



Madrid, Spain 8

After voting down austerity

Greek masses expect change

Maneuvers begin as bankers push back

By Fred Goldstein

The new left social-democratic government of the Syriza party was swept into office in Greece on an anti-austerity program on Jan. 25. The party targeted the harsh neoliberal cutbacks, budget cuts and privatization imposed by the “Troika” — the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission.

The new government immediately took concrete measures against the austerity program imposed by the banks. As the Jan. 28 British Guardian put it: “One by one [the austerity measures] were rolled back, blitzkrieg-style, mercilessly, ruthlessly, with rat-a-tat efficiency.”

“First the barricades came down outside the Greek parliament. Then it was announced that privatization schemes would be halted and pensions reinstated. And then came the news of the reintroduction of the 751-euro monthly minimum wage. ...

“After that, ministers announced more measures: the scrapping of fees for prescriptions and hospital visits, the restoration of collective work agreements, the rehiring of workers laid off in the public sector, the granting of citizenship to migrant children born and raised in Greece.”

The measures that Syriza announced concerning an end to privatization and restoration of the workers’ standard of living are estimated to cost 13.2 billion euro. Despite the fact that Greece owes the Troika 240 billion euro, the Syriza government did not ask permission to break the austerity pact, which these measures surely do. (As of Feb. 2, 1 euro equals \$1.13)

These acts sent a wave of hope through the broad masses and shock waves into the boardrooms of finance capital.

Austerity for masses equals aid to bankers

Previous governments had planned to raise funds by selling off to private capitalists and developers Greece’s two biggest ports, several airports, its power utility, a refinery and other public facilities, along with layoffs and cutbacks in workers’ wages, pensions and health benefits. All this was going to be done to pay for the bank loans made to previous Greek capitalist governments.

It is worth noting that, in fact, the Greek government is not really sovereign. It has no control over its currency, a vital function of any capitalist state. Control of the currency lies in Frankfurt, Germany’s financial center.

The background to Syriza’s electoral victory is years of economic hardship, leading to years of mass struggle

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Bus drivers pack court despite blizzard



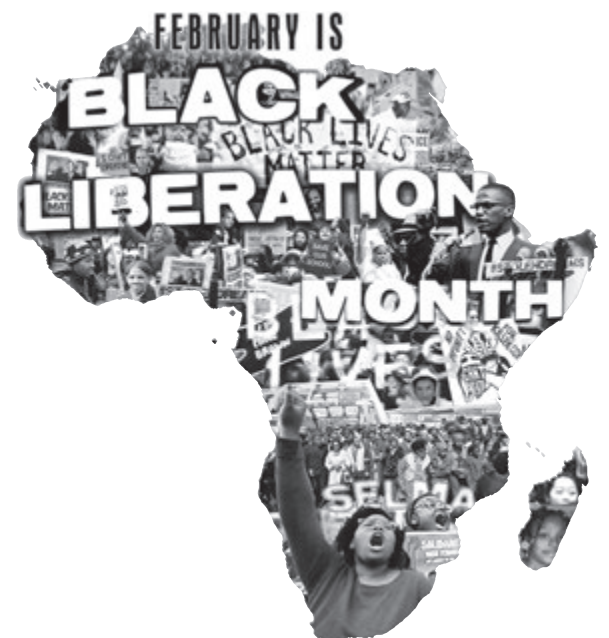
Boston drivers and their supporters turned out en masse to defend fired leader. See story page 3.

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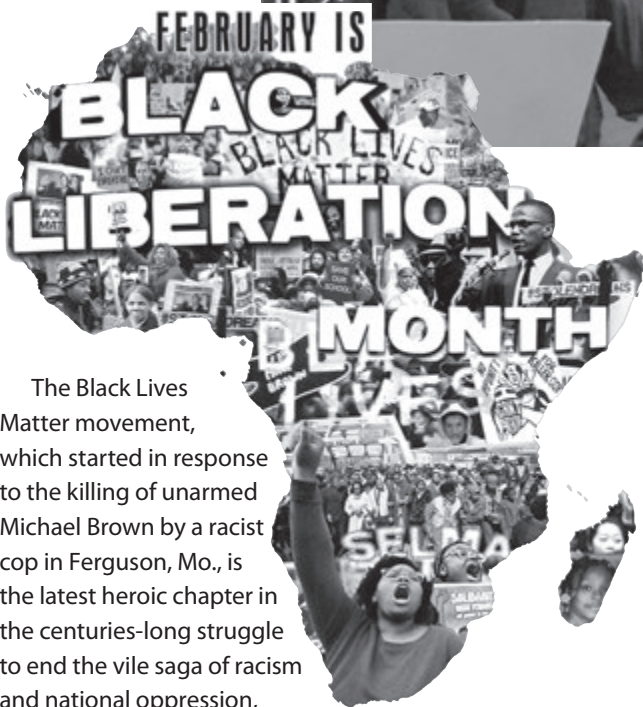
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH MATTERS: SUPPORT WW



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



The Black Lives Matter movement, which started in response to the killing of unarmed Michael Brown by a racist cop in Ferguson, Mo., is the latest heroic chapter in the centuries-long struggle to end the vile saga of racism and national oppression, including slavery, that permeates the history and everyday reality of life in the United States.

Black History Month, founded in 1926, is in essence Black Liberation Month. As part of our commemoration, Workers World will write about some of the many sacrifices and struggles carried out by people of African descent to throw off their chains and end institutionalized racism.

But WW doesn't just cover the Black struggle in February. We write about the struggle against racism in depth all year, every year. WW has had continual coverage of the

ongoing protests in Ferguson and the national movement that exploded after grand juries failed to indict the racist cops who killed Brown and unarmed Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y.

Our coverage of the Black struggle here and around the world is based on the principle of supporting national self-determination: Oppressed people have the right to fight to end all forms of inequality and injustice — by any means necessary. Those words were first spoken by the great Malcolm X, assassinated 50 years ago on Feb. 21, 1965.

If you appreciate this coverage, it's time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. Please help us continue to publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build the struggles needed to make revolutionary change.

For the past 38 years, WW subscribers have helped maintain the paper by joining the WW Supporter Program. We invite you to sign up today! Write checks to Workers World Fund Drive. Send them to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011. Include your name and address. Or donate online at workers.org/articles/donate/

It's also possible to contribute there by joining the Workers World Supporter Program and giving either a lump sum or a monthly donation. Be sure to check it out.

And thanks! ☐

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WORKERS WORLD PARTY 
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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On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

U.S. oil workers strike Shell

The United Steelworkers called a strike on Feb. 1 at nine plants run by Royal Dutch Shell on behalf of several companies, including Exxon Mobil and Chevron. The refineries on strike account for 10 percent of U.S. refining capacity; they can produce 1.82 million barrels of fuel a day. This is the biggest walkout since 1980, an action which lasted three months. The union has rejected five offers by Shell since talks began on Jan. 21. Bloomberg reported Feb. 2, “While only one of the nine plants has curbed production amid the stoppage, a full walkout of USW workers would threaten to disrupt as much as 64 percent of U.S. fuel output. Shell and union officials began negotiations amid the biggest collapse in oil prices since 2008.” Analysts estimate that if the strike grows, it could negatively affect the price of oil worldwide. The USW represents 30,000 employees at 230 refineries, terminals, pipelines and chemical plants in the U.S.

According to a Feb. 1 USW statement, Shell walked out of negotiations and refused to return to the table on Jan. 31 when the contract expired. The major issues include wage increases; “onerous” overtime; unsafe staffing levels; dangerous conditions like daily fires, emissions, leaks and explosions that threaten local communities; and “flagrant” contracting out that threatens health and safety on the job. USW Vice President Tom Conway noted, “The industry is the richest in the world and can afford to make the changes we offered in bargaining. The problem is that oil companies ... continue to value production and profit over health and safety, workers and the community.”

Delta flight attendants want union

Almost 12,000 Delta Airlines flight attendants, approximately 60 percent of the workforce, have signed union cards calling for representation by the Machinists union. If Delta's more than 20,000 flight attendants elect to join IAM, they will have earned the distinction of leading the largest successful transportation industry organizing drive in history.

Longtime Delta flight attendant Gabe Perez asserted: “We are the reason Delta is the world's most profitable carrier and leads the industry in almost every financial and operational measure. Yet, we lag the industry in wages, benefits and work rules. That will change once we win our election and negotiate the industry-best contract we deserve.” (Workday Minnesota, Jan. 13)

NYC retail workers' organizing pays off

After eight months of organizing for better working conditions, including more hours, advanced notification of schedules, better pay and dignity, workers at Zara stores, a clothing chain in Manhattan, are seeing the results of their efforts. Zara announced in early January that every one of its employees would receive pay increases, some as much as \$2.50 an hour. Management also promised workers more full-time positions. The workers began organizing #ChangeZara last May with the help of the Department Store union and the Retail Action Project. (aflcio.org/blog, Jan. 6)

FairPoint strikers are determined

Workers at the New England telecommunications provider FairPoint, represented by Communication Workers Local 1400 and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2327, have been on strike for over 130 days. Almost 2,000 FairPoint workers went on strike in October after management threatened to cut wages and benefits and outsource union jobs to outside contractors. Despite a Dec. 30 NLRB decision to dismiss the unfair labor practice charges filed by the union against FairPoint, the workers are not backing down and picket lines continue despite record snowfalls. Although both parties are under a gag order until negotiations are concluded, federal mediators say progress is being made toward a mutually agreeable contract.

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to www.LowWageCapitalism.com
Available at major online bookstores.

Despite historic blizzard

Bus drivers pack court for union militant



Members and supporters of Local 8751 defy blizzard to pack court.

WWW PHOTO: GERRY SCOPPETTUOLO

By Tony Murphy
Boston

Feb. 2 — A record-breaking snowstorm has shut down streets, schools and airline flights throughout the Northeast. With 34.1 inches of snow since Jan. 27, this is now Boston's snowiest week since modern weather records began in 1891, according to the Weather Channel.

This did not stop 75 people from packing the courtroom to overflowing at Dorchester District Court today. It was another powerful show of support for the Boston School Bus Drivers Union and its founder Steve Kirschbaum.

Getting around in Boston is not easy today. But the militant school bus drivers, 95 percent of whom are Haitian, Cape Verdean and African American, turned out, along with community supporters. All wore bright yellow stickers supporting United Steelworkers Local 8751. Members of the Disabled People's Liberation Front made the difficult trip through the snow via wheelchairs to support the union.

Forced by subpoena to appear were the bosses of the school bus company, Transdev (formerly Veolia), who sat glumly waiting to be called for the frame-up case they are responsible for.

However, the snow prevented jury selection from taking place today — leading the judge to postpone it to March 3. But before that happened, 21 witnesses for the defense were ordered to appear for the next court date. The prosecution is calling two witnesses.

