don’t use Paris as a pretext for wider war and racism.” The rally was chaired by Danny Pforte of Boston FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) and co-sponsored by the International Action Center, the Syrian American Forum, the Committee for Peace and Human Rights and the Women’s Fightback Network. The Boston United National Antiwar Coalition was an endorser.

Speaker after speaker pointed to U.S., NATO, French and allied bombing and war as creating the conditions resulting in the massive refugee crisis and the Paris attacks. They also opposed Islamophobia and political surveillance and repression, and increased police murders against Black and Brown people.

Speakers included three Syrian American children and others from the Syrian American Forum, as well as members of the IAC, the Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee and the Committee for Peace and Human Rights. Linda Jenkins and Phebe Eckfeldt spoke for the WFN and Al Johnson spoke for Vets for Peace and the Chelsea Manning committee. Bob Traynham from the Boston School Bus Drivers, Ed Childs from Local 26 of UNITE HERE and Maureen Skehan from Workers World all spoke. Moonanum James, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, spoke about the National Day of Mourning.

— Frank Neisser

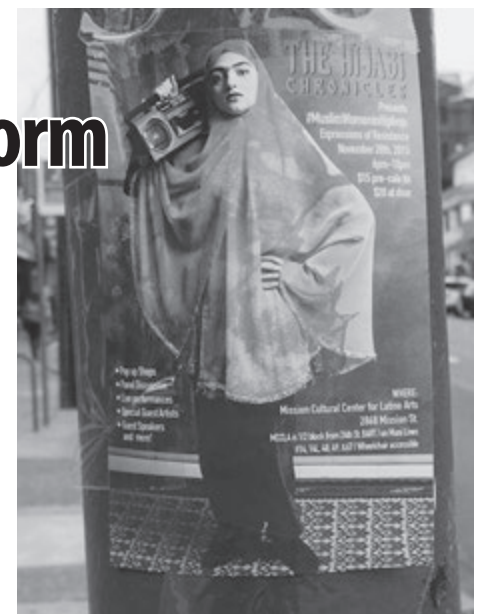


PHOTO: JAMEEL RASHID PATTERSON

Poster advertising the Hijabi Chronicles event.

— Story by Terri Kay

Boston

Justice for the drivers, safety for the children!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Drivers of the Boston School Bus Union, Steelworkers Local 8751, are continuing their fierce fight against union-busting, corporate giant Veolia/Transdev. In 2013, Veolia, a French-based company, took over management of Boston school transportation. Operating as its merger partner Transdev, global Veolia then launched a vicious campaign against the union, its members and the communities it serves.

In the two years since, the union has been led by newly formed Team Solidarity, which brings rank-and-file activism into the bus yards every day. The union has forced Veolia back to the bargaining table with militant tactics.

A hundred people joined the 18-member Team Negotiating Committee at the hotel in September where bargaining is going on. Rank-and-file workers and supporters filled the parking lot, blared union songs and created a shouting gauntlet through which Veolia and Boston Public School bosses had to pass. Then the ranks packed the Negotiating Committee room.

Union President Andre François and other USW 8751 negotiators expressed the leadership's determination to beat back all Veolia/City concessions, win reinstatement of the four illegally fired leaders, as well as secure economic jus-

tice for the 900-plus members and their families. They vowed to bring the fighting power of the rank and file to the negotiating table and to the bus yards.

USW 8751 is a militant, politically active union that's fought shoulder-to-shoulder with the Boston community in many battles throughout the years. This was the union that got children safely to school through racist mobs in the 1974 desegregation struggle. The current Veolia attack on USW 8751 is an aggressive austerity attack on a majority people-of-color union and on public education — those riding the buses are primarily young people of color.

Driver Georgia Scott, who was born in Selma, Ala., told WW in August: "This is the same struggle as 1965 in Selma. Schools were limited [there] — all black, all white. The education system did not work for people of color. ... Veolia cutting back on the buses, that will limit our children, their safety and their choices of education."

The Boston School Bus Union drivers are also the parents and grandparents of the students riding their buses. They live in the communities where they drive the buses and want the best for the children.

Previous USW 8751 contracts established strong standards for bus safety, routes allowing drivers to get children to school on time and limits on ride duration for children with special needs.

Veolia/Transdev has tried to cut these kinds of safeguards out of the new contract since the company will make greater profit by forcing children off buses onto the Boston Mass Transit (MBTA) and by pushing drivers to "save time" by going out in unsafe buses.

Georgia Scott, the grandmother of school-age granddaughters in Boston and Local 8751's treasurer, comments: "A camera is not going to protect the child. It's me. I'm the one who will protect the child. That's the most important piece of our work, the monitors and the drivers. We are the safety zone for the children."

In current negotiations, USW 8751 is in a fight with Veolia to remove unacceptable political, contractual and monetary concessions from the new contract. All but a few of those concessions have been beaten back, but those remaining are of critical importance.

Team Solidarity continues in stalwart negotiation for a fair contract that re-



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Team Solidarity members at a Boston bus driver yard rally are from left to right: Samir Stanley, Angie Louis Charles, Georgia Scott, Jean Brazile (behind Georgia), Robert Salley.

spects them and the children riding the school buses.

And while they bargain, the drivers are also wearing T-shirts with a poised cobra and a "Will Strike if Provoked" slogan.

USW 8715 asks for your support in this crucial stage of contract negotiations. For more information and to donate, you can go to youcaring.com/rehirethe4.

Sara Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt and Terri Kay also contributed to this report.

UAW vs. auto bosses: contract struggle over for now

By Martha Grevatt

On Nov. 20, the International Executive Board of the United Auto Workers declared that Ford workers had approved a four-year contract with the company. That same day, the UAW-General Motors contract was declared ratified after the International renegotiated language that is specific to skilled trades workers. GM tradespeople had initially rejected the contract over consolidation of job classifications.

This concluded the union's bargaining with the Detroit Three auto companies. The Ford contract basically mirrors the GM contract, but with larger annual and up-front bonuses. The GM contract gave bigger bonuses than the contract with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. The more significant distinction was that the Ford and GM contracts, in contrast to the FCA contract, give second- and first-tier workers the same health benefits. The FCA contract, which gave most second-tier workers a path to top pay, was overwhelmingly accepted after an earlier agreement that institutionalized two-tier pay was crushed.

None of the contracts restore traditional pensions to second-tier workers. They have a 401K account, subject to the whims of Wall Street, that does not guarantee a secure retirement. Thus, the UAW's "partnership" with the bosses is helping the ruling class, who would like to do away with pensions altogether and roll back hard-fought gains of the labor movement.

The UAW pioneered defined benefit pensions. A 105-day Chrysler strike in 1950 raised the slogan, "too old to work and too young to die." The union won "30 and out" — full pension after 30 years of service — in 1970.

The GM and Ford contracts were not an easy sell, with 42 percent of GM workers and close to 50 percent at Ford vot-

ing no. The Ford contract was on shaky ground until the 8,000-member Local 600, representing several Detroit-area units, reportedly voted strongly in favor of the contract. Some Local 600 members suspect fraud.

Stolen wealth by bosses

Why did so many GM and Ford workers oppose the contracts? For one, they compared their share of the wealth they produce to the obscene, record profits of the two companies. In the third quarter of 2015, Ford made \$2.7 billion and expects to make between \$8.5 and \$9.5 billion in profits by year's end.

GM made \$3.1 billion despite losses in Europe and South America, thanks in part to profits generated by UAW members. For many workers it was unacceptable that any of the recent concessions, presented as temporary during the economic downturn, were still in place. Some wanted the cost of living allowance restored or the brutal "Alternative Work Schedules" abolished.

FCA workers rightly felt they had scored a victory by forcing the company and union negotiators back to the table and getting them to equalize rates of pay. Their yes votes reflected that. GM and Ford workers put the contract under greater scrutiny and saw that, not only were tiered wages not eliminated; the new contract created multiple tiers.

Several components plants, separated from the master agreement, have substantially lower top pay. There is a lower pay scale for current temporary workers and an even lower pay tier for future temps. It takes eight years for "in progression" workers to get to top pay, which many will not reach by contract's end. Workers knew that Ford and GM could easily afford to pay everyone top wages during the life of this contract.

At all three auto companies, U.S. profits are at least double the cost of labor —

a high rate of exploitation! Line workers make enough products to pay for their wages and benefits in a few hours or less with tiered wages and benefits. But they must keep working eight or more hours a day to make profits — what Marxists call "surplus value" — for GM, Ford and Chrysler. The UAW leadership refuses to condemn this exploitive relationship.

Workers have leverage at the point of production to gain a bigger share of value. UAW members are on strike against Kohler for an end to two-tier pay. What if the UAW had struck one or all of the Detroit Three, demanding that everyone get the same pay, benefits and pensions by

the end of the contract? With car sales at record levels, strategically the union was in a good position. Members are paying higher union dues to support the strike fund. Why the strike-phobia?

The problem is the "partnership" that has defined UAW negotiating strategy for decades. But a rank-and-file movement from below — which we saw in embryo when FCA workers organized to defeat two-tier pay — can revive the militant, anti-capitalist tradition of the 1937 sit-down strikes, making the labor movement decisive in the class struggles to come.

The writer is a 28-year Chrysler worker and UAW member.

New York

Construction boom fueled by immigrant workers

By G. Dunkel

New York City is experiencing an unprecedented construction boom. Spending on construction increased by 73 percent to \$11.9 billion in 2013, and then spiked by 26 percent last year to \$36 billion. Most of the spending is on luxury residences in Manhattan, with a big chunk of the rest devoted to Brooklyn, just across the East River. (Bloomberg, April 30)

The prices for existing residences are also bubbling. A fancy, three-bedroom apartment sold this past week for \$21 million. Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village, a development with approximately 12,000 apartments on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, just sold this fall for \$5.5 billion.

Buildings on the Lower East Side which

were "old law tenements" 30 years ago — with one shared toilet on each floor — now are gleaming renovations where fifth floor walk-ups go for \$5,000 a month.

