



Editorial: Walter Scott & police attacks on movement 10

At OAS & People's Summits —

# Broad support for Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

U.S. President Barack Obama tried to use the Seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama on April 10-11 as a platform to rehabilitate U.S. relations in the hemisphere. Obama attempted to distance himself personally from U.S. imperialism's history of oppression, exploitation and military dictatorships imposed on the region.

In contrast to Obama's diplomacy, leaders of many of the countries at the summit criticized Washington's policies and exposed U.S. isolation in the hemisphere.

Corporate media headlines focused on the formal diplomatic exchanges between Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, on the one hand, and their Cuban counterparts, President Raul Castro and Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, on the other.

A bilateral, hour-long, sit-down meeting between Obama and Raul Castro was a welcome symbol of change insisted on by other Latin American and Caribbean countries. In addition, Obama spoke with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and admitted that Venezuela was no threat to the U.S.

A March 9 U.S. Executive Order had named the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as an "extraordinary threat" to U.S. security. This order is still in place. Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Ecuador President Rafael Correa all criticized U.S. hostility toward Venezuela and supported Maduro. Both the Ecuadoran and Argentine presidents called the order "ridiculous," with Fernandez saying, "Not only Venezuela but no country in the continent can be considered a threat to the biggest power, the United States, a military, economic, financial, scientific power with a defense budget of \$640 billion." (Telesur, April 12)

Millions of signatures and tweets from around the world called on Obama to retract the Executive Order, calling it a prelude to invasion.

**Raul Castro: 'Heads up high and dignity unblemished'**

The U.S. had banned Cuba from meetings of the Organization of American States since 1962 — and its summits since they began in 1994 — as part of imperialism's isolation and blockade strategy to defeat the 1959 Cuban Revolution. In the decades that followed, Cuba's commitment to human development and international solidarity resulted instead in the isolation of U.S. imperialism.

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean moved forward to build their own regional organizations to aid their development. The Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America (ALBA), PetroCaribe, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

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**Concern for Mumia's life sparks April 10 protests**

Actions across country demand medical attention for imprisoned African-American journalist. Here, Mumia's brother, Keith Cook, joins protest in Durham, N.C. See centerfold.

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WW PHOTO: JOHNNIE STEVENS



Orta (left) with family, supporters, Sept. 5, Staten Island, N.Y.

# Luxury equals displacement

## Brooklyn tenants take to streets

Brooklyn tenants and homeowners rallied on April 9 across the street from a high-rise luxury apartment building owned by the real estate development company Hudson Management.

In the photo, anti-gentrification organizer Alicia Boyd, of the Movement to Protect the People, urged the community to stop more luxury development so this affordable community can be preserved. "Do not compromise with politicians who allow tax cuts for these developers," she said. Some months ago Boyd and others were arrested for blocking cement trucks making a delivery here.



The new building is designed to provide 254 luxury apartments in what is now a working-class community of mostly people of color. In order to obtain valuable tax breaks from the city, Hudson must set aside 51 apartments that are supposed to be "affordable" for working people. This means it is allowed to call its small studio apartments built for one person affordable, even though the minimum rent will be \$1,850 a month. That number is based on the astronomically high "market rate" in New York City.

Some demonstrators say local elected politicians are in the pocket of the developers, while the developers claim they are helping provide affordable housing. They receive tax breaks without doing anything to address the growing housing crisis for the working class, which involves increasing homelessness, evictions and racial discrimination.

The protest was called by a number of tenant, civil rights and immigrant organizations to address the tax break given developers, called the 421a tax abatement program. This tax break is a bonus to rich developers, as it means a freeze on real estate taxes. This four-decade state program is up for renewal in June.

The Crown Heights Tenant Union explains that this tax break costs the city \$1 billion annually, without adding any real affordable housing. The \$1 billion could annually fund 100,000 rent-subsidy vouchers worth \$10,000, which would help Brooklyn's large working class. The demonstrators shown here shouted "421a has got to go!" as they moved from the sidewalk to occupy Flatbush Avenue. Forced by police back to the sidewalk, they grew even more united and determined, chanting, "Housing is a right — fight, fight, fight!"

— Report and photo by Anne Pruden

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And thanks for helping to grow the revolutionary press in the U.S. ☐

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Vol. 57, No. 13 • April 2, 2015  
Closing date: March 24, 2015

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [workers.org/email.php](http://workers.org/email.php).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

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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.

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# Detroit lawsuit demands right to public protest

## Saving homes from foreclosure is at stake

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Detroit

A lawsuit largely initiated by the Michigan American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs and Women in Black-Detroit demands the right to demonstrate in downtown Detroit. It has prompted the city of Detroit Corporation Counsel to draft an agreement purportedly aimed at protecting free speech and the right to assemble.

The suit stemmed from the role of security firms owned by billionaire Dan Gilbert, who has been given dozens of foreclosed buildings downtown. Gilbert, who heads the Detroit Blight Removal Task Force, is championed by the corporate media for his efforts to further drive out African-American and working-class residents from the financial district and throughout the city.

### Fund housing renovations, not demolitions!

Federal Hardest Hit Funds given to Michigan five years ago, purportedly to provide assistance to people facing foreclosure, have not been adequately allocated to those in need. More than \$100 million has been given to private contractors to demolish so-called “blighted homes,” many of which could have been rehabilitated.

Moratorium NOW! Coalition efforts to declare a “state of emergency” and a halt

to foreclosures, evictions and utility shutoffs have been vigorously fought by the banks and their surrogates in Michigan’s local, county and state governments. The banks’ role has caused Detroit to lose more than 250,000 residents since 2000.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition led rallies, demonstrations and leaflet distributions throughout the financial district from 2012 to 2014 designed to expose and oppose the imposition of emergency management and bankruptcy in the U.S.’s largest majority African-American city. While targeting the banks and other financial institutions for aiding in Detroit’s destruction, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition advanced the slogan “Cancel the debt: Make the banks pay!”

### Privatized police try to quash protests

Gilbert’s firm hired private police and security guards who monitor the political activities of Moratorium NOW and other organizations. These police agents traveled in vehicles, on bikes and on foot telling activists in 2014 that Campus Martius and other downtown areas were privately managed and that all leafleting and protests were prohibited.

Although the city of Detroit was not named as a defendant in the Michigan ACLU’s suit, it has a vested interest in setting guidelines for the use of public parks and space there. If allowed to continue, the private security firm’s and city police’s aggressive actions will only escalate tensions — and consequently spark more demonstrations and conflicts with

authorities.

A Michigan ACLU press release on city guidelines reads: “These new rules represent a victory for the free speech rights of Detroiters. ... [We] filed the federal suit in January against the privately owned Detroit 300 Conservancy nonprofit which manages Campus Martius and the privately owned Guardsmark security firm that patrols the downtown park.” (April 8)

### ‘Parks belong to the people!’

The release continues, “Public parks belong to the people, irrespective of who manages or secures them. We’re very pleased that the City of Detroit has acknowledged the fundamental right of people to gather and express themselves in public spaces and that it is working with us proactively to ensure that the right is respected throughout the city.”

This release stresses, “In 2014, Moratorium Now members went to Campus Martius to pass out fliers and gather petitions opposing Detroit’s bankruptcy. But moments after they arrived and began soliciting signatures and distributing fliers near the southern end of Campus Martius by the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, they were approached by a Guardsmark security officer who ordered them to leave the park or risk arrest. He told them that petitioning and leafleting were not allowed in the park.”

The ACLU notes, “The suit has not yet been dismissed, however. ... [The] ACLU will continue to monitor the implementa-

tion of the new rules and stands ready to litigate the case if, for some reason, the Detroit City Council does not make the interim rules permanent by incorporating them into an ordinance.”

### Uphold the right to dissent

The principal issue in this struggle is whether dissent will be tolerated that opposes plans to remake the city in the ruling class’s image and further facilitate the underdevelopment and forced removal of the majority population. Moratorium NOW members have welcomed the lawsuit’s progression, and will test the city of Detroit’s willingness to uphold the right to freedom of speech and association.

The organization is mounting a campaign to win an indefinite moratorium on 62,000 property tax foreclosures. The Wayne County Treasurer granted a six-week suspension of foreclosures on March 31.