The 21 witnesses were among over 100 people who were present at an impromptu indoor union rally last June 30. They will testify that the charges against Kirschbaum — trespass and a serious felony “assault

with a dangerous weapon” (a table) — are 100 percent false. The nonexistent case is motivated by the desire of the Boston city establishment to break the fighting school bus drivers union — a desire that also drove the illegal firing of four union leaders in 2013.

The progressive, fightback record of this union was shown by the many community supporters at the trial and afterwards at an indoor courthouse rally. Long-time allies of Local 8751 — former City Councilmember Chuck Turner; Sandra Macintosh, of the Coalition for Equal Quality Education; and Lisa Owens, one of the founders of the youth activist group Free My People — were joined by new supporters such as Jackson. He is with a group of activists who shut down Boston's I-93 in protest of racism a few weeks ago. His trial will be on Feb. 20 in Somerville District Court.

Martha Grevatt, a United Auto Workers supporter who traveled from Detroit with three youth activists to attend the trial, spoke to the rally about growing national support for the Boston School Bus Drivers Union. A recent resolution was passed by United Steelworkers Local 1299, representing workers at Great Lakes Steel.

This was on the heels of a resolution passed by the Alameda Central Labor Council in California and donations from the Massachusetts Nurses Association and Food and Commercial Workers Local 1549.

Veolia/Transdev and its Boston political backers hoped in July that they could derail the growing support for this community-based social union with the repressive power of the state. Since then, the union has not only continued to fight the attack on its members but also jumped into the national uprising against police brutality with both feet.

Local 8751 formally endorsed and donated \$1,000 to Boston Black Lives Matter. The two groups collaborated on a January protest against Boston's Mayor Martin Walsh. Today, both supporters and the union's class enemies could not help but be impressed that — in the midst of a blizzard paralyzing much of the region — the union packed the court with rank-and-file members and political supporters. Local 8751 fights on. □

McDonald's serves up racist, sexist discrimination

Ten former McDonald's workers filed a civil rights suit in Virginia on Jan. 22 against the fast food giant for alleged racial discrimination, wrongful termination and sexual harassment. According to the plaintiffs, 15 Black workers were fired in one day solely because of their race. The suit also accuses a manager of inappropriately touching workers and offering “female employees better working conditions in exchange for sexual favors.”

The lawsuit names both the McDonald's franchise and the global McDonald's Corporation as defendants. This is among the first suits to be filed against the corporation since the Dec. 19 National Labor Relations Board decision determined that the corporation can be held liable for the actions of its franchisees. The plaintiffs are seeking payment for lost wages, emotional distress and other damages. The NAACP and “Fight for \$15” are supporting them.

The food industry is notorious for harassment. Some 60 percent of women workers in restaurants say they have been sexually harassed. (Chicago Tribune, Jan. 22)

Thousands of workers sue TGI Friday's for wage theft

A massive wage theft lawsuit against restaurant chain TGI Friday's will move forward as a collective action suit, said the New York federal judge who granted 42,000 workers conditional certification on Jan. 20. Workers in Massachusetts, New York and Virginia accuse the chain of paying less than the federal minimum wage, withholding overtime pay and forcing employees to forfeit some of their tips and work off the books.

According to a 2014 study, nearly 9 out of 10 fast food workers have experienced wage theft, but few report it. It's estimated that the amount of money stolen annually from employees is more than \$50 billion. And the problem is increasing. Complaints of wage theft rose 400 percent over the last decade. (thinkprogress.org, Jan. 23) □

Second near-disaster as shale oil train derails

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

For the second time in just over a year, a train carrying Bakken Shale crude oil derailed in Philadelphia, again in an area where potential harm to surrounding communities could have been catastrophic for thousands of people.

Eleven cars of a 111-car CSX train trav-

eling from Chicago jumped the tracks around 3 a.m. on Jan. 31 in a South Philadelphia rail yard. It was near the Lincoln Financial Field sports arena and the Philadelphia Naval Yard. The area is also near Interstate 95, one of the busiest highways in the U.S., and close to waterways.

While none of the derailed cars carrying the crude oil ruptured, this second near-miss has again raised concerns.

A little over a year ago, on Martin Luther King Day, seven cars carrying Bakken Shale crude derailed over the Schuylkill River here in what was described as “a near miss from disaster.” That derailment put several major institutions at risk, including the University of Pennsylvania medical complex, Children’s Hospital and the Veterans Administration, as well as a heavily populated

residential section of Philadelphia.

Both accidents were predictable. These mile-long trains carrying oil to the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery in South Philadelphia run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is very little regulation or oversight.

The trains carry crude from shale formations in North Dakota, Colorado and Texas. With over 100 cars, each carrying 30,000 gallons or more of highly volatile oil, they have been described as “ticking bombs.”

Crude oil from the North Dakota Bakken formation contains a high content of combustible gas, making it more volatile than most traditional light crude. Chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process are also thought to contribute to the combustible nature of shale crude.

A runaway train carrying Bakken crude oil derailed and exploded on July 6, 2013, near the village of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, killing 47 people and demolishing the town center.

At least eight significant incidents involving crude-by-rail have taken place in the U.S. since 2013, resulting in over one million gallons of oil spilled — more than in the previous 38 years combined. (earthfix.opb.org)

Since Lac-Mégantic, fiery derailments of oil trains have occurred in the Canadian province of New Brunswick as well as in Alabama, North Dakota and Lynchburg, Va. Major derailments of crude trains not involving explosions have taken place outside Albany, N.Y., and in Greeley, Colo.

Whether this highly combustible fossil fuel is transported by rail, barge or pipeline, it will still pose a danger. More oil is released into the environment through pipeline spills while explosions caused by train derailments put major populated areas at risk. It is not a question of substituting one method of transit for another. All three methods have proven to be destructive. They all attest to the hazards created by the capitalist system, where greed for profits outweighs all other considerations. □

OAKLAND

WWP hosts resistance fighters

By **Terri Kay**
Oakland, Calif.

At a Workers World Party meeting here on Jan. 31, Imani Henry asked the audience, “How do we ratchet it up in 2015, the year of resistance?” Henry is a longtime activist in the anti-police brutality, anti-war and lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer movements in the U.S. He is also an organizer with the Peoples Power Assembly, which helped to coordinate emergency day-of/day-after actions in New York and nationally in response to the decision by a Ferguson, Mo., grand jury not to indict the cop who killed a young unarmed Black man, Michael Brown.



The meeting, titled “From NYC to Ferguson to Oakland: the Nationwide Fight Against Police Terror,” provoked a live-



PHOTOS: DANIEL ARAUZ

Gloria Verdieu, above.

Imani Henry, left.

ly discussion about the many tactics being used in the fight for justice against racist police brutality.

Also on the program was Gloria Verdieu of the San Diego Committee Against Police Brutality. She emphasized the importance of speaking the names and showing the faces of all the people whose lives have been stolen by police terror. Verdieu also leads the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and All Political Prisoners.

Cyndi Mitchell, sister of Mario Romero, who was killed by the Vallejo police, shared Romero’s story with the group.

The meeting took place at the Alan Blueford Center for Justice, a space dedicated to healing the community in honor of Alan Blueford, killed by Oakland police on May 6, 2012. □

‘Don’t privatize schools!’



Several hundred Oakland Education Association teachers as well as students and parents rallied outside an Oakland Unified School District Board meeting on Jan. 28. After they went inside, they spoke out against proposals to privatize Fremont, Castlemont and McClymonds High Schools, Frick Middle School and Brookfield Elementary. They also opposed efforts to make it easier for charter schools to recruit public school families.

These measures are tied to changes the district is pushing to the teachers’ union contract, which would make these turn-arounds easier to implement. The OEA is

fighting for the resources needed to create stable schools and bottom-up school transformation.

Teachers were also demanding pay increases to match salaries paid in other Bay Area districts, which would enable the OUSD to keep and attract the best teachers.

This follows an action taken Jan. 8 by students at Fremont High School, one of those targeted for privatization. They shut down and took over an OUSD community engagement meeting at their school in protest.

— Report and photo by Terri Kay



MARXISM, REPARATIONS and the Black Freedom Struggle

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

GRAPHIC BY SAHU BARRON

Available at major online booksellers.

Tribute held for MOVE 9

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

1978 police assault on MOVE

A standing-room-only crowd gathered at the Kingsessing Recreational Center in Philadelphia on Jan. 31 for a celebration of the life of William Phillips, better known as Phil Africa. A MOVE 9 member, he died under suspicious circumstances at Pennsylvania’s SCI Dallas prison on Jan. 10 at the age of 59.

The special tribute shared messages of solidarity and support from people all over the world, including a number of current or former prisoners who came to know Africa during his 37 years of confinement, as well as surviving MOVE 9 members Delbert and Debbie Africa.

Phil was described by MOVE member Sue Africa as a “man well loved by all he touched; a true soldier who is gone, but whose spirit will never die or be forgotten.” Many speakers remembered him for his skilled art work, often depicting nature. Others spoke of his witty sense of humor, his ability to put anyone in his company at ease and the positive impact he had on their lives. He was described as a prolific writer who sent dozens of letters a day.

Musical tributes were provided by Taina Asili, Fred Riley and young MOVE members in the Seeds of Wisdom.

Phil Africa was one of nine MOVE members serving highly contested 30-to-100-year sentences for third-degree murder in the shooting death of a police officer during the group’s Aug. 8, 1978, confrontation with almost 600 Philadelphia police. Although much of the evidence at the scene, including MOVE’s house, was quickly destroyed by police, it is strongly suspected that the officer was killed by “friendly fire,” since the fatal shot was to the back of his head.

MOVE, founded in the early 1970s by a group of naturalist revolutionaries, had withstood a nearly year-long siege by police trying to evict them from their home in the Powelton Village section of Philadelphia. The death by trampling of Phil Africa’s month-old son Life Africa by police in 1976 was one of many incidents of brutality that fueled the confrontation.

During political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal’s early career as a journalist, he covered the MOVE organization’s fight against notoriously racist Philadelphia Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo in the 1970s. Abu-Jamal sent a statement to the tribute in which he described the heated trial that led to the conviction of the nine MOVE members as “nothing short of scandal.” He noted that “several days af-

Baltimore

Killings by police continue despite protests



PHOTO: BRUCE EMMERLING

Workers World Baltimore Bureau

Within a two-day period in late January, the Baltimore City Police Department shot two Black people, killing one of them. In response, the Baltimore People's Power Assembly held a protest in front of the Baltimore City Police Headquarters on Jan. 31 to demand justice for Darin Hutchins, whom the cops killed on Jan. 24.

Later the day of the protest, the Baltimore County Police killed Edwin Bright Sr. All of the victims were African Americans.