Along with this boom of investment in luxury housing, there has been a spike in accidents and deaths — generally, according to the New York Times, among undocumented, unorganized construction workers. (Nov. 27, 2015)

From July 2014 to July 2015, according to New York City's building department, there were ten deaths. Since July, seven workers have died on the job according to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

There were 342 workers injured in 314 accidents in the past fiscal year. Most of the accidents occurred in Manhattan. The next borough in most recorded ac-

Continued on page 5

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

NYC Access-A-Ride workers push for \$15 and a union

The mostly Black and Brown women workers at Access-A-Ride, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's transit service in New York City for people with disabilities, are demanding \$15 an hour and a union as well as an end to a hostile work environment. They voted to join the Transport Workers Union Local 100 a year ago. The workers, employed by contractor Global Contact Services, earn from \$9 to \$11 an hour. Their wages are totally unfair, they say, since they provide a service for a state-run agency, and all state employees will soon be making \$15 an hour.

Unfair firings contribute to the toxic work environment. The National Labor Relations Board recently consolidated several cases showing that 228 workers were fired for supporting the union between February and October. The NLRB is hearing two other types of cases: that GCS pays low wages because workers are predominantly women of color, and that a third of the workers have been sexually harassed by GCS supervisors.

TWU President John Samuelsen is in talks with GCS with the goal of averting a strike, which disability activists say would be "disastrous for those who rely on the service." (New York Times, Nov. 28) Stay tuned.

Boeing workers: Tie jobs to tax incentives

As many as 200 aerospace workers protested at the Washington state Capitol in Olympia on Nov. 20 to demand that legislators take steps to close the Boeing Company's massive tax loophole and tie tax incentives to job creation in the state.

In 2013, legislators extended \$8.7 billion in tax incentives to aerospace companies, the largest corporate tax break in the U.S. Despite this, Boeing has since outsourced some 3,700 Washington jobs to such low-wage states as Missouri and Oklahoma (a "right to work" for less state), where the mega company can get additional tax breaks by increasing employment. Denouncing that as "double dipping," machinist Adrian Camez said, "[Boeing is] taking our tax incentive, and taking their tax incentives, and taking our jobs to those other states." (heraldnet.org, Nov. 21)

Meanwhile, Boeing supplier companies in Washington, which also benefit from tax incentives, remain stagnant, with more than 6,000 jobs paying less than \$15 an hour. No wonder protesters also demanded living wages for all aerospace workers with at least three years' seniority. The action was organized by the Professional Engineering Employees union (SPEEA) and the Association of Machinists (IAM), the state's two largest unions representing aerospace workers. (SPEEA.org, Nov. 20)

Verizon not bargaining fairly

Since their contract expired on Aug. 1, about 40,000 Verizon workers from Maine to Virginia, represented by the Communication Workers and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have been fighting for a new contract. The workers have been holding pickets, rallies and marches in both local areas and regional mobilizations. The latest ones were held on Nov. 19 — CWA protested at 35 locations — and on so-called Black Friday, Nov. 27.

But Verizon, which reports revenue of about \$1.5 billion a month, has refused to budge on contract terms. While Verizon's CEO makes over 200 times as much as the average Verizon employee, the greedy company is offering no raises, a jump in health care costs and scaled-down pensions, at the same time it seeks to eliminate job security, accident disability and cost of living adjustments. Its ultimate goal is union busting — obvious from its demand to increase contracting jobs to nonunion workers.

"We do not have a willing negotiating partner," CWA Local 1103 President Kevin Sheil told members in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "The company's practicing the art of race-to-the-bottom bargaining." (cwa-union.org, Nov. 25) To sign a petition to Verizon, click on "For Allies" at the top right of standuptoverizon.com.

Amazon drivers sue for stolen wages

Four "Amazon Prime Now" delivery drivers filed a class action lawsuit in California against the online retail giant on Oct. 27. They charge that Amazon engages in widespread wage theft by misclassifying them as \$11-an-hour contractors, denying them benefits, withholding \$5 tips and forcing drivers to pay for gas and use their own vehicles for deliveries. After subtracting expenses, net wages fall below minimum wage.

The drivers, who wear Amazon Prime Now uniforms and report to Amazon's warehouse, are represented by attorney Beth Ross. She won a similar class action suit this summer on behalf of FedEx delivery drivers in California, resulting in a \$228 million payout to some 2,300 drivers. "The facts in this case are much stronger than in the FedEx case, and we won," said Ross. (RHRealityCheck.org, Nov. 11) □

idents is Brooklyn, with the Bronx and Queens having roughly the same much smaller number.

The number of accidents has increased faster than the increase in construction activity. The number of new construction permits issued in fiscal year 2014 is up only 11 percent and the number of renovations is up just 6 percent. But the number of reported accidents has more than doubled.

Most of the accidents could have been prevented by following basic safety rules, having workers wear helmets and harnesses and not pushing them to ignore slippery conditions. Since, in construction, time is money made, supervisors often push workers to take dangerous shortcuts. Workers feel if they don't do what their bosses want, they will lose their jobs. Often they are not provided

with safety training.

Both OSHA and the city's Department of Buildings have inspectors. But OSHA has just 33 inspectors for the city and 66 for the state, numbers which workers' advocates say are not nearly enough.

The city has proposed hiring an additional 100 inspectors, but often they spend far more time in documenting how and why an accident occurred rather than examining job sites to prevent them.

Given that a lot of construction in New York City occurs in densely populated areas, dangerous conditions on job sites also mean danger for passersby.

The huge profits that capitalists are currently making in New York real estate come at the risk of workers' lives. We need a system that will supply homes and housing for all without creating dangerous situations that could easily be avoided. □

WW commentary

Terrorist strikes at Colorado Planned Parenthood

By Kris Hamel

Nov. 30 — A second terrorist attack in the same week occurred in the United States on Nov. 27, just four days after masked racist terrorists shot at Black Lives Matter protesters in Minneapolis, wounding five African-American men. The victims were just outside the Fourth Precinct, where a continuous protest has been taking place since the killing of Jamar Clark, 24, by Minneapolis cops on Nov. 15.

Right-wing terrorists this time aimed their guns at a Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs, Colo. The alleged "lone" gunman, armed with an AK-47, killed three people and wounded nine others in an over-five-hour standoff with police.

The dead are Jennifer Markovskiy, 36, a Hawaiian mother of two, who was accompanying a friend to the clinic; Ke'Arre Stewart, 29, an African-American father of two and an army veteran; and Garrett Swasey, 44, a white police officer at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and also a father of two.

Although one cop was among the dead and five were among the injured, the 57-year-old shooter, who eyewitnesses say carried out the deadly attack, surrendered to police and was taken into custody without incident. How could this be when the gunman carried out a deadly rampage, but unarmed Black youth are regularly gunned down by cops?

Was he a terrorist from another country, like we've been warned about so often? Was he one of the migrants that the U.S. and other racist imperialist countries are turning away and warning us to be suspicious of? Certainly a "takedown" like that would be broadcast far and wide with vitriolic, racist commentary. Most likely, the alleged perpetrator would have been shot and killed.

The terrorist in Colorado Springs was a white male, Robert Lewis Dear. Whether or not he acted alone is not the primary question. Dear, like others who espouse white supremacy and male supremacy, was given a green light to carry out his terror attack by the highest echelons of Wall Street and its political puppets.

The unrelenting, unscientific, anti-woman campaign to defund and shut down Planned Parenthood, an unabashed abortion and health care provider to millions of low-income women and men, is what gave Dear the impetus to carry out this deadly rampage. (See "Stop the war on poor women," Sept. 17, by Sue Davis and "Defend Planned Parenthood from right-wing attacks," Oct. 9, by Kathy Durkin at workers.org.)

Vicki Cowart, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, said in a statement that "eyewitnesses confirm that the man ... was motivated by opposition to safe and legal abortion."

This right-wing ideological campaign is based on racism and sexism, two giant pillars of capitalism, and has given obvious encouragement to racist and fascist elements across the U.S. to plan and carry out domestic terrorist attacks. The capitalist-owned media, like the paid hypocrites and liars they are, save the words "terrorist" and "terrorism" for the oppressed, instead of the white men who carry out these atrocities.



Ke'Arre Stewart



Jennifer Markovskiy

'Weapons of war,' the new 'normal'

The ruling class, desperate to destroy growing unity among the working class under the leadership of the most oppressed, has even allowed the racist likes of multibillionaire Donald Trump to become a so-called "serious" contender for the Republican presidential nomination. Not because they think this bellicose racist can win, but because whipping up racism, sexism, ableism, anti-immigrant, anti-migrant, anti-lesbian-gay-bisexual-trans*-queer and every other kind of bigotry is exactly what the capitalist class needs at this moment in history. (Trans* is used with an asterisk to indicate the spectrum of all the different genders of people who do not conform to the either/or of male/female.)

President Barack Obama issued a statement Nov. 28 on the Planned Parenthood attack, which stated in part: "This is not normal. We can't let it become normal. If we truly care about this — if we're going to offer up our thoughts and prayers again, for [who] knows how many times, with a truly clean conscience — then we have to do something about the easy accessibility of weapons of war on our streets to people who have no business wielding them."

Colorado Springs is a reactionary military town, home of the U.S. Air Force Academy and command center for North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD), the Pentagon's missile operations center. Besides Fort Carson, Peterson and Shriever Air Force bases and high-level operations centers are located there. The Pentagon trains some of its deadliest killers in Colorado Springs.

The town is also the U.S. epicenter for reactionary evangelical Christians, who totally oppose abortion rights, many types of birth control and general rights for women. So many national evangelical groups are headquartered there that Colorado Springs has earned the nickname America's Evangelical Vatican.

It should be no surprise that "weapons of war" — firearms and other deadly devices — are "normal" in U.S. "civilian" capitalist society. First and foremost they are utilized by the capitalist state — the military, the police and the military-industrial-prison complex. An anti-gun campaign is not the answer to right-wing attacks. Especially now, the oppressed have the right to arm themselves, the right to self-defense, just like abortion providers who don bullet-proof vests,

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One year after fatal shooting Akai Gurley still needs justice

By Dolores Cox
New York

A “March for Justice” rally was held Nov. 20, marking the one-year anniversary of the killing of Akai Gurley, a 28-year-old Black man, by Peter Liang, a New York City rookie police officer.

Gurley and his companion were leaving her building via the stairs in the Louis H. Pink housing development in Brooklyn where she lived. The elevator was broken. On the seventh floor landing, officers Liang and Shaun Landau entered the stairwell which did not have lights, where Liang shot Gurley. Gurley stumbled down two flights, where he fell and bled to death while Liang phoned the so-called police “union” to discuss his rights. Not until after that did he call 911 to report the shooting.

