



# Political prisoner's health scare ignites mass action

By Scott Williams  
Philadelphia

March 31 — At 1 p.m. EDT on March 30, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal had a medical emergency, and was taken to the Intensive Care Unit at Schuylkill Medical Center in Pottsville, Pa. As of this morning, almost no information has been provided by hospital or prison authorities regarding his health and well-being.

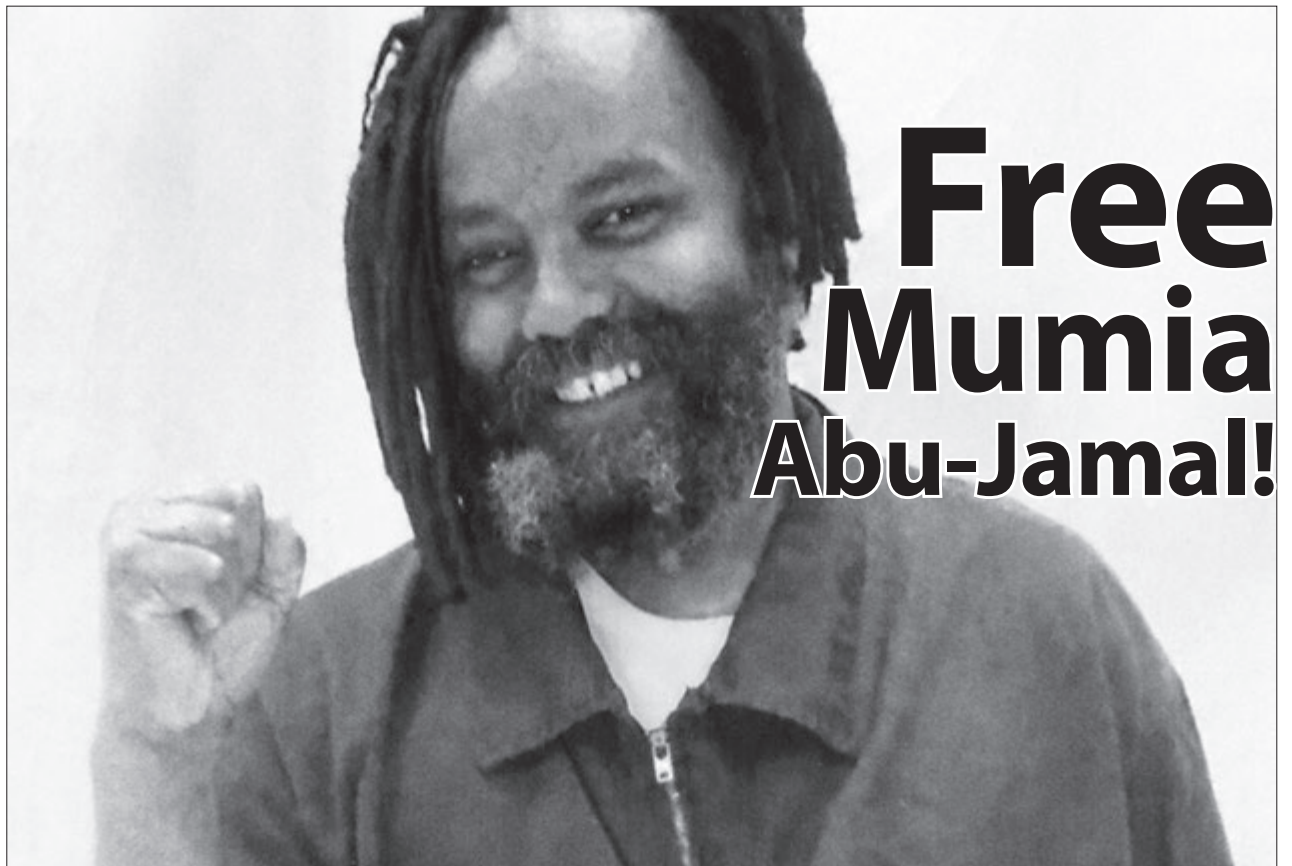
Finally, just before noon today, Mumia's spouse, Wadiya, and his brother, Keith Cook, were allowed into his hospital room, following a people's campaign demanding access for the family.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is the legendary Black journalist and theorist. As a youth, he was a Black Panther organizer in Philadelphia in the 1970s. He spent almost 30 years on Pennsylvania death row after he was convicted of first-degree murder on July 3, 1982, for the 1981 killing of a white police officer in Philadelphia.

Mumia has proclaimed his innocence since his arrest on Dec. 9, 1981, which was followed by a sham trial. His state and federal appeals for a new trial to prove his innocence have been systematically denied by the courts.

While in prison, Abu-Jamal has authored six books and recorded hundreds of political columns thanks to Prison Radio. Many of these transcribed columns have

*Continued on page 10*



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Some of the participants at memorial for Transgender warrior Leslie Feinberg leading the singing of the Internationale at SEIU building in New York City March 28. See page 5.

## Black Lives Matter struggle in Ferguson, Milwaukee, Philadelphia

6-7

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- **Detroit foreclosure crisis** 3
- **Saudi kingdom bombs Yemenis** 11
- **UAW & equal pay** 4
- **Asian Development Bank — Why Wall St. hates it** 9
- **Billionaire Bosses get subsidies** 3
- **Veolia under the magnifying glass** 4
- **Kenya's liberation hero** 8

# Gas explosion leaves two dead, 25 injured

By G. Dunkel  
New York

A little more than a year after a gas explosion in East Harlem left eight people dead, scores injured and two buildings demolished, a gas explosion on Second Avenue in the East Village, another Manhattan neighborhood a few miles away from East Harlem, left two dead, 25 injured and four buildings collapsed.

Four of the injured are still listed as “serious” according to a WNYC broadcast on March 30.

While the National Transportation Safety Board has yet to issue a final determination on the East Harlem explosion, the NTSB’s preliminary findings indicate leaks from gas mains over 120 years old were responsible.

Con Edison has admitted that it found an illegal installation of gas lines servicing the renovated apartments at 121 Second Avenue. The company knew that the gas going into that building was only supposed to be enough to supply the sushi restaurant on the ground floor.

What has come out about the latest explosion is a bit more complicated than aging gas mains and a careless supplier.

It involves a landlord who kept her tenants supplied with gas even after Con Edison shut it off; a utility which relies on private contractors to do critical safety inspections that Con Ed used to do; a general contractor who is facing charges of bribing Department of Building inspectors; and a city charged with supervising construction to ensure the safety of its residents but which is really more concerned with increasing real estate values.

## Below the surface

Many areas of New York City, especially in lower Manhattan, like the East Village (which is conveniently close to Wall Street), are old, dilapidated and subject to intense gentrification. The building which exploded was reported to be more than 100 years old. The landlord, who renovated the building’s apartments last summer, seemingly wanted to do the job on the cheap.

Speculation in the coffee shops and buses running in the East Village is that the empty lots will be worth more



WW PHOTO: JOHNNIE STEVENS

than when they had buildings on them. Condos in a new building a few blocks away started at \$1 million.

Posts and comments on Facebook talk about the uncapping of an outlet in another Manhattan neighborhood in order to put in a new light and finding gas still flowing in the outlet even though the building was converted from gas light to electricity 80 years ago.

In 2004, a woman and her dog were electrocuted by stray voltage from a utility access cover for which Con Edison was responsible. In 2006, the utility admitted that it had found 1,214 electrically charged covers in the past year. (New York Times, March 4, 2006) Two workers in the East Village were seriously burned by a charged cover last year. (Facebook comment) People walking their dogs in the East Village avoid utility access covers, even during warm, dry summer months.

Parts of Manhattan look glitzy and spiffy. Underneath this look, however, is an old, crumbling infrastructure that is patched but not truly repaired.

Deirdre Sinnott, who lives in the East Village, told Workers World: “This was a very scary incident. If it occurred later in the day, many more people might have died. It should be thoroughly investigated, preferably by the federal government, and neighborhood residents should be fully involved.” □

# WORKERS WORLD this week

## ★ In the U.S.

- Mumia Abu-Jamal’s health scare ignites mass action . . . . . 1
- Gas explosion leaves two dead, 25 injured . . . . . 2
- Detroit faces massive tax foreclosure crisis . . . . . 3
- Bosses get \$243 billion subsidy for paying low wages . . . . . 3
- Autoworkers want equal pay for equal work . . . . . 4
- King County, Wash.: Questions contract with Veolia . . . . . 4
- Leslie Feinberg united all struggles for liberation . . . . . 5
- Big business media criminalizes victims of police killings . 6
- Killer of Dontre Hamilton stays fired . . . . . 6
- Philadelphia.: Report reveals extent of police shootings . 7
- Philly 10 resist cops’ racism and vilification . . . . . 7
- Detroit to Moscow: FIST report on conference . . . . . 8
- Women fight back against racist killer cops . . . . . 9

## ★ Around the world

- Where is Kenya’s Field Marshal Kimathi buried? . . . . . 8
- Why U.S. rulers fear new Asian investment bank . . . . . 9
- Washington’s Saudi ally bombs Yemen . . . . . 11

## ★ Editorial

- Why the April 2 People’s Tribunal is timely . . . . . 10

## ★ Noticias en Español

- Evento en NY marca 70 años federación mundial de mujeres arriesga trabajadores . . . . . 12
- Asociación psicológica estadounidense conspira en tortura . . . . . 12

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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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# Detroit faces massive tax foreclosure crisis

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Detroit

A broad-based coalition of Detroit organizations is fighting for a moratorium on property tax foreclosures on 62,000 homes, apartment buildings, small businesses and lots in the city slated for seizure by Wayne County. Another 15,000 tax foreclosures are scheduled for the broader county.

Tens of thousands more properties will revert back to foreclosure since owners could not fulfill payment plans established last year. The county treasurer has encouraged people to sign agreements to pay in installments. However, with the city government over-assessing declining properties and at least 40 percent of Detroit residents living in poverty, it is highly unlikely these agreements will be fulfilled.

One woman with disabilities told Workers World she receives \$769 in monthly benefits. Yet, in a desperate attempt to stave off homelessness, she signed an agreement with the treasurer's office to pay \$500 a month until her delinquent property taxes are paid.

## Declare a state of emergency

On March 19, members of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, Detroit Eviction Defense and others attended a Wayne County Commissioners meeting and demanded an immediate halt to the foreclosures. More than a dozen people testified there.

Delinquent water bills have been placed on property taxes in many households. Often, water bills are higher than the owed tax payments.

On March 24, a rally and press con-

ference were held outside the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center before an intervention at the City Council meeting. There, dozens of people testified about the crisis, calling for a moratorium. People explained their plight under the repressive tax laws.

Speakers represented the Russell Woods Neighborhood Association, Moratorium NOW!, Detroit Eviction Defense, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Detroit People's Platform and We the People. Unaffiliated Detroit residents also participated, seeking relief from their representatives. Although several council members expressed concern and discussed a resolution they were preparing for March 30, the ultimate decisions lie with the county treasurer and Gov. Rick Snyder.

Moratorium NOW! activists distributed fact sheets to City Council members, stating, "The funds are sitting in Lansing to stop these foreclosures. According to the January 2015 Helping Michigan's Hardest Hit Homeowner report, \$251 million of the \$498 million in federal Helping Hardest Hit Homeowner funds that were provided to the state in 2010 remain unspent.

"These funds could ... pay off delinquent property tax bills for occupied homes and prevent thousands of foreclosures. ... Release of these funds will not only stop the destruction of our communities, but go a long way to resolving the financial crisis in Wayne County and Detroit which in large part is a result of declining revenues as a result of tax foreclosures."