An April 16 demonstration at Detroit’s Michigan State office building will demand the release of the remaining \$251 million in Hardest Hit Funds to pay off delinquent property taxes and keep people in their homes. A coalition of organizations has participated in the campaign. It hosted an emergency town hall meeting in March and organized a series of leaflet distributions and mass demonstrations outside the downtown office of the Wayne County Treasurer.

*For the Detroit agreement and other documents related to the case, visit [ACLUmich.org](http://ACLUmich.org).*

# Homeless fight back after shelter closing

By **Gerry Scoppettuolo**  
Boston

People with little or no money are usually mischaracterized by the liberal corporate media as a pitiful lot, “down on their luck,” requiring the charity of the more fortunate.

These false and self-serving notions were overturned on April 8 when a contingent of homeless people and their supporters held a sit-in at the office of Boston Mayor Martin Walsh.

It was the six-month anniversary of the what is known as the “Boston Shelter Disaster,” when 750 homeless people and those in recovery from addiction were forced out of the city’s biggest shelter, the Long Island shelter in Boston Harbor. With but four hours to prepare, people were bused off the island after it was determined that the one bridge leading there was unsafe.

Although for years the bridge had been known to be a disaster waiting to happen, the entire operation was conducted with no planning or after-care provisions. Some 60 recovering addicts were removed — in the middle of detox — from the state’s largest such facility. Some 450 homeless people were forced into already overcrowded shelters or on to the street.

Safe Harbors, the only shelter dedicated to people with HIV, has been shuttered. Its few remaining residents are segregated in a general population shelter — in a separate room without confidentiality. At least eight out of 19 HIV-positive people have subsequently relapsed, and are on the street, according to Boston



Boston homeless and their supporters at City Hall.

WWW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Healthcare for the Homeless.

The Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee, initiated by ACT-UP Boston, took up a vigorous organizing drive after the disaster. It reached out to people in shelters and recovery programs and recruited them into the leadership of the fight-back struggle.

“It’s been important for us to be out here demonstrating,” Cherai Mills, who lives at the Pine Street Inn shelter, told Workers World. “I’ve been homeless for six months, but I know people who have been homeless for years.”

At the opening press conference on April 8, Liza Green, representing the Women’s Fightback Network, issued a call to organize a People’s Tribunal to put the city and the shelter system on trial.

When the BHSC group sat in Walsh’s office, he refused to meet with them,

even though he was in an adjacent room at that very moment conferring with staff and City Council members. Rather than be confronted by the homeless solidarity group, the entire assemblage left their meeting through a backdoor.

### Fastest-growing homeless population

Massachusetts, despite its liberal national image, has the fastest-growing homeless population of any state. (Boston Globe, Aug. 30, 2014) The official estimate counts 26,000 homeless people, many thousands of whom are single parents and their children living in dozens of motels for the homeless scattered across the state.

These shabby motels and unsanitary shelters are part of a minimum-security incarceration system. Homeless people must bid every day at 2 p.m. to secure a

bed for the evening, and they have only small lockers in which to keep their few belongings. That makes it effectively impossible for them to work. Their undiagnosed and untreated medical conditions are the product of intentional neglect and oppression by the capitalist system.

Shelter staff are in effect prison guards. According to many residents, anyone who challenges authority can be removed without due process and put on the street.

Karl Marx, in Chapter 5 of his groundbreaking analysis, “Capital,” described such workers as the “reserve army of the unemployed” — the section of the working class who are kept permanently unemployed under capitalism, potentially to be used to break strikes.

These masses, in Boston and everywhere, are so oppressed they are not even available for wage exploitation — not even at low-wage jobs. Since they cannot create profit or surplus value for employers, they are viewed as having no value whatsoever by the capitalist system.

But the homeless in Boston are organizing to fight back and survive. Their contribution to the class struggle is invaluable.

The corporate rulers of Boston are under attack. The Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee will hold a protest march and rally on April 23, originating at the Woods-Mullen Shelter and the emergency Barbara McGuinness House, where many of the 45 women there are forced to sleep on dirty mats in the cafeteria. For more information, contact [massbhsc@gmail.com](mailto:massbhsc@gmail.com), 617-721-5347. □

# Why a warming planet means Game over for capitalism

By Scott Williams

Until his veto of the Keystone XL pipeline on Feb. 24, President Barack Obama had kept the entire world unsure of his position. The issue of the KXL pipeline — the 1,700-mile-long project to be owned by energy monopoly TransCanada — had been seen as his chance to take a principled stand against climate change.

Yet, what is the real reason for Obama's veto? What does such a pipeline mean for the future of our planet? And, what is the potential for the struggle against climate change?

## Why was Keystone XL important?

The pitfalls of the KXL pipeline and the capitalists' "Drill, baby, drill" drive will go down in history as threatening all life on earth for a quick buck. Energy, the world's most valuable commodity and the cause of endless U.S. wars, is creating a political, economic and environmental crisis much deeper than one pipeline.

The primary reason environmentalists and progressives have argued against the KXL pipeline is that it would daily carry an extra 800,000 gallons of the world's dirtiest oil from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to Texas. The U.S. State Department admits that the production of this type of oil creates over 19 percent more greenhouse gases than regular oil.

This difference was expected to equal the amount of pollution that would be emitted if 51 million new cars were put on the road. The dirtier tar sands oil would then be refined and create toxic fumes, causing more asthma, birth defects and cancer in places like Houston, where the pipeline would end. (350.org)

The claimed selling point for the KXL was that it would supposedly create hun-

dreds of thousands of jobs. Yet, in the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Project released in March 2013, the U.S. State Department estimated it would create just 35 permanent jobs.

The same study found that it would create 3,900 construction jobs for the year it would take to build the pipeline. Meanwhile, thousands of agricultural workers, along with many others, would risk losing their jobs to a likely oil spill or leak. Thus, in the final calculation, this pipeline would likely destroy jobs, while furthering the climate change crisis.

But the nightmare doesn't stop there. The pipeline could also ship millions of gallons of natural gas from North Dakota's Bakken shale fields. Natural gas produced by hydraulic fracturing, "fracking," has boomed since 2000. Despite the lie that it is a "bridge" to more clean energy sources, the process of drilling, piping, compressing and burning natural gas as a whole is just as dirty and disastrous as coal, which is widely seen as the dirtiest energy. ("A Big Fracking Lie," politico.com, Jan. 21, 2014)

## Apocalypse 2050

Dr. James Hansen, formerly of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has become one of the pre-eminent climatologists-turned-activists leading the fight against KXL. He works with 350.org, which has organized worldwide demonstrations against it.

Hansen has called the pipeline, "Game over for the climate," based on intensive research on the level of carbon in the atmosphere. He states, "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleo-

Climate change march, New York City, Sept. 2014.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



climate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that carbon dioxide will need to be reduced from [current levels] to at most 350 parts per million (ppm)." ("The Science," 350.org)

Our atmosphere now contains about 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide, which is the highest level in millions of years. In the 1700s, when industrial capitalism was beginning, the level was about 275 ppm of carbon dioxide.

In 2011, the Carbon Tracker Initiative estimated the combined known deposits of oil, gas and coal in the world to be 2,795 gigatons of carbon. Yet, according to Naomi Klein's book, "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate," no more than 565 gigatons of these reserves can be burned between 2011 and 2049 if carbon dioxide is to be brought below 350 ppm of carbon in the atmosphere by 2050. This leaves the other 80 percent of oil, gas and coal unused.

To the capitalists, this means upwards of \$27 trillion in lost revenue.

President Obama, like all politicians in the two big capitalist parties, is beholden to the billionaires who own energy com-

panies. So why did he veto the KXL pipeline? His energy policy has hardly been environmentally friendly.

Part of the answer may come from the glut in the global production of energy; this has caused prices to drop.

Another aspect which the president and the big polluters are aware of is the global movement against climate change. Over the past four years, farmers, ranchers, Indigenous nations and many other activists have engaged in militant resistance to the KXL pipeline. Direct actions have had a major impact, including in 2011, when more than 1,200 people were arrested at the White House demanding President Obama exercise the veto.

Indeed, the climate movement is massive and global. In September 2014, close to half a million people marched in New York City in the People's Climate March. The next day, thousands of activists "flooded Wall Street," demanding the banks pay for the climate crisis they have caused. The demand, "System change, not climate change," has been gaining traction, from New York City to La Paz, Bolivia.