During the week before the protest, Sara Benjamin and Steven Ceci of the People's Power Assembly conducted an

investigation in the neighborhood where Darin Hutchins was killed and spoke to eyewitnesses. Those who knew Hutchins explained that he had a history of mental illness. PPA spokesperson Benjamin declared, "The police and the system criminalize Black people and stigmatize people who have psychiatric illnesses."

The story the eyewitnesses told was much different than the public relations story the police department handed the media. Benjamin explained that the witness who stood next to Hutchins when he was gunned down by Officer Donald Gaff told her that before firing the two shots, the officer gave Hutchins zero time to drop a kitchen knife.

Ceci, another PPA organizer, added, "We are angry that the news media has repeated the public relations story told by police spokespeople before they spoke to anyone in the neighborhood or to any of the witnesses." He reported that the witness who stood next to Darin Hutchins did not feel endangered by him at any time; in fact, she put her arm around him. Instead, she was terrified by the police and "at this moment has asked that her name not be published for fear of reprisal."

Ceci also stated that the witness, a friend of Hutchins, said, "The white cop who shot Darin moved the knife and put it on a table" even after she objected. She "had to scream at the cop to stop shooting."

One of the youngest activists at the Jan. 31 protest, Kira Lynae, concluded the PPA rally by calling for an end to devaluing Black lives: "Black lives matter, as do the lives of all those marginalized and oppressed, including the LGTBQIA community, women and those with disabilities, who are many times forgotten."

PPA organizers took note of the scores of police cars lined up during the rally, plus the plainclothes police who were standing by ready to infiltrate the demonstration, a practice implemented at all recent #BlackLivesMatter protests. □

Atlanta cop kills 911 caller

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Kevin Davis' family and friends are in disbelief and sorrow.

How could police have shot and killed Davis, a hardworking, 44-year-old beloved brother and uncle, a "good guy," after he called 911 for help?

On the night of Dec. 29, Davis' girlfriend, April Edwards, was involved in an altercation with Terrance Hilyard, a co-worker whom Davis had befriended and who was staying at his apartment temporarily.

The argument escalated. According to Edwards, Hilyard stabbed her in the arm with a kitchen knife and fled. While Davis was rendering first aid to Edwards, he called 911.

DeKalb County police officer Joseph Pitts came in through the apartment's front door, unannounced, and shot and killed Davis' three-legged dog Tooter, who had started barking.

Edwards says that Davis, hearing gunshots in his living room, feared that Hilyard had returned, armed. He retrieved

his gun from his bedroom. As he came out of the doorway, he was immediately shot several times by Pitts.

Edwards came running out of the bedroom, screaming, "What have you done? Why did you shoot him?" She and other witnesses say Pitts never identified himself as a police officer or ordered Davis to drop his gun before shooting him.

As Davis lay bleeding on the floor, he was arrested, handcuffed and charged with aggravated assault on an officer. The popular restaurant worker was taken to Grady Hospital in police custody, which meant his family was not allowed to be with him in his hospital room. Family members beseeched everyone in authority, from police to doctors, to let them visit him — to no avail.

Davis died two days later, on Dec. 31. Only then did police coldly grant them permission to see their family member.

One month has passed since Kevin Davis was killed by a DeKalb County police officer. Despite repeated requests for information about an investigation into this officer-involved shooting, there has been

only silence. Since it is common practice to involve the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in such police killings, the community suspects a cover-up in this case.

At an emotional rally at the DeKalb Courthouse steps on the one-month anniversary of his shooting, Delisa Davis, one of his sisters, spoke of the unfeeling attitude of the police, saying her family and Kevin were "dismissed like yesterday's garbage." She appealed to the community to help, saying they can't fight this alone.

The large group walked a few blocks from the courthouse to the downtown Decatur sandwich shop where Davis' friendly and personable manner had made him a favorite with customers and co-workers alike. Next door is a bike shop where he fixed up discarded bicycles to give to neighborhood kids.

The family is asking that people request a GBI investigation into Kevin Davis' death by calling the DeKalb County Police Department at 678-406-7929 and the DeKalb County District Attorney's office at 404-371-2561. □

member Phil Africa

ter the trial, Judge Edwin Malmed would admit ... he 'hadn't the faintest idea'... who killed the cop."

The nine MOVE members were given the longest third-degree murder sentences in the history of Pennsylvania. Since 2008, MOVE members have been repeatedly denied parole on the basis that they refuse to "express remorse," as required by law, for a crime they did not commit. Another of the MOVE 9, Merle Africa, died under suspicious circumstances in March 1998.

30th commemoration of 1985 bombing

On May 13, 1985, Phil Africa's second son, Little Phil, was one of five children burned to death along with six adults, when police dropped a bomb on the roof of MOVE's second home in West Philadelphia. The bomb ignited a fire that also destroyed 61 homes in a predominantly African-American community.

The MOVE Commission, which investigated the events, described the actions of government officials, including Philadelphia's Mayor Wilson Goode and police and fire commissioners, as "reckless," "ill-conceived" and "unconscionable." A powerful, military-style bomb containing C4 had been dropped from a police helicopter on the row house on

Osage Avenue where MOVE members lived. Officials allowed the resulting fire to burn down an entire city block. Police were then instructed to shoot at MOVE members, including children, who were attempting to flee the fire.

Ramona Africa, the sole adult survivor, charges that "police bombed us because of our unrelenting fight for our family members who had been in prison unjustly as a result of the 1978 police attack on MOVE."

"We tried to get our children, our animals and ourselves out of that blazing inferno. The adults were hollering out that we're coming out, we're bringing the children out," Africa reported. "And we know that the police heard us. But the very instant we were visible to them ... they immediately opened fire. We were met with a barrage of police gunfire ... and it forced us back into that blazing inferno."

This act of terror, one of the most horrific examples of police brutality to occur in the U.S., resulted only in a well-orchestrated government cover-up. Not one of the city, state or federal officials responsible was ever brought to justice. Not one of these officials has ever faced criminal charges. Ramona Africa was the only person sentenced to prison as a result of the incident.



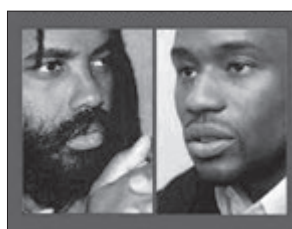
Phil Africa in the 1970s and last year.

The events leading up to and surrounding the 1985 bombing are the subject of the 2013 documentary "Let the Fire Burn." The MOVE organization and its supporters continue to fight the unjust incarceration of the MOVE 9 and demand justice for those who lost their lives in 1985.

This May 13 will mark 30 years since that blatant act of murder by government officials. A commemoration rally and march/car caravan will be held in Philadelphia, with activists participating from around the world. Featured speakers

and performers include Alton Maddox, Michael Coard, Ward Churchill, Cornel West, Nancy Mansour, Chairman Fred Hampton Jr., Glenn Ford, Amina Baraka, Rebel Diaz, Mmoja Ajabu, The Welfare Poets and more. For information contact OnAMovellja@gmail.com.

Pam Africa, minister of confrontation for the MOVE organization, described Phil Africa's life as "an example of resistance." She ended the program with a call for everyone to follow Phil's example and be in Philadelphia on May 13 this year to help "shut the system down!" □



THE CLASSROOM AND THE CELL:

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African Burial Ground exposes slavery

By Dolores Cox
New York

Yes, slavery existed in the North, too. New York was one of the largest centers of slaveholding in the U.S. In 1991, a gravesite was discovered during a dig for the construction of a new federal building in New York City's Lower Manhattan area. It was 300 years old then. An 18th century map of the area revealed the site was the location of a "Negros Burial Ground" covering six acres, approximately five city blocks.

Africans began arriving in New Amsterdam, a Dutch settlement, in 1625. They were forcibly brought there from the Caribbean and Africa. In 1664, New Amsterdam became the British colony of New York.

Thousands of enslaved Africans and the small number of free Black people were buried in the Burial Ground. They were forbidden to inter their dead in any church graveyard or within the boundaries of the settlement. Other restrictions were also placed on them. For instance, they could not bury their dead at night, as was the African burial ritual custom; and no more than 12 people were allowed in a procession or at the gravesite. In 1673, the burial ground land was sold for house lots, and in 1795 the burial ground was closed.

When the African-American community became aware of the gravesite discovery, they and local politicians protested and demanded a halt to further digging. They appealed to then Mayor David Dinkins, who ordered construction halted in order to investigate the findings and preserve the site.

Excavation by archaeologists found the remains of 419 bodies of women, men and children. It is estimated that many thousands more bodies of African and Indigenous peoples exist under buildings and sidewalks throughout the area. In 1999, nine mostly intact African skeletons were found during construction of a



new sidewalk nearby.

In the disintegrated coffins, some skeletons were nearly complete; some were buried with pins, beads, buttons and shells, in the African tradition. They were sent to a laboratory at the Historically Black College of Howard University in Washington, D.C., where the federal government had contracted for anthropologists, scholars and scientists to examine the bone fragments and relics.

Their research indicated that nearly half the graves contained children, suffering from malnutrition and many with bone deformities from physical labor. Adult bone injuries were attributed to strenuous physical labor and brutality. All bodies revealed short life spans.

Honoring the ancestors

In 1993 the African Burial Ground was designated a NYC Historical Landmark. On Oct. 1, 2003, the bodies were returned to New York City in new wooden coffins traditionally carved in Ghana. Concurrently, some of the coffins were ceremoniously received with "Rites of Ancestral Return" commemorations in

Washington, D.C.;

Baltimore, Md.; Wilmington, Del.; Philadelphia, Pa; and Newark, N.J. where slave labor had been used to clear the land, build roads and construct infrastructure for European colonization.

In New York City, the coffins arrived by boat at the foot of Wall Street, the former site of an African Slave Market, where slave labor built an actual wall to keep out the Indigenous. Upon arrival, a ceremony paid tribute to the ancestors with interfaith prayers, African drumming, singing and dancing, followed by a libation, the singing of the "The Negro National Anthem," a welcome and introduction.

African dignitaries, community organizations, politicians, artists, groups of school children, South African healers and spiritual leaders, New Yorkers and out-of-town visitors were present. High school students, including those from South Africa, participated in singing performances and shout-out calls for respect, honor and dignity. "A Letter for the Children" by South African Bishop Desmond Tutu was read. Speakers included the South African Ambassador to the U.S.

The coffins left Wall Street in large horse-drawn, glass-enclosed carriages, followed by a large procession through the streets to the Burial Ground.

The next day's ceremony at the Burial Ground began similarly, included spoken word and several readings of poetry by the late African-American poet Langston Hughes. Several tributary statements were made and others read, including one from Nigeria's President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. Soil from the Burial Ground containing ancestral spirits was collected to be taken back to Freedom Park, a final resting place of anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa. After closing remarks, a benediction was given by an Indigenous community representative.