After the meeting, people marched from City Hall to the Wayne County Treasurer's office.

## Community responds to crisis

By March 31, residents will lose title to their homes if delinquent taxes for 2012 are not paid or payment arrangements made. Within six months, the homes could be auctioned off, with unscrupulous "developers" prioritized over residents seeking to repurchase properties lost to foreclosure. A demonstration is scheduled March 31 at the Wayne County Treasurer's office.

It was chaotic at the Treasurer's office on March 27 as people crowded inside in a desperate attempt to avoid foreclosure. Members of Detroit Eviction Defense, the Detroit Active Retirees and Employees Association (DAREA) and Moratorium NOW! distributed thousands of leaflets there.

At a March 28 demonstration organized by clergy honoring the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery march, leaflets were distributed calling for people to take action.

On March 29, members of Moratorium NOW! and DAREA leafleted for the March 31 protest door to door in the Boston Edison Historic District, one of the city's hardest hit residential sections where homes are vacant due to mortgage and tax foreclosures.

## No solution by banks or government

Plans undertaken by the Detroit Land Bank Authority, a quasi-governmental agency, and the Detroit Blight Removal Task Force, headed by billionaire banker and corporate mogul Dan Gilbert, have failed to revitalize the city. Bankers' initiatives have wasted tens of millions of dollars earmarked for blight removal. Federal funds allocated to keep people in their homes are being misappropriated

to tear down structures, creating more flight and abandonment in remaining neighborhoods.

Moreover, Wayne County is being threatened with emergency management and bankruptcy, similar to Detroit's experience in 2013 and 2014. Massive foreclosures will not prevent a state takeover of Wayne County's operations.

Under Detroit's emergency management and bankruptcy, the state of Michigan seized billions of dollars in medical benefits, pensions and public assets and turned them over to private interests. On March 1, the monthly pension payment cuts began for 32,000 city retirees and their families, which were approved in a postbankruptcy "plan of adjustment." Their health care benefits were severed one year ago, months before the federal court approved the plan of adjustment.

The plan of adjustment is unraveling as retirees face foreclosures and rising health care costs. Corporate-imposed Mayor Mike Duggan, the first white mayor in 40 years, has failed to attract investments that could create jobs and economic opportunities for African Americans, now 82 percent of the city's population.

Duggan was crying broke by March 29, saying the blight-removal funds were drying up and more money was needed from Washington to tear down vacant homes in Detroit.

The banks, corporations and their surrogates in government have no real plans to revitalize Detroit. Only a coalition of neighborhood and mass organizations rooted in the working class can create the conditions to overturn the bank-led Snyder-Duggan program of fiscal austerity, mass impoverishment and forced removals of people from their homes. □

# Bosses get \$243 billion subsidy for paying low wages

By **Fred Goldstein**

The capitalist class has found more and more ways to pay tens of millions of workers below-subsistence wages by shifting what should be the cost of wages onto government at various levels. This shift of wage and benefit costs off the payrolls of the bosses and onto the government amounts to a massive subsidy to many of the richest corporations and biggest employers in the U.S. for paying poverty or below-poverty wages.

Every dollar not paid by the corporations to keep their workers at a livable wage is another dollar in profit for fast food and big-box billionaires, as well as other companies that pay low wages.

Between 2007 and 2011, the federal government spent \$243 billion a year on supplements for poor workers, according to a University of California study published in 2013. (Think Progress, Oct. 13, 2013)

The study focused on fast food workers, who represent a typical segment of the low-paid workforce, but included a broader section of low-paid workers. It aimed to show the "last line of defense between America's growing low-income workforce and the want of basic necessities."

The study limited itself to the cost of food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP), the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income workers, and the TANF program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; former-

ly known as welfare). It did not include Medicaid and subsidized housing.

This dramatic number — nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars needed to supplement below-subsistence wages — flows from the enormous growth of low-wage jobs and the drastic rise in forced part-time employment in the United States.

## Fast food and big-box workers paid below subsistence

Low-wage fast food workers were forced to apply for \$7 billion in public assistance in 2013 through such programs as Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), among others. Low-wage workers at a single 300-employee Walmart Supercenter are on average forced to apply for about \$1 million in government benefits just to stay at the subsistence level.

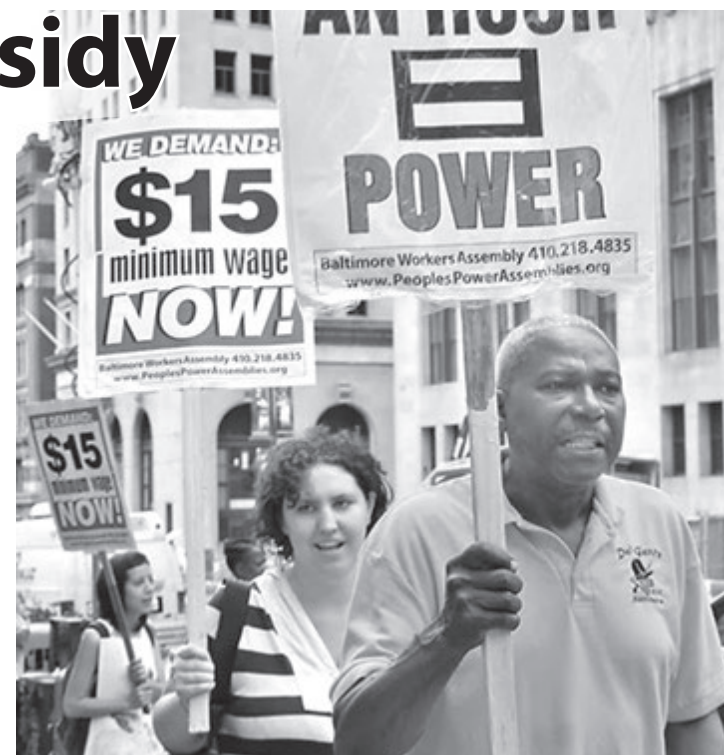
A study by Americans for Tax Fairness, a coalition of 400 groups, showed that Walmart workers in 2013 were forced to apply for \$6.2 billion in food stamps, Medicaid, subsidized housing, etc. Walmart has 1.4 million workers. (Forbes, April 15, 2014)

Forbes reported that McDonald's workers had to apply for \$1.2 billion in government subsistence benefits and workers at Yum Brands (Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and KFC) needed \$648 million.

This situation has been intensified by the growth of involuntary part-time work. In 1968, 13.5 percent of U.S. workers were employed part time. In February,

Workers want bosses to pay them a living wage. Protest in Baltimore, May 2014.

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK



it was 18.5 percent. That amounts to 7.4 million workers forced to work part time when they need full-time jobs to survive. (advisorperspectives.com, March 9)

## Marx on wages and profits

Karl Marx gave a basic definition of wages in his analysis of capitalist exploitation which can help in understanding this situation. Under capitalism, all workers must sell their labor power to some boss in order to survive. The price of that labor power is the wage or salary.

But the wage received is far below the value created by the worker. The total value created by the worker belongs to the boss in the form of the product or service provided. The boss sells the product or service for money and gives the worker just enough to live on. The boss pays part of the money received for materials, machines, rent, interest, etc. What is left is surplus value — that is, the value created

by the worker but for which he or she is not paid. This part is kept by the boss in the form of profit.

The way the boss raises profits is to take more surplus value. The main way to do this is to lower wages. The bosses get the government to pay for food through food stamps, Medicaid for the poor, subsidized health care and housing, etc. These are the basics of life that the bosses should pay for by giving workers a living wage.

By shifting their labor costs onto the federal government, the bosses raise their profits while paying below-subsistence wages.

It is this that is fueling the low-wage workers' campaign — a just campaign whose goal must be to force the capitalists to pay a living wage, not just a barely subsistence wage, but enough to cover the cost of having a decent life. □

## UAW Bargaining Convention

# Autoworkers want equal pay for equal work

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

This year, the United Auto Workers union will negotiate new contracts with auto and truck manufacturers General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, as well as with tractor and farm equipment maker John Deere, and other major corporations. On March 24 and 25, the union held its “Special Bargaining Convention” in Detroit.

Keeping with tradition, the delegates from hundreds of locals around the country and in Canada and Puerto Rico discussed and passed a 72-page resolution, prepared in advance and reflecting the orientation of the UAW’s International Executive Board. The UAW has more than 390,000 active members and more than 600,000 retired members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

While there was a controlled and even staged atmosphere, the rumblings on the plant floors could be felt on the floor of the convention. For two days, two-tier pay was the hot topic among the rank-and-file delegates.

Here is the message the shop floor sent to the convention: The companies are making record profits. Every worker deserves a raise. A fight at the bargaining table for “equal pay for equal work” is long overdue.

### What is two-tier pay?

Two-tier pay is a capitalist scheme to drive wages down for all workers. As a first step, a union agrees to a perma-



nent lower wage, but only for workers who have not yet been hired. Eventually, through attrition — the loss of higher seniority workers who retire, quit or die — all of the workers left will be those who started at the lower wage. That in itself cuts all workers’ wages.

It’s not the only downside to two-tier wages. In the interim period, workers work side by side but get unequal pay for the same work. As a leaflet distributed by the rank-and-file group “Autoworker Caravan” points out, this leads to a divisive “us and them mentality” that turns worker against worker and disrupts the worker solidarity needed for a successful struggle against the bosses.

Two-tier began in the airline and retail sectors in the 1980s. It is now commonplace in both public and private sector contracts. The first two-tier contract with the UAW was at the construction and mining equipment manufacturer Caterpillar after the company succeeded in breaking a long strike. Two-tier wages then spread to the parts suppliers and to

Detroit: the three contracts with General Motors, Ford and Chrysler in 2007.

In reality, there are more than just two tiers of wages in the auto industry. Alongside UAW members at Ford, GM and Chrysler are outside company employees who are paid even lower wages. In contracts with parts suppliers there are often more than two pay scales.

Autoworkers, especially the vast majority who are unorganized, are part of the low-wage workforce — making little more than their counterparts at McDonald’s and Walmart.

A prime example of low pay is the Lear plant in Selma, Ala., which supplies seats to Hyundai. Workers there are fighting for a living wage. It was announced at the convention that Kim King, a leader in that fight, had just been fired.

### Debate over the resolution

Taken in its entirety the resolution was a series of contradictory statements. Statements that, “We’ve had to fight to win fair contracts” contrasted with support for “the German co-determination model.” The German model is supposed to substitute discussion between the union and management for raw class struggle. In effect, “co-determination” reinforces collaboration between the union leadership and the bosses by limiting what issues can be addressed through collective bargaining and the grievance procedure.

Speakers against the resolution opposed the weak and deliberately vague phrase, “bridging the gap,” a slogan repeated throughout the convention. Local 551 Vice President Scott Houldieson from Ford’s Chicago assembly plant proposed changing the word “bridging” to “eliminating” so the result would read, “eliminating the gap,” that is, making sure there is equal pay for equal work.

Speaking for the top UAW officials, International President Dennis Williams rebuffed Houldieson’s amendment. But many rank-and-file delegates embraced language that spoke to fighting for equality and justice.

Delegates also voiced anger about the “alternative work schedules” that undermine the eight-hour day. “You will create a lot of jobs,” said delegate Kathy Smith from Chrysler’s Trenton Engine Plant, because “workers will die” from working long hours and constantly switching from day shift to night shift. The resolution says nothing about restoring the eight-hour day and the weekend, which past generations fought and died for.

At last year’s Constitutional Convention, the leaders asked for and got a dues increase, with the stated purpose of bolstering the strike fund. Now the union must start talking about using the funds for their intended purpose — to support a strike. Only by fighting for their rights can the auto workers halt the fall in wages and benefits, heal the divisions and strengthen solidarity.