## Need socialist revolution for humanity's future

The crisis of climate change presents a threat to humanity's very existence. Climate change is impacting oppressed countries in the global South much more than in the imperialist centers.

The movement cannot stop with the small victory on the KXL pipeline. The potential of human beings as stewards — and not destroyers — of the earth must be harnessed. The only way to do this is to abolish the profit motive, to put the energy sector, the world's most critical commodity, into the hands of the people. There must be workers' control of the banks, industries and every major aspect of society to fight against the looming climate disaster — and to provide economic and social justice to the victims of capitalist climate change.

A revolutionary response would be to transform energy use away from oil, coal, natural gas and unsafe nuclear power as quickly as possible. None of these forms of energy has much of a future on this planet if humanity is to survive. Yet, can anyone imagine waiting for the market, controlled by monopolies, to transform away from oil? Not when they have \$27 trillion to gain.

This is why revolution is mandatory. The people must have control in order to explore our options as rapidly as possible, especially with renewable forms of energy. A revolutionary perspective on climate change also raises the need for global reparations for oppressed countries whose economies have been decimated by imperialist development and its by-product, global climate change. □

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## Philadelphia Marchers protest Ayotzinapa outrage

Some six months since 43 students disappeared in southern Mexico, their parents are traveling across the United States calling for justice.

On Sept. 26 last year, the students from the Raúl

Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College of Ayotzinapa were forcibly disappeared after a police attack, sparking a series of nationwide protests. The violent repression of these protests made international headlines.

From April 8 to 11, the Atlantic Region "Caravana 43" delegation spent four days in the Philadelphia area visiting Temple University, Haverford College, the University of Pennsylvania and other community venues. Their goal was to raise awareness here of the direct involvement of the U.S., through its foreign and economic policies, in the violence and repression experienced in Mexico.

On April 10 in Love Park, after traditionally dressed performers had danced



to drums and guitars, speakers explained that the Ayotzinapa incident has become representative of a much larger surge in violence. Over 100,000 people have died and 25,000 have disappeared over the last eight years in Mexico as a result of government corruption, organized crime and a failed war on drugs.

The caravanistas displayed a 25-foot long white banner proclaiming "Ferguson = Ayotzinapa." Carmen Guerrero had spoken earlier in the week to a Town Hall meeting of activists from the Coalition for REAL Justice fighting police violence. Some of those youth joined the Ayotzinapa event.

Marching in the streets from Love Park to the Mexican Consulate, dem-

onstrators carried bright banners and white crosses bearing the names of the 43 disappeared students. They chanted in Spanish and English, interrupted every few blocks by speakers who urged crowds on the sidewalks to get their political officials to oppose Plan Mexico. "Stop sending weapons to Mexico. They are used to murder innocent people," Guerrero and other leaders said over the sound system.

An end rally in front of the Mexican Consulate featured Anayeli Guerrero de la Cruz, sister of disappeared Oshivani Guerrero de la Cruz, and Felipe de la Cruz Sandoval, teacher and father of Ángel Nery, who survived the police attacks.

## On Cuba, Iran, Ukraine

# Obama, a centrist, yields to right wing

By Fred Goldstein

The twists and turns of President Barack Obama's foreign policy, from Cuba to Iran to Ukraine, show the ability of the right wing to undermine the policies of centrist forces within the ruling-class political establishment. This is an expression of the expansionist, militarist forces that have deep roots within U.S. capitalism.

The Obama initiative to open up relations with Cuba is a classic example.

U.S. big business has grown increasingly frustrated with its isolation in Latin America. The Obama administration wants to implement the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Latin American Free Trade Initiative and other trade agreements.

U.S. isolation is largely due to the popularity of the Cuban Revolution throughout Latin America. Cuba has held out against the economic blockade, invasion, subversion and CIA attempts at assassination since 1959. Washington has finally had to ask for talks on diplomatic relations.

But Obama, in order to prove to the right-wing, rabidly anti-Cuban forces in U.S. politics that he is not going "soft," announced shortly after the opening to Cuba that Venezuela was a "national security threat" to the U.S. and imposed sanctions aimed at officials in the Maduro government.

This outrageous claim created a firestorm in Latin America just before Obama was scheduled to attend the Summit of the Americas meeting in Panama on April 10-11. It was a crude attempt to divide Cuba and Venezuela. But it backfired and threatened to undermine further the U.S. position in Latin America and the administration's attempt to open up relations with Cuba, which was going to attend the meeting for the first time.

In fact, Obama had to withdraw this threatening, right-wing characterization of Venezuela in order to avoid a collapse of his entire attempt to improve U.S. relations with Latin America at the Panama

meeting.

President Raul Castro of Cuba gave a scathing historical indictment of Washington in his speech to the summit. In it he stated: "Venezuela is not, and it cannot be, a threat to the national security of a superpower like the United States. We consider it a positive development that the U.S. President has admitted it.

"I should reaffirm our full, determined and loyal support to the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to the legitimate government and civilian-military alliance headed by President Nicolás Maduro, and to the Bolivarian and Chavista people of that country struggling to pursue their own path."

This is a clear case of the centrist Obama administration listening to the right wing and completely underestimating the anti-imperialist, pro-Venezuela, pro-Chavez and anti-Yankee sentiment of the Latin American masses.

### Iranian leader pushes back against Kerry

In the case of Iran, the Obama administration, while holding nuclear negotiations, is trying to execute a diplomatic maneuver that it hopes will pull Iran toward the West and get it to abandon its support for anti-imperialist forces in the Middle East.

This maneuver is probably a complete pipedream, derived from wishful thinking on the part of the Obama administration. And it severely underestimates the powerful anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. sentiments that prevail in Iran.

After months of negotiations, the two sides had agreed upon a framework for future negotiations — called the Framework Agreement. But it is endangered by the desire of the Obama administration to placate the right wing.

In the aftermath of the announcement of the Framework Agreement, Secretary of State John Kerry prepared a so-called "fact sheet" designed to show the right wing how tough the U.S. had been in the talks. This fact sheet was not agreed to by the Iranian side and more or less represented Washington's wish list.

Among other things, the fact sheet said that sanctions would be lifted from Iran only after it had verifiably complied with all terms of the agreement — meaning U.S.-related sanctions would last for most of the duration of the agreement.

It also said that there could be inspections of any "suspicious sites" outside the known nuclear supply chain — meaning that any claim of suspicion could be investigated, presumably including military sites.

These are just a few of Washington's claims that the Iranians have denounced as "spin."

The entire strategy received a heavy rebuff when Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei flatly stated that "unless all economic sanctions are totally lifted on the first day of the implementation of any deal," there would be no agreement. He further stated that there would be no inspections of Iran's military sites. (New York Times, April 9)

Khamenei also called U.S. public statements about the deal "flawed, incorrect and in contradiction to the facts." And he expressed strong contempt for the U.S., describing it as "stubborn, deceitful, indecent and given to backstabbing."

Khamenei represents the legacy of the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which was a vast social upheaval. The revolution ousted the murderous butcher Shah of Iran, who had been put in office in 1953 through a CIA coup d'état. In the coup, the U.S. seized Iranian oil and set up military bases to guard the oil interests of Wall Street.

The Iranian people endured a quarter century of repression and torture under the U.S.-trained SAVAK, the Shah's secret police. They waged two years of continuous struggle and suffered huge casualties before the Shah fled the throne in 1979.

The oil was then nationalized, U.S. bases were dismantled and the religious leaders set up the Islamic Republic, independent of and in opposition to U.S. and British imperialism, the two colonizers of Iran.

Washington has once again under-

estimated the anti-imperialist fervor of a large section of the Iranian masses, which is still alive and persists after decades of sanctions, military threat, sabotage and dirty tricks.

Now, in order to show toughness, the Obama administration has just announced the testing of a new "bunker buster" bomb, presumably capable of penetrating deep sites in Iran. In addition, it has announced that it will keep Iran from "arming the Houthis" in Yemen by helping Saudi Arabia bomb and invade the country.

The U.S. imperialists have invaded Iraq and Afghanistan; they led the overthrow of the Libyan government; they are trying to overthrow the Syrian government; they have supported the Saudis in invading Bahrain and Yemen; they backed Israel, which has invaded Egypt, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza; they backed Iraq when it invaded Iran.