The coffins were then lowered into the ground, with flowers and written messages to the ancestors. Subsequently, all coffins, many in crypts, were reburied in their permanent resting place.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem organized the ceremonies celebrating the heritage of Africans in the U.S., their lives, culture and the role they played in building the country.

In 2006, the Burial Ground was declared a national monument; in 2007 a permanent memorial sculpture was dedicated on the site. Project materials and records were transferred in 2009 from the National Park Service and Army Corps of Engineers to the Schomburg Center. Samples of the Burial Ground remain at Howard University. In 2010, following completion of the new federal building nearby, the African Burial Ground Visitors Center was opened, which contains permanent artworks and an installation about the history of slavery and Black Americans in Lower Manhattan.

Sources for this article include "A Burial Ground and Its Dead Are Given Life" (*New York Times*, Feb. 26, 2010) and "The African Burial Ground" at gsa.gov/portal/content/101077.

The right to rebel

The case of Ahmed Evans

By Martha Grevatt

On July 23, 1968, a gun battle between white Cleveland police officers and the Black Nationalist group "Republic of New Libya" ended with an official death toll of three police, three Black snipers and one civilian. The dispute began over ongoing racist harassment of the group's leader, Ahmed Evans, by white officers. Police accused Evans' group of shooting first.

Independent journalists and investigators uncovered facts to support Evans' claim that it was the other way around.

Nevertheless, Ahmed Evans was charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of the police and another person, dubbed a hero, who was said to have been helping police. Evans also faced three additional charges, specifically for killing police officers, which was automatically a capital offense in Ohio then, unless the jury were to recommend mercy.

Evans himself had not fired any of the fatal shots. He was charged under a state law that allowed a person to be held accountable for a crime stemming from participation in a "conspiracy."

Mae Mallory, who came to Cleveland in 1961 when the state of North Carolina attempted to have her extradited from New York to face trumped-up kidnap-

ping charges, was instrumental in forming the July 23 Defense Committee. The 1961 charges had been leveled against her and Robert Williams, a leader of the Black community in Monroe, N.C., who supported the right of armed self-defense against the Ku Klux Klan.

Another lead activist in the Defense Committee, Wilbur Grattan, was a Republic of New Libya member who was beaten savagely by police after trying to attend to a wounded comrade on the night of the shootout. Grattan was a seasoned activist, having been involved with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in his home state of Alabama.

A year earlier, Ted Dostal, a retired steelworker, and Frances Dostal, a registered nurse, had moved to Cleveland from Youngstown, Ohio, to start a branch of Workers World Party. Understanding the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, these white militants respected the position of Mallory and others that the Defense Committee should be an autonomous Black organization. So they formed "Friends of the July 23 Defense Committee."

'Conspiracy' charge buries truth

Truth was the first casualty of the prosecution's determination to send Evans to the electric chair.

A 22-year-old African-American bystander, James Chapman, was said to have been aiding police when killed by a Black sniper. An organization that aided widows of slain police officers broke tradition by giving \$1,000 to Chapman's widow.

However, a forensic expert testified that Chapman's wound was caused by a shot fired no more than 18 inches from his head — meaning he had to have been killed not by a "sniper," but by the police he was accompanying. Yet Chapman's death was blamed on the "conspiracy" that Evans was allegedly a party to.

Whether the three police officers were all killed by members of the Republic of New Libya or by their fellow officers was never clearly established. The prosecution based its case on the testimony of gun dealers who claimed to have sold weapons to Evans. With the aim of undermining not only Evans' defense but the city administration, the prosecution claimed the money used to buy the weapons came from a grant that Evans' Afro Culture Shop and Bookstore had received from "Cleveland Now!," an empowerment program initiated by the city's first African-American mayor, Carl B. Stokes.



PART 2

Nevertheless, these weapons were purchased legally and, from Evans' standpoint, for defensive purposes, as Black Nationalists had been attacked by police in nearby Akron, Ohio, and white Cleveland police had been harassing and threatening Evans since before Stokes' election in 1967.

Not only was Evans not involved in the shooting, but neighbor James Turpin testified that Evans was inside Turpin's home from 20 minutes after the shooting began up until the moment he surrendered to police. The prosecution offered absolutely zero proof that the three deaths were the result of any conspiracy.

The phrase "prosecutorial misconduct" could not fully describe the racist behavior of those determined to have Evans executed. During his trial, his lawyers were called "boys" more than once. An African-American defense witness was belittled and intimidated with questions such as "You hate white people, don't you?"

The mainstream media, particularly the Cleveland Plain Dealer, made no effort to hide their bias against Evans and in support of the police.

Evans' supporters were targeted. The

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By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

LOUISIANA'S African slave revolt of 1811

Some writers today note that an often hidden and misrepresented anti-slavery rebellion in 1811 along the German Coast in Louisiana — located above New Orleans on the Mississippi River — was the largest African uprising during the antebellum period.

Historiographical accounts of resistance to slavery among Africans in North America have undergone many revisions. Early 20th century accounts of the slave period were crafted for academia by Southern historians who were sympathetic to the planters and business interests that dominated the region.

Reactionary white professors such as Ulrich B. Phillips, a Southerner who taught at the University of Michigan from 1911 to 1929, claimed that the Southern slave system was paternalistic, using largely benign, coercive methods to ensure production quotas. Phillips attributed acts of resistance to criminal activity and refused to acknowledge the humanity of enslaved Africans.

However, African and white progressive historians have sought to unravel the recurrent rebellions and other forms of resistance against enslavement and national oppression. Rather than being considered an aberration in the slave system, the consistent acts of resistance to bondage suggest they played a significant role in shaping the character of the repressive mechanism utilized to maintain this exploitative system.

For example, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was implemented at the beginning of the decade that saw the economic decline of the plantation system. The increasingly intransigent positions of the Southern planters were, in part, a response to the economic and political crisis of the period — when resistance to slavery grew substantially.

Origins of 1811 Louisiana slave revolt

A re-examination of historical documents related to the rebellion along the German Coast point to the high degree of organization and discipline exercised by the African leaders who were brought there from Haiti and the region now known as Ghana in West Africa. The United States had acquired large swaths of territory in 1803, known as the Louisiana Purchase, as a direct result of the collapse of French

colonialism and slavery in Haiti.

Africans in Haiti rose up against slavery in August 1791 and continued their struggle for more than 12 years, defeating not only the French but Spanish and British interventions. The formation of an African Republic in Haiti in 1804 sent shock waves throughout the antebellum South.

Enslaved Africans in the South were aware of the Haitian Revolution and consequently sought avenues of escape and revolt against the plantation system. Recent accounts of the Louisiana rebellion of 1811 indicate that those who planned the break with the slave system were conscious of developments in Haiti and the ongoing struggle between Spain and the U.S. over control of Florida.

Newspaper accounts at the time of the 1811 rebellion claimed that the Africans' actions were unfocused and disorganized. However, a study conducted by Daniel Rasmussen, in the book entitled "American Uprising: The Untold Story of America's Largest Slave Revolt," looks deeper into the court records concerning the prosecution of the uprising's African leaders and the timing of the resistance effort, which was aimed at seizing New Orleans and establishing an independent republic. (HarperCollins, 2011)

In a review of Rasmussen's book, Wendell Hassan Marsh writes, "The author situates the events in larger, international political and intellectual currents, revealing the sophistication of his subjects that many histories of slave rebels fail to portray. By the author's account, the 1804 Haitian revolution victory inspired slaves around the colonies to rebel." (The Root, Feb. 25, 2011)

The review notes, "The timing of the revolt — when there was little work and the white elites were preparing for Carnival celebrations, paired with the absence of a significant force of order because of American expansionism in Spanish West Florida — speaks to the slaves' political and organizational acumen. ... A cosmopolitan black republicanism seems to have been ripe in the region at the time of the revolt."

It continues, "Maroon colonies in the bayou operated as effective bases from which rebels attacked in the years leading up to the German Coast uprising. Copies of the French Declaration of the Rights of Man were found in slave quarters. Battle-hardened warriors from Ghana and Angola also make an appearance in Rasmussen's version, in which the rebels march in formation and in uniform with cavalry support, not simply to 'give us free,' as Cinqué asked, but to take control of New Orleans and establish a black state."

'On to New Orleans'

From 200 to 500 Africans participated in the rebellion. Most of them were armed with knives, axes and other weapons; some carried guns.

The revolt erupted on Jan. 8 at Manuel Andry's plantation in St. Charles Parish, 36 miles from New Orleans. Charles Deslondes — who was brought to New Orleans from Haiti — was a principal figure in the rebellion. He worked as a slave driver on the Andry plantation and occupied a relatively privileged position within the system.

Nonetheless, Deslondes utilized access to the plantation house to organize fellow enslaved Africans; they severely wounded Manuel Andry and killed his son. They further armed themselves and set off, chanting "On to New Orleans" and picking up recruits along the way.

Along the Mississippi River, as they headed to New Orleans, the Africans burned down several plantations and sugar mills. White slave owners and their families fled ahead of the approaching rebellion, alerting the authorities.

On the night of Jan. 9, a detachment of U.S. regular troops and a planters' militia attacked the Africans at the Jacques Fortier plantation in St. Charles Parish, halting their advance toward New Orleans. During the clashes between the Africans and the plantation system defenders, 66 revolutionary fighters were killed and 75 others were captured.

Of the 75 Africans who were detained,

25 were prosecuted in a show trial. After a one-day investigation, 18 Africans were condemned to death and taken to their so-called "masters'" plantations, where they were shot to death and decapitated. The Africans' severed heads were put on poles on the plantations for the purpose of terrifying other enslaved people into submission.

Some of the Africans who had escaped to Orleans Parish were captured and also received a putative trial. A tribunal consisting of a judge and a panel of slave holders tried them.

Significance of African resistance to slavery

This important chapter in the history of African resistance to slavery is finally getting the historical attention it requires — two centuries after these monumental events took place.

There are parallels between the U.S. ruling class' suppression of information about Africans' resistance to enslavement and their distortion of actual historical accounts, and today's nationwide movement against racist police violence. Official reports on the killings of African Americans on U.S. streets provide legal rationalizations for them under the guise of "justifiable homicide" or "accidental deaths" unattributed to law enforcement actions.

When the youth in Ferguson, Mo., rose up in rebellion in response to the brutal killing of Michael Brown on Aug. 9, they faced condemnation from all quarters of the capitalist class — from local officials up to the White House. However, these acts of rebellion and mass demonstrations against state violence will continue until institutional racism and national oppression are uprooted in the U.S.

There can be no justification for either the suppression of slave revolts throughout U.S. history or the brutality used against today's struggles against racism and national oppression. Washington's emphasis on "human rights" around the world rings hollow amid the atrocities being committed against African Americans here at home, which in most cases go unpunished and are often even rewarded by the state. □



Harlem march honors Malcolm X

"Black Lives Matter" movement activists marched and rallied Feb. 1 in Harlem, N.Y., to usher in Black Liberation Month by honoring the memory of Malcolm X. Their goal is to launch a campaign to create a day that notes Malcolm's important role in the Civil Rights/Black Liberation movements.