*Martha Grevatt is a 27-year Chrysler worker who represented UAW Local 869 at the convention as an alternate delegate.*

## King County, Wash.

# Councilmembers question contract with Veolia union-busters

*Our regular readers know that the militant Boston school bus drivers union, USW Local 8751, has been combating a union-busting attack from Veolia and Transdev, the companies which took over the bus contract. Workers World reprints below a news release from Susan Koppelman in King County, Wash., that exposes more Veolia/Transdev anti-worker and anti-people wrongdoing in pursuit of profits.*

Seattle, March 26 — Members of the King County Council have asked King County Executive Dow Constantine to reconsider the county’s contract with Veolia and Transdev for operation of Access paratransit bus service. On March 18, Chair Larry Phillips of the King County Council sent a letter to Constantine signed by the five Democrats of the nine-person Council, urging the executive to investigate “serious concerns for many aspects of Access service, including rider experience, labor protections and wages, and potential cost overruns to our government.”

According to Metro General Manager Kevin Desmond, signing with Veolia was supposed to save King County \$1 million annually. But changes to the contract three years later approved an additional \$7 million in annual costs incurred to King County.

“We thank the County Councilmembers for responding to our concerns and

urging the County Executive to act,” said Katie Wilson, General Secretary of the Transit Riders Union. “We hope that Dow Constantine and Metro will act quickly and decisively to end their contract with Veolia/Transdev. Doing so will not only improve our community, it will send a strong message that union-busting multinational corporations seeking to privatize and operate our public goods and services for their own profit will not be tolerated in Martin Luther King Jr. County.”

The letter follows a resolution from September 2014 in which the Martin Luther King County Labor Council — local affiliate of the National AFL-CIO representing over 150 labor organizations and 75,000 workers — voted unanimously to pass a resolution to end the contract with Veolia, to preclude Veolia from bidding on future contracts, and to bring Metro Access in-house. The resolution was introduced by the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587.

According to Ninus Hopkins, ATU 587 Executive Board officer and Seattle Personal Transit driver, “The policies of Veolia are completely inconsistent with Executive Constantine’s stated objective of achieving equity and social justice in Martin Luther King Jr. County.”

The Access program provides ADA-mandated service for folks with disabilities and the elderly, but since Veolia Transportation took over the contract in

2008, Access users report that the service has deteriorated. Costs to the County have gone up by 30 percent, but Veolia/Transdev has cut training hours in half and cut back on vehicle maintenance. Access drivers report impossible scheduling of pickups, disrespectful scheduling of hours and low wages.

The March 1 fare increases, which make our public transportation among the most expensive in the country, hit Access users hardest. Fares went up twenty-five cents for all riders except Access users, whose fares increased by fifty cents and whose monthly pass cost increased by \$17.

Veolia is under attack internationally from labor and human rights groups for a variety of anti-labor practices and flagrant human rights abuses, including profiteering off inflated water costs as the largest privatizer of water in the world.

Veolia is also suspected of “fraudulent misrepresentation” concerning the legal ownership changes attached to its name change and rebranding. In a July 15, 2014, letter to King County Department of Transportation in Washington State, Veolia Transportation wrote: “Veolia Transportation will be going through a name change and rebranding process. ... There are no other changes — no changes in ownership, in management, or in any other aspect of our operations.”

But in fact, Veolia Transportation Ser-

vices changed its name from that of a subsidiary wholly owned by Veolia Environnement to that of a new subsidiary wholly owned by Transdev, which is presently only 50 percent owned by Veolia Environnement and 50 percent owned by a French financial institution. (Veolia Environnement has since changed its name to Veolia Group.)

“The name change of the subsidiary from Veolia Transportation Services Inc., a Maryland company, to Transdev Services Inc., undeniably represents a change in ownership,” said Susan Koppelman of Stop Veolia Seattle, an emerging coalition of local groups and residents who practice solidarity for each other alongside resistance to the Veolia/Transdev contract. “This is a change that King County and all entities that were contracted with Veolia Transportation Services need to know about.”

If it is recognized that Transdev Services is a new entity, this suggests that when Veolia Transportation Services ceased to exist, all of its contracts should have been reopened to a public bidding process.

*For more information, contact Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587, Norma Appel: 206-448-8588; Transit Riders Union, Katie Wilson: 206-781-7204; and Stop Veolia Seattle, Susan Koppelman: 617-775-4864.*

# Transgender warrior

## Leslie Feinberg united all struggles for liberation

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
New York

Workers World Party commemorated and celebrated the life and contributions of our beloved comrade, Leslie Feinberg, with a memorial in New York City on March 28 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center at 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Leslie was a member of the party's national committee.

Feinberg joined Workers World Party in 1973 through its branch in her Buffalo, N.Y., hometown and died at age 65 in November after decades of illness from tick-borne diseases. Her last, very deliberate words were: "Remember me as a revolutionary communist. Hasten the revolution!"

Building on the groundbreaking work of WWP member Bob McCubbin in his "Roots of Gay and Lesbian Oppression" (1976), Leslie developed the first Marxist analysis of the origins of transgender oppression in "Transgender Warriors: Making History" (1997) and numerous writings. She was internationally recognized for this theoretical work, as well as her activism for workers' rights; lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer liberation; the rights of women, prisoners and people with disabilities; and against racism and imperialism.

During her life, Feinberg was clear this work sprang from principles established for Workers World Party by founding comrade Sam Marcy, including his insistence that LGBT lives were to be honored and LGBT oppression was to be fought against as integral to the working-class struggle.

Feinberg requested no memorial except one given by Workers World Party. She asked that this be used to strengthen the party and to bring comrades and friends together to share lessons of political experience relevant to ongoing struggles.

The memorial movingly and amply documented Feinberg's life dedicated to "hastening the revolution," and contained many pointed and poignant lessons in building a "workers' world."

### Building a workers' world

A program of WWP members and friends from across the U.S. offered anecdotes of moments when Feinberg extended respect, solidarity, empathy, access, compassion, caring, political insight and revolutionary optimism in individual personal encounters and day-to-day political work. Comrade LeiLani Dowell, a managing editor of WW, summed up the impact of those moments, "I want to say, fist held high, Black and queer and proud, that I and my comrades will forever continue the struggle in Leslie's name."

Bob McCubbin placed these moments in context, saying, "Leslie Feinberg spent



Rosemary Neidenberg speaking at Leslie Feinberg's memorial.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

her whole adult life building a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist combat party to overthrow imperialism and build a socialist future."

McCubbin told of meeting with Feinberg at the beginning of her life in the party; how she talked to him as a worker who had, in her words, "barely completed high school;" how she spoke of the intimidation of weighty ideas; and how the party nurtured her as a worker-intellectual, who then created her groundbreaking theoretical work. McCubbin emphasized that Feinberg — using the Marxist dialectical-materialist method to interpret both her own life and that of other workers within broad social, political and economic developments — was able to bring hope to millions that the "capitalist nightmare" could be ended.

Feinberg defined herself as "an anti-racist white, working-class, secular Jewish, transgender, lesbian, female, revolutionary communist." She used the complexities of her identities as the starting point for a Marxist-Leninist analysis.

International Action Center co-director and WWP secretariat member Sara Flounders stressed that Feinberg exemplified the process by which "the oppressed themselves bring their own issues and lives into the struggle" using Marxism as a tool.

Feinberg shared those insights with the working class, not just through her individual writings, but by serving as a managing editor of Workers World newspaper, writing hundreds of articles and serving for some years as editor of the political prisoners' page. Workers World editor and party secretariat member Deirdre Griswold reflected that Feinberg never allowed her individual fame in the wider LGBTQ movement and literary world to be used by the ruling class to divide her from the working class. Instead, through her work Feinberg "made people feel the significance of their own lives."

Bet Power Alwin, director of the Sexual

Minorities Archive, spoke of one of Feinberg's last acts in support of the political development of the working class and especially of transgender people — the donation of her research library to the Archive, where it will be freely accessible to all.

### Rooted in the working class

Feinberg's deep roots in the working class and her long connection to Workers World Party were highlighted by founding comrade Milt Neidenberg. He noted that her father, a bitterly anti-union worker at Bell Aircraft in Buffalo, benefited from the successful 1949 strike led by comrades who went on to found WWP.

Neidenberg first met Feinberg when she spoke at a 1968 street meeting for the United Farm Workers in Buffalo. Her commitment to labor militancy stretched from then through the 1994 founding of Pride at Work, to which she helped contribute the word "transgender" to its self-definition, and the 2002 Harvard Living Wage sit-in struggle. She was a proud member of United Auto Workers Local 1981, the National Writers Union.

Because discrimination against her as a transgender person made it impossible for her to get steady work, Feinberg earned a living for most of her life through a series of low-wage temp jobs. And as a trans person, she also experienced violence, constant physical abuse, threats and disrespect, as comrade Tom Scahill reflected. These experiences grounded her commitment to medical care and access for transgender people, her work for women's access to abortion, and her participation in clinic defense against 1992 and 1998 anti-abortion assaults in Buffalo.

Comrade René Imperato noted that Feinberg's "contributions to all of humanity" included "fighting in the streets" — through street rallies, marches and demonstrations and in literal street battles — to defend the most oppressed. Imperato and Feinberg fought side by side against bigots attacking gay and trans people — mostly people of color — at a bar once located only 100 yards from the meeting hall.

Feinberg's fighting spirit continued through her 2012 arrest to protest the imprisonment of African-American trans woman CeCe McDonald, jailed for "daring to fight back against those who would kill her," as comrade Kris Hamel, a WW managing editor, recounted.

A video was shown of Feinberg's speech to a standing-room-only Madison Square Garden event to free political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Feinberg was one of the founders of Rainbow Flags for Mumia, which organized the meeting in 2000. Comrades spoke of her key roles in other anti-racist campaigns that WWP

took on, from the 1974 school desegregation struggle in Boston to the 1988 anti-Klan march in Atlanta.

### 'Only socialism will free us all'

Throughout the memorial, comrades and friends emphasized that Feinberg always used insights into her own oppressions to forge connections with all oppressions, including international solidarity with countries under assault by neocolonialism and imperialism. Her very first Workers World demonstration was in support of Palestine in 1973, as comrade Betsey Piette noted, and comrade Joyce Chediac spoke of her last international travel in 2007 in support of ASWAT, an organization of Palestinian lesbian women.

Comrade Frank Neisser was emphatic, "Leslie's legacy is clear: militancy, solidarity, struggle, communism." WWP secretariat member Teresa Gutierrez spoke of Feinberg's love of the glorious Cuban revolution. Gutierrez affirmed that Feinberg made a unique contribution with her book, "Rainbow Solidarity: In Defense of Cuba" (2009), by countering U.S. imperialist misinformation about LGBTQ life in Cuba. Gutierrez stated what Feinberg knew: "Only socialism will free us all."

We mourned comrade Leslie Feinberg as comrade Pam Parker sang Nina Simone's "I wish I knew how/It would feel to be free /I wish I could break/All the chains holdin' me." And we mourned as comrade Martha Grevatt spoke the poetry Lenin quoted on Frederick Engel's death: "What a torch of reason ceased to burn, what a heart has ceased to beat!"

We vowed to emulate Feinberg when WWP secretariat member and a WW managing editor Monica Moorehead said, "Leslie Feinberg, you fought for your own liberation and that of your class until the very end!"

And at the end, we affirmed Feinberg's commitment to a revolutionary communist workers' world by singing the "Internationale," the revolutionary anthem of the world working class: "Arise ye prisoners of starvation, Arise, ye wretched of the earth, ... The earth shall rise on new foundations; ... We have been naught, we shall be all!"