Meanwhile, the Iranian government has not sent troops to invade any country. U.S. hypocrisy knows no limits.

### U.S. holds up discredited regime in Kiev

In Ukraine, Washington and the European Union fostered a right-wing movement on the streets of Kiev and other cities from November 2013 to February 2014. The goal was to push Ukraine in an anti-Russian direction and link it to the European Economic Community.

In Maidan Square in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, dozens of U.S. and European nongovernmental organizations fostered a movement that got Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich to negotiate a compromise with the EU. Yanukovich agreed to hold elections in December 2014.

The minute the negotiations were over, the U.S. State Department, under the influence of neocon Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, organized fascist goon squads to invade the parliament, oust Yanukovich and set up a U.S. puppet regime. The U.S. even handpicked the new prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

This fascist coup provoked a huge re-

*Continued on page 9*

## New York

# Solidarity with People's Summit

The International Action Center held a press conference in New York on April 10 in solidarity with the People's Summit, which was being held in Panama City at the same time as the official Summit of the Americas.

The People's Summit has adopted declarations against U.S. sanctions on Venezuela and the continuing U.S. blockade of Cuba, "among other topics affecting the underdeveloped America, like poverty and the rising power of the progressive forces."

Presenters at the press conference called on President Barack Obama to rescind his decree imposing sanctions on Venezuela, at the same time he is proposing lifting them on Cuba.

Speakers raised the difficulties the U.S. government faces talking about human rights abroad when there is a huge problem in this country of police violence against Black people, primarily unarmed

young men and women. The officials in this country so discount this problem that there isn't even a national register of police shootings.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was wounded but survived when police shot him during a traffic stop in 1981, was raised as an example of police violence. He was convicted of murder in 1982, spent the next 30 years on death row and was finally moved off death row due to unrelenting mass pressure. Still in prison, Abu-Jamal is now dangerously ill and risks death due to medical neglect.

The press conference successfully tied together the struggle against racism in this country, exemplified by the Black Lives Matter movement, with lifting the blockades the U.S. government imposes on poor countries that don't go along with its imperial demands.

Teresa Gutierrez of the IAC chaired



the well-attended press conference, held at the Solidarity Center. Among the presenters were Sara Flounders, representing the United National Antiwar Coalition; Suzanne Ross, speaking for International Concerned Families and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Ricardo Prado of Colombians in the Diaspora, who spoke in Spanish; and the Rev. Luis Barrios of

IFCO-Pastors for Peace, who explained how the current capitalist system in the U.S. contributed to the problems this conference was addressing.

After the formal part of the conference, some of the presenters were interviewed individually by reporters from the Spanish-language media.

— Report and photo by G. Dunkel

# National Day of Action supports Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Kathy Durkin

April 10 was a National Day of Action for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Protests were held around the country to support this internationally known African-American journalist and political prisoner whose life is being endangered by medical neglect and abusive treatment by Pennsylvania prison authorities. Protesters have loudly insisted, “No execution by medical neglect for Mumia Abu-Jamal!” ever since his life-threatening health crisis came to light on March 30.

Mumia has been imprisoned for more than 33 years, 30 of them in solitary confinement on Pennsylvania’s death row. He was convicted and sentenced to death for killing a police officer in 1982, and has never wavered in proclaiming his innocence.

Over the years mass mobilizations with strong international support kept the state from executing him. Finally, the Supreme Court vacated his death sentence in 2011. By Jan. 27 the following year, Mumia was transferred to the general prison population at SCI Mahanoy prison in Frackville, Pa., where he remains imprisoned today.

After months of medical neglect, Mumia was hospitalized for diabetic shock on March 30. His blood sugar was dangerously high, and he had lost 80 pounds. As of April 1, he was back in the Mahanoy infirmary — the same medical facility where doctors had administered three blood tests prior to his hospitalization but never told Mumia he had diabetes. His condition fluctuates now.

Without international and national pressure, including protests, petitions, phone calls and emails, Mumia would not have gotten medical treatment.

Mumia’s numerous supporters have demanded that his family and allies be allowed to visit him. Despite being so ill and confined to a wheelchair, he must submit to outrageous procedures — being strip-searched before and after visits — when seeing relatives and supporters outside the infirmary. Visits are prohibited inside the medical unit.

Suzanne Ross, of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, visited with Mumia on April 13 and reports that he looked very thin and is weak, in pain and wheelchair-bound. He says he feels like he has post-traumatic stress disorder as he deals with the reality of prison officials’ deliberate neglect and mistreatment of his dire medical condition, endangering his life.

Mumia is receiving insulin and his diet seems to be improving. The prison food had been extremely unhealthy, especially for someone with diabetes. He insists that a better diet must be provided for all prisoners, particularly those with diabetes.

Mumia is documenting what happened to him in the infirmary, establishing a paper trail to get independent medical care and filing grievances within the prison system. His lawyers have filed a grievance with the state to enable him to consult and obtain a treatment plan by diabetic and other health specialists. They obtained his prison medical records but are still waiting for those from the hospital, and will be meeting with the Department

of Corrections on April 14.

## Keep the pressure on!

Mumia says he feels the love and solidarity expressed by the movement and is grateful for international support, including that of Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, who wrote to the head of the Pennsylvania DOC. It is crucial that activists keep the pressure on Pennsylvania prison and government officials, as Mumia is still gravely ill.

Support must be extended to Marylin Zuniga, a teacher in Orange, N.J., whose job is at stake because her third-grade class sent get-well cards to Mumia. She was put on paid leave pending an “investigation.” A campaign has been mounted to stop disciplinary action against this courageous educator.

A letter to the Orange Township Public Schools opposing Zuniga’s suspension recognizes that the New Jersey Board of Education is under pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police “and the bullying tactics it disseminates via biased news media. However, support for Ms. Zuniga is coming in [from] such distinguished authors and scholars as Robin D.G. Kelley (UCLA), Angela Y. Davis, Barbara Ransby (University of Illinois/Chicago), Joe R. Featin (Texas A&M), Vijay Prashad (Trinity College), James H. Cone and Cornel West (both of Union Theological Seminary).” ([tinyurl.com/qyvhyv3](http://tinyurl.com/qyvhyv3))

Here is a roundup of news about some of the demonstrations for Mumia held in recent days.

### Philadelphia

Fifty people gathered at Love Park in Center City on April 10 at a spirited speakout to demand that the Pennsylvania DOC stop its efforts to execute Mumia by medical neglect.

Gov. Tom Wolf had declared a moratorium on the state’s death penalty back in February. The protesters marched to Wolf’s Philadelphia office at S. Broad and Walnut streets. After arriving outside the building, they remained in the street for more than an hour, taking over all lanes and effectively shutting down rush-hour traffic.

Speakers called on Wolf to stop prison officials from executing Mumia by denying him adequate medical treatment. Demonstrators included members of the MOVE organization, International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the International Action Center, and several young activists from the Coalition for Racial, Economic and Legal Justice.

### New York City

Some 120 activists rallied outside the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in Harlem during the evening rush hour on April 10. Speakers included Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, a Black youth slain by police. Betty Davis, long-time community organizer, stressed the need for improved medical care for Mumia and Harlem residents. Suzanne Ross invited protesters to an organizing meeting afterwards.

Lucy Pagoada, of Honduras Resistance USA, connected state repression against Mumia to U.S. militarism abroad, including sending troops to Honduras. Johnnie Stevens, of IAC, Orrie Lumumba, of MOVE, and Tsehai Hiwot, from the People’s Power Assembly, co-chaired.



the Nation of Islam. Maria Hamilton, mother of a Black youth fatally shot by police, also participated. The protest was sponsored by the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement. Members of the Coalition for Justice, Committee to Stop FBI Repression, Fight for \$15, IAC, Progressive Students of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Resists Cuts, Wisconsin Jobs Now, WWP and Youth Empowered in the Struggle attended.

The action was supported by other labor-community organizations such as Africans on the Move; #BlackLivesMatter; Ferguson Response Network; Rockford Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST); Occupy the Hood MKE; and the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition in Madison, Wis.

### Houston

Supporters gathered outside the Mickey Leland Federal Building demanding Mumia’s right to be treated by his own specialists and calling for his freedom. The Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, which has always supported Mumia, called the protest on April 13.