A rally near the statue of Adam Clayton Powell outside the State Office Building on 125th Street was followed by a march two miles up Broadway to the Audubon Ballroom on 165th Street, where Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, a half-century ago.

The protest also took up current struggles against police brutality. Demonstrators chanted, "Push back! Now push harder! We're doing this for Eric Garner!" "Hands up, no turning down! We're doing this for Michael Brown!" and "Indict, convict, send those killer cops to jail! The whole damn system is guilty as hell!"

Nicholas Heyward, father of Nicholas Heyward Jr., spoke at the rally. The younger Heyward — he was only 13 years old — was gunned down by a New York City police officer. Heyward and others called for the removal of Police Commissioner William Bratton from his post.

— Workers World New York Bureau

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN



Mass anti-austerity rally clogs Madrid

By John Catalinotto

The specter of anti-austerity is haunting Europe's ruling bankers and bosses. Excitement over Syriza's victory in Greece's parliamentary election jumped westward along the Mediterranean Sea to Spain as a massive demonstration on Jan. 31 clogged central Madrid's Puerta del Sol square.

According to the march's organizers from the new political party "Podemos," 300,000 heeded their call to march. They shouted: "Tick-tock, tick-tock, now is the time for change!" The change they want is to reject the establishment parties that have cut social security, medical care and education in order to make payments on a \$1.2 trillion debt, mostly to German banks.

Podemos grew out of protests by the "indignant ones," who filled the large squares of cities all over the Spanish state starting May 15, 2011. Although founded as an electoral party just a year ago, in January 2014, Podemos won 8 percent of the vote last May for the European Parliament and already has attracted 320,000 members.

More recently Podemos has been leading in the electoral polls, ahead of the two parties that have alternately governed since 1978: the People's Party (PP) — a right-wing party now in office — and the Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) — which, despite its name, is a pro-capitalist center party. National elections are scheduled for November.

After the 2008 capitalist economic crisis broke out, living standards for the working class in Spain nosedived. Even now, after a supposed recovery, there is a 24-percent general unemployment rate, but double that for workers under 25 years of age. Some 20,000 homeowners are scheduled to lose their homes to the banks this year. Popular anger over the worsening conditions turned into opposition to the governing parties and to anyone considered part of the capitalist establishment.

Both the PP and the PSOE enforced the austerity program. Many people within the Spanish state consider these two parties and other government institutions corrupt tools of the ruling class. The people also rejected the royal family, which is steeped in corruption. The unpopular King Juan Carlos I, for example, chose to abdicate last June in favor of his son, now



PHOTO: PODEMOS

King Felipe VI, rather than completely discredit the monarchy.

Many Podemos voters and supporters come from the historically left parties, like the United Left (IU). Other had been PSOE voters. Others had abstained. Now millions who hope an electoral change can relieve the overall crisis are looking to Podemos, whose program promises a

break with European Union domination and austerity.

Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias had campaigned for Syriza in Greece. The Syriza victory in the Jan. 25 election gave a boost to those in Spain seeking an electoral alternative to the current situation of unemployment and disappearing social benefits.

Revolutionary organizations like the

Red Network are urging mass mobilizations and preparations for a general strike. These groups see an electoral campaign in Spain as only one part of a struggle against austerity. Last March 22, organizers of a "March for Dignity" gathered over a million people in Madrid to protest austerity. They plan a similar protest this March 21. □

Banks bailed out — themselves

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

Feb. 1 — When the Troika — the International Monetary Fund, European Commission and European Central Bank — disbursed 226.7 billion euros to Greece between May 2010 and the present, European capitalists and politicians spoke of these funds as if they were a gift to the Greek people. In reality, the funds went almost exclusively to bailing out the banks, provided little benefit to the people and increased Greece's public debt.

Only 27 billion euros, 11 percent of the total, went to Greece's governmental operating needs. By contrast, 122 billion euros, or more than half the funds, went to debt servicing. Some 81 billion euros were paid in maturing debt obligations and 40 billion euros in interest. Some 94 billion euros went to replace nonperforming bank loans through new bond exchanges, buybacks and other forms of restructuring — in other words, to make up the losses on worthless bonds issued by the banks. An additional 9.1 billion euros was paid back to the IMF, and 2.3 billion euros were paid in capital to the European Stability Mechanism. ("Where did all the money go?" by Yiannis Mouzakis, tinyurl.com/oxku48g.)

Especially significant is that the banks and financial institutions which held the Greek debt before 2010 were essentially paid off and bailed out. As a result, 65 percent of Greek debt was shifted to the public sector, making other eurozone governments now liable for it. Another 20 percent is in the hands of the ECB and IMF. ("The troika saved banks and creditors — not Greece," tinyurl.com/kbxvzt9.)

This is very similar to the U.S. bank bailout that began in 2008, in which the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve bought up several trillion dollars in bad bank debt, particularly mortgage securities, and backed them up with U.S. taxpayer funds through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Wall Street's role in Greek 'debt'

As a result of the Troika's "bailout," Greek government debt has grown from 133 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 2010 to 174 percent today. ("Six key points about Greek debt and the

forthcoming election" by Tim Jones, Senior Policy and Campaigns Officer, Jubilee Debt Campaign, January 2015.)

However, the study by Mouzakis, cited above, notes that beginning in 2013 and continuing until today, Greek government revenues have exceeded expenses, with no financing needed to cover state operations. If Greece did not pay off its debt to the Troika — and through the Troika to the banks and financial institutions — it would be able to maintain its operations and likely increase services to the people, which have been devastated to provide the funds to pay off the banks. Canceling the debt to the banks, instead of hobbling Greece, would likely raise the people's standard of living.

Wall Street played its own role in creating the Greek financial crisis, while profiting from it. In 2001, the investment banking firm Goldman Sachs engineered a deal with Greece that allowed the country to mask its real deficit in order to adopt the euro as its currency. Goldman Sachs engineered a "derivative" — a cross-currency and interest rate swap — in which it advanced 2.8 billion euros to Greece to eliminate 600 million in euros owed by Greece at the time.

By 2005, when Goldman Sachs sold the swap to the National Bank of Greece, the amount owed by Greece had mushroomed to 5.1 billion euros. In addition, Goldman Sachs pocketed a \$300 million fee for engineering this deal. (New York Times, Feb. 14, 2010)

Goldman Sachs underwrote similar swaps for the city of Detroit, which cost the city \$365 million in termination fees on swaps tied to pension obligation certificates, and \$537 million on swaps tied to water infrastructure bonds. □

Anti-Islam frenzy in France targets kids

By G. Dunkel

An 8-year-old boy in Nice, a small city on France's Mediterranean coast near Italy, was hauled out of school to the police station. The boy's father was called, television crews were summoned and headlines blared about the boy allegedly not respecting the minute of silence for Charlie Hebdo victims. An atmosphere of frenzied over-reaction was created. (TV2, Jan. 28)

A report from Agence France Presse of a 9-year-old boy being charged with "supporting terrorism" in Aisne, a small city northeast of Paris, is yet another sign of this government- and media-manufactured frenzy that especially targets Muslims. (Jan. 30)

Another example is the high school philosophy teacher in Poitiers in western

France who has been suspended for four months while he's being investigated for charges of "defending terrorism." These charges carry a penalty of five years in jail and a 10,000 euro fine. Despite the atmosphere of reaction, colleagues have filed notice of a one-day strike Feb. 5 in his support. (Libération, Jan. 30)

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, the newly appointed minister of education, claimed the 8-year-old Nice boy's father had been "charged with promoting terrorism." But Radio Beur FM, a French chain directed by and to the North African community in France, called that "the sad reflection of a state lie draped in virtue." (Oumma.com, Jan. 30)

According to his lawyer, the boy, named Ahmed, had been playing in a sandbox

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Greek masses expect change

Maneuvers begin as bankers push back

Continued from page 1

in the streets and workplaces.

Greece in depression

Greece has been in depression for the last five years, with the official unemployment rate at 25 percent, 50 percent youth unemployment and an estimated half of the population living in dire poverty. People have been forced to forage in garbage dumps for food and household supplies, seek firewood and food in the forests, and subsist on food banks that have been set up in towns and cities.

This is the result of the global capitalist financial crisis. But it is aggravated by the fact that Greece has been in the vise-like grip of the predatory bankers in Europe, led by German bankers and the government of Angela Merkel, with the support of the entire banking establishment of the continent.

Years of struggle against austerity

But there has been fighting resistance. Mass anti-austerity demonstrations have rocked Greece since May 5, 2010, when two people were killed.

From May to July 2011, the “indignados” (“indignant ones,” a term originating in Spain) occupied squares all over Greece, and on June 5 of that year up to 500,000 people gathered outside the Greek parliament. The movement was violently suppressed by the police.

On Feb. 12, 2012, some 500,000 people demonstrated outside parliament. On June 9 of that year, there was a 24-hour general strike against austerity. On Nov. 17, 2014, tens of thousands demonstrated on the anniversary of the fall of the Greek dictatorship in 1974. The demonstration turned into an anti-austerity outburst.

Over the years there have been numerous mass demonstrations, sit-ins, occupations, strikes and general strikes. There were two general strikes in 2014, in April and November. Many have been called by the Greek Communist Party, which has a long history of class struggle and militant resistance and a strong base in the organized working class. Syriza’s base is more general, among unorganized workers, the youth and pauperized small business people. It also made gains among the suffering rural population.

This is the background to the Syriza electoral victory. The demonstrations, as frequent and strong as they have been, were not able to force the Greek political establishment to back off austerity. The parties and politicians of the two main parties are tools of the bankers, the developers, the ship owners and the big business media. Mass resistance so far has been unable to end the cruel “economic waterboarding,” as Yanis Varoufakis, the new Syriza finance minister, calls it.

So the Greek masses turned to a parliamentary solution, voting out the traditional capitalist parties and voting in Syriza.

Syriza’s contradiction: trying a ‘new deal’

But having won office, Syriza is now faced with an enormous contradiction. On the one hand, the leadership, headed by Alexis Tsipras, has challenged austerity. But ending austerity requires funds. On the other hand, European finance capital has control of the funds; they are the ones who imposed austerity in the first place. They are now taking a hard line on any form of debt relief. This is the basis for future struggle.

The Syriza government is seeking to negotiate a “new deal” with the banks —

to give Greece respite from austerity and from a harsh loan repayment schedule in order to allow the economy to grow.

There are two parts to their demands. The first, and most fundamental, is that they want Greece’s debt to be cut in half. Second, they are trying to loosen the payment regime — lower interest rates, more time for payment, tying payment to economic growth and so forth. Both Finance Minister Varoufakis and Prime Minister Tsipras have said they intend to honor the debt, but they want the amount and the terms of payment to be modified.