*Note about pronouns: Leslie said in a 2006 interview: "For me, pronouns are always placed within context." Over the years, comrades and friends have related to Leslie through a range of pronouns. But Leslie's preferred pronouns with close friends and family were she/her and ze/hir, and thus the former have been used here.*

*Minnie Bruce Pratt is Leslie Feinberg's partner and spouse of 22 years.*



Display of Leslie's work and photos

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

# Big business media criminalizes victims of police killings

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

To further illustrate the widespread law-enforcement abuses in Ferguson, Mo., and throughout the United States, Jeffrey Williams, charged with the shooting of two Ferguson cops, has said that he was forced to confess after suffering injuries from the police. Williams' sustained injuries were documented by his attorney, Jerry Christmas.

"He told me that he never fired a weapon," said Christmas of Williams, the 20-year-old African-American man accused in the March 12 shooting of the two Ferguson police officers. (Press TV, March 18)

Christmas said his client was in a "tremendous amount of pain" resulting from being pistol-whipped while in police custody. "I think under those circumstances he would have said anything. ... Anytime someone is questioned without counsel and then I see that kind of bruising, then I'm suspicious about any statements that he may have voluntarily given."

## Newspaper launches new attack

During the course of one week the Washington Post published at least three articles suggesting that former Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson killed Michael Brown in self-defense. This line of argument stems from the questionable findings of both the St. Louis County grand jury and Department of Justice reports, which were designed to provide a rationale for not pursuing criminal charges against Wilson.

In the March 16 article entitled "Hands Up, Don't Shoot Was Based on a Lie," Jonathan Capehart wrote that Brown was an "inappropriate symbol" for police violence against African Americans. The Washington Post writer asserted that the actual facts revealed in the DOJ report indicated that Brown did not have his hands up

when he was shot to death by Wilson.

The DOJ report, which was cited in the article, attempted to justify the killing of Brown by saying that he had committed a robbery and, when stopped, reached into the police vehicle, punched Wilson and attempted to grab his gun. The grand jury testimony presented by Dorian Johnson, who was with Brown when he was killed by Wilson, was attacked as being inaccurate.

This is not the first time that an attempt has been made to criminalize Brown, Johnson and the entire movement that ignited in Ferguson and spread around the country demanding an end to racist police killings. Since the beginning of the demonstrations and rebellions on Aug. 9, the Ferguson police, prosecutors and the city administration have maintained that Wilson did nothing wrong by shooting to death an unarmed African-American youth.

The Washington Post in these articles attacked the Black Lives Matter movement and emphasized that the facts in the DOJ report were at variance with actual developments conveyed by eyewitnesses. This big business newspaper asserts in so many ways that the people who were on the scene when Brown was killed and left to lie in his blood for four hours were not to be believed, but the cops and those who were not there, including the DOJ investigators, are the only ones to be taken seriously.

## Attempt to dampen outrage at police actions

Corporate media pundits across the country picked up on the Washington Post articles and then claimed that Brown was aggressively pursuing Wilson, so the slogan "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" should never have been used. This represents a renewed attempt by sections of the ruling class not only to convict Brown in his own death, but to slander the anti-racist movement that has grown up in the after-



St. Louis Rams pro-football players, know the truth behind the slogan, 'Hands up, don't shoot.' It's what the corporate media wants to stop.

other slogans that grew out of the African-American liberation movement of the 1960s were advanced from untruths.

Such logic means the African-American people and other oppressed nations in the U.S. have no real reason to make demands on the state and the ruling class to end racist violence by police, armed white individuals and organizations. The racist claims perpetuated by the media deny the humanity of the oppressed and their striving for freedom and social transformation.

## Fight racist illegal murders

The only real counterweight to the institutional racism practiced not only in Ferguson but across the U.S. is the popular movements organized and led by the people. The police killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner were distinguished by the groundswell of opposition that grew up spontaneously in cities and towns across the country. African Americans and Latinos/as are killed routinely by police and vigilantes with very little political response.

The fact is that it has never been illegal in the U.S. for cops or others to kill African Americans. Many of the lynchings carried out from the 1880s through the Great Depression — nearly 5,000 documented and many more unrecorded — involved the participation of the police and the courts. Photographs and eyewitness accounts of these atrocities were shared through postcards and public festivals.

The U.S. federal government never passed one anti-lynching bill despite the widespread public awareness, press accounts and protests against this form of egregious mob violence.

Almost all the urban rebellions that have occurred since the 1960s have been sparked by police misconduct and brutality stemming from a racist and exploitative political and economic system. □

# Killer of Dontre Hamilton stays fired

By **Workers World Milwaukee Bureau**

As a result of mass people's resistance led by the Hamilton family, Christopher Manney, the cop who shot and killed Dontre Hamilton, will not get his job back. Manney shot Dontre Hamilton 14 times on April 30, 2014, at Red Arrow Park in downtown Milwaukee, killing him instantly.

On March 23, after a five-day hearing, three Milwaukee fire and police commissioners, who served as the jury to decide whether Manney would be reinstated, rendered a decision that Manney's firing would be upheld. The jury was made up of chairperson Sarah Morgan, vice chair Kathryn Hein and attorney Steven DeVogus. To establish if Manney violated rules, the jury used the lowest burden of proof — a preponderance of the evidence.

In a March 24 statement, the Coalition for Justice wrote, "We must also take our hats off to all of you. Our deepest thank you is extended to all of the folks who have come out and stood with us, marched through the streets, went to jail, came to meetings, made signs and posters, wrote letters, made phone calls, sent emails, posted on social media, talked to your neighbors and friends, etc. Each and everyone of you are a part of this victory.

This is for us; United! We love you all and we are honored to stand side by side with you in this war on injustice!"

The coalition added: "We will win, but haven't fully won yet. It doesn't stop here, and in order to continue to make changes to this city we must continue to organize and mobilize, plan and practice, agitate and demonstrate, educate and emancipate. We need you to join us. Come fight with us." ([facebook.com/justicefordontre](https://www.facebook.com/justicefordontre))

## Resistance led to cop being fired

Hamilton, a 31-year-old African-American man, was resting peacefully in the park when Manney began a pat-down search. When Hamilton objected to being accosted, the cop Manney shot him dead in broad daylight.

Hamilton's family and supporters reacted, forming the Coalition for Justice, which has ever since been leading some of the largest mass protests and direct actions against police terror in Milwaukee's history. Black, Brown, other people of color and working-class whites have been participating in this struggle for justice.

On Dec. 23, Milwaukee District Attorney Jonathan Chisholm said he would bring no criminal charges against Manney. In response, mass protests shut down I-43, a major interstate highway that runs

through Milwaukee. The family is now pushing federal courts to charge Manney.

Milwaukee police Chief Edward Flynn fired Manney last fall, allegedly because Manney conducted an out-of-procedure pat-down on Hamilton.

Despite Flynn's platitudes about "procedure," the resistance led by the Coalition for Justice has turned a national and international spotlight on Hamilton's case and related police terror in Wisconsin, such as the Madison cop killing of Tony Robinson, a 19-year-old African-American youth, on March 6.

The ongoing determination of the people of Ferguson, Mo., the courage of the Hamilton family and the relentless struggle of the Black Lives Matter movement in Milwaukee and elsewhere are why Manney's public appeal hearing even took place.

## Hamilton supporters fill hearing room

As the appeal hearing began March 19 at the Municipal Building, police accosted supporters of the Hamilton family and the general public, refusing them entry to the hearing room. The cops forced the public to view proceedings from a room where there was a live-feed and prevented them from bringing placards into the public building.

Despite this repression, dozens of sup-



porters packed the hearing and adjacent rooms and kept vigil outside. They let the police and their banking and corporate bosses know that the struggle for justice for Dontre Hamilton is moving forward and they won't tolerate Manney's reinstatement. Over the weekend, members of the Coalition for Justice mobilized its members and supporters to keep up a presence at the Municipal Building.

Nate Hamilton, Dontre's brother, said the following at a March 20 press conference at the conclusion of that day's hearing: "I love our community. When we got really involved and came out as a family, the community did so as well. My hat's off to our community that wants change, that wants truth, that desires equal rights for all people. That says racial profiling is wrong.

"If we think that profiling is something that saves lives — it's not. It ends lives. We've been seeing it around the nation where young unarmed Black men and women are being profiled, and it comes to where they are beaten half to death and killed or shot

## PHILADELPHIA

# Gov't report reveals extent of police shootings

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

The ink had barely dried on a U.S. Department of Justice report made public on March 23 citing excessive police shootings in Philadelphia when police shot and wounded a 24-year-old man as he ran from them on March 24.

The DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) report is entitled "Collaborative Reform Initiative: An Assessment of Deadly Force in the Philadelphia Police Department." ([tinyurl.com/nnaj70c](http://tinyurl.com/nnaj70c)) It documents patterns of the PPD's use of deadly force and other questionable practices from 2007 to 2013. The report cites a lack of transparency in the department's shooting review process and criticizes its inadequate training.

Specifically, a provision of the PPD's existing "use of deadly force" policies prohibits officers from firing at fleeing individuals to subdue them, yet that is what happened on March 24. The DOJ found 394 officer-involved shootings in Philadelphia — averaging one per week — in the seven-year period. Some 540 officers, the majority white men, fired their guns; 68 were involved in multiple shootings. In nearly 3-in-10 shootings, two or more police officers were involved. Fifty-nine victims were unarmed.

The report asserts "significant strife between the community and the department." More than 90 percent of the people shot by police were Black, Latino or Latina, averaging 20 years of age but as young as 13. Given these statistics, it appears that "a state sponsored war against Black and Brown youth" more accurately describes this crisis.

The report concludes that the PPD's use-of-force policies are "fragmented, vague and confusing" to officers and need revising. It recommends that officers be given "de-escalation" training, with increased training for veteran officers to include instruction on "unconscious bias." The assessment further suggests

combining the two boards that review police shootings and including "at least one community member."

## Lack of transparency

The COPS review describes "significant contention between the city's external oversight Police Advisory Commission and the PPD regarding access to data and files." The PPD has refused to comply with Police Advisory Commission requests made in 2013 to release data on these shootings.

DOJ investigators were provided with "various sets of data available from the PPD, including use-of-force data, 'officer-involved shooting' investigative files, police board of inquiry hearings and findings, and recruit academy course evaluations"

Meanwhile, Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey stonewalled requests from PAC Executive Director Kelvyn Anderson for these data. Calling for the DOJ report to be made public, Anderson noted a "huge disconnect" between the PPD's current policy and the recommendations for transparen-

cy. The study recommends that the PAC have access to "all pertinent documentation related to an [officer-involved shooting] investigation" but stops short of calling for an independent civilian review board of the police or an independent prosecutor — two key demands raised by the anti-police brutality movement.

The COPS report does not address inadequate funding of the advisory board. Since its creation, the PAC has lacked necessary funding to hire adequate investigatory staff or to purchase technical support to analyze data. Its annual budget is around \$225,000 — one-eighth that of the police oversight board in Washington, D.C., which annually receives \$2 million. Philadelphia's population is 1.5 million, while Washington's is 659,000.

While many cities' police departments publicize their investigative reports after reviews are completed, this is not so in Philadelphia, where the PPD still refuses to release the names of officers involved. This is a key concern of protesters who have demanded the names of officers who fatally shot Brandon Tate-Brown on

Dec. 15. His family has also called for the PPD to release surveillance video of the shooting.