One year later at the building where Gurley was shot, approximately 150 supporters held a rally and march. Family members were present, including Akai’s stepfather and tearful mother, Sylvia Palmer, who spoke. They traveled 16 hours from Jacksonville, Fla., to be there. Gurley was planning to visit her around the time of his murder. Also present were Gurley’s

mate, holding their child. Mourners were surrounded by groupings of top-brass cops in an “us vs. them” stance.

The march was organized by the Answer Coalition and Justice for Akai Gurley Family (facebook.com/AkaiGurleyFamily). Allied organizations, including the International Action Center and Peoples Power Assembly, were there with signs, banners and chants, as were Fordham University students, an Asian Black Lives Matter group, Cop Watch and individual activists against police brutality.

Parents and families of Stolen Lives — whose sons and daughters were killed by the cops and who in their pain have been in the streets relentlessly struggling for justice for their loved ones whose lives were stolen from them — were present. Some media were there.

Among the speakers was Nicholas Heyward, who spoke about his 13-year-old son, Nicholas Heyward Jr., who was shot and killed by a rookie cop in 1994 in a Brooklyn housing development. Parenthetically, it was stated that NYC public housing projects/developments are built like prisons, where cops invade Black communities.

In 1994, District Attorney Charles Hynes never investigated the Heyward

shooting and refused to bring the case to a grand jury, claiming the shooting was justified. Current New York Police Department Commissioner Bill Bratton, who was also commissioner back then, has referred to both shootings as a “tragic accident.” Bratton has stated he has not spoken to Officer Liang since the Gurley shooting.

‘Maintain pressure in the streets’

Charles Barron, State Assembly member, and Inez Barron, City Council member, were also present. Inez Barron told WW, “It was important for us to be there with the family and community on the occasion of the anniversary of the NYPD murder of Akai Gurley and during the upcoming trial. It is also important to maintain pressure in the streets to ensure that this issue stays alive in the minds of the officers and everyone else.”

She added, “Officer Liang needs to feel the full impact and consequence of his action, which resulted in the violent death of a person. Violent police procedures resulted in Gurley’s death. There’s no question about the fact that justice needs to be done.”

Officer Liang, who now has a new lawyer, has been charged with manslaughter. His trial is scheduled for January 2016. A

conviction is what the family and supporters are demanding.

Other speakers during the rally emphasized that Gurley’s murder was not an isolated incident; cops kill Black people almost daily; these deaths are not accidents; cops don’t respect or protect us; they see us as animals, not human beings; the NYPD is a murderous institution; cops operate under white privilege, and Black cops are under their power; Black cops not in uniforms have been murdered by “friendly fire” from racist white cops; and it is the cops who are dangerous.

Also stated at the rally was that Commissioner Bratton’s “broken windows” policy should not be funded out of our taxes and our pockets.

The evening ended with a powerful statement: that everyone has a duty to stand in solidarity with the family, to organize and to mobilize. And that family and supporters will be here again for next year’s anniversary, even if there are only a handful of people. The emphasis was that we’re all one family, we need to be fighters, and we have lots of work to do. Justice happens in the streets, not in the courtroom. Racism is the disease. Revolution is the cure! □

DEC. 12 CONFERENCE IN DETROIT

National Campaign to Save Rev. Pinkney

By David Sole

Supporters of Michigan political prisoner, the Rev. Edward Pinkney, are mobilizing nationwide to stop the harassment and abuse he is suffering that many believe threaten his life.

Arrested in 2014 on charges of “altering five dates on a recall petition,” Rev. Pinkney, a community leader in the 90 percent African-American town of Benton Harbor, Mich., was tried by an all-white jury that was told “you do not need evidence” for a conviction.

The sum total of “evidence” consisted in showing that Rev. Pinkney chaired the meetings that organized the petitioning, spoke at press conferences and led many picket lines. In Dec. 2014, he was convicted of five forgery felonies and sentenced

to from 2-and-a-half to 10 years in prison.

Since his Oct. 6 transfer to Marquette Branch Prison, 500 miles away from family, friends and attorney, Rev. Pinkney has been targeted by the guards and prison administration.

He had his telephone access taken away on Oct. 23 and was put in lockdown for 24 hours, 7 days a week in his cell. On Nov. 21, the prison authorities placed Rev. Pinkney in “segregation” and denied him visitors. Books and newspapers mailed to him have been arbitrarily denied him. With no exercise and horrible food, Rev. Pinkney’s blood pressure has been elevated with no regular medical monitoring. His last communications with the outside world said that “every day was a confrontation” with racist and aggressive guards. He said that he was in fear for his life.

Activists from across Michigan and the region are building an “Emergency Conference to Save Rev. Edward Pinkney” in Detroit on Saturday, Dec. 12, from noon to 5 p.m. The gathering will be held at St. Matthew/St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 8850 Woodward Avenue. More information can be gotten at 313.680.5508 or the Facebook event page.

One goal is to ask people across the country to participate in the “3-C’s Campaign” during December:

- 1) Send a holiday card to Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, Marquette Branch Prison NE-93, 1960 US Hwy. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855.
- 2) Make two calls to protest his mistreatment to Gov. Rick Snyder at



Emergency Conference to Save Rev. Edward Pinkney
Saturday – December 12, 2015
Noon to 5 P.M.
St. Matthew-St. Joseph Episcopal Church
8850 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
mecawi.org

517.373.3400 and to legislative ombudsman Keith Barber at 517.373.8573.

- 3) Contribute a holiday financial gift to Rev. Pinkney’s defense fund (no matter the size) at BHBANCO.org using the PayPal button, or send a check to BANCO c/o Mrs. Dorothy Pinkney, 1940 Union St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

The goal is to have hundreds, even thousands, of people participate in this effort to save Rev. Pinkney while he is waiting for his legal appeal to be heard. □

Community group fights Brooklyn gentrification

Special to Workers World

Some 150 people spent the whole day on Nov. 17 protesting the Brooklyn Real Estate Summit held at the Brooklyn Museum. Shouting “Brooklyn is not for sale!” “Once I pay the rent, damn, all my money’s spent!” and “Whose communities? Our community!” these activists made it loud and clear that they will never stop fighting vulture “luxury developers,” who are backed by huge Wall Street banks, which are devastating huge swaths of Brooklyn through gentrification.

The action was organized by the Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network and supported by many other community groups in the borough. The following are excerpts from BAN’s call for the demonstration:

On Nov. 17, The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network (BAN) will be leading a protest at the Brooklyn Museum where over 600 of the most elite real estate owners, developers and investors are

gathering for the Sixth Annual Brooklyn Real Estate Summit. The latest in a series of such summits, these big ticket affairs bring together the key corporate “players” in Brooklyn’s multibillion-dollar gentrification epidemic, alongside politicians and others who enable and even support the projects that have devastated community after community.

Among these [players] have been former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; Alicia Glen, deputy mayor for housing and economic development and formerly of Goldman Sachs; Carlo A. Scisura, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; Karen Brooks Hopkins, former president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, a cultural lynchpin in the gentrification of Fort Greene; former New York governor and now Brooklyn real estate developer Eliot Spitzer; and current Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, a vocal advocate (and major campaign fund recipient) of the real estate

industry and a speaker at the Nov. 17 summit as well as previous real estate events.

In recent weeks BAN has initiated petitioning campaigns to demand the Brooklyn Museum cancel the event, which the coalition of tenants, homeowners, block associations, anti-police brutality groups consider to be a gross violation of the Museum’s mission to serve the diverse communities of Brooklyn. BAN has further demanded that Brooklyn Borough President Adams refuse to attend this summit and instead devote his efforts to serving his constituents regarding their housing needs and addressing the monumental shortage of affordable housing for huge numbers of Brooklynites.

An additional BAN member group, Artist Studio Affordability Project, has created a petition to the Museum from the arts community making similar demands that is quickly gathering support, and with more than a week before the summit, over 1,000 signatures have been collected.

Endorsed by The Coalition to End Broken Windows, the Nov. 17 protest will begin at 7:30 a.m. and hold a press conference at 12 noon on Nov. 17 to detail why community opposition has coalesced [around] this private gathering at a taxpayer-funded community institution where plans are being developed to further displace and destabilize members of that very community.

The BAN website declares, “We say, ‘Not one more person displaced! Not one more luxury development, until we have affordable housing for all!’”

According to the BAN website, “The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network (BAN) is a mass-based coalition of tenants, homeowners, block associations, anti-police brutality groups, and legal and grassroots organizations working together to end the rampant gentrification and displacement of low- to middle-income residents of Brooklyn, New York.”

To find out more about BAN, visit ban-gentrification.org/. □

Black Friday protests target police, racist terror

By Leilani Dowell

Protests were held across the country on and around Black Friday — the day after the so-called Thanksgiving holiday that businesses rely on to boost their retail sales — to demand an end to racist attacks, including police brutality and murders, and the pervasive racist climate on college campuses.

The **BALTIMORE** People's Power Assembly held a spirited rally in downtown Baltimore on Nov. 28 in solidarity with Minneapolis and Chicago. Protesters then marched to the police headquarters.

Nearly 150 students from many different backgrounds marched on the campus of the University of **ROCHESTER** on Nov. 28, demanding that the university president do something about the growing climate of racism on campus. Of special concern is the posting of numerous racist and threatening messages on an online campus site. The college president was forced to subpoena the server in an attempt to find out who was posting the attacks. The students are also demanding a more diverse faculty and more Black studies courses.

More than 100 **PHILADELPHIA** protesters marched on Nov. 25 in outrage against continued police killings of Black youth. The demonstration was called by the Coalition for Racial, Economic And Legal (REAL) Justice in response to the release of a video of the horrific Chicago police killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald, and the right-wing shootings of five Minneapolis activists who were protesting the death of 24-year-old Jamar Clark, who was killed by that city's 4th Precinct cops.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Despite the aggressive actions of 75 Philadelphia cops on bikes, on foot and in cars, the rally quickly took over the main intersection in the heart of this city's Black community at Broad Street and Erie Avenue. As rush-hour traffic in all four directions was halted and protesters' signs faced traffic, the mother of a young man shot 14 times by Philly police a few years ago came over and gave a very moving and angry account of her son's death. A few minutes later, bicycle cops started pushing protesters into a smaller circle in an attempt to surround the protest, but the demonstrators were able to break away and march south on Broad Street.