Within hours of the Syriza victory, German President Angela Merkel ruled out any debt reduction. German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble warned Greece about its negotiation tactics on writing off debt. In an interview with the London Guardian on Jan. 30, Christine Lagarde, head of the IMF, said that it is “payback time” for Greece and “parents must pay their taxes.”

Syriza’s strategy is to use the antagonism against the Merkel government to garner sympathy in other European capitals. Varoufakis immediately went to Paris to press this case. The French finance minister said he was sympathetic to Greece on the question of loosening loan payment conditions — but ruled out any debt relief. Varoufakis is scheduled to make the same pitch in Rome and London.

Need struggle in streets to cancel debt

So long as this struggle remains within the financial constraints set by the bankers, which means trying to negotiate to loosen the chains around the necks of the people, the bankers have the overwhelming advantage.

This must be turned into a mass political struggle against the debt. In order for Syriza to have any leverage at the negotiating table, cancelling the debt must become a battle cry in the streets and the workplaces. All the forces in Greece who have demonstrated against austerity and suffered under its harsh conditions must mobilize to come out into the streets and send a clear message to the bankers. The financiers need to know that unless they cancel the debt, they are not just dealing with arguments about accounting and financial matters but with a threat to their very system.

No one should abstain from active participation in this struggle, regardless of historical or present-day differences. The masses must be imbued with the idea that the debt is illegitimate. For example,



of the original 227 billion euro received in the Troika bailout of 2010, only 27 billion euro went to the Greek government to cover its expenses. The rest, 200 billion euro, went to the banks in loan repayment, bailouts, interest payments, etc. Meanwhile, Greek workers were losing their jobs and services and being plunged into depression-level poverty as conditions for the loans.

Finance capital is always aggressive and voracious when it comes to extracting money from the people. German finance capital is notoriously aggressive and intransigent. In fact, German finance capital is the adventurous power that triggered two world wars. Now, instead of sending tanks into southern Europe, they and their fellow bankers are sending debt collectors to crush the people.

This struggle must not be lost. No one can afford to stand aside. Fascists like Golden Dawn are waiting in the wings to see if the masses will be left in the lurch. Then Golden Dawn and the right wing can move in to capitalize on the suffering and rally the forces of fascism and anti-immigrant pogroms.

Opening for revolutionary left

All the more reason that the left, especially the revolutionary left, must be in the forefront of the struggle and win over the masses. If Syriza should falter or succumb to imperialist pressure on the implementation of austerity, then the left must be prepared to step in and give leadership.

Syriza, in order to obtain a parliamentary majority, has made an unsavory alliance with the anti-immigrant, homophobic right-wing Greek Independence Party. This party has been given the post of heading the Defense Ministry, which is extremely dangerous. The Greek military

historically has fascist sympathies. This position gives the military a listening post at Syriza cabinet meetings.

It would be much better, if without joining the government, the Greek Communist Party and other left parties could pledge a united front in voting for genuine anti-austerity measures in the parliament as well as unity in the streets. Then Syriza would be assured of a parliamentary majority on its anti-austerity program, even if it ruled as a minority government. Then it would not have to rely on the Independence Party.

On the other hand, it is very encouraging that the new Podemos Party in Spain, an anti-austerity party, was able to rally several hundred thousand people in Madrid in the wake of the Syriza electoral victory. This points toward the need to broaden the struggle to all of southern Europe, as well as Ireland — to everywhere the working class and the population are living in a state of debt slavery to the banks.

The bankers have been threatening the Greek people with being put out of the eurozone if the government defaults or the agreements are violated. They hope that threatening conditions of financial chaos and economic ruin will force everyone to fall back in line.

But should Greece have to exit the eurozone — should the bankers try to plunge the country into a state of economic dislocation and strangulation — that would be the signal for the working class to combat the crisis by seizing control of the economy and reorganizing it on a socialist basis.

In the long run, an international struggle to overturn capital altogether is the only permanent way out of the present crisis. □

Basic facts about Greece

By Gene Clancy

The austerity program imposed on Greece in 2010 by the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund has had a devastating effect.

Greece is a developed European country of some 11 million people, including 1 million immigrants. As in the U.S., 80 percent of its workers are in service industries, especially tourism in Greece. But it has a significant industrial sector and its merchant navy is the largest in the world, followed by Japan.

Greece, which occupies the southern part of the Balkans, has the largest economy in that region and has attracted many economic migrants from other

Balkan countries. Between 1995 and 2005, testifying to a sharp labor shortage, workers in Greece put in the most hours per year of any European nation. (Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Oct. 6, 2008)

It has also attracted refugees fleeing war and repression in the Middle East.

The 2008 capitalist recession and the austerity program imposed on Greece have had major impacts on the rates of poverty, unemployment and economic growth.

Poverty: In 2009, one year before the imposition of austerity, less than 3 percent of the population had incomes below the poverty line. By the end of 2013, 44 percent were living in poverty. (Public Policy Analysis Group, Athens

University) Some 70 percent of Greek children live in jobless households. (Greece Reporter, May 29, 2014)

Unemployment: In 2010, the IMF predicted that unemployment would peak at nearly 15 percent by 2012. But one year later official unemployment had climbed to 25.6 percent and by 2014 it stood at 27.7 percent.

Economic growth: The IMF in 2010 also predicted that the economy would “follow a V-shaped pattern” — a short sharp contraction (depression) followed by a quick recovery and steady growth after 2012. Instead, Greece’s gross domestic product had declined by nearly one third by the end of 2014. This is on a par with what the Great Depression of the 1930s did to the United States. □

WORKERS WORLD editorials

No U.S. arms for Kiev regime!

The U.S. government says it is discussing — if it is not already a done deal — sending \$3 billion in heavy arms to the Kiev government in Ukraine, which was installed by a U.S.-inspired coup last February. Sending these weapons will, at a minimum, bring more suffering to millions of people in Ukraine.

Ukraine used to be a republic of the Soviet Union and most of the people in the east speak Russian. At a maximum, more U.S. intervention could provoke a war with Russia, with the unspeakable suffering and destruction that could entail. This must be stopped.

Workers World has supported the resistance movements of the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics, located in southeastern Ukraine. The working people in the resistance are volunteers, defending their territory from the Kiev regime's offensive. They have popular support and have recently been making gains.

The Kiev government was put in power by a coup backed by U.S. and European Union imperialism and depends on openly fascist and neo-Nazi militias. This regime plans to join NATO and accept NATO bases that would provoke Russia. This is a threat to working people in both Ukraine and Russia, and the people of southeastern Ukraine know it and will fight.

Bad enough that the U.S. Congress has voted for sanctions against Russia,

but those pushing hardest for weapons aid are unelected, active and retired officials — mercenary war-mongers. A Feb. 2 New York Times article reports that Joint Chiefs Chair Martin Dempsey and NATO military commander General Philip Breedlove are now urging military aid. Apparently the military brass are now openly making U.S. foreign policy.

Add to the two generals eight “think-tank” militarists in the Chicago Council, who have just released a report demanding weapons for Kiev. Led by Strobe Talbott, the eight are all anti-communist intellectuals who built Cold War careers battling the Soviet Union. Unsatisfied by the collapse of the USSR and the privatization of the economy that followed, they now advocate U.S. policies to destroy Russia as a potential competitor.

We call upon all progressive and anti-war people in the United States to reject these warmongers and fight against any delivery of U.S. military aid to the Kiev regime's conscripted army in Ukraine. Demonstrate this opposition in social media, in assemblies and in the streets. Spread these opinions and publicize these actions to progressive and anti-war forces in all NATO countries.

Don't let them put your world at risk. Tell Obama if he wants to spend \$3 billion, use it to bail out and rebuild Detroit. For starters.

No U.S. arms to Ukraine! □

Why Washington fuels Kiev's war on Novorossiya

By Greg Butterfield

Based on a talk at the Workers World Party Forum in New York on Jan. 23.

At least 100 civilians were killed on Jan. 21 alone in the Ukrainian terror-bombing of cities in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics of the Donbass mining region, also known as Novorossiya.

Since Ukraine announced the resumption of hostilities Jan. 18, Gorlovka has been shelled nonstop, and cluster bombs were dropped in the Lugansk city of Stakhanov.

The United Nations reported Jan. 22 that the official death toll of Ukraine's “Anti-Terrorist Operation” is now 5,086 — although the U.N. admits this is seriously undercounted.

As horrible as this is, it's important to know that the Novorossiyan people's militias are fighting back strongly. Once Kiev cast aside the last pretense of a ceasefire, the militias took the long-contested Donetsk airport, moved to the outskirts of occupied Mariupol, and now are taking the fight to Ukrainian forces all along the front lines.

Donetsk Prime Minister Alexander Zakharchenko has declared their intention to expand the people's republics' control to the full territory of Donetsk and Lugansk, beyond the rump area they were restricted to under the Minsk Accords last September.

In January Zakharchenko, a former militia leader, has appealed to the families of Ukrainian soldiers with a message urging them to resist the new wave of the highly unpopular military draft — the

fourth in Ukraine in less than a year.

Novorossiyan forces reportedly lost 300 to 350 killed and wounded soldiers during Jan. 15-22. The Kiev junta lost 1,200 killed, wounded, prisoners of war and missing in the vicinity of the Donetsk airport alone.

Pentagon to train neo-Nazi troops

The same day the trolley bus passengers were massacred in Donetsk, Jan. 22, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, head of the U.S. Army in Europe, was in Kiev. There he met with wounded Ukrainian soldiers and thanked them for their service.

Hodges also met with the commander of the Ukrainian armed forces and the head of the fascist National Guard, which reports to far-right Interior Minister Arseny Avakov. He announced that U.S. troops will soon be deployed to Ukraine to train National Guard troops.

To mark Hodges' visit, the U.S. Embassy gave the first prototype of a new armored vehicle, the Kozak, to Ukraine's Border Guard.

The Kiev regime's attacks on Donbass have been escalating steadily since the New Year, but we can trace this aggression to Dec. 4.

Many people will remember Dec. 4 as the night of the first big demonstrations in solidarity with Eric Garner, who had been choked to death by New York cops. That night the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning Russia and supporting the far-right junta in Ukraine by 411 to 10, showing truly bipartisan imperialist unity on this issue.

On Dec. 11, both the Senate and House

Bratton and protests

New York Police Commissioner William Bratton, in a speech to the Police Foundation on Jan. 29, announced the formation of a new unit to combat “terrorism and protests.”