Police departments are quick to broadcast victims' arrest or conviction histories, as if this somehow justifies officers' use of deadly force. Yet it is often the police themselves who have histories of abuse which the departments have kept hidden. Kevin Robinson and Sean McKnight, the PPD officers recently indicted for brutally beating Najee Rivera in 2013, each had seven prior complaints of abuse listed in internal PPD records.

The DOJ report was requested by Commissioner Ramsey in 2013 and is largely an advisory document. While there are provisions for follow-up, the DOJ has no means to enforce recommendations since the study was "voluntary" by the PPD. Simply introducing some minor reforms does not address the real issues.

Police departments like Philadelphia's serve as occupation forces to maintain exploitation of oppressed communities and to keep them from rising up against the capitalist system. □

## Philly 10 resist cops' racism & vilification

By **Matty Starrdust**  
Philadelphia

A police-led panel discussion in Philadelphia's northeast area on March 19 quickly turned violent as officers brutally attacked and arrested 10 protesters affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The protesters, all members of the grassroots Philly Coalition for R.E.A.L. (Racial, Economic And Legal) Justice, attended the meeting to demand justice for Brandon Tate-Brown, who was killed by police under suspicious circumstances on Dec. 15.

The protesters, now known as the Philly 10, held a press conference on

March 26 outside Philadelphia City Hall to counter the cops' continued racist media vilification of the movement against police brutality and murder.

Megan Malachi, a member of the R.E.A.L. Justice Coalition and one of the Philly 10, told the media: "The actions of the PPD at the community policing panel is a prime example of their wanton, violent aggression in response to dissent from the people they are charged to 'protect and serve.' It is clear that we can no longer attempt to reform the PPD. They should be immediately disempowered,

disarmed and disbanded."

Rufus Farmer, another of the 10 arrestees, called Commissioner Charles Ramsey and the PPD's version of events "completely out of touch with reality."

Despite this intensification of violent police repression, the Philly Coalition for R.E.A.L. Justice shows no signs of slowing down or backing off.

A full press statement is available at [phillyrealjustice.tumblr.com](http://phillyrealjustice.tumblr.com).

The writer is a member of the R.E.A.L. Justice Coalition and attended the press conference.



August 2014, Milwaukee protest in solidarity with the Ferguson, Mo., rebellion and demanding justice for Dontre Hamilton.  
PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY PHOTOGRAPHY

tality rates are triple that for whites, and the unemployment rate for Black males between 18 and 35 years of age has been over 50 percent. Austerity policies such as imposing Workfare, as well as those the right-wing Legislature recently enacted, are worsening these conditions.

On April 1, the food stamp program in Wisconsin, called Food Share, will require adults between the ages of 18 and 49 to work, be "in training" or "prove" they are looking for work 80 hours a month if they are to get any Food Share assistance at all.

The new, 2015-17 Wisconsin Legislature is now "debating" laws that attack every single sector of the working class and oppressed in Wisconsin. These initiatives include eviscerating historically progressive and earth-saving environmental laws; semi-privatizing the University of Wisconsin system; and implementing cuts of hundreds of millions of dollars to social safety nets. There is also an attempt to wipe out progressive and other laws benefiting workers and communities, such as workers' compensation regulations and prevailing wage and



Philly 10 hold press conference to combat cops' racist propaganda.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

down. This can't continue to happen.

"People can't assume and continue to make assumptions because they may believe someone is homeless or believe they may have a mental health issue. That doesn't give [Manney or other cops] any right to say people need to be searched."

## The struggle goes on

Police repression against Wisconsin's Black communities accompanies Gov. Scott Walker's anti-union, anti-worker "right-to-work" law, which went into effect March 9 as part of his austerity program. Given the combined impact of these two attacks, the political servants of Wall Street have to worry that a mass rebellion in Milwaukee could unite wide sectors of the working class and oppressed and spread throughout Wisconsin.

Black people living in Wisconsin live under virtual apartheid-like conditions. The state has the greatest disproportion of Black prisoners in the country. In segregated Milwaukee, Black infant mor-

project labor agreements. These include imposing a "right-to-work" law, which means workers have the "right" to work for lower wages.

Walker, who is in the process of exploring a 2016 run for the presidency, is traveling the country, appealing to the far right, especially those with money to donate. He is visiting areas such as Arizona and South Carolina, with a planned trip to Israel in April.

The Coalition for Justice is continuing its struggle for justice for Dontre Ham-

ilton with its next action April 5, called "Faith in Action: Rally and March for Peace and Justice in Milwaukee." At this event members and supporters will put a spotlight on the cases of Dontre, Tony Robinson and others murdered by killer cops and focus on police terror and the conditions Black people face in Wisconsin. Activists will also share tactics and strategies of how to fight back.

For updates and information, see [facebook.com/justicefordontre](http://facebook.com/justicefordontre) or [#JusticeForDontre](https://twitter.com/JusticeForDontre)

# Where is Kenya's Field Marshal Kimathi buried?

By Stephen Millies

The British ruling class has lavished millions to rebury King Richard III, who was killed 530 years ago. Almost \$3 million was spent on the tomb alone. (The Telegraph, March 22)

Yet British colonialism still refuses to reveal where the body of Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi is buried. Kimathi, a leader of Kenya's Land and Freedom Army, was hanged on Feb. 18, 1957.

Being captured with a loaded revolver was enough to send this African freedom fighter to the gallows.

Queen Victoria's storm troopers seized Kenya in 1895. Aristocrats stole the land with Lord Delamere alone grabbing 160,000 acres.

Africans were forced at gunpoint into "native reserves," which were modeled on Indian reservations in the United States.

Oppression sparked resistance. When 8,000 Africans rallied in Nairobi on March 14, 1922, to protest the exiling of African leader Harry Thuku, police opened fire.

White settlers standing on the Norfolk Hotel's porch joined in the shooting. Fifty-eight Africans were murdered.

The East African Trade Union Congress was founded on May 1, 1949. The average yearly wage of African workers in Kenya was then \$73.

On May Day in 1950, the EATUC issued a call for independence and majority rule. These genuine labor leaders in Kenya were immediately arrested by British Prime Minister Clement Attlee of the "Labour Party."

One hundred thousand workers joined a general strike to protest. Nairobi was paralyzed for nine days. It took a mobilization of the British army and colonial police to crush this uprising.

Freedom demanded that an armed struggle be launched. Kenya's Land and Freedom Army was born.

Kenya's colonial governor, Evelyn Baring, responded by declaring a state of emergency on Oct. 20, 1952. The governor's family controlled Barings Bank, founded in 1762 by the slave trader Francis Baring. Baring himself was named a baron in 1960.

## Media helped lynch freedom fighters

Shakespeare's play, "Richard III," probably slandered this king. That's not surprising since Queen Elizabeth I — a member of the Tudor family gang that wasted Richard's Plantagenet family and seized the throne — was then ruling England.

But Shakespeare's slanders were nothing in comparison with the world capitalist media lies against freedom fighters in Kenya, who were labeled "Mau Mau."

Sixty years ago, the media called Jomo Kenyatta, who later became the leader of independent Kenya, a "terrorist." His son, Uhuru Kenyatta, is Kenya's current president.

Baring ordered the colonial police to frame up Jomo Kenyatta and other independence fighters and imprison them. There was no jury.

According to Caroline Elkins' Pulitzer Prize winning book, "Imperial Reckoning," Baring guaranteed a conviction by

paying the judge a 20,000 pound bribe.

Baring hoped Kenyatta's frame-up would demoralize Africans. It ignited years of guerrilla warfare instead.

Mau Mau fighters liberated weapons and ammunition from the colonialist army and police. Mau Mau-supporting blacksmiths made hundreds of guns.

Britain mobilized 55,000 soldiers and cops to fight the Mau Mau. The Royal Air Force bombed guerrilla strongholds in Aberdares Forest and Kirinyaga.

Caroline Elkins estimated that the colonial forces threw 300,000 Kenyans into concentration camps and forced another million into 800 "emergency villages" built with the Africans' own slave labor.

For Africans in Kenya, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was their Hitler. Guards used Alsatian dogs to maul women inmates at the Athi River camp, and the guards themselves clubbed prisoners arriving at the Manyani camp.

Six hundred children were confined in Kamati camp alone. Almost none survived.

Prisoners labeled as "hard-core Mau Mau" were selected to bury the children. "They would be tied in bundles of six babies," recalled former inmate Helen Macharia.

Uncle Sam helped this genocide by financing Nairobi's Embakasi Airport. Now called Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, it was built by the slave labor of Mau Mau prisoners.



Field Marshal Kimathi's monument in Nairobi.

According to David Anderson's "Histories of the Hanged," 1,090

Africans were hanged in Kenya during this righteous uprising. Just for supplying food to guerrilla fighters — labeled "consorting" — the British settlers sent 207 people to their deaths.

A posse led by Ian Henderson, a notorious torturer of Mau Mau suspects, finally captured Field Marshal Kimathi on Oct. 21, 1956. Henderson's cruelty couldn't stop the freedom struggle.

Twenty thousand Mau Mau guerrillas didn't die in vain. Kenya declared its independence on Dec. 12, 1963.

Henderson later spent 30 well-paid years as head of Bahrain's secret police. On June 3, 1997, anti-war leader and British Parliament member George Gallop told the House of Commons that Henderson was a war criminal.

Mau Mau veterans filed a suit in 2006 against the British government for reparations, charging it with systematic torture of Kenyan freedom fighters.

Africa remembers its heroes. Kimathi's execution is commemorated and streets are named in his honor. A statue of Dedan Kimathi was unveiled in Nairobi on Dec. 11, 2006.

When Nelson Mandela visited Kenya, he asked to see where Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi was buried.

But the British imperialists still refuse to reveal this hero's burial site. □

## Traveling from Detroit to Moscow

# FIST report on anti-imperialist conference



By Tom Michalak  
Moscow

As I arrived at the Hotel Metropol in Moscow, directly across from the entrance to Red Square, I saw the Anti-Maidan demonstration being set up to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the neofascist coup in Ukraine, whose social support came from regressive demonstrations in Maidan Square in Kiev.

Nearly 100,000 people marched in Moscow, representing various political forces in Russia, including the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Russian veteran organizations, Greens and Nightwolf Bikers, among many others. Their aim was to send a message that a "Russian Maidan" or a color "revolution" orchestrated by Washington or a Western non-governmental organization would be resisted. It was a show of strength among what could be referred to as patriotic Russian elements.

I went to Moscow as part of a small delegation of peace activists from the United States. Our goal was to demonstrate that among working people of all countries, cooperation is possible and in our best interests. The other delegates were Óscar Hernández-Santoyo of Milwaukee, an immigrant rights activist with "Youth Empowered in the Struggle," and Joe Iosbaker, of the Rasmea [Odeh] Defense Committee and the Committee to Stop FBI Repression.

## Demonizing Russia and expanding NATO

In the last few years, the mouthpieces of the Pentagon and State Department and their obedient media have once again begun hyping up the imaginary threat of the great Russian bear in the Kremlin, end-



Tom Michalak speaking at Moscow conference.

lessly plotting the demise of the so-called "Land of the Free." As Russia has begun to get back on its feet after the overthrow of the Soviet Union and the abolishment of socialist measures during the turbulent 1990s, it has once again started to stand up for itself and its allies. Russia's defense of Iran and Syria from U.S. imperialism, while based on self-interest, is nevertheless very much appreciated by these countries as well as by anti-imperialist activists around the world.

With the Russian government refusing to be pushed around at will by the U.S., it is facing "consequences." Since 1990, NATO has expanded into 12 countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, most of them are former members of the Warsaw Pact, which was the military alliance of the Soviet Union and its allies. NATO is thus encircling Russia militarily and politically. The goal is to intimidate and apply pressure on Russia, just as the U.S. did to the USSR decades ago, which had a significant role in the USSR's dismemberment.