"16 shots killed Laquan — murdered by cops — unjustified!" was one of many chants the crowd yelled out in unison as the marchers eventually reached Temple University's campus. Turning west on Cecil B. Moore Avenue, the demonstration ended 10 blocks later with a rally at Ridge Avenue, in one of this city's most oppressed Black communities.

Speakers explained that resistance and revolution are called for in the face of police terror, rampant gentrification, mass incarceration and the closing of public schools. Among those who gathered to listen were area youth; a young Latino gay activist who recently sued the city for police brutality targeting homeless LGBTQ youth; and another woman, whose 16-year-old son was killed by police seven years ago. The rally finished with the reading of the names of the 1,027 people killed by police so far this year.

Chanting, "Black lives matter! Not Black Friday!" 700 demonstrators in **SEATTLE** marched in solidarity with the national Black Lives Matter movement. They disrupted the downtown retailers' Christmas tree lighting ceremony, just as they did last year.

The multinational demonstrators first marched around the retail core for four hours. The chanting march paraded through several big stores, including Macy's, but when the demonstration tried

to enter two malls they were beaten back and four were arrested. Downtown big business brags about doing \$1 billion in sales every holiday shopping season.

The cops, in large numbers, blocked the demonstration from entering the area for the lighting ceremony. Demonstrators had to mix in with the rest of the crowd and filter in slowly one by one. First, they drowned out the stage show for an hour with anti-police brutality chants. Then, just before the Christmas lights came on, the chants became even louder and a big Black Lives Matter banner was held around the base of the tree. A victory rally was then held to wrap up.

"We are the last 3% of Black SF" was the banner held by Black Lives Matter **BAY AREA, CALIF.**, protesters as they challenged San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee at the city's annual tree lighting ceremony at Union Square on Nov. 27. They served him an eviction notice as they halted the ceremony. A flyer with a "wanted" poster of Lee said the mayor "wages war on Black lives, exacerbates gentrification of San Francisco, chooses profit over people, evicts the homeless, over-polices Black communities, tries to expand SF jails." The flyer asked people to call the mayor and demand that he end Black displacement.

After the ceremony, the protesters marched down Powell Street to Market Street, stopping at many intersections and blocking them, while chanting and singing, including the lyrics, "We will not be moved on Black Friday."

Sharon Black, Gene Clancy, Terri Kay, Jim McMahan and Joe Piette contributed to this report.

Chicago protests block streets, shops Justice for Laquan McDonald

Continued from page 1

tion justice activist among Chicago youth. London, who had just been speaking at the rally, was charged with a felony for allegedly throwing a smoke bomb. This was clearly the act of provocateurs.

London spent a night in Cook County Jail. Hundreds of supporters, including this reporter, packed the street and courtroom in protest. In a true people's victory, the charges were dropped and London was released. Five others were arrested on minor charges.

Broad coalition

The Nov. 27 march was called by a coalition of Chicago organizations, including Black Lives Matter, Rainbow Push, the "Chicago Alliance against Racist and Political Repression, the Chicago Teachers Union and the Rev. Michael Pfleger from St. Sabina Church, a staunch ally of community anti-racist struggles.

The Black Caucus of the City Council is calling for a vote of no confidence against police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, who claims he won't resign and that Emanuel supports him. Local NAACP chapters joined the call for a federal investigation into the police department. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congressperson Bobby Rush and U.S. Rep. Danny Davis are seeking a U.S. Justice Department inquiry into the police's handling of the McDonald shooting.

A spokeswoman for the Black Youth Project says their organization is also demanding a defunding of the police department, protesting the priorities shown by having 40 percent of the city budget fund the cops while over 50 schools in

Chicago have closed.

Laquan McDonald's murder was no isolated incident. Chicago is where John Burge and his police accomplices tortured young Black men for decades with impunity. Van Dyke is the first Chicago officer in nearly 35 years to be charged with first-degree murder for an on-duty shooting, according to the Chicago Tribune. (Nov. 30)

As of July, Chicago's Independent Police Review Authority had investigated 400 fatal and nonfatal shootings by police since 2007, according to a Better Government Association analysis, but found only one unjustified. The same report found that from 2010 to 2014, Chicago police fatally shot 70 people, nearly all male and mostly Black, the most among large U.S. city police departments.

New era of struggle

The Black Lives Matter movement and the upsurge on college campuses demanding an end to institutionalized racism have signaled a new era of struggle. Black youth are in the vanguard.

The U.S. ruling class and the police state stay in power through divide-and-conquer tactics. Racism, including renewed anti-immigrant propaganda, is their greatest tool. But they can no longer isolate the Black community.

In the Nov. 27 Chicago march were allies who see the struggle against racism and police brutality as the cutting edge in building a U.S. working-class movement. Chicago teachers wore buttons saying, "Jail the bankers, not my students." There was a group from CORE, the Caucus of Rank and File Educators.

Another contingent marched behind a banner, "Arabs against racist violence." Activists blocking the Banana Republic store held banners in English and Spanish saying "Pilson, a Mexican Chicago neighborhood, stands with McDonald."

As the capitalist crisis affects more and more youth and workers, people are fighting back in unity. Everyone chanted demands for jobs and schools not jails and

police murder. They chanted in a circle of unity, led by Black youth: "We will love each other! We will protect each other! It is our duty to fight for each other! We have nothing to lose but our chains!"

This unity is what it will take to turn this system around, to meet the needs of the many, not just profits for the few. □

Richard Perkins Jr. Latest victim of Oakland police terror



By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Ada Henderson heard about the killing of yet another Black man on Nov. 15 by the Oakland Police Department. She went to the site, where he was killed, to pray for the family, not finding out until two days later that it was her own son, 39-year-old Richard Perkins Jr., who was lying there in a pool of blood.

Perkins, a father of two, somehow got caught up in a police action against a huge sideshow and biker event, even though he wasn't a participant in either. Perkins was the 1,000th person killed by law enforcement in the U.S. this year, according to the guardian.com.

The OPD claims he pointed a gun at them, which even they admit was only

a pellet gun. Witnesses say that he never touched the gun, much less pointed it at the officers. The officers all wore body cameras which were conveniently turned off. The OPD has also confiscated the video from the gas station security cameras, just 15-20 feet from where Perkins was killed. They have yet to reveal any of the footage.

The day after the killing, a number of students from nearby Castlemont High School staged a walkout in protest. The students have continued to organize and also held a vigil, together with the family, at the corner where he was shot. Dozens of candles were lit in the young father's honor. His funeral was held on Nov. 27. The First Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church was packed with grieving family and supporters. □

People with disabilities struggle for their rights

By Edward Yudelovich

Because of the worldwide struggle of people with disabilities for equal rights, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was established by the United Nations on Dec. 3, 1992. Ever since, it has been celebrated around the planet to promote an understanding of disability issues and also mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of the gains from the integration of people with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

On Dec. 13, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires parties to the convention to promote, protect and ensure that people with disabilities have the full enjoyment of human rights and legal

protection. Despite protests by many organizations of disabled people in the United States, the U.S. government has still refused to ratify the treaty.

With the 2016 U.S. presidential election looming, an article in Al Jazeera America on Nov. 10 noted that U.S. candidates in both major parties are ignoring people with disabilities. It pointed out that in the first Democratic presidential debate, although self-proclaimed socialist Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton both say “nice things” on their websites about people with disabilities, “the only mention of disability occurred when Sanders responded to a question about recent mass shootings by talking about mental health.”

Protest in New York on Dec. 3

There is a presidential candidate who gives priority to support for disability rights. Monica Moorehead of Workers World Party and her running mate Lam-

ont Lilly are the real socialist candidates.

Moorehead is the only presidential candidate who has endorsed a New York protest on Dec. 3 that will commemorate the International Day of the Disabled and protest the murder of Jeremy McDole, a 28-year-old African-American paraplegic who was shot and killed by police in Wilmington, Del., on Sept. 23 while in his wheelchair.

The protest is being called by the People's Power Assembly, an organization of mostly young activists who have been on the front lines of the struggle for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and a union and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement to combat the rising national epidemic of police murders, particularly of youth of color. It will start at 6 p.m. at the elevator bank on the south side of 34th Street, near Seventh Avenue and Penn Station. The flier for this protest points out that “40 percent of people killed by police had a disability.”

Shortly before the ADA was passed

in 1990, activists with physical disabilities coalesced without warning in front of the Capitol in Washington, shed their crutches, wheelchairs, powerchairs and other assistive devices, and proceeded to crawl and pull their bodies up all 100 of the Capitol's front steps. Many chanted “ADA now” and “Vote now.” Some who remained at the bottom held signs and yelled encouraging words to the “Capitol Crawlers.”

Jennifer Keelan, a second-grader with cerebral palsy, was videotaped as she pulled herself up the steps, using mostly her hands and arms and saying, “I'll take all night if I have to.”

It is through such struggle that people with disabilities are joining all the oppressed to build a world where, in the words of Karl Marx, all people “contribute according to their abilities and receive according to their needs.”

Yudelovich is a Workers World Party activist and organizer who has emotional and one-sided hearing loss disabilities.

Bay Area

‘Ohlone peoples are alive’

In 1999, the city of Emeryville, Calif., built the mall that now sits on the corner of Shellmound Street and Ohlone Way. This space was once a Ohlone Indigenous village site and was one of the largest shellmounds in the Bay Area. The sacred shellmound once stood over 60 feet high and 350 feet in diameter. It was considered the largest funerary complex of the Ohlone people.

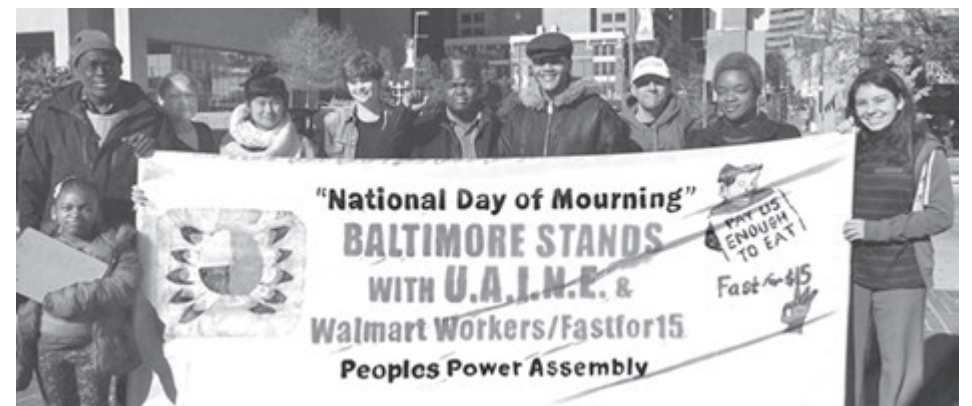
Sixteen years later on Nov. 28, over 100 protesters gathered, temporarily blocking a main intersection to the mall.