Here's the New York Times report on his speech: “The new unit, to be made up of roughly 350 officers and to be called the Strategic Response Group, will be created in the coming months, Mr. Bratton said. Officers assigned to it would be equipped with heavy protective gear and machine guns, and receive advanced training in counterterrorism tactics and ‘advanced disorder control,’ he said. ‘It is designed for dealing with events like our recent protests or incidents like Mumbai or what just happened in Paris,’ Mr. Bratton said.”

In New York City! Where the streets are densely packed with people. The cops are threatening to use machine guns on protesters, lumping them in with “terrorists”?

Bratton was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, who was endorsed by the unions, whose spouse and children are African-American, and who campaigned largely on ending the police terror tactic of stop-and-frisk, which over the years ensnared hundreds of thousands of young people, almost all from the Black and Brown communities.

The published report on Bratton's speech must have kicked up quite a storm, because four days later another article appeared in the Times “clarifying” Bratton's remarks.

“The idea of equipping officers with heavy weapons and protective gear to monitor protesters drew immediate criticism last week, and on Monday, Mr.

Bratton sought to clarify his statements. ‘I may have in my remarks or in your interpretation of my remarks confused you or confused the issue,’ he told reporters. The plan, he said, is to have protests and antiterrorism duties handled by different types of officers, in different corners of the department.” (Feb. 2)

Bratton's weaselly words — “different corners of the department” — shouldn't set anyone's mind at rest about what this police honcho intends. He and the super-rich Wall Street class he serves want to terrorize potential protesters with threats of extreme violence. Yes, the rich and their cops are the terrorists.

Protests against what? Police killings of unarmed youth? Starvation wages? Pollution of the planet? Bratton didn't say.

The police mindset reflects the despotic tendencies of those paid to defend an increasingly unpopular capitalist society that is wracked with unsolvable contradictions. New York City has the greatest income gap in the country. Luxury condos, limos, even private helicopters are at the disposal of the super-rich, while hunger and homelessness spread like a cancer through the working class — especially its oppressed sectors, the Black and Brown internal colonies of imperialism.

Are there protests? You'd better believe it. Will they grow stronger? Absolutely.

But Bratton's words teach us something else, too, about who wields the power in a capitalist society. Bratton represents the state, the “body of armed men,” in the words of Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin. De Blasio, although elected by the people, has no “army” of his own.

Why did he bring Bratton back in the first place, when this top cop supports what de Blasio claims to be against? (See “Bratton's Endorsement of Stop-and-Frisk,” *The New Yorker*, Dec. 5, 2013)

Because the ruling class wanted Bratton — and they got him. Elections may show to some degree what the people want, but making progressive change happen takes a much, much bigger struggle by the whole working class. The protests are a good beginning. □

existed in the 1990s under Boris Yeltsin. These forces could be kept in check when there was relative prosperity. Now they are raising their heads more forcefully.

During the Gorbachev period before the collapse of the Soviet Union, Workers World Party chairperson Sam Marcy was fond of using the term “full-court press.” By this he meant the U.S. was using all means of pressure — financial, military, propaganda, cultural, etc. — to exacerbate the internal contradictions in the USSR and bring about its destruction.

Today Washington is employing a similar strategy aimed at Russia, including millions of dollars earmarked to increase the influence of U.S.-backed nongovernmental organizations and political opposition loyal to imperialism.

This development has big ramifications for Syria, Iran, China, Venezuela, the BRICS alliance (which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and many other countries. But Donetsk and Lugansk are literally the front line.

This struggle is not going away and could escalate into the dominant world issue. Now is the time to raise solidarity with Novorossiya and push it out into the broader movement, finding ways to link the struggle against war and fascism in Ukraine with the new, dynamic movement against police killings and the racist capitalist system. □

Why now?

We know the U.S. was the driving force behind last February's coup and everything unleashed since on the people of Donbass and Ukraine. But why is Washington pushing even harder now?

What's changed is the economic crisis in Russia brought about by the collapse of the global oil market. U.S. and European sanctions that could be laughed off or circumvented six months ago now have real bite.

There's never been unanimity among Russia's capitalist ruling class or government about Donbass. Many in the Russian ruling class want to return to the neoliberal relationship with the U.S. that

Syria says Israeli attack helps al-Qaida

By Chris Fry

“How can you say that al-Qaida doesn’t have an air force? They have the Israeli air force,” Syria President Bashar Assad told an American reporter. (“Assad: Israeli strikes in Syria benefit al-Qaida,” [jpost.com](#), Jan. 25)

President Assad’s comments came a week after an Israeli airstrike on Quneitra, Syria, killed six Hezbollah soldiers and six Iranians, including Hezbollah Commander Jihad Mughniyeh and Iranian General Mohammad Ali Allahdadi.

In retaliation for this unprovoked attack, on Jan. 28 Hezbollah forces from Lebanon fired anti-tank rockets at an Israeli column in northern Israel, killing two soldiers and wounding seven. In the ensuing battle, a Spanish U.N. soldier was also killed.

Also in response to the Israeli attack, Hamas in Palestinian Gaza organized a strong solidarity demonstration with Hezbollah. Some demonstrators even breached the walls of the U.N. compound in Gaza. Hamas officials said their action “reaffirms Hezbollah’s right to respond to the Israeli aggression, especially following the attack in Quneitra.” (CNN.com, Jan. 28)

At first glance, it may seem strange that Israel, supported and armed to the teeth by the U.S., would launch an attack on allies of the Assad government in Syria when Syria is waging a fierce defense against invading forces of the Islamic State (ISIL). The U.S. is waging its own air campaign against ISIL in both Syria and Iraq. Hundreds of U.S. troops are being sent to the region to train Syrian anti-government militias to fight ISIL.

But of course there is nothing strange about it at all. The U.S. still sees the Assad government in Syria as an obstacle to its dominion over the oil-rich Middle East. Regime change in Syria is still a top item on Washington’s agenda. So it doesn’t



Israeli soldiers stand next to a mobile artillery unit near the border with Syria in the Golan Heights.

complain when Israel attacks Hezbollah, an ally of the Syrian government.

Of course, this attack also meshes with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s re-election campaign in the Zionist garrison state. Continued war against its Arab neighbors and the Palestinian people is the foundation of Israel’s existence. This war, which has cost so many lives and caused 9 million people to flee their homes, according to the U.N., is not in the interest of the Jewish people, but it has won the enthusiastic support of Wall Street and its minions in Washington.

It is time for all progressive people to stand in solidarity with the Arab people in the Middle East against these U.S.-Israeli criminal attacks! □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

La Rebelión de Glenville

Continúa de la página 12

ald, hermano de Nondu Bey, y les dijeron “Dejen que ese muera aquí”. Dick Peery, en ese entonces reportero del periódico semanal afro-americano Call and Post, observó que las/os asistentes de la cercana taberna Lakeview fueron maltratados; los hombres fueron empujados a culatazos mientras que las mujeres tenían su ropa rasgada. Un hombre negro que manejaba por la zona fue sacado de su coche, golpeado e insultado, según Peery. Un camarógrafo blanco que cubría la situación fue golpeado malamente.

La estrategia del alcalde Stokes para evitar más pérdidas de vida sin embargo, fue un ejemplo único de control comunitario. El 24 de julio, después de discusiones con líderes negros, ordenó a todos los policías blancos y gente blanca no residente, además de a la Guardia Nacional que estaba en guardia, a salirse de la zona donde tuvo lugar el tiroteo.

Por una noche las calles fueron patrulladas por fuerzas de paz negras. La rebelión duró cinco días, con la expropiación generalizada y quema de negocios blancos, pero no hubo más víctimas.

“Las circunstancias que engendraron la violencia racial en Cleveland en el verano de 1968 no han cambiado significativamente desde entonces”, Masotti y Corsi concluyeron en su informe que fue publicado en mayo de 1969.

¿Cuán diferente son las cosas en 2014? “Créalo o no, es peor ahora” dijo Freeman, quien todavía vive en Glenville. “No hubo ningún asesinato de niños de 12 años como Tamir Rice. Ha tomado tres muertes — Michael Brown, Eric Garner y Tamir Rice — para llevar la ira del pueblo afroamericano y nuestros aliados/os a las calles para decir ¡Basta! Si hace una diferencia o no dependerá de que continúe el movimiento”. □

Anti-Islam frenzy in France

Continued from page 8

when the school’s principal slapped him on the back of his head and said, “Stop digging. You won’t find a machine gun to kill us all.” Although Ahmed is diabetic, he was deprived of his insulin. He was taken to the police station, and then his father was notified. (Libération, Jan. 28)

A report claims the French ministry of education is investigating 200 reported cases of “supporting terrorism” throughout France. (AFP, Jan. 14)

These cases suggest widespread resistance to the current campaign of promoting French imperialism and an anti-Islam frenzy under the guise of advancing “the republican values of the French state.”

Given all the heavy state artillery directed against an 8-year-old who dared to say, “Je ne suis pas Charlie” (“I am not Charlie”), it was interesting to look at French reviews of “The Interview,” the

U.S. film about a CIA plot to assassinate Kim Jung Un, leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. In the reviews by Le Figaro and Le Point, there wasn’t a word about this crude film extolling terrorism.

For the French and other imperialists, “terrorism” only flows out of the resistance of the oppressed. □

The case of Ahmed Evans

Continued from page 6

July 23 Defense Committee held a demonstration outside the courthouse during the trial. At the time, picketing a courthouse was illegal. Mae Mallory was arrested, along with Ted Dostal, who was standing on the sidelines as a sympathet-

ic observer. Both were charged with contempt of court.

On May 12, 1969, jurors returned a verdict of guilty on all counts and without mercy. Before being sent to death row, Evans stated, “The electric chair or fear of anything won’t stop the Black man of today.”

Just as today there is widespread anger everywhere over the police killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice of Cleveland, “There was outrage all over the country when the Evans verdict was announced,” recalls Abayomi Azikiwe, editor of the Pan-African News Wire. “I was in eighth grade in Detroit and students walked out when they got the news. They were attacked by Detroit police.”

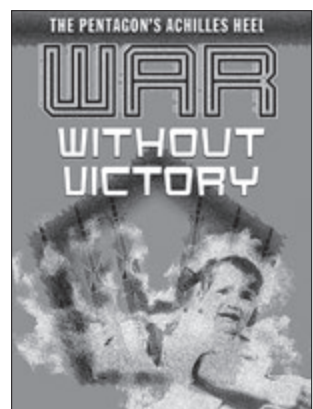
Both Dostal and Mallory were also found guilty. Mallory moved to Tanzania to avoid being forced to serve an out-

rageous one-year sentence. Dostal was sent to the workhouse on a six-month sentence. He was released early when he was about to play a lead role in a strike of inmates.

No one was ever charged in the killings of Amer Iber Katir, Malik Ali Bey or Nondu Bey, the three Republic of New Libya members shot to death.

Ahmed Evans’ death sentence was later commuted to life in prison, where he died of cancer in 1978. He was a committed revolutionary to the end.