Sister Krystal Muhammad told the crowd, “America is at war with African Americans. The lynchings, the attacks by cops from coast to coast — the racism never ended for us. A Black man, Otis James Byrd, was just lynched in rural Mississippi. The U.S. has a racist history of lynchings, but we will not let them lynch Mumia.”

Nation of Islam Minister Robert Muhammad stressed, “He has given his life for the struggle and we must now step up and get justice for Mumia.” Recent college graduate Kamil Kahn, speaking for youth, stated, “Mumia is our hero and we must protect him from execution by medical neglect.”

Everyone there then phoned the heads of SCI Mahanoy prison and the Pennsylvania prison system. Kofi Taharka, National Black United Front president, said, “They won’t answer, but they know we are demanding that nothing happen to Mumia. The world is watching and we are taking care of Mumia.”

Joanne Gavin, a TDPAM founder, said, “We are going to have to kick things up a notch to make sure that Mumia is not lynched and is getting the treatment he needs from doctors he trusts.”

### Los Angeles

People from various organizations gathered in the afternoon of April 10 at the Downtown Federal Building to demand immediate medical care for Mumia and his freedom.

Jefferson Azevedo, of the IAC and LA Workers Assembly, chaired and tied the state’s war against Mumia with U.S. wars abroad against working and poor people. He noted the importance of national demonstrations against this system of war and repression that targets leaders like Mumia. Griff, a young Black man, spontaneously joined the protest, thanking its or-



### Milwaukee

A diverse array of Mumia supporters held a protest in the pouring rain on April 10 at the Federal Courthouse. Chaired by long-time community and anti-police-brutality activist Brian Verdin, the rally demanded freedom for Mumia, as well as family visits, release of his medical records and independent health care. The activists also demanded improved health care for all prisoners.

Speakers included Babette Grunow, of the Latin American Solidarity Committee; prisoner-rights attorney Gary Grass; and Minister Sean Muhammad of Milwaukee Mosque No. 3 of



## A lesson in liberalism

# Ramsey Orta, Mayor de Blasio and the cops

By Fred Goldstein  
New York

Ramsey Orta, whose cellphone video of killer cop Daniel Pantaleo choking to death unarmed Eric Garner sparked a movement against racist police murders, was finally released on bail on April 10 after sitting in a cell on Rikers Island for over two months.

On July 17 last year, Orta put his safety and future on the line to expose this brutal killing by Pantaleo, backed up by a wolf pack of six other cops. Pantaleo and his accomplices went scot-free, leaving Orta the only one associated with the Garner killing to be jailed.

Never mind that a Time Magazine interview with Orta about the Garner killing won the World Press Photojournalism award, the top award in the industry for short videos. The cops are completely brazen and respect nothing.

During this entire ordeal for Orta, there has been not one word of sympathy, support or outrage from New York's mayor, the liberal Democrat Bill de Blasio. There is a lesson in this, not just for New Yorkers but for the entire movement, about the tendency of capitalist liberal politicians to

retreat in the face of right-wing pressure.

### Framed on a gun charge

Following the release of the video, Orta was framed up on a gun charge by the cops. His spouse was arrested as well. His brother, his mother and he were then charged by police with nine counts of selling drugs to undercover cops.

Orta's friends and supporters from all over the country crowd-funded and finally raised the \$16,250 needed to bail him out. But the prosecutor held up his release, saying that all the donors had to be investigated to be sure that the donations were not from "illegal sources."

At the Rikers Island jail, 19 prisoners on Orta's cell block were sickened by rat poison that turned up in their food. Fearing for his life, Orta refused to eat prison food and lived on vending machine candy.

What is important about the political circumstances of the illegal and blatant persecution of Orta is that it happened under the regime of a liberal mayor, Bill de Blasio.

De Blasio was swept into office on a campaign against gentrification, charter schools and above all the "stop-and-frisk" policy of former Mayor Michael

Bloomberg and his police commissioner, Ray Kelly. The de Blasio victory was largely based on his promises to end police harassment of the Black and Latino/a communities.

### Evolution of de Blasio's retreat

It is important to understand the evolution of the relations between de Blasio and the cops. Under police pressure and pressure from the ruling class, de Blasio has done what liberals always do in the face of the right wing -- retreat.

The high point of de Blasio's liberalism was after the killing of Garner, when he took the podium at a press conference, at a time when the Black Lives Matter movement was putting tens of thousands of people in the streets. De Blasio talked of his fears for his own son, who is Black. He spoke of teaching him to be cautious when approached by police.

Shortly after this speech, two New York City police were killed in a random shooting. The cops and the ruling class seized upon the killings to try to push back the Black Lives Matter movement. They organized a virtual state funeral for one of the cops, attended by Vice President Joe Biden, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo,

de Blasio, a host of other officials, and 20,000 cops from all over the country.

At the funeral, hundreds of cops turned their backs when de Blasio spoke. All the high government officials voiced the highest praise, not just for the dead cop but for the police in general.

Democratic Party liberal de Blasio got the message from the cops, from the political establishment in his own party and from the ruling class through its media. The message was: Back off from any criticism of the police.

And he did. He continues to justify the "broken windows" policy of mass harassment and arrest for minor offenses and "suspicious behavior." He says he will veto any legislation that would outlaw police use of the chokehold. He stepped up his criticism of Black Lives Matter and, in general, beat an obsequious retreat in the face of police attack and ruling class criticism.

Does this mean that de Blasio is not a capitalist liberal? No, he is one. But the emphasis should be put on "capitalist" first and liberal only when it is permitted by the bosses. Meanwhile, Ramsey Orta, whose video exposed the truth about the police killing of Eric Garner, had to spend months in jail for his courage. □



organizers. He talked about his involvement in an American Civil Liberties Union study about police killings.

Muffy Sunday, co-founder of the former LA Coalition to Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, along with the IAC, cited the importance of continuing the fight to save Mumia's life and exposed capitalism's anti-human nature. Dante Strobino, representing WWP, explained the root cause of police violence written about extensively by Mumia. Strobino was one of 400 activists arrested during LA protests following Michael Brown's killing in Ferguson, Mo.

Endorsing and/or participating groups were Unión del Barrio, STOP LAPD Spying Coalition, BAYAN-USA, Black Lives Matter, Union of Progressive Iranians, UPWARD, National Lawyers Guild, Freedom Socialist Party, Revolutionary Communist Party, WWP, IAC and LA Workers Assembly.

### Oakland, Calif.

Demanding "No execution by medical neglect," some 75 protesters rallied at the Federal Building on April 10. Speakers included Jabari Shaw, a local Black activist recently targeted by an Oakland Police Department/Federal Marshal/FBI task force; and Hannibal Abdul-Shakur, formerly of the Trayvon 2, and an organizer of Afrika Town at the Qilombo recreation center. Also speaking were Jeremy Miller, of the Idriss Shelley Foundation; Jeff Mackler, of the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal; David Welsh, retired postal worker and labor activist; and Judy Greenspan, of WWP. The following day, another rally at the same location again drew a large crowd of protesters.

Contributors to this roundup include Abayomi Azikiwe, Terri Kay, John Parker, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac, Johnnie Stevens and Workers World bureaus in Durham and Milwaukee.

Photos: Milwaukee, Ben Herrenbruck. WW photos: Detroit, Abayomi Azikiwe; Houston, Gloria Rubac; Los Angeles, Dante Strobino; New York, Anne Prudden; Oakland, Terri Kay; Philadelphia, Joe Piette.

## Protesters demand videotapes of police killing

A large crowd gathered in Oakland, Calif., on April 12 at the site where Yvette Henderson was killed. They were called here by Henderson's family and the Anti Police-Terror Project.

Henderson was shot on Feb. 3 by Emeryville police, who fired military AR-15s and other weapons at her as she tried to run from a Home Depot store in Emeryville where a security guard had accused her of shoplifting. Family and supporters held a vigil in front of the Extra Space Storage facility in Oakland where she died.

Henderson's brother and sister both spoke at the vigil, as well as Dionne Smith, mother of 16-year-old James Rivera Jr., who was killed by police in Stockton, Calif., in 2010. A letter demanding the release of the videotapes of Henderson's killing was left at the storage building's door, as the facility had locked up in anticipation of the vigil.