Protest organizer Corrina Gould commented, “When the mall was built, we peti-

tioned the City Council and asked them not to destroy our sacred sites, but the developers and the businesses ignored our voices. Although the mall was built, our resistance is alive and it has never died. Hence, every year, on the day after Thanksgiving, the biggest shopping day of the year, we've organized an educational protest to remind everyone that Ohlone peoples are alive in the Bay Area and we aim to educate the public on why and how the desecration of Ohlone sacred sites hurts Ohlones and everyone living here in the Bay Area. We also ask people to not shop at this mall.”

— Story by Terri Kay

Baltimore solidarity with Native peoples, workers



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Representatives of the Baltimore People's Power Assembly, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Baltimore Chapter, Maryland Institute College of Art students, Falcon Lodge #6 and Workers World Party stood in solidarity with United American Indians of New England's Day of Mourning on Nov. 27 and striking Walmart workers. Members of both the PPA and SCLC also fasted on Nov. 26. □

Minneapolis Black Lives Matter protest.



Cuba's solidarity with Assata Shakur

By Cheryl LaBash

In a Nov. 9 interview of Kenia Serrano, president of Cuba's Institute for Friendship with the Peoples and delegate to Cuba's National Assembly, Washington, D.C., journalist and radio co-host Netfa Freeman asked Serrano about Assata Shakur.

Assata was granted political asylum in Cuba in 1984, after police shot her with her hands up, failing to kill her during a New Jersey traffic stop, and then falsely convicted her, promising life in a New Jersey prison.

After her escape, she was granted political asylum in Cuba. The renewed diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba — initiated last Dec. 17, after the U.S. government released the remaining three of the Cuban 5 state security agents from U.S. prisons — has brought Assata's case to the forefront, both among Black Lives Matter fighters and as a lever for forces opposed to continuing the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

Freeman: And finally, for those who are concerned about Sister Assata Shakur, who has political asylum, some think that maybe ...

Serrano: Well, I already said we are guided by principles. We are guided by principles and Cuba made a very important decision in the case of Assata and in other cases. When you accept a person as a political refugee because of the different considerations that we have, it is something that is not exposed to any debate or any dialogue or any precondition. Cuba is guided by principles, so our comrades here, our brothers and sisters, should think that we are like that. We are here because of that. If we would've made concessions in our history, Cuba would not be the independent sovereign and socialist country which we are.

'Hands off Assata!'

From Oakland, Calif., to Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore, the people occupying the

Terrorist strikes Colorado Planned Parenthood

Continued from page 5

carry guns and take whatever measures they deem necessary to protect their patients, staff and themselves.

The terrorism aimed at Black Lives Matter and Planned Parenthood is meant to strike fear into the heart of activists and to diminish the fighting spirit of those on the front lines against police killings and terror and against attacks on women's

right to reproductive justice. It is meant to tell activists fighting for a union and \$15 minimum wage that they could be next.

But so far, this strategy has failed. Led by youth and women of color, the Black Lives Matter and other movements show no signs of backing down. It is the police, the military and their racist supporters who must put down their weapons against the oppressed here and worldwide. □

front lines of Black Lives Matter resistance wear shirts declaring “Assata taught me.” After speaking truth to power in Chicago police commission hearings and large and small gatherings everywhere captured on video — including the 2015 Workers World Party conference — participants chant Assata's stirring affirmation:

It is our duty to fight for our freedom.

It is our duty to win.

We must love each other and support each other.

We have nothing to lose but our chains.

—Assata Shakur, July 4, 1973

In New York and Wisconsin, Assata's name has been painted over and removed from student centers. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie declares no charter flights to Cuba will fly from New Jersey airports while she is free in Cuba. She is labeled “terrorist” with a \$2 million bounty offered by the FBI.

She is a theme in a recent prime-time political drama, “Madam Secretary,” where her voluntary return to the U.S. is key to ending the U.S. blockade. Even there, crudely drawn Cuban officials angrily reject any suggestion of turning Assata over to U.S. authorities — recognizing Cuba's principled political asylum for this heroic Black woman.

Serrano was in Washington, D.C., as part of a three-city visit to the United States from Nov. 3 to 17. Additionally, while in D.C., Serrano exchanged with representatives of U.S. organizations in solidarity with Cuba at the annual meeting of the National Network on Cuba and spoke at a public meeting. The full interview of Serrano was aired Nov. 24 on Pacifica radio station WPFW in the second half of the “Voices with Vision” program. It is available in the archives: <http://tinyurl.com/pr6sobc> □

Citing 'state of emergency'

France attacks climate activists

By Deirdre Griswold

The irony couldn't have been more in-your-face. The French government, after the attacks in Paris on Nov. 13, declared a state of emergency and got it extended for three months, so the government could use whatever tactics it deemed necessary to go after "terrorists."

So who wound up getting tear gassed, arrested and jailed? People protesting against climate change.

COP21, the latest big meeting of world governments on how to ramp down global warming, had long ago been scheduled for Paris. It was too late to change the venue. So the Quai d'Orsay (seat of the French government) had to go ahead with it. But the authorities said: "No demonstrations! We're in a state of emergency!"

The last time a major march was called to alert the public to the disastrous consequences of climate change, 400,000 people showed up — in New York City on Sept. 21, 2014. To the French "security" forces, this would be a disaster in Paris.

So they banned the big demonstration planned for Nov. 29 and then physically attacked the militants who came out in spite of the ban.

It was just a corollary of the general oppression of Muslims in France that flows from the mentality of "because we've oppressed them, they hate us, so let's oppress them even more."

But think for a minute. The "war on terror" declared by Paris to justify suspending civil liberties is really a war by the NATO powers to control the Middle East. The countries of that region, rich with history, also have the mixed blessing of sitting on vast lakes of petroleum. For at least a century, this has made them special targets of Western capitalists hungry for energy to fuel their industrial expansion and profligate lifestyles for the superrich.

The burning of petroleum, along with coal, is what has blanketed our planet with a layer of carbon dioxide gas that holds in the heat, leading to an unfolding ecological disaster we cringe to even think about.

The French government represents the bourgeoisie — a French word that is now universally applied to all the superrich wheeler-dealers in every country who are top dogs in this dog-eat-dog society called capitalism. In 2014, according to Oxfam International, the richest of the rich in the world — just 86 people — owned as much wealth as the 3.5 billion poorest people.

What does this mean in terms of degrading the environment? It means that the extravagant lifestyles of the richest people — with their private jets, yachts, golf courses, labor-intensive trinkets and ridiculous mansions — plus all their entourages and wannabes, are responsible for a big chunk of the global warming that is happening.

Zap them and we could begin to solve the problem — along with freeing up the masses of people so they could retool our society with energy-efficient housing, mass transit, nonpolluting energy sources and so on. All this would be easy to do once the lobbyists and their superrich patrons had fallen by the wayside — or also

been zapped, as the case may be.

But the capitalist governments, like the Quai d'Orsay, want to zap the protesters and thereby prolong this unsustainable world created by capitalism.

Justice, in the long run, is nothing more than scientific truth. The truth is that all peoples, all classes, all so-called "races," are just human beings. But today — unlike through most of the history of our species — we are divided into classes, into haves and have nots, into oppressed and oppressor nations. Justice means taking back the wealth stolen by the propertied class, by the imperialist rulers, who set themselves above the rest of us. We can and must stop them, before they drag us all down.

Kudos to the demonstrators in Paris who defied bourgeois "public opinion" and bourgeois cops to say that global warming is a much bigger disaster than any attack by oppressed peoples, no matter what their ideology, who are merely reacting to the misery that imperialism has wreaked on them. □

U.S. threatens Portugal's center-left government

By John Catalinotto

Nov. 29 — Is he the U.S. envoy to Portugal or the pro-consul of the Empire? Ambassador Robert Sherman, speaking on Portugal's Radio Renascença a week ago, warned the Portuguese people that the U.S. was "worried about" the new government. He asked if Portugal's center-left government would stay loyal to NATO and meet the alliance's growing demands.

If U.S. imperialism says it is "worried," that's a threat. That threat alone makes it important to examine what has been happening in Portugal.

For the last four years, while a center-right government was cutting pensions, eliminating medical care and diminishing education, the economy was stagnating. There was about a 14-percent official unemployment rate in March and a real unemployment rate — which takes into account the heavy emigration and part-time jobs — that was more like 29 percent. (Algarve News, March 26) These conditions led to an electoral debacle for the rightist coalition.

In the Oct. 4 election, the center-right coalition lost 12 percent of the vote and 25 seats. Now this rightist coalition, hated by the workers, could no longer form a majority.

The Socialist Party (PS) made some gains, but with 86 seats had not enough for a majority on its own. The Left Bloc (BE), whose program and structure is similar to Syriza's in Greece, that is, left social democrat, doubled its vote and won 19 seats. The Portuguese Communist Party-Greens alliance, called the CDU, gained slightly and won 16 seats. If the three could agree on a coalition, they could guarantee a stable majority in the National Assembly.

In the weeks following the election, President Cavaco da Silva, a rightist, was violating the Constitution. He refused to invite the PS to try to form a government by making some agreement with the BE and PCP. Instead, he tried to keep the old regime in office.

Finally, the PCP made a motion to reject the minority rightist government. On Nov. 10, this motion won the vote in the National Assembly while thousands of workers demonstrated outside, mobilized by the CGP-IN union federation.

The PCP and BE are supporting the PS government from the outside. They are not going to participate as ministers. According to the deal, the PS will make no further attacks on the working class, and the coalition will attempt to reverse some austerity imposed earlier. The BE

and PCP, who both oppose NATO, are not to make this opposition a condition for staying in the coalition.

There should be no illusions about the PS. This party was born in the revolutionary period of 1974-1975 and nurtured by U.S. and German imperialism in order to push the PCP out. For the 40 years since that period, the PS has alternated in office with the two main rightist parties, and lately has also imposed austerity.