Mae Mallory left Africa when it was safe to return to activism in her home town of Brooklyn, N.Y., where she spent her last years. Wilbur Grattan, a frequent driver on the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan, and Ted Dostal and Frances Dostal, fixtures of the Cleveland progressive movement, stayed in the struggle to the end. The four remained lifelong friends and all would have been in the streets with the youth of today, blocking highways, staging die-ins and getting in the faces of the racist cops. □



WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

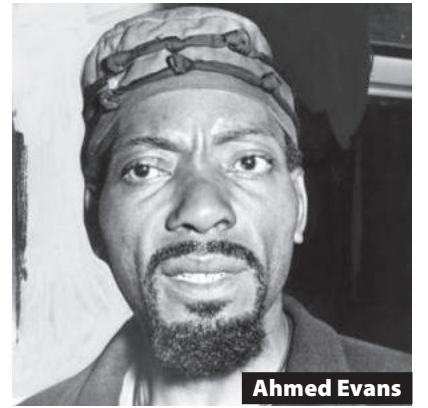
— Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann,

President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;

Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

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Ahmed Evans

Lo que Obama omitió

Editorial Workers World-Mundo Obrero del 26 de enero

El “Estado de la Unión” es el discurso presidencial anual que supuestamente informa sobre cómo van las cosas para la gente de este país.

En miles de manifestaciones y marchas de protesta en los últimos meses, sobre todo desde los acontecimientos en Ferguson, Misuri, la gente ha ventilado su ira y su dolor sobre los asesinatos policiales de jóvenes de color y los encubrimientos oficiales que han seguido. Las principales carreteras han sido cerradas y un sinnúmero de protestas simulando cuerpos muertos han sido convocadas en lugares públicos. Asombrosamente, un gran número de transeúntes, incluyendo a las personas directamente afectadas por los inconvenientes causados por los atascos del tráfico, han vitoreado las protestas dando su aprobación.

Un historiador de este período sin duda esperaría que de todas las promesas hechas por el presidente, traer justicia a las víctimas del terrorismo policial, sería lo primero en su discurso sobre el estado de la Unión.

Además, en las últimas dos elecciones presidenciales, una mayoría de las/os

votantes emitió su voto por un presidente negro, lo que indica que quieren ver el fin de la brutal historia racista de este país. Ser partidario de la justicia racial y frenar la brutalidad policial es popular aquí en Estados Unidos.

Entonces, ¿cómo explicar que Obama mencionara Ferguson y la policía sólo una vez en su discurso de 28 minutos, y eso al final? He aquí lo que dijo:

“Podemos tener diferentes perspectivas sobre los acontecimientos de Ferguson y Nueva York. Pero ciertamente podemos entender a un padre que teme que su hijo no pueda caminar a su casa sin ser acosado. Y ciertamente podemos entender a la esposa que no descansará hasta que el policía con quien se casó llegue a su casa al final de su turno”.

Él ni siquiera mencionó los asesinatos brutales de tantos jóvenes negros por la policía. Sólo el “acoso”. Pero en cuanto a la propia policía, el mensaje es que las vidas de éstos están en grave peligro.

Hay que recordar que, según las propias cifras del gobierno recopiladas por la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales, ser policía ni siquiera aparece en las 10 ocupaciones más peligrosas.

Si la Casa Blanca está realmente preocupada por proteger la vida de las

personas con más probabilidades de morir en el trabajo, entonces Obama debió haber mencionado a los pescadores, leñadores, obreros de la construcción, colectores de basura, mineros, trabajadores agrícolas, pilotos, techadores, trabajadores del hierro y conductores de camiones quienes llevan sus vidas en sus manos cada vez que van a trabajar – y generalmente ganan mucho menos dinero que la policía.

Todos debemos saber que los discursos presidenciales son cuidadosamente analizados por las personas que ejercen el poder político real. La decisión de tratar el tema de la violencia racista de la policía de esta manera minimalista revela mucho sobre el verdadero carácter del gobierno de EUA. En muchos sentidos, los funcionarios electos, tanto la presidencia como el Congreso, son sólo una fachada para el Estado y su brutal papel de supresión.

Debido a las muchas batallas libradas por las/os trabajadoras y los pueblos oprimidos durante siglos, el gobierno realiza una serie de servicios útiles: Medicare y Medicaid, servicio postal, inspección de carne y productos alimentarios y creación de parques y escuelas, por nombrar sólo algunos. Pero los fondos de

estas cosas útiles constantemente son socavados y subvertidos con el fin de poner más recursos en lo que la clase dominante – la décima parte del 1% – considera que es la función real del estado: la represión.

La policía, la Guardia Nacional y el complejo industrial de prisiones son una parte vital de la represión interna, así como el Pentágono, la CIA y otros organismos – algunos de cuyos presupuestos son totalmente secretos – llevan a cabo la represión externa. La mayor parte de nuestros impuestos se gasta en la violencia estatal contra quienes tienen más razones para rebelarse porque son explotadas/os y oprimidas/os por el capitalismo dentro del país y por el imperialismo en el exterior.

Ni siquiera a un presidente se le permite criticar a estos cuerpos, no importa cuán descaradamente realizan terror sistemático – ya sea en los calabozos de Abu Ghraib y Guantánamo, en la isla de Rikers y en las prisiones “supermax” de EUA o en las calles de Ferguson y Oakland, California.

Eso deja en manos de las/os trabajadoras y oprimidas/os el organizar y realizar los cambios revolucionarios que nunca serán realizados por la maquinaria política de la clase multimillonaria. □

Cómo la Rebelión de Glenville ganó brevemente control comunitario en 1968

Por Martha Grevatt

La práctica de la policía de asesinatos, brutalidad y hostigamiento de las comunidades negras no es un fenómeno nuevo. Tampoco lo es la resistencia a ésta.

El 23 de julio 1968 – en la noche conocida como la Rebelión de Glenville – revolucionarios negros lucharon en defensa propia.

Glenville es parte de Cleveland, y como en 1968, es un punto fulminante en la lucha contra el racismo y la policía.

Algunos de quienes se unieron ahora a las/os jóvenes en las calles exigiendo justicia para Tamir Rice estaban en el movimiento de Liberación Negra en el momento de la rebelión. WW/Mundo Obrero habló con Don Freeman, co-editor de la revista “Vibration”. Ahora en su 47º año, Vibration “se centra en la explotación y la opresión de los pueblos oprimidos de la tierra, especialmente los afroamericanos en EUA”.

En 1967, Carl Stokes fue elegido alcalde de Cleveland, convirtiéndose en el primer alcalde negro de una ciudad de su tamaño. Un año más tarde, el hermano del alcalde, Louis Stokes, fue elegido a la Cámara de Representantes. Antes de la elección de Stokes, Flint, en Michigan, y Gary, en Indiana, eligieron sus primeros alcaldes negros. El período fue uno de ascendencia de afroamericanas/os a cargos políticos.

“El alcalde Stokes ya había desarrol-

lado relaciones con varias personas en el Lado Este, gente del vecindario negro,” explicó Freeman. “De hecho, Cleveland fue una de las pocas ciudades en el país que no se rebeló. Los líderes de la comunidad sabían que esto era la mejor manera de salvar vidas”.

El río Cuyahoga divide los altamente segregados lados este y oeste de la ciudad. El alcalde pudo llamar voluntarios para patrullar las calles después del asesinato del reverendo Martin Luther King Jr.

Las corporaciones – a través de sus brazos “filantrópicos”, por los cuales devuelven una pequeña parte de la riqueza creada por las/os trabajadoras a aquellas/os a quienes empobrecen – tenían un interés en mantener a la ciudad libre de rebelión. Dieron financiación masiva para Cleveland Now!, que el alcalde Stokes inició para combatir la pobreza, fomentar el orgullo cultural negro y promover un sentido de empoderamiento.

Uno de los líderes comunitarios que recibió fondos de Cleveland Now!, habiendo sido parte de las fuerzas de paz de la alcaldía tras el asesinato de King, fue el líder nacionalista negro Ahmed Evans. La librería y Centro Cultural Afro de Evans recibió un subsidio de \$10.000 para un programa de artesanía africana.

Evans: ‘Nos tendieron emboscada’

La policía de Cleveland sin embargo, había acosado a Evans antes de la elec-

ción de Stokes, amenazando repetidamente con cerrar su librería. La elección de un alcalde negro intensificó el antagonismo de la policía hacia la comunidad negra y hacia Evans en particular. Evans y su grupo, República de Nueva Libia, se sentían amenazados por la vigilancia periódica de su casa por policías blancos y compraron armas para su autodefensa.

Informes del FBI – basados en la palabra de un dudoso informante – expusieron que el grupo de Evans estaba planeando asesinar a líderes negros moderados el 23 de julio. Se convirtió en un tema candente en el Ayuntamiento.

En la tarde del 23 de julio, el concejal George Forbes y el ex jugador de los Cleveland Browns, Walter Beach, se reunieron con Evans para tratar de calmar la situación y atender sus quejas sobre la policía. Mientras hablaban, dos vehículos sin identificar se estacionaron frente al apartamento de Evans desde direcciones opuestas, ambos llenos de policías blancos. Los intentos de Forbes para que se fueran no tuvieron éxito.

Horas después comenzó el tiroteo entre miembros armados del grupo de Evans y la policía.

El relato de la policía diciendo que Nueva Libia inició la pelea al disparar sobre los vehículos de vigilancia y un camión de remolque, fue presentado como verdad indiscutible por el periódico Plain Dealer. Evans y sus colaboradores fueron acusados de haber pedido un remolque

para tender una emboscada a la policía.

Hechos que contradicen la versión oficial salieron luego a la luz por Luis Masotti y Jerome Corsi en su informe a la Comisión Nacional sobre Causas y Prevención de Violencia, que más tarde se convirtió en el libro “Tiroteo en Cleveland”.

“Nosotros fuimos objetos de una emboscada, no la policía”, dijo Evans a Masotti y Corsi. Según su versión, los Nacionalistas no dispararon a la policía hasta que la policía mató a Amer Iber Katir. Otros testigos coincidieron en que Katir fue la primera víctima mortal. Malik Ali Bey y Nondu Bey murieron más tarde en la pelea.

Después de la balacera, tres policías y un espectador que supuestamente los ayudaba también murieron y otros 15 – policías, nacionalistas y los atrapados en el fuego cruzado – resultaron heridos. El periodista independiente Roldo Bartimole que cubrió los acontecimientos, cita una cifra superior de muertos civiles, ocho o posiblemente diez, puesto que no se encontraron nunca a dos individuos.

Para las 11 p.m., Ahmed Evans se había rendido.

La policía se comportó despiadadamente con la comunidad. Los activistas Wilbur Grattan y Albert Forest fueron golpeados severamente cuando intentaban rescatar al malherido Lathan Don-

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