Protesters in cars and on bikes then caravanned to the Home Depot, a few blocks away, to demand the release of videotapes

there. When the caravan of about 30 cars and as many bikes pulled up in front of the store, the manager locked down the entrances with steel doors, keeping both customers and employees inside.

Protesters rallied there for a short time, pushing the letter with their demands through a space in the door. They posted a blown-up version of the letter on a Home Depot sign outside the entrance.

The caravan then headed to the Oakland Police Department headquarters. The OPD is responsible for investigating the shooting. The activists had another letter for the OPD, demanding that the tapes be released and the police report. When the caravan was one block from the headquarters, a line of police blocked Broadway. Demonstrators got out of their



Yvette Henderson's brother Jameson speaks at vigil.

cars and off their bikes and rallied in front of the police line. The demand letter was handed to one of the commanding officers.

Jeralynn Blueford, mother of 18-year-old Alan Blueford who was killed by Oakland police in 2012, addressed the crowd. Cat Brooks and Mollie Costello also spoke from the Anti Police-Terror Project.

The APTP is planning a campaign against the use of military weapons by local police departments, starting with the Emeryville police.

— Report and photo by Terri Kay

## Lupe Ochoa, yet another police victim

A crowd of family, friends and supporters gathered at the corner of 98th and Bancroft streets in East Oakland, Calif., on the evening of April 11 to celebrate the life of Guadalupe Manzo Ochoa. The young Latina had been killed by San Leandro police as they chased her into Oakland on Dec. 7, 2014.

The killing occurred in the wake of nationwide demonstrations and shutdowns in anger over the grand jury non-indictments of the police killers of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

Lupe Ochoa, as her family calls her, was the mother of four children, ages 11 to 3. The three-year-old still asks for her mother, not understanding she will never return.

The family is demanding the release of the police and coroner's reports. One of her sisters, who dressed Ochoa's body for the funeral, says the wounds from the three bullets that entered her head were all on the side — not at the front where one would expect them to be if, as the police claim, she had been driving toward them.

— Report and photo by Terri Kay



## UKRAINE

# Junta bans communism, honors fascists

By Greg Butterfield

Just days before the Pentagon was set to begin training troops from Ukraine's National Guard, including the notorious Azov Battalion, Kiev's parliament voted 254-0 on April 10 to ban "communist propaganda," communist symbols and anything deemed as "glorification" of Soviet history.

The same day, the parliament, known at the Verkhovna Rada, officially approved the ultra-right Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and its successor, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). The Rada declared the two groups "freedom fighters" entitled to receive benefits under the new law.

The UPA/OUN and its leader, notorious Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera, worked hand in hand with Hitler Germany during its World War II occupation of Soviet Ukraine. Later, during the Cold War, the UPA/OUN worked with the CIA to carry out terrorist actions against the USSR.

Some 270 of the Rada's 450 deputies voted in favor of the bill. No one dared vote against it.

The night following the vote, right-wingers rampaged through the eastern city of Kharkov, tearing down three Soviet-era monuments. (Agence France Presse, April 11)

According to an April 9 report in the independent Kiev newspaper, Vesti, the Security Service of Ukraine "blocked more than 10,000 websites" and "seized the servers" of web hosts. (Global Research, April 10)

But there is resistance, too. April 10 is the anniversary of Odessa's liberation from Nazi occupation. There people protested a visit by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. Confronting neo-Nazi regime supporters, they chanted "Murderers!" and "Fascism will not pass!" (Timer-Odessa.net)

In a statement released on its Facebook page, the revolutionary Marxist orga-

nization Union Bortoba (Struggle) said: "Today's decision by the Rada to ban communist ideology is the same logical and inevitable result of the victory of Euromaidan as are the civil war, Draconian utility rate increases and elimination of social benefits, along with the remnants of free education and health care."

Despite the ban, Borotba vows to "promote communist ideology in Ukraine with a vengeance." Many of Borotba's activists have been forced into exile, imprisoned and/or violently attacked.

## Erasing anti-fascist history

The new laws were adopted in anticipation of the upcoming 70th anniversary of Soviet Victory Day over Nazi Germany on May 9. Ukrainian veterans of the conflict who display their Red Army uniforms and medals, or anti-fascists who carry replicas of the flag planted by Soviet troops atop the Reichstag (parliament) in Berlin when they liberated the city from Nazi rule in 1945, could face a prison sentence of 5 to 10 years.

Those who collaborated with Hitler's genocidal regime and their successors will be celebrated as heroes.

This alliance of capitalist oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and neo-Nazis came to power in an illegal coup, funded and supported by Washington, in February 2014.

One year ago, on April 13, 2014, Kiev's new rulers launched a war of terror against the primarily Russian-speaking population of southeastern Ukraine, known as the Donbass, as well as against anti-fascists throughout the country.

Ukrainian rightist forces violated the latest ceasefire agreement, negotiated by Russia, Germany and France in February, at least 200 times by the first week of April. Russia's foreign ministry denounced the Rada's communist ban.

Alexander Smekalin, a deputy of the Donetsk People's Republic Supreme Soviet and co-founder of the Union of Left Forces of Donbass, announced on social

media April 13: "In light of recent events in the territories occupied by the Kiev junta, liberated Donbass will welcome refugees and displaced persons from the former Ukraine. We will provide political asylum for internationalists and anti-fascists."

## 'Ban on Marxism, leftist ideology'

A court case brought by the junta to ban the Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU) has not yet been decided. However, the new ban on communist "propaganda" and symbols sets the stage for such a ruling.

Days before the Rada vote, on April 1, the Security Service of Ukraine — the country's equivalent to the FBI — initiated a criminal case against KPU leader Peter Simonenko, charging him with responsibility for "terrorist activities" by party members, illegally obtaining Russian citizenship and collaboration with the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. (KPU statement, SolidNet.org, April 1)

Several other well-known Marxist leaders have recently been put on trial, including A.A. Majewski, editor of "Workers' and Peasants' Truth" and secretary of the All Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), and former Rada Deputy Alexander Bondarchuk, editor of "Working Class" and chair of the All-Ukrainian Union of Workers.

Andriy Manchuk, editor-in-chief of the Ukrainian Marxist website Liva ("The Left"), explained: "For those who do not understand, the bill is going to ban Marxism, among other things associated with the communists, and leftist ideology in general."

Manchuk was among those forced to seek refuge last year in Crimea, where residents voted in a popular referendum to rejoin Russia following the coup in Kiev.

## Fascists central to U.S. plans for Ukraine

The anti-communist law adopted by the Rada cynically equates the Soviet Union with Nazi Germany and claims to

ban the symbols and ideology of both. But this is merely a lie for international consumption — a flimsy attempt to make the latest wave of repression more palatable to Washington's European junior partners.

In fact, with Washington's support, fascist elements are becoming more deeply integrated into the Kiev government and Ukrainian military, and Nazi symbolism is ever-present.

Soldiers from the U.S. Army 172nd "Sky Soldiers" Airborne Brigade are scheduled to begin training members of Azov and other National Guard units on April 20. (Associated Press, March 31)

In late March, a standoff between President Petro Poroshenko's government and a rival oligarch, the ultra-rightist Igor Kolomoisky, ended when Washington reportedly came down in favor of the current regime. However, this is no move to the "left," as the junta is integrating fascist elements into central roles in the state at an ever-quicken pace.

Why? Working-class draftees have deserted or fled Ukraine in droves since the war against the Donbass republics began. Meanwhile, the neo-Nazis have proven to be the only motivated force in this war. Like the ultra-right Latin Americans trained at the "School of the Americas" at Ft. Benning, Ga., these elements are the backbone of U.S. plans to dominate the Donbass region and bring NATO bases to Russia's western border.

Case in point: Dmitry Yarosh, head of the fascist Right Sector and a Kolomoisky client, was appointed as a top advisor to Col. Gen. Viktor Muzhenko, chief of general staff of the Ukrainian military. Yarosh "will act as a link between the volunteer battalions and the General Staff," military spokesperson Oleksiy Mazepa said. (AFP, April 7)

The Right Sector's 10,000-strong Ukrainian Volunteer Corps will be integrated into the chain of command and receive funding from the Ministry of Defense. □

# 300,000 workers march vs. austerity

By G. Dunkel

On Thursday, April 9, 300,000 workers marched in 80 cities throughout France at the call of four major unions: the General Confederation of Workers (CGT), Workers' Force (FO), the major education union (FSU) and Solidaires, which is concentrated in mass transit and the postal system. The Paris march alone was 120,000.

The strikes reflected by this turnout closed a few tourist spots, like the Eiffel Tower, but mainly affected schools, where 25 percent of the teachers went out, and the postal service, where more than 6 percent of the workers struck.

The French Democratic Federation of Labor (CFDT), which is closely tied to the Socialist Party, which currently runs the French government, did not participate, saying negotiations were more effective than street marches. Its leader, Laurent Berger, proclaimed, "Austerity doesn't exist in France." (Le Figaro, April 9) The party is socialist in name only and supports French capitalism.

Many of the CGT contingents said that

this was just the first protest. There will be others.

As in many large French protests, there were flashes of politically sharp humor. Bakery workers, for instance, marched waving half-eaten baguettes. Their spokesperson said that prices were going up as jobs are going down, so that half a baguette is all that people are able to afford.

The reactions in the major business-owned media were significant.

French television, of course, couldn't ignore 300,000 people in the streets against austerity, but they tried to minimize the turnout and the effects of the strike. The daily paper Le Figaro didn't even mention the number in its coverage.

If you looked hard, it was possible to find some coverage in the English-speaking press, but generally the media in both languages were much more interested in analyzing the split in France's fascist party, the National Front (FN), which won

## FRANCE



Workers demand no closing of Nexcis solar panel plant in Rousset, France.

about 25 percent of the vote in local elections held nationwide a few weeks ago.

Marine Le Pen, the current FN leader, was upset by the openly anti-semitic, pro-Vichy, xenophobic and racist remarks made recently by her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of the FN. The pro-Nazi Vichy ran France under German occupation during World War II.

The differences between them aren't really political. It is more about a softer image on Marine's part to the hard-nose

approach of her father, who after all started his career as an "intelligence officer" — torturer — in France's war against Algerian independence.

But their dispute has had a major impact on the rightward course of European politics. Both the English-language press, like the New York Times, and the French press have devoted a lot of attention to it.

The workers in the street don't support the FN and made no reference to this sparring among their enemies. □



# Washington escalates role in Saudi attack on Yemen

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

Pakistan's parliament on April 10 voted to refrain from joining the Saudi Arabian and Gulf Cooperation Council — a coalition of the Saudi rulers with the other Gulf-area monarchies — now bombing Yemen. The bombing is the latest in a series of political and military struggles over who will control the impoverished but strategically significant Yemeni state, which is home to 25 million people.

Before a high-level meeting with military officials, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the parliamentary resolution was in accord with government policy, but threatened to intervene if there were a threat to the stability and sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, which he called a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Pakistan's hesitancy showed the danger for U.S. imperialism of initiating a new military adventure, even when it is operating through proxies like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, after U.S. military units were driven out of Yemen earlier this year. Similar hesitancy can be seen in Egypt.

The U.S. is providing important intelligence and logistical coordination to the Saudi-GCC bombing campaign, involving the refueling of bombers. Although President Barack Obama's administration announced that it had withdrawn its Special Forces from the country several weeks ago, the Pentagon's re-entry is designed to support the Saudi-GCC efforts aimed at halting the Ansurallah movement (Houthis) and re-imposing the regime of exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

## U.S. official praises Saudi aggression

Deputy Secretary of State Anthony J. Blinken announced to the international press on April 7 that Washington had established a "joint coordination planning cell" with the Saudi regime. This follows reports that the Pentagon is increasing its supply of weapons to Riyadh in efforts to bolster the war against the Houthi movement in Yemen. (New York Times, April 7)

Blinken praised the Saudis for carrying out the bombing operations and blockade of Yemen. Without even a blush, he said that the actions taken by the monarchy and its allies are "sending a strong message to the Houthis and their allies that they cannot overrun Yemen by force." (Reuters, April 7)

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah

el-Sisi has proposed that Egypt deploy a ground force in support of Saudi objectives in Yemen, but this proposal faces growing criticism in the North African state. Egyptians remember the five-year military campaign during 1962-67 under former President Gamal Abdel Nasser who intervened — in that case with a progressive goal — against the Saudi monarchy. Thousands of Egyptian troops died.

A small demonstration was held on April 9 outside the Saudi Embassy in Cairo. Although anti-government protests are illegal in Egypt, the security forces allowed the action.

The April 9 Al-Ahram newspaper reported, "Mohamed Hassanein Heikal, a prominent intellectual and former confidante of President Gamal Abdel Nasser and an El-Sisi supporter, told a TV show this week that Egypt 'never learned' from the 1960s' war in Yemen. 'We shouldn't jump to war. ... We need to know if Saudi Arabia is ready for the costs. Yemen is a sleeping volcano south of the Arabian Peninsula. If it erupts, it will sweep the entire region.'"

Nonetheless, this same article stressed that Egypt is beholden to Saudi Arabia and the GCC because of their financial support for the military coup that ousted President Mohamed Morsi on July 3, 2013. Egypt will receive bonds and other support topping \$6 billion from the states taking part in the Yemen campaign.

## Military attacks on Yemen escalate

Meanwhile, Saudi warships have imposed a blockade of the southern port city of Aden, where a humanitarian crisis is escalating every day. The military action curtails trade in oil and natural gas from the country.

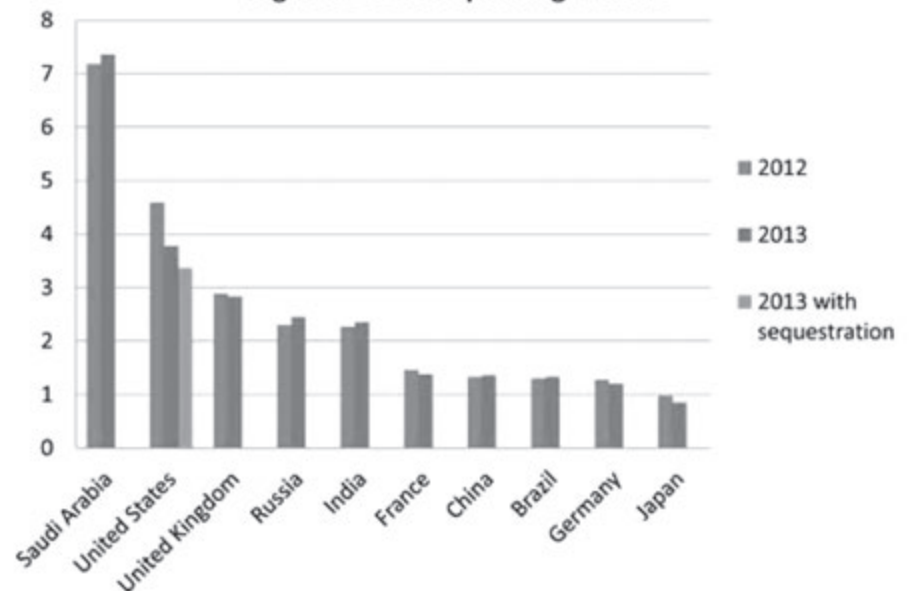
The naval blockade is placing further pressure on the residents of Aden and other areas of the country, while bombing operations led by Saudi Arabia using U.S.-supplied F-15 and F-16 fighter jets have been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of civilians.

Telecommunications and other infrastructural targets have also been a major focus of airstrikes. Attacks carried out on April 13 hit substations and power lines, knocking out electricity supplies and internet connectivity.

Large sections of the country have been left in the dark without communications with the outside world. This is worsening the already aggravated humanitarian crisis, as food supplies dwindle due to the blockade.

On April 13, Yemen's state energy firm revealed it could not generate power due

Military Expenditures as a Percentage of GDP for 10 Highest Defense Spending Nations



to inadequate fuel supplies. On the same day telecommunications towers in Sanaa were bombed by the Saudi-led aerial campaign. During the previous week a Yemen state television station had been bombed.

## U.S. role central

Pentagon military official Col. Steven Warren admitted that "a handful of [U.S.] personnel are working in 'a joint sort of fusion center' run by the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is led by Saudi Arabia and includes the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain." (McClatchy Washington Bureau, April 6)

The Wall Street Journal reported on April 12 that "the U.S. Navy, backing a Saudi naval blockade of Yemen's ports, has intensified a search for weapons on the seas near Yemen's coast. Iran is trying to supply the Houthis with surface-to-air missiles, a senior U.S. defense of-

ficial said."