Since the U.S./EU-backed coup in

Ukraine, where the U.S. State Department handpicked the Kiev junta leadership, the Russian government has defended its interests. From Moscow's viewpoint, the Kiev coup was one intervention, one encroachment too far. Because Moscow is standing up for its interests, the Russian government has come under attack.

The result is a game of chicken between the world's largest superpower and its NATO military bloc on one side, and Russia on the other. Russia's large military is designed to defend Russian territory. The U.S. Armed Forces, on the contrary, stretch across a myriad of bases littered around the entire globe. Should Washington's aggressive stance lead to conflict between two nuclear powers, it could mean the end of humanity.

Our host during our stay in Moscow was Alexander Ionov, president of the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia. This is not a homogenous organization representing one ideological current. Some of its members subscribe to Korean socialism and some are "Putinists," that is, champions of the Russian president, among other tendencies. The underlying current among the membership is staunch opposition to Western imperialism and the belief that all nations have the right to self-determination.

On the wall in the group's office are framed photographs of Hafez and Bashar Al-Assad of Syria, Kim Il Sung of socialist Korea, Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara of Cuba, Moammar Gadhafi of Libya and Omar Torrijos of Panama — all political leaders that U.S. imperialism has demonized.

The Anti-Globalization Movement held weekly demonstrations in solidarity with the Cuban 5 political prisoners as well as a demonstration in solidarity with the

"Black Lives Matter" movement outside the U.S. Embassy.

## Human toll in Donbass bombing

In Donbass, the southeastern region in Ukraine that is in revolt against the Kiev regime, the U.S.-armed and -directed Ukrainian army indiscriminately bombs the civilian population. In the last year, an estimated 6,000 people have died in the fighting, many of whom are noncombatants.

While in Moscow, I visited a hospital where seven Ukrainian children are being treated for injuries sustained in the shelling. One was a 10-year-old boy named Vanya, who is a famous case. One day when Vanya and his five-year-old brother were playing outside in the garden, the junta's shelling struck their home, bringing it completely to the ground. Vanya's brother died, and Vanya's legs were blown off, he lost one arm, and he was entirely blinded by shrapnel.

We visited others whose conditions were not as serious, but whose lives will be forever altered by this conflict that they had no responsibility for starting and had no say in. The head doctor at the facility has publicly called for Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Putin to conduct their negotiations over the conflict near Vanya's hospital bed, so they can be aware of the human toll at stake and to highlight who is bearing the brunt of the suffering.

Most of the attendees at the Anti-Globalization Movement conference held in Moscow in late February were young and belonged to the organization. Besides

Continued to page 10



# Why U.S. rulers fear new investment bank

By Deirdre Griswold

Britain, France, Italy and Germany have agreed to join China in establishing an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. China has already announced it will put up \$50 billion in initial capital.

It is too early to say what role this bank will play in helping underdeveloped countries modernize their infrastructure. Negotiations among the principals on the bank's structure and policies are expected to take place for at least a year. What will emerge cannot be predicted at this time.

But one thing is very clear: Wall Street and Washington are fuming over the fact that the European imperialist countries are joining in, despite strong U.S. pressure to stay out.

Criticism of the new development bank by the U.S. has begun, with government officials telling the media they fear it will undermine the "good work" done by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which, they say, have aided developing countries while imposing regulations to protect the environment and help the poor.

You're choking on this outrageous lie right now? So are we.

Tons of both popular and scholarly analyses of these institutions, and especially of the "structural adjustment programs" they have forced down the throats of poor countries, show that the kind of "development" they foster has usually done just the opposite: stripped countries of needed government services, increased their indebtedness and

hurt the environment, all to benefit the financial institutions of the imperialists.

Take the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, for example, which have been going through the most horrific public health emergency caused by the spread of the Ebola virus. These countries are so poor that, even after Liberia declared an end to new cases, a televised news report on the return of a score of students to classes pointed out that their grammar school, which when full serves 1,000 students, has no electricity and no running water.

On Dec. 22, *The Lancet*, a preeminent British medical journal, published a commentary called "The International Monetary Fund and the Ebola outbreak." It reads: "A major reason why the outbreak spread so rapidly was the weakness of health systems in the region. ... Since 1990, the IMF has provided support to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, for 21, 7 and 19 years, respectively, and at the time that Ebola emerged, all three countries were under IMF programs. However, IMF lending comes with strings attached — so-called 'conditionalities' — that require recipient governments to adopt policies that have been criticized for prioritizing short-term economic objectives over investment in health and education."

The authors add that "economic reform programs by the IMF have required reductions in government spending, prioritization of debt service, and bolstering of foreign exchange reserves." In other words, recipient countries — which should be receiving reparations for all

the wealth extracted from them by colonial rule — have instead been forced to cut back on health care, education and other services in order to pay interest on loans.

## Bretton Woods, the IMF and World Bank

Why does the U.S. ruling class feel particularly threatened by this new China-headed development bank? Because U.S. banks have dominated the financial architecture of the capitalist world for decades. The U.S. emerged from World War II as the undisputed global industrial and financial powerhouse, while Europe and Japan were in ruins and all regions involved in the world war were suffering.

The intention of the U.S. imperialist ruling class to translate its military and industrial muscle into financial domination over the rest of the world was made clear even before the war ended, with the founding of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944. This conclave in New Hampshire of the soon-to-be-victorious Allied powers was dominated by Washington and London. It established the "tradition" that the president of the World Bank would always come from the U.S.

One can read many critiques of these institutions. One was an interview by Greg Palast with Joseph Stiglitz, a former chief economist of the World Bank, member of Bill Clinton's cabinet and chair of his Council of Economic Advisers who turned against his former bosses.

Stiglitz told Palast that when nations are "down and out, [the IMF] squeezes

the last drop of blood out of them. They turn up the heat until, finally, the whole cauldron blows up." He referred to these social explosions as "IMF riots," pointing to what happened when the IMF eliminated food and fuel subsidies in Indonesia in 1998, when it made Bolivia increase water prices in 2000, and when the World Bank imposed a rise in cooking gas prices on Ecuador in February 2001. ("IMF's Four Steps to Damnation," *The Observer*, April 29, 2001)

In Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the people have tried to get rid of governments that served as tools of these imperialist-dominated financial institutions and have looked for other ways to climb out of poverty. In Latin America, the result has been ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) — an alliance of countries, led by Venezuela, that is trying to break free of the stranglehold over their economies imposed by U.S. imperialism for nearly two centuries.

The anti-colonial revolutions that began in Asia in the 1930s and spread throughout the so-called Third World in the 1950s and 1960s drove out the structures of direct colonial rule. Bretton Woods was the answer of the imperialists: Keep the masses of people enslaved to the banks.

Washington's objections to the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have nothing to do with anything except the fear of U.S. capitalists that they could be losing their grip on what has been their main tool for world domination. As a backup, of course, they have the Pentagon, making the struggle against imperialist war ever more urgent. □

# Women fight back against racist killer cops

By John Parker  
Los Angeles

Women leaders in the anti-police brutality struggle that reaches from Oakland, Calif., to New York City gathered at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice here on March 22 to discuss the growing movement against racist police terror and to highlight the growing number of women being targeted.

Gloria Verdieu, from San Diego's Committee Against Police Brutality and People's Power Assembly, set the tone throughout the meeting as she emceed this Workers World-sponsored event.

Verdieu presented a powerful slide show with the faces of women who have lost their lives to police terror all across the United States. Although most were women of color — since people of color are the primary targets of police attacks — the multinational character of the victims dramatically exposed the fact that no one is safe from police murder. Verdieu said the killing of women by police can no longer remain invisible to this movement.

The slides continued to run throughout the meeting, intensifying every speaker's words.

Ishtyme Robinson, of Mothers Against Youth Genocide, talked about her loss of two children to police terror, while emphasizing that she didn't want people's pity or any gestures to help her. What she wanted was for people to join the struggle against police killings and to examine and eliminate whatever distractions they may have that keep them from fighting back against police repression.

The gathering also heard from Cat Brooks, the leader of the Anti-Police Terror Project and co-chair of ONYX, groups that have courageously participated in

## Los Angeles



WW PHOTO: JOHN PARKER

militant actions in Oakland, including the shutting down of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system. Brooks inspired the audience with her description of how the APTP is organizing communities, including political education on tactics, messaging and activism, with an emphasis on maintaining leadership by people of color.

## A 'beautiful new movement'

Lesbian activist Teresa Gutierrez, a Workers World Party leader and co-chair of the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights, gave a rousing talk that scrutinized the backward slight made by Patricia Arquette at the Oscars against people of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities. That, said Gutierrez, was an action against solidarity that pushed the women's movement in a backward direction. She explained how fighting for those in the streets of Ferguson and against the attacks on LGBTQ people were women's issues that strengthen all women.

Gutierrez said that white women especially had to champion those strug-



## Boston

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

gles, not deny and counterpose them as Arquette did. These remarks were especially appreciated by members of the African-American Caucus of the Service Employees' United Long Term Care Workers who attended the meeting. They told about their union's campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$15.

All the speakers were excited about the youth who activated this nationwide movement against police terror. Danielle Longchamps, a leader of the youth organization FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) in Baltimore, highlighted the work being done in that city by several organizations to keep the Black Lives Matter movement active there. She gave a personal account of the daily challeng-

es women face as they combat racism, police terror and the unfortunate tolerance that enables the objectification of women. Longchamps said this sexist objectification of women must be fought, especially by those organizations which consider themselves progressive.

Commenting on the success of the meeting, Maggie Vascassenno, of Workers World Party in Los Angeles, who coordinated the event, said, "There's a beautiful new movement against police terror growing in this country, and this meeting once again highlights the fact that women are in the leadership of this movement, in particular women of color, lesbian and trans women."

## Boston IWD forum

On March 21, the Women's Fightback Network, Team Solidarity and Workers World Party held an International Women's Day forum in Boston attended by women and men on the theme, "Every Issue Is a Women's Issue! Globalize Women's Solidarity!" The forum was addressed by women speakers from Black Lives Matter, the Boston School Bus Union, Veterans for Peace, the People with Disabilities Caucus, the Women's Fightback Network and Workers World Party. A leader of a high school walkout talked about the struggle that precipitated the walkout.

The Boston WW Bureau contributed to this article.

## WORKERS WORLD editorial

# Why the April 2 People's Tribunal is timely

The opening session of the “People’s Tribunal on Police Violence and Structural Racism” scheduled for April 2 at the National Black Theatre in Harlem, N.Y., could not have come at a better time.

A project of the Peoples Power Assemblies, the tribunal is being organized because “The cases of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Ramarley Graham, Amadou Diallo and countless others have shown that the legal system is incapable of delivering justice in cases of police brutality. The system has failed the people, so the people will hold their own court. We must put the police on trial and let the people judge!” (Peoples Power Assemblies, Facebook)

The Facebook page continues: “Over the coming weeks and months, at community hearings across the country, the People’s Tribunal on Police Violence and Structural Racism will hear testimony from the victims of police violence and their families, along with the insight of activists engaged in the struggle. Testimony will cover the full range of police offenses, from everyday harassment to summary executions.

“Related issues, including but not limited to mass incarceration, the militarization of schools, the War on Drugs and domestic violence will also be addressed in order to illustrate the connection between police brutality and the larger system of state violence and structural racism. Later this year the Tribunal will hold a final session to present its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.”