So far, the only victory for the workers is that they ousted the center-right government. It is unlikely the PS-BE-PCP coalition, even if it can stay united in the Assembly, can make gains for workers through parliamentary means alone. It is possible, however, that left parties use their presence in the National As-

sembly to mobilize the class struggle on a mass basis in the streets, factories and campuses.

From 1974 to 1978, U.S. Ambassador Frank Carlucci acted exactly like a pro-consul of the Empire. He threatened NATO military intervention from the Atlantic, maneuvered with the rightist elements remaining in the Army and with the PS. His goal was to prevent a workers' revolution and to keep the PCP out of the government.

So it is a reminder to all of us when the Marxist website odiario.info warns in an editorial that Sherman is "imitating" Carlucci. Washington is again threatening Portugal's sovereignty. The working-class movement here has to be ready to protest and stop this intervention. □

After election results official Protests continue in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

The U.S. government has made it clear that it has no intention of disputing the results that Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) announced on Nov. 24.

They put Jovenel Moïse, representing the Haitian Bald-Headed Party (PHTK), the current government party of Michel Martelly, first with 33 percent of the vote. Jude Célestine, running for the Alternative League for Progress and Haitian Emancipation (LAPEH), came in second with 25 percent. Moïse and Célestine are set to run in the second round on Dec. 27.

Célestine told the AP on Nov. 27 that "no decision had been made" whether he would contest Moïse in the second round. He has a loose coalition with eight other parties that ran in the presidential campaign and says he wants to consult with them.

The Haitian people have made it clear that they see the election as a fraud. They have been out in the streets in numbers, decrying what they call the "electoral coup d'état" nearly every day. When Jovenel Moïse made a quick trip on Nov. 20 to Miami and Brooklyn, the two largest Haitian communities in the United States,

a militant demonstration confronted him in both cities, organized in a few hours.

A U.S. delegation of election monitors from the National Lawyers Guild and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers Delegation said it "fell far short of minimum standards for fair elections" and called for an independent investigation. (Haïti-Liberté, Nov. 25.)

While the U.S. government pleads ignorance on the legitimacy of both the presidential election held Oct. 25 and the parliamentary ones held Aug. 9, it is obviously satisfied with the results. The U.S. special coordinator for Haiti, Kenneth Merten, who claimed the United States government just didn't know, said publicly on Nov. 23, "It would be premature for us, in my view, to prejudge this election as terrific or awful." (Tico, Nov. 26.)

Washington has never hesitated to interfere in Haiti's internal affairs. In the 2010 election, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton personally came to Haiti and told the CEP to replace Célestine with Michel Martelly for the run-off.

The people of Haiti are struggling to control their country and they will continue this struggle no matter what happens to this election. □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

¡Solidaridad con los pueblos originarios!

Continúa de página 12

del oleoducto Keystone XL. Durante siete años, estas/os activistas, con sus aliadas/os no indígenas, lucharon contra este genocidio ambiental. Ellas/os presionaron al gobierno de Obama a vetar este proyecto, que habría transportado el aceite de las arenas bituminosas de Canadá a través de tierras tribales, hacia las refinerías de Texas, aumentando las emisiones de carbono y la contaminación de las aguas subterráneas. Sin embargo, la lucha continúa contra la extracción por corporaciones de los combustibles fósiles de la tierra - y más tuberías.

Estamos con el movimiento de las naciones originarias y las/os individuos y

sus partidarias/os que han estado protestando los nombres racistas de los equipos deportivos y sus mascotas. Su justa lucha se ha convertido en una exitosa oleada contra los dueños de equipos, a medida que más personas deploran este fanatismo y exigen la abolición de estos nombres insultantes.

La campaña Moorehead-Lilly levanta en alto la bandera de solidaridad con todos los pueblos indígenas en este Día de Duelo Nacional. Nos unimos a millones de personas en todo el mundo que proclaman a viva voz, ¡"Libertad de Leonard Peltier"! Estamos con todos los pueblos indígenas que luchan contra la escalada de la destrucción del planeta por el capitalismo. □

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

U.S.-NATO, get out, stay out of Syria!

The Turkish regime's decision to ambush and shoot down a Russian SU-24 bomber on the Syrian-Turkish border north of Latakia has spotlighted the risk of a larger war in Southwest Asia. Boosting this threat is French President François Hollande's orders to step up the French bombing of Syria. Right behind French imperialism, British Prime Minister David Cameron is calling for a Europe-wide intervention in the region. Both use the Nov. 13 attack in Paris as a pretext for this new aggression, which is ostensibly aimed at the Islamic State group or I.S.

These two former colonial powers want to get back in as overlords of that region in Southwest Asia, this time under Washington and the Pentagon's hegemony.

Workers World wants to state up front that we oppose any U.S., French, British, German, Turkish or other NATO, or Saudi or Gulf monarchy or Israeli military intervention in Syria and Iraq. We alert anti-war and working-class forces in the U.S. to stay mobilized to stop further imperialist war and intervention in that region. The Syrian people and government, on the other hand, have the right to defend their sovereignty against imperialism and against I.S. and to invite help from their allies.

It is unlikely that the Russian plane was in Turkish airspace for as long as 17 seconds when it was attacked, as the Turkish government claims. This, however, is of little importance, as is whether the Turkish regime cleared its attack with NATO first.

The central question is what the U.S.-NATO "coalition" represents in the world and in Syria. This imperialist alliance includes the U.S. and all of NATO, the Saudi Arabian and other Gulf monarchies, and Israel. These are the main forces underpinning worldwide reaction and exploitation. They are the enemies of the world's workers and all oppressed nations. In Syria, they are attempting to depose the sovereign government and either replace it with a puppet state or leave a failed state. The regimes and ruling classes within

this imperialist bloc have had a two-sided approach to organizations like the I.S. and al-Qaida. The U.S. started this in 1979, when it and Saudi Arabia funded and nurtured al-Qaida and groups with similar feudal ideology to fight the Soviet Army and the progressive government in Afghanistan. When these reactionaries killed Afghan women teachers, the imperialist media still called them "freedom fighters."

That changed drastically following 9/11. Washington then used al-Qaida as its enemy of choice, lying that al-Qaida was allied with the Taliban in Afghanistan and with Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Later, in 2011, U.S.-NATO again provided air support for opposition groups that would provide the "boots on the ground" to oust the Muammar Gadhafi government in Libya, including those with similar ideology. Meanwhile the French air force started bombing, followed tenfold by the Pentagon.

Then the imperialists armed all the opposition to the Damascus government in Syria and continued to do so even though most arms ending up with the most reactionary forces. During that time, French and Belgian police services set up no obstacles to recruitment to fight against the Bashar al-Assad government in Syria. Many wound up fighting for I.S. Some eventually turned their weapons on civilians in Paris.

These U.S.-NATO imperialist wars have killed at least 1.6 million people and made ten times that number refugees. Imperialist aggression is responsible for the growth of groups like I.S., as is the vicious anti-Muslim propaganda that accompanies war preparation. We must fight Islamophobia as hard as we do any other form of racism or bigotry.

We must not allow the regimes in Washington, Paris, London and Berlin to open another round of war in the region that can have untold consequences there and at home.

Say "No!" to Islamophobia!

U.S. and all its allies: Get out of Syria and Iraq! □

USAF veterans stand strong against drone warfare

By Michael Kramer

"We were cut loose by the same government we gave so much to — sent out in the world without adequate medical care, reliable public health services or necessary benefits. Some of us are now homeless. Others of us barely make it." (Letter to President Barack Obama, et al., from United States Air Force drone war veterans)



The Drone Four: Michael Haas, Brandon Bryant, Cian Westmoreland and Stephen Lewis.

Nov. 27 — Four U.S. Air Force (USAF) veterans have courageously spoken out publicly at a press conference on Nov. 19 about the Pentagon and CIA programs of targeted killings with the use of drones, killing in which they took part.

The secret war using drones operates throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The veterans stated that the program has "fueled the feelings of hatred that ignited terrorism and groups like ISIS, while also serving as a fundamental recruitment tool similar to [the prison at] Guantánamo Bay."

The Drone Four are Brandon Bryant, Michael Haas, Stephen Lewis and Cian Westmoreland. The military occupation specialties (MOS) that they performed included operating sensor equipment on Predator drones that fire Hellfire missiles and maintaining communications infrastructure. They were stationed in various USAF bases in the United States, Germany and Afghanistan. Bryant and Westmoreland are disabled veterans.

In a letter to Obama, Secretary of Defense Carter and CIA Director Brennan, the veterans described how their roles in the drone wars led them to succumb to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Recent documents leaked by a government whistleblower and published on the intercept.com website show how the vast majority of people killed were not even targets chosen by U.S. intelligence.

At the press conference, Haas described a culture within the program of alcohol and drug abuse among drone pilots. The USAF is confronting a retention problem with regards to experienced drone pilots and is now giving re-enlistment bonuses of up to \$135,000. (Air Force Times, Sept. 28)

U.S. government repression of the Drone Four has been ongoing. On Oct. 15, Brandon Bryant testified before a subcommittee in the German Parliament investigating the U.S. National Security Agency. He spoke about the role of Ramstein Air Base in southwestern Germany in the drone wars. Two hours later, Bryant's mother was visited at her home in Missoula, Mont., by members of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, also known as OSI.

The OSI operatives informed Bryant's mother, who an Oct. 21 article in Newsweek identified as LanAn, that she was on an ISIS hit list, in an obvious attempt at intimidation of her and Bryant. On Nov. 21, according to human rights attorney Jesselyn Radack, who is representing them, the Drone Four had their bank accounts and credit cards frozen.

"Drone," a one-hour-and-18-minute film directed by Norwegian writer and filmmaker Tonje Hessen Schrei, opened in cities around the U.S. on Nov. 20. In it, the Drone Four tell their stories and how they realized they were committing acts that violated the U.S. Constitution and could be considered war crimes.

The Drone Four — all from the enlisted ranks — have taken on the Pentagon, the CIA and ultimately the "deep state" of the ruling class, as did U.S. Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning and National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. They all deserve the full support and solidarity of anti-war and anti-imperialists in the U.S. and around the world.

Kramer, a veteran of the Israeli military (IDF) from 1972-1975 and a supporter of Palestinian self-determination, is chapter president of Veterans For Peace Chapter 021 (Northern New Jersey).

What's behind the Malta Summit

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A gathering of African leaders and European Union member-states in Malta has proposed a financial package of nearly \$4 billion, ostensibly to halt migration from Africa to Europe. European governments say they are willing to send funds to Africa to decrease migration. Such a program would, in effect, turn African presidents and prime ministers into Europe's gatekeepers.

Today, the level of dislocation internationally is worse than during any other period since World War II. In Syria alone, some 11 million people have been displaced, with 4 million outside the country. People from Africa and Asia are flooding out of their regions seeking refuge from imperialist war and capitalism's burgeoning world crisis.

Rather than address the causes of dis-

location and migration, European imperialist states and their allies are seeking to contain the crisis inside the borders of the oppressed nations — the same nations the imperialists destroyed through centuries of enslavement, colonization, neocolonization, superexploitation and militarism.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants have recently crossed the Mediterranean Sea into southern, central and eastern Europe, creating a humanitarian crisis and exposing the EU governments' racism. Despite the EU's offer of billions to stem migration, African leaders, even those closely tied politically and economically to the imperialist states, have looked upon these proposals with skepticism and outright rejection.

Somali Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke is heavily dependent upon United States and EU funding for the 22,000-member African Union

Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). This force and U.S. and NATO intelligence advisers handle Somalia's security.

Sharmarke said, "Africa needed investment, not charity, to improve its economies." (BBC, Nov. 13) Somalia's experience illustrates that Western aid and military occupation do not necessarily translate into social stability and economic prosperity.

Moreover, the EU countries have not raised the funds for this proposed project. Their commitment is lukewarm, apparently reflecting doubts about its efficacy. Pledges of assistance have done little to halt migration when European states' foreign policies have largely been shaped by Washington's "war on terrorism."

European divisions over migration

Growth in migration from Africa to Europe has accelerated this year, divid-



Migrant shipwreck, April 16.

ing the EU politically. Hundreds of thousands of migrants are being trafficked across North Africa to the Mediterranean Sea, where countless numbers have drowned.

Migrants have run into barriers and brutality in eastern Europe, where several governments seek to ban people originating in Africa, the Middle East and Asia from entering their countries. Images of desperate migrants being hosed with water cannons evoke sympathy for their plight as well as outrage.

"Cross-border co-operation is disintegrating as barbed wire goes up and
Continued on page 11

Protests, international assembly in the Philippines challenge global apartheid

By Bill Dores
Metro Manila, Philippines

Nov. 19 — The capital city of the Philippines became a front line in the global class war this November. President Barack Obama and 18 other heads of state and government joined 7,000 corporate CEOs for the Asia Pacific Economic Summit held Nov. 18-19. Obama in particular came to promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, a giant “free trade” zone, which will drive down wages, destroy small farmers and force Pacific Asian countries to further open their economies to U.S. and Canadian monopoly capital.

Tens of thousands of ordinary people also came to Manila: Indigenous people, workers, farmers, fishers, students and urban poor from around the Philippines and around the world. They came to protest “neoliberal” austerity, displacement and global apartheid.

The U.S.-paid Philippine state did not want them there. The military blocked roads leading to Manila and locked thousands of street dwellers and urban poor in detention centers. It deployed armies of police. But clubs and water cannon could not stop the people from bringing their demands and grievances to the gates of the International Conference Center.

“You are so tough when you are up against protesting Filipinos,” Joms Salvador, general secretary of the Philippine women’s organization Gabriela, cried out. “But when it comes to foreign troops coming to our land to build military bases, you welcome them with open arms.”

Many protesters came from Mindanao, the southernmost island of the Philippines, where corporate mining and logging operations are driving people from their land. Among them were Lumad people, an Indigenous people of Mindanao who are being murdered and displaced by U.S.-armed Philippine military and state death squads. Hundreds of Lumads have camped out in Manila despite police brutality and harassment.

Others came from farther away, from Palestine and Kurdistan, from south Korea and West Papua, Malaysia, Mexico, Senegal, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Canada, Guatemala and the front lines of the battle against police terror in the United States.

Famed Palestinian freedom fighter Leila Khaled told the crowd, “We are fighting the same enemy — the imperial-

ists, Zionists, capitalists. We have every right to be here!”

“I will tell our people that we are not alone! Palestinians, like Filipinos, are ready to pay the high price for our freedom,” she said.

A global people’s assembly

The APEC summit was not the only powerful gathering of people in Metro Manila that week. Over 400 delegates and observers from 180 organizations from 39 countries, territories and autonomous regions attended the Fifth International Assembly of the International League of People’s Struggle on Nov. 14-16. They were from workers’ unions and organizations of peasants, Indigenous people, migrants, women, urban poor, students, LGBTQ people, tenants, teachers, medical workers, cultural workers, lawyers, scientists and others. They represented the power of the workers and oppressed, those who produce the wealth of the world.

ILPS describes itself as the largest international anti-imperialist alliance existing today. Its assembly was preceded by assemblies of the International Women’s Alliance and the International Migrants’ Alliance and followed by the International Festival of People’s Rights and Struggles.

The theme of the Fifth Assembly was “For a Socially Just World, Strengthen Peoples’ Solidarity and Intensify the Struggle Against Imperialist Plunder, Crisis and War!” The assembly opened with keynote speeches by former U.S. Rep. Dr. Cynthia McKinney and Palestinian revolutionary Leila Khaled.

McKinney exposed the history of U.S. imperialism in Asia and warned, “Beware President Obama’s pivot to Asia! Don’t get tricked and don’t be fooled.”

Khaled spoke of the Intifada emerging in Palestine today, “an Intifada that, like its predecessors, is based among those who are most marginalized, most oppressed and most determined to seek their freedom.” She called on the international movement of the peoples of the world to support the Palestinian people in materially changing the balance of power and escalating the cost of occupation.

ILPS chairperson, exiled Filipino revolutionary hero Jose Maria Sison, addressed the assembly by video recording. Sison said that the assembly is deliberately timed to oppose the APEC summit and neoliberal imperialist glo-

balization schemes that brutally exploit working people and drive the world into a worsening economic and social crisis. He spoke of the current global crisis of the capitalist system, the intensifying exploitation and oppression of the people by monopoly capital and growing people’s resistance.

Deliberative meetings of the League’s 17 commissions were punctuated by powerful internationalist plenaries. It was also a fighting assembly. Delegates joined mass actions in solidarity with the Lumad people of Mindanao, with farmworkers on the 11th anniversary of the Hacienda Lusita massacre and an anti-imperialist vigil for the victims of ISIS attacks in Beirut and Paris.

Among the delegates was Malick Sy of the National Confederation of Workers of Senegal. He said, “As a trade unionist, we must stand with all people who are fighting imperishable neoliberal economic policies.” He compared APEC to the Africa Europe Trade Zone, which is worsening people’s lives through privatization, deregulation and destroying agricultural production.

Orly Marcellana is a regional general secretary of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines. His spouse, Eden, was mur-



Leila Khaled

dered 12 years ago by a military death squad. He described how peasants in the southern Tagalog region are driven from the land to make room for multinational-owned malls, golf courses and “special economic zones.” Those who resist are targeted by the military. He said: “Coming here I learned that people in other countries are suffering the same things or even worse. The peasants in the Philippines must fight harder and join with people all over the world resisting U.S. imperialism.”

On its last day, the assembly approved a general declaration and elected a new International Coordinating Committee. That night, delegates and guests from the countries represented joined with mass organizations in the Philippines and sang, rapped, recited poetry and danced to celebrate international solidarity and the spirit of resistance. Highlights included a duet between a rapper from the U.S. and a young Lumad boy, along with a performance remembering the Ayotzinapa 43 in Mexico.

The 40-strong U.S. delegation, mostly youth of color, performed the “I Can’t Breathe” song. Jason Martinez of the Indigenous Defense and Resistance Unity Movement (IDRUM) sang and drummed the AIM song.

Said Martinez of the assembly, “I was honored to be able to share war stories and learn about struggles that are happening in Latin America, the Philippines, Indonesia, and even within the U.S. and more.”

The writer is second deputy general secretary of the International League of People’s Struggle and represents the International Action Center on the ILPS’s International Coordinating Committee. The resolutions, declaration and some of the talks from the League’s Fifth International Assembly may be found at www.ilps.info



Crímenes históricos de militares franceses

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abrió fuego contra una manifestación de 30.000 argelinos, matando entre 70 y 300 personas. Si usted no ha oído hablar de esto, es porque la policía francesa y los medios de comunicación conspiraron para mantenerlo en secreto hasta que finalmente se verificó en la década de 1990. (“La

batalla de París,” Jean-Luc Einaudi, 1991)

Esta historia de intervención militar imperialista continúa. Aviones franceses abrieron la guerra aérea contra Libia en 2011, llevando a la destrucción bárbara de ese país por la OTAN. Aviones franceses están bombardeando hoy en Siria e Irak, junto a la “coalición” liderada por Estados Unidos. □

borders slam shut across Europe. ... Even Germany is toughening border regulations ... in stark contrast to the warm welcome given to hundreds or thousands earlier this autumn.” (BBC, Nov. 13)

Divisions in the EU prompted Council President Donald Tusk to warn that Schengen — the EU agreement allowing passport-free border passage across much of Europe — is in danger of collapse. This accord has been championed internationally as a major contributor to the continent’s integration.

After Paris attacks: more militarism and racism

The EU fails to address the underlying issues of imperialist war and the global economic crisis, relying instead on military and police solutions. This new scheme to fund African states to essentially imprison

their own people will also collapse.

The Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that resulted in 129 deaths in operations claimed by the Islamic State have prompted a security crackdown in France and other EU states. On Nov. 16, Socialist Party President François Hollande called for revision of the French Constitution to allow greater powers for intelligence and law-enforcement agencies.

Hollande immediately escalated France’s bombing of Syria. This response will further dislocate people inside and outside the embattled state, while the doors of migration will be further closed from Europe to the U.S., where some politicians have announced Syrian nationals will be denied admission.

Washington has led world imperialism’s assault, which has laid waste to huge swaths of territory throughout North and

East Africa, extending into the Arabian Peninsula and central and southern Asia. The U.S./NATO occupation of Afghanistan was carried out under the guise of fighting “Islamic extremism and terrorism.”

This war was a direct outcome of the Carter administration’s efforts in 1979 to undermine Afghanistan’s Soviet-allied socialist government. With the fall of the Soviet Union and other European socialist states, imperialism’s emphasis shifted to the attempted realization of a “unipolar world,” where Washington and its western European allies would dominate military and economic power globally.

Consequently, the “war on terror” is a misnomer. The advent of many of the “extremist groups” is a direct product of imperialist foreign policy.

President Fidel Castro, revolutionary Cuba’s retired leader, charged in Gran-

ma on Aug. 31, 2014, that leading U.S. political figures are responsible for the Islamic State’s creation. He condemned Washington’s war policies and issued a challenge for today.

Castro asked: “Would it not be preferable to struggle to produce food and industrial products; build hospitals and schools for billions of human beings who desperately need them; promote art and culture; struggle against epidemics; or finally eliminate illnesses which affect the vital systems of human beings?”

Castro concluded: “If today it is possible to prolong life, health and the productive time of persons, [and] to plan the population’s development in accordance with growing productivity, culture and development of human values, what are they waiting for to do so? Just ideas will triumph, or disaster will triumph.” □



Estudiantes negras/os lideran resistencia al racismo

Por Monica Moorehead

Al menos 30 recintos estadounidenses realizaron protestas el 18 de noviembre para responder al creciente número de ataques racistas que están especialmente dirigidos contra estudiantes negras/os y el movimiento Black Lives Matter, BLM (La vida de los negros importa). Estas acciones fueron organizadas por el recién formado Colectivo de Liberación Negra, que creó #studentblackoutday. Entre las universidades que llevaron a cabo estas protestas estaban Tufts, la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles, Stanford, Yale y la Universidad de Massachusetts en Amherst.

La gran mayoría de estas universidades tienen poblaciones estudiantiles que son en gran parte blanca y privilegiada con un pequeño porcentaje de estudiantes afroamericanas/os y de otras razas.

Este "Día Nacional de Acción" fue la segunda respuesta coordinada desde la inspiradora victoria en la Universidad de Misuri, donde un frente unido de estudiantes blancos y negros, incluyendo el equipo de fútbol, obligó al canciller y al presidente a dimitir el 9 de noviembre. Ambos demostraron ser indiferente a los constantes ataques racistas.

Esta universidad está a sólo 100 millas

de Ferguson-Misuri, donde el 9 de agosto del 2014, Michael Brown, un joven negro, fue asesinado por un policía blanco, quien posteriormente fue exonerado por un gran jurado secreto.

El hecho de que estas protestas tomaran lugar en muchos recintos refleja el alarmante número de incidentes racistas, que no son un fenómeno nuevo - pero ahora se están produciendo en todo el país. Estos incidentes son una extensión de los innumerables casos de brutalidad policial, especialmente asesinatos, de jóvenes negras/os en los centros urbanos, y la alta tasa de encarcelamientos masivos.

El mundo entero está viendo claramente la fea realidad de lo que realmente está pasando dentro de estas llamadas "instituciones de educación superior" - es decir, las actitudes y acciones de supremacía blanca, que comienzan desde el tope de la administración colegial.

Una página de Facebook llamada "Unión de estudiantes blancos illini" fue descubierta recientemente en la Universidad de Illinois en el área llamada Urbana-Champaign. Esta página neofascista ha demonizado al movimiento BLM tildándolo de "terrorista". Instó a tomar fotos de activistas negros en las protestas en este recinto.

Los creadores de esta página reac-

cionaria dicen que se inspiraron para comenzar la "Unión" racista después de ver la película, "American History X" del año 1998, una película centrada en la vida de un simpatizante nazi.

Estudiantes de derecho de Harvard: ¡Royall debe caer!

En la Universidad de Derecho de Harvard en Cambridge-Massachusetts, los racistas han desfigurado retratos de profesores negros con cintas adhesivas negras. Michele Hall, una estudiante negra de segundo año, dijo de las desfiguraciones al Washington Post: "No me sorprendió. Esto es parte de lo que está ocurriendo aquí en Harvard y en otras instituciones de todo el país. Es parte de una narrativa más amplia de que estudiantes negros y estudiantes de color no pertenecen aquí y son excluidos". (19 de noviembre)

Aparte de pedir una investigación de las desfiguraciones como crímenes de odio, el mismo artículo señala que las/os estudiantes negros se han organizado bajo el nombre "Royall Debe Caer". Este grupo se describe como "un movimiento de estudiantes que piden la descolonización de nuestro recinto, los símbolos, el plan de estudios y la historia de la Escuela de Derecho de Harvard".

Una de las primeras demandas de este grupo es reemplazar la insignia de la escuela de derecho, que es el mismo escudo perteneciente a Isaac Royall Jr., un propietario de esclavos, cuya herencia ayudó a fundar la Escuela de Derecho de Harvard.

Lo que está pasando en las Universidades de Illinois y Harvard es sólo la punta del témpano en términos de una creciente lucha revolucionaria de resistencia en los recintos estadounidenses. Las protestas contra el racismo, sexismo y opresión LGBT están tomando muchas formas y exigiendo demandas inmediatas.

Por ejemplo, en la Universidad de Princeton, las/os estudiantes realizaron una protesta en la oficina del presidente el 19 de noviembre, exigiendo que el nombre del presidente racista Woodrow Wilson fuera removido de todos los edificios del recinto. Durante la presidencia de Wilson en la década de 1920, el Ku Klux Klan se envalentonó y miles marcharon por las calles de Washington-DC.

Es importante para todas/os las que están en el movimiento progresista seguir fortaleciendo su solidaridad antirracista con BLM dentro y fuera de los recintos - para ayudar a debilitar la pauta de dividir y conquistar del capitalismo en este país y en el exterior. □

¡Solidaridad con los pueblos originarios!

El siguiente es un saludo de solidaridad con los pueblos nativos en el 46to Día Nacional de Luto de parte de la y el candidato a la presidencia y vice presidencia del país por el Partido Workers World / Mundo Obrero, Monica Moorehead y Lamont Lilly.



de sitio, la intolerancia, la injusticia y la violencia asesina dirigida a las/os habitantes originales de este país son la verdadera historia de Estados Unidos, no los mitos.

Nuestra campaña está en solidaridad con las comunidades indígenas en sus luchas en EUA y en todo el continente americano por los derechos políticos, económicos y sociales. Reconocemos el derecho a la autodeterminación de los pueblos indígenas en todo el mundo y apoyamos sus esfuerzos por la descolonización y soberanía.

La discriminación racista, la opresión y la explotación corporativa continúan. En EUA, estas comunidades sufren por un sistema de justicia penal racista, junto a sus hermanas/os afroamericanos y latinos. Las mujeres y los hombres indígenas están encarcelados en tasas mucho más altas que sus contrapartes blancas. Mien-

tras representan el 1 por ciento de la población, representan casi el 2 por ciento de los muertos por la policía.

La crisis económica ha agravado el desempleo de las/os trabajadoras/os nativos; las altas tasas de desempleo continúan. Los puestos de trabajo accesibles a menudo tienen pocos o ningún beneficio y salarios bajos. Muchas/os jóvenes indígenas no tienen futuro; la mitad abandona la escuela secundaria. Estas/os jóvenes tienen la tasa de suicidio más alta que cualquier grupo de población de EUA.

Al menos un tercio de las/os nativos son pobres. A pesar de los cupones de alimentos, uno de cada cuatro adultos y uno de cada tres niños aún carece de alimentos nutritivos; uno de cada 10 hogares enfrenta hambre. Recortes gubernamentales de beneficios esenciales han devastado estas comunidades. La negativa a ampliar Medicaid por 20 gobiernos de estados conservadores niega la atención de salud a muchas familias indígenas.

El gobierno de EUA sin embargo, asigna miles de millones de dólares para librar guerras, ocupar tierras en el exterior y

rescatar a empresas de Wall Street y a los grandes bancos. Nuestra campaña exige que el Congreso anteponga las necesidades humanas y asegure puestos de trabajo con salarios decentes y programas sociales vitales para todas las comunidades indígenas, oprimidas y de bajos ingresos.

Aplaudimos a los pueblos originarios de todo el mundo que con valentía se resisten al despiadado saqueo capitalista de la tierra en busca de petróleo, gas, minerales - y superganancias. Se oponen a la injusticia climática - donde los países y los pueblos pobres son perjudicados por los desastres climáticos causados por las emisiones de carbono, fracturación, oleoductos peligrosos y racismo ambiental. ¡Las demandas de los pueblos indígenas se deben cumplir con la reparación de los contaminadores corporativos por el daño ecológico!

Victoria: ¡Oleoducto Keystone XL detenido!

Nuestra campaña felicita a las heroicas comunidades indígenas que ganaron una importante victoria en la detención

Continúa a página 9

Crímenes históricos de militares franceses

Por John Catalinotto

Muchos jóvenes en París fueron víctimas inocentes del ataque del 13 de noviembre, pero eso no quiere decir que el estado imperialista francés es inocente. Aunque la Revolución Francesa de 1789 levantó las consignas idealistas de libertad, igualdad y fraternidad, el imperialismo francés, que se desarrolló a partir de esa revolución burguesa, tiene una historia sangrienta en el mundo. Las acciones de

la clase dominante francesa han creado muchos enemigos, pero es la gente común, no a las élites, quienes pagan el precio.

Cuando Francia imperialista acababa de salir de la ocupación alemana después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los pueblos árabes y bereberes comenzaron manifestaciones masivas y levantamientos en Argelia contra el dominio colonial francés. Para suprimir la rebelión, durante varios días las tropas y la policía francesas, actuando por orden del presidente

francés emitida el 8 de mayo de 1945, masacraron cerca de 45.000 argelinos que pacíficamente se manifestaban en las ciudades de Setif, Guelma y Kherrata. (tinyurl.com/ncqzar5) Los ocupantes franceses mataron tanto como un millón de argelinas/os intentando aferrarse a esa nación, hasta que el pueblo finalmente ganó su liberación en 1962.

En 1947, las tropas coloniales francesas asesinaron 89.000 personas para "pacificar" una rebelión en Madagascar,

una isla de África en el Océano Índico. (Le Monde Diplomatique, marzo de 1997) Durante la larga guerra francesa en Indochina, los militares franceses mataron a muchos más vietnamitas, laosianos, camboyanos y algunos chinos hasta que el imperialismo francés fue finalmente expulsado en 1954.

Incluso en el mismo París, el 17 de octubre de 1961, la policía francesa abrió

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