The same Wall Street Journal article notes that for the first time U.S. sailors on a destroyer in the Red Sea halted a Panamanian-flagged freighter and searched the vessel, but found no Iranian or other weapons.

Despite reports from Iran's enemies that Iranian naval vessels have been deployed, there have been no attacks on civilians by military forces from Tehran.

However, the State Department has issued a warning to Iran saying that Washington will not sit idly by and watch Yemen be "overrun." What gives the U.S. the right to lecture others when it is deeply involved in this war? As usual, no one in Congress has even questioned the authority of the White House and the Pentagon to facilitate yet another military intervention without even the fig leaf of the War Powers Act. □

# Obama, a centrist, yields to right wing

Continued from page 5

bellion in the industrial heartland of eastern Ukraine. Separatist, anti-fascist movements developed. The people of Crimea voted to rejoin Russia. And an anti-fascist resistance war began.

The U.S. government is now backing a reactionary oligarchic regime in Kiev. This regime is mostly dependent on fascist forces for the little social and military support it has. The Ukrainian army is totally unreliable. The Kiev forces have been driven out of much of eastern Ukraine.

The Kiev government is totally bankrupt and has had to rely on an emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund of \$18.5 billion — with no real way to pay it back except by taking money out

of the hides of the Ukrainian masses.

The U.S. government has sharpened tensions with Russia, and is now in the position of having to shore up the Ukraine regime militarily. European imperialists are trying to guide some kind of settlement to end the fighting and restore stability. But at the same time, the Pentagon is sending in forces to train the fascist dregs in the Ukrainian army. Also, the Pentagon and NATO have moved forces into the Baltic and East European client states.

The Obama administration, by allowing the right wing to take over Ukraine policy and carry out a coup, has wound up with another ongoing geostrategic, military crisis on its hands. It has possession of a bankrupt, discredited regime, depen-

dent on right-wing and fascist forces. All its plans to penetrate Ukraine gradually, by subversion, have gone up in smoke.

This is another case of totally underestimating the anti-fascist, anti-imperialist sentiment of the Ukrainian masses. It was a total miscalculation based on placating the right-wing, militarist camp in the U.S. ruling-class political establishment.

The broad picture is that the ruling class as a whole has regarded the era since the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Europe in the early 1990s as one of reconquest of all that was lost to imperialism during the 20th century.

The right wing in the U.S. — the John McCains, Lindsay Grahams, Henry Kissingers and their ilk — represent the most aggressive and expansionist section

of the ruling class, which is striving to attain total global dominance.

Centrists like Obama, who even slightly deviate from this agenda, are castigated and put under pressure and attack.

It is not that the Obama administration is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. Not at all. But Obama recognizes some of the weaknesses of U.S. imperialism in Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, etc., and is trying to shore up its position in places where it is weak, in order to regain the initiative for U.S. big business and the Pentagon.

Centrism always winds up deferring to the right wing in a crisis — even though the right wing is totally out of touch with the reality that the sentiment held by the majority of humanity is anti-imperialist. □

# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

# After Walter Scott's murder, police try to divide the movement

As the whole world knows, Walter Scott, a 50-year-old African American, was fatally shot in the back multiple times by a white police officer, Michael T. Slager, on April 4. The murder occurred in North Charleston, S.C., a city that is 47 percent Black but where four out of every five police officers are white. As Scott's family so eloquently stated, the police used him as target practice.

The entire incident, from the time Slager stopped Scott for a "routine traffic stop" to when the cop shot Scott as he was fleeing in fear of his life, was caught on cell phone video.

Slager claimed that Scott took his Taser away from him, but the video clearly showed that Scott was unarmed and that Slager planted an object similar to a Taser next to Scott's body. Slager was shown handcuffing Scott as he lay on the ground dying. Other police officers eventually arrived on the scene, but it is still a question whether any of them attempted to revive Scott.

After the police viewed the horrifying video, Slager was fired, arrested and then charged with first-degree murder. If convicted, he could face the death penalty or life in prison.

This is a very rare situation in the U.S.

Why? Because a police officer's word is taken as "gospel" 99.9 percent of the time when any kind of police brutality is carried out — especially when that officer is white and the victim is a person of color, young or just a worker.

However, the Black Lives Matter movement, which was ignited by the police murder of 18-year-old Michael Brown last August in Ferguson, Mo., has raised an unprecedented level of consciousness about the naked, racist war of police terror on Black and Brown people, especially youth. But this war is not relegated only to youth of color, as shown by the videotaped chokehold police murder of 43-year-old Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y., and now the murder of Scott.

Even high-profile athletes, such as Thabo Sefolosha, a forward with the National Basketball Association's Atlanta Hawks team, have been targeted by the police. Sefolosha suffered a fractured right fibula and ligament damage when five members of the New York Police Department attacked him with their batons in the early morning of April 8. This police attack, which was condemned by Sefolosha April 14, was also captured on video. None of the officers has been charged or even put on desk duty as of this writing. The NBA is carrying out its own investigation. Sefolosha is an athlete of color whose father is a Black South

African. Professional and collegiate athletes in many sports have expressed solidarity with the BLM movement.

### Attempt to divide and conquer

As the April 15 national demonstrations demanding "\$15 an hour and a union" approach, low-wage workers' lives, particularly if they are women, youth and oppressed, are expendable under capitalism in the midst of the ongoing economic crisis caused by putting profits before human needs. This social reality — the absence of good-paying jobs with benefits — has intensified, creating an open season of police terror and mass incarceration.

The heroic rebellion in Ferguson last August, followed by BLM-led, shut-it-down coordinated actions, has clearly put the police on the defensive, and in general tarnished their phony image of being the "protectors" of the people. This is why all activists should expose the attempt by the police themselves and the capitalist media to divide this movement. They may admit that the killing of Scott was murder, but they call the killings of others, such as Brown and Garner, just "tragedies," implying no culpability on the part of the police.

The police understand, along with the 1% — the ruling class whose interests the police protect — that there is a righteous, deepening mistrust of their role in society as a brutal, occupying force.

In an April 10 Washington Post opinion piece, "Think Walter Scott's death is 'another Ferguson'? Cops don't," written by a former Baltimore cop, the author says that police from around the country may view lethal force as murder when a person is fleeing, but police having "altercations" with civilians resulting in deaths or injuries are "tragedies," not "criminal."

This is a ridiculous argument — that the police have the right to use deadly force when all they have to say is they believed they were in a vulnerable situation. Explain this disgusting notion to the family of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was ruthlessly shot down by police in Cleveland last fall while holding a toy BB gun and then allowed to bleed to death. Or to the family of 22-year-old John Crawford III, who was fatally shot by police in an Ohio Walmart for holding a toy BB gun, just a few days before Michael Brown's murder.

So in the eyes of the police, Scott's killing was unjustified, while the majority of other killings by police are justified. This is a bold-faced lie — to cover the fact that every 28 hours in this country a youth of color is murdered by the police or rac-

ist vigilantism. This reasoning should be viewed as an insidious and dangerous ploy to divide and weaken the BLM movement.

The police want to project Slager's actions as an isolated incident: that Slager muddied the reputation of all police, unlike those cops who just make "bad mistakes" when confronted by victims like Brown and Garner who are carrying out "petty crimes." Those so-called "mistakes" just so happen to snuff out people's lives.

This raises the obvious question that if the murder of Scott had not been videotaped, would Slager ever have been fired and charged with murder? Certainly, such a thing has never happened before.

### Organizing to disarm police

The statistics speak for themselves. Another Washington Post article, "Thousands dead, few prosecuted" published April 12, reports that Bowling Green State University researchers have found that, since 2005, out of the thousands of cases of mostly unarmed people killed by the police, only 54 have been prosecuted.

The article states, "When prosecutors pressed charges, the Post analysis found, there were typically other factors that made the case exceptional, including: a victim shot in the back, a video recording of the incident, incriminating testimony from other officers or allegations of a coverup. Forty-three cases involved at least one of these four factors. Nineteen cases involved at least two."

These statistics are a condemnation of the entire injustice system of not only the police and prosecutors but also judges, juries, media — all part of the repressive state