Since the police murders of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and countless other Black people including women, there has been an ever-growing increase in police terror. This includes the vicious beatings of Martese Johnson, a student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and 57-year-old Floyd Dent, a United Auto Worker member in Inkster, Mich. Both of these attacks were

captured on videotape.

But police terror is just one aspect of the structural racism based on white supremacy that helps to sustain the profit-driven capitalist system. Consider the controversial video of white members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity from Oklahoma University singing a song riddled with the racist “N” word and calling for the lynching of African Americans. There is also the recent lynching of a Black riverboat worker, Otis Byrd, in Port Gibson, Miss., which has gotten very little national attention.

In a March 4 Workers World newspaper article, “Oscars and mass incarceration show why BLACK LIVES MATTER,” Monica Moorehead wrote, “African Americans make up an estimated 13.6 percent of the U.S. population, but in 2010, Black men alone constituted 40.2 percent of prisoners, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.”

The article continues, “Here is a breakdown of these 2010 percentages: Black men were incarcerated at a rate of 3,074 per 100,000 residents; Latinos at 1,258 per 100,000; and white men at 459 per 100,000. (Population Reference Bureau, Aug. 2012) The Bureau of Justice Statistics states that one out of three young Black men will go to prison in their lifetime.”

These staggering statistics and heinous examples of killings and murders are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of unearthing the divide-and-conquer capitalist system that thrives on institutionalized racism. People of color, especially youth and young workers, in disproportionate numbers, along with a growing number of white youth, increasingly have no future as the global capitalist crisis deepens. Youth need decent jobs at union-scale wages, not police and state terror.

The April 2 meeting will help lay the basis for indicting the entire capitalist system, with a strong demand to disarm the police. □

## From Moscow to Detroit

# Report on anti-imperialist conference

*Continued from page 8*

our U.S. delegation, there was a speaker from Iran and a Venezuelan Embassy representative. The declaration of the conference, which this writer had a role in drafting, was based on mutual cooperation among the various peoples of the world. This understanding shaped the character of the event.

From what I could see and ascertain, the Russian government does not seek conflict with the West, from which it can gain nothing. The sanctions imposed on them — which also affect the economy of the European Union countries — are mutually harmful to all parties, with the exception of a miniscule grouping inside the NATO sphere. The Russian ruling capitalists themselves, at this present stage, are primarily interested in commerce, and even German imperialists lose business because of the sanctions.

Russian capitalists are in no way capable of, let alone interested in, landing on U.S. shores or bombing U.S. cities as they are portrayed in the Western media. To believe such tales, one would have to be completely ignorant of the balance of forces vis-a-vis NATO. Russia does not have bases stretching across the world. It does not have troops in Mexico and Canada. The vast majority of Russia’s army is behind Russia’s borders.

We hope to further cultivate a relationship among the Anti-Globalization Movement, the Russian people and ourselves. To stop U.S. leaders from plunging humanity into a nuclear armageddon, we will be vocally on the side of those defending themselves from reckless imperialist aggression.

*Tom Michalak is an activist in Detroit with the national youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST).*

# Mumia Abu-Jamal’s health scare ignites mass action

*Continued from page 1*

been read all over the world by political activists seeking analysis of the situation in the United States. He has found international support for his determination to fight for his freedom and continue his journalism in the belly of the racist, anti-poor prison system in solidarity with the world’s workers and oppressed. Millions of people have marched for his freedom and fought to get him off death row, from which he was finally removed in 2012 after almost 31 years.

Despite being off of death row, Mumia is still serving a life sentence without possibility of parole for a killing he did not commit. The struggle to free him continues.

Abu-Jamal’s worrisome hospitalization comes only months after the death of MOVE leader Phil Africa, who died under suspicious circumstances at the State Correctional Institution in Dallas, Pa., in January. Phil Africa was secretly taken from the prison to a Wilkes Barre, Pa., hospital without any contact with his friends and family for several days before his shocking death.

With this tragic loss fresh in the minds of MOVE and Mumia supporters, more than 15 people travelled immediately to where Mumia was hospitalized in order to demand more information. Upon ar-

rival, Mumia’s brother, Keith Cook, was not allowed to visit his brother. Cook was part of a delegation in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania capitol, March 30 to challenge the Revictimization Relief Act, which denies First Amendment rights to Pennsylvania prisoners.

In an attempt to learn more about Mumia’s condition, Mumia supporters were feet away from his hospital door at the Schuylkill Medical Center; yet four police officers stood in their way, blocking the answers they sought. Hundreds of supporters have called SCI Mahanoy Superintendent John Kerestes. This led Kerestes’ office to turn off his phone, forcing concerned people to leave messages.

Undoubtedly, more support for Mumia will be forthcoming until he is safe and ultimately until he is free from the racist prison system.

Mumia’s life is in danger. The media and people concerned about Mumia’s health are encouraged to contact the following individuals and institutions responsible for the health care of Pennsylvania prisoners and demand answers regarding Mumia’s medical condition and family visitation rights in this urgent case.

To keep informed on how to help Mumia Abu-Jamal and his family and friends, see [iacenter.org](http://iacenter.org). □

WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE



Top: Mumia Abu-Jamal is held at this hospital in Pennsylvania. Above: Mumia Abu-Jamal supporters outside March 30 court hearing on state’s attempt to stop prisoners from speaking out — aimed at the Black political prisoner.

## The Black Lives Matter movement & supporting WW

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. WW writes about the struggle against racism in depth all year, every year. 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” — Malcolm X.

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.

We invite you to sign up today! Write checks to Workers World. 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/](http://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!

# Washington's Saudi ally bombs Yemen

By Abayomi Azikiwe

March 30 — The Gulf Cooperation Council, under Saudi Arabia's direction, announced on March 26 that it began bombing Ansurallah positions in Yemen.

At the same time, the Egyptian regime, product of a July 2013 military coup that ousted a Muslim-Brotherhood-led elected government, has taken steps toward forming a regional military force to intervene in the North African-Western Asian region.

Behind these aggressive moves by regional powers is Washington's military escalation in the entire region, aimed at expanding the corporate, financial and strategic interests of the U.S. super-rich.

Earlier in March the Obama administration announced plans to keep a large occupation force in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the NATO-led war of regime-change continues in Syria where Islamic State fighters and other opposition groups seek to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad. The Pentagon has bombed inside Iraq and in neighboring Syria, and has deployed more than 3,100 U.S. troops to train the Iraqi army. Such "advisers" often pave the road to a land invasion.

Like George W. Bush before him, Obama is using Pentagon terror to promote U.S. imperialist interests. With the U.S. military tied up with airstrikes and ground operations in Iraq and Syria, the administration is attempting to utilize regional pro-Western regimes to implement bombing campaigns and ground invasions designed to support U.S. interests — without using large numbers of U.S. ground troops.

## U.S. foreign policy destabilizes Yemen

The Saudi bombing operation represents the collapse of U.S. foreign policy in Yemen. Recently, the Pentagon withdrew 100 special forces and diplomatic personnel. Jeff Rathke, U.S. State Department spokesperson, said, "Due to the deteriorating security situation in Yemen, the U.S. government has temporarily relocated its remaining personnel out of Yemen." (BBC, March 25)

Rathke stressed that the Obama administration would continue to support the state's "political transition" and monitor "terrorist threats" emerging from Yemen, the most underdeveloped country in the region.

Saudi Arabia occupies a vast territory with a population of 31 million people and enormous oil wealth concentrated in the royal family. The Saudi military buys hundreds of billions of dollars worth of U.S.-manufactured warplanes and other armaments. Impoverished Yemen's territory on the southeast corner of the Arabian peninsula is only one-quarter that of Saudi Arabia, but Yemen's population is large, at 25 million.

The Pentagon's withdrawal from al-Anad air base occurred March 20 after an alleged offensive by al-Qaida fighters in nearby al-Houta. Reportedly, al-Qaida was soon forced to retreat from the city as a result of Yemen's military forces' defensive operations.

Pentagon military forces stationed at the base were conducting training operations for Yemeni soldiers allegedly to support their fight against al-Qaida. For years now the U.S. has engaged in drone attacks, targeted assassinations and other efforts aimed at suppressing any popular uprisings.

The Gulf Cooperation Council consists of all the oil-rich reactionary mon-

archies of the Gulf, including Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates as well as Saudi Arabia. The Saudi monarchy has framed the current conflict as a battle against Iranian influence in Yemen. Saudi aerial bombardments have killed and injured dozens of Yemeni civilians.

The Ansurallah movement, more commonly known as Houthi, has been in conflict with the Western-backed Yemeni government for more than a decade.

Western media frame the struggle in Yemen, which involves the Houthi movement, as a proxy war guided by Saudi forces on the government side battling Iranian influence. Because the Saudi ruling class is Sunni and the Iranians are Shiite, this proxy war exacerbates sectarian hostility in the entire region and increases overall instability. Washington treats Saudi Arabia as a friendly client and supplies — mainly sells — weapons and military and intelligence support to its ruling family.

In addition to the struggle of Houthi fighters against President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's government, a secessionist movement is rising in Yemen's South, where a socialist-oriented republic existed between 1967 and the late 1980s. Large demonstrations were recently held where the flag was flown of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

## Recent events in Yemen

Houthi fighters took over Sana'a, Yemen's capital, in September, including the parliament. Recently, they took over Taiz. Saudi Arabia took action when the Houthi movement was about to launch a major offensive in the southern port city of Aden.

The International Organization for Migration announced on March 30 that 45 people were killed and 65 others wounded in air attacks on a displaced persons' camp in the country's northwest. (AFP)

Pablo Marco, Doctors without Borders operational manager in Yemen, said civilian bodies and people injured in the airstrike were taken to Haradh Hospital near the camp in Hajja province. (pressTV, March 30)

Press TV also reported that the al-Mazrak camp has sheltered Yemenis displaced by conflicts, which have intensified since 2009, calling the camp's bombing an escalation of the Saudi operation: "The airstrikes began late Sunday (March 29) and continued unabated for almost nine hours. ... Riyadh says it has launched the airstrikes, the first round of which was carried out on March 26, to defend the 'legitimate government' of Yemen's fugitive president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who fled to the Saudi capital on the same day. Riyadh has vowed to press ahead with the bombing until Hadi is reinstated."

The Saudi monarchy has intervened in Yemen before, seeking to bolster former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government. He was forced to resign after a nationwide uprising in 2011.

Recent reports suggest that Yemeni military forces loyal to Saleh have opposed Saudi airstrikes and are working with Houthi fighters. This alliance has given Houthi forces a decisive advantage in their offensive in the country's south. (New York Times, March 25)

Houthis are a Zaidi Shiite group located in Yemen. The movement takes its name from Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, who launched an uprising in



The Gulf Cooperation Council is a group of reactionary oil-rich monarchies on the Arabian Peninsula; these states are dependent on U.S. imperialism and have now started bombing Yemen.

2004 and reportedly was killed by Yemeni army forces that September. Led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, the movement made substantial gains beginning in September 2014 and continuing through today.

## Egypt calls for regional military force

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi presented a proposal to the Arab League Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh on March 28 to establish a regional military force that would intervene in states facing internal conflicts.

Saudi airstrikes will not be enough to halt the Houthi fighters' advances or to stabilize the security situation in Yemen based on U.S. interests. Al-Manar Television of Lebanon reported March 29 that Saudi Arabia is deploying thousands of Islamic Sunni rebels to fight against the Houthi movement.

Al-Manar noted, "Five Persian Gulf States — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait — backed by the U.S. have declared war on Yemen in a joint statement. ... U.S. President Barack Obama authorized ... logistical and intelligence support to the military operations, National Security Council Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan said. ... She added that while U.S. forces were not taking direct military action in Yemen, Washington was establishing a Joint Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia to coordinate U.S. military and intelligence support."

During the Arab League's summit, Egyptian President Al-Sisi argued that a regional force was essential to "defend our [Arab] nation." (Washington Post, March 30) His Egyptian military regime, however, has been hostile to Palestinian Arabs and has cooperated with Israel, especially by locking down the border to Gaza.

Since the bulk of arms and intelligence sharing for such a regional force in Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council will be provided by the Pentagon, it will be able to carry out only those actions that are in accord with Washington and Wall Street's foreign policy aims.

*Azikiwe is the editor of Pan-African News Wire, where a version of this article was originally published.*

WORKERS WORLD  
MUNDO OBRERO

## Psicólogos y tortura

Viene de la página 12

moldeado para ajustarse a los propósitos de quienes están en el poder. Por esa razón, las posiciones más lucrativas en el campo de la investigación científica y la ingeniería, están en el campo militar. El ejército de EUA financia gran parte de la investigación científica y tecnológica tanto dentro como fuera de las paredes de la academia.

Las destrezas de los científicos, técnicos de información e ingenieros también se someten a las necesidades de otras industrias corporativas como la farmacéutica y a las grandes compañías de gas y petróleo. No hay ninguna faceta intelectual, teórica o científica que pueda escapar de las exigencias del régimen de lucro sin el riesgo de perder ingresos y el ostracismo.

Como una ciencia, la psicología es una recién llegada relativamente. Ha tenido que competir por un lugar, con otros campos más poderosos como la medicina. Desde la década de 1940, el ejército ha proporcionado un refugio seguro para los psicólogos, empleándolos en su masivo Departamento de Veteranos así como en el Servicio Selectivo, inteligencia y combate.

Después del 9/11, cuando la "necesidad" para conseguir "buena inteligencia" de los "enemigos" capturados se volvió más urgente, había prisa por encontrar una excusa científica para tanto la extracción eficaz de información como para la responsabilidad ética. La profesión médica, en su mayor parte, se negó a participar, pero el establecimiento psicológico, que tenía una relación más dependiente con los militares, estuvo dispuesta y lista.

Las necesidades humanas bajo el sistema capitalista están superadas por la avaricia corporativa. A pesar de su hipócrita recomendación para la investigación de sus propias prácticas, a la Asociación Americana de Psicología se le debe responsabilizar por su aprobación oficial de la tortura. □



Vinie Burrows

Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres: 70 años de lucha global para las mujeres.

## Evento en NY marca 70 años federación mundial de mujeres

Por Sue Davis  
Nueva York

El llamado a la solidaridad internacional en la lucha por la igualdad y la justicia para las mujeres fue fuerte y claro el 17 de marzo cuando representantes de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres celebró su reunión anual en el Centro de Iglesia de las Naciones Unidas en la ciudad de Nueva York.

La consumada educadora, activista y actriz Vinie Burrows, representante de la FDIM ante la ONU, abrió la reunión con un breve vídeo y lideró una entusiasta ovación celebrando la libertad de los 5 cubanos, a quien Estados Unidos encarceló injustamente por tantos años.

Alicia Campos Pérez, miembro de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas y coordinadora de la Oficina Regional de América Latina y el Caribe de la FDIM, presidió la reunión. Señaló que la organización, fundada en 1945 por mujeres socialistas y comunistas, celebra su 70 aniversario dedicada a la solidaridad internacional y a la lucha por la paz.

La misión de la FDIM es “promover la presencia de las mujeres en la toma de decisiones a todos los niveles, la lucha contra la discriminación y la violencia contra las mujeres, y la denuncia de la desigualdad practicada contra las mujeres”. Y añadió: “Tenemos un largo camino por recorrer para alcanzar estos objetivos”.

Campos presentó una mesa redonda, titulada “Beijing + 20, la Mujer y el Trabajo: Igualdad de Remuneración por Igual Trabajo”, que evalúa el progreso de las mujeres en sus países 20 años después de la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial de la ONU sobre la Mujer, celebrada en China en 1995.

### ‘Un fuerte movimiento de mujeres es una necesidad’

Maria Gabriela anunció que la Organización de Mujeres de Angola está contrarrestando la desigualdad económica con una campaña nacional de educación a nivel comunitario. Viviane Prado, en representación del sindicato de arquitectas/os brasileños, señaló que las mu-

jerer allí están luchando una batalla cuesta arriba por un salario igual. Delia Selene de Dios, de la Unión Nacional de Mujeres de México, destacó que la economía mexicana está retrocediendo debido a que el gobierno neoliberal actual está al servicio de los bancos del mundo. Condenó la “feminización del trabajo mal pagado”.

Al señalar que la población carcelaria de Estados Unidos es la más grande del mundo, Berta Joubert-Ceci, de la Red de Mujeres en Lucha del Centro de Acción Internacional, señaló que las mujeres pobres de color, encarceladas en su mayoría por delitos de supervivencia, son el segmento de mayor crecimiento de prisioneros y a menudo se enfrentan a abuso sexual generalizado e inadecuada atención médica como muchas mujeres encarceladas. Denunció la última hostilidad de Estados Unidos hacia Venezuela, diciendo: “Este país, con tantos crímenes contra las mujeres, se atreve a atacar a la Revolución Bolivariana”!

Joan Salvador, de la organización Gabriela en Filipinas, señaló que el 69 por

ciento de quienes no están en la fuerza laboral son mujeres; que el salario mínimo es de \$10 por día, con las mujeres ganando un 35 por ciento de lo que los hombres hacen; y que las mujeres que trabajan por contratos ganan un dólar al día. “No es de extrañarse que haya 12 millones de trabajadoras migrantes filipinas en todo el mundo”, afirmó.

Dos mujeres fueron reconocidas desde el podio: Layla Naffa Hamarneh, de la Organización de Mujeres Árabes de Jordania, quien agradeció a todas/os por su apoyo a la lucha del pueblo palestino. Hubo un gran aplauso cuando dijo: “Estamos firmes con Palestina y con todos los movimientos de liberación”. Bathabile O Dlamani, del Departamento de Desarrollo Social de la República de Sudáfrica, dijo: “FDIM debe trabajar para que la Comisión de la Condición de la Mujer sea vital nuevamente. Un movimiento en pro de los derechos de las mujeres es imperativo. No podemos permitir que la Comisión sobre el estado de la mujer de la ONU hable sobre nosotras sin nosotras”. □

## Asociación psicológica estadounidense conspira en tortura

Por Sue Harris

Un informe presentado por el Comité Selecto del Senado sobre Inteligencia acerca del uso de tortura por la CIA en Guantánamo y en otros lugares afirma que gran parte de las torturas fueron supervisadas e inspiradas por psicólogos.

La Asociación Americana de Psicología respondió a este informe declarando: “La publicación del documento reconoce el derecho de los ciudadanos estadounidenses a saber sobre acciones previas de su gobierno y es la mejor manera de asegurarse de que de ahora en adelante, Estados Unidos se dedique a programas de seguridad nacional que salvaguarden los derechos humanos y cumplan con el derecho internacional. Los nuevos datos facilitados por el informe sobre el alcance y la barbarie de técnicas de tortura utilizados por la CIA son repugnantes y moralmente reprobables”. (apa.org, 9 de diciembre)

A pesar de esta moralizadora exención de responsabilidades, James Risen, en su libro “Pay Any Price: Greed, Power, and Endless War” [Pagar cualquier precio: codicia, poder, y guerra infinita], revela que la APA ha modificado su código de ética para permitir ese tipo de interrogatorios. A pesar de los muchos esfuerzos realizados por la Coalición por una Psicología Ética y a otras organizaciones para prohibir la participación de psicólogos con la CIA, el liderazgo de la APA se negó a intervenir en los interrogatorios conjuntos de la CIA y sus psicólogos.

Una nota del año 2011 para el libro “Práctica Ética Operacional en Psicología: Militares y Aplicaciones de In-



Camp X-Ray en la Bahía de Guantánamo, Cuba.

teligencia Nacional”, editado por Carrie H. Kennedy y Thomas J. Williams, ilustra estas prácticas: “El campo de psicología y, en consecuencia, su nivel de práctica, están evolucionando y creciendo a un ritmo rápido. Ahora más que nunca, los conocimientos de psicólogos se emplean diariamente por los miembros de las fuerzas militares, de servicios de inteligencia nacional y de seguridad pública de comunidades”.

Risen informa que dos psicólogos, James Mitchell y Bruce Jessen, idearon una lista de técnicas coercitivas para ser utilizados para cuestionar los prisioneros. Personalmente condujeron interrogatorios torturando detenidos de la CIA y entrenaron a miles de “técnicos” para hacer lo mismo.

En 2005, los dos formaron Mitchell Jessen & Associates para específicamente realizar ese trabajo con la CIA. Entre 2005 y 2009, la firma recaudó 81 millones de dólares de la CIA. La empresa contaba con 120 empleados y trabajó en una serie de instalaciones militares.

Tanto Mitchell y Jessen tenían un doctorado y experiencia en áreas relacionadas con las técnicas de interrogatorio y tortura. Sin embargo, tenían vínculos con la CIA y experiencia militar, y habían sido recomendados por sus asociados. Su premiada recomendación para recabar información de los detenidos fue utilizando el concepto de “indefensión aprendida”, que fue desarrollada por E. P. Seligman en su investigación con perros sobre condicionamiento clásico.

En 2009, Democracy Now entrevistó al corresponsal nacional de Salon, Mark Benjamin y a la periodista Katherine Eban de Vanity Fair, quienes escribieron artículos en 2007 sobre Mitchell y Jessen. Eban dijo, “Los psicólogos prestaron sus nombres y sus credenciales y su doctorado a este tipo de actividad y fundamentalmente fueron utilizados por la administración Bush para proporcionar una especie de “salir libre de la cárcel” a las personas, como ustedes saben, estaban haciendo estos interrogatorios.” (democracynow.org, 21 de abril de 2009)

Benjamin dijo: “no creo que se pueda exagerar el grado en que el Departamento de Justicia se basó en el asesoramiento y el consentimiento y la participación de los psicólogos, no sólo en la elaboración de los programas, sino llevándolos a cabo y argumentando que eran seguros y que no constituían tortura. Quiero decir, que fueron una

parte fundamental de este programa, ya sea en la habitación, mientras que estas personas estaban siendo torturadas o viéndolas en una cinta de video. ... Mientras haya psicólogos formados en el programa SERE [Supervivencia, Evasión, Resistencia, Escape] durante esos interrogatorios que están diciendo que estos detenidos pueden soportar este tratamiento y que no se perjudican psicológicamente, entonces, no se trata de tortura”.

Benjamin señaló también que “en el último par de días la administración de Obama ha anunciado que nadie, ni la gente que lleva a cabo el programa de tortura, ni las personas que diseñaron el programa, ni las personas que autorizaron el programa, ni la gente que dijeron que era legal aunque sabían que francamente no lo era, ninguna de esas personas nunca enfrentarán cargos. El Fiscal General ha anunciado que no sólo eso, sino que el gobierno pagará los gastos legales de la persona que enfrentara cargos en cualquier parte del mundo o que tenga atestiguar frente al Congreso”.

Mitchell y Jessen recomendaron la imposición de terror y dolor en los sujetos a fin de obtener información y para que fueran obedientes y maleables para lograr su cooperación. Los dos ya se han jubilado, pero su labor continúa, protegidos por la actual administración y la APA a pesar de las declaraciones. ¿Cómo sucede esto?

En la búsqueda de ganancias rápidas que caracteriza al sistema capitalista, cada tecnología y marco teórico está

Continúa en la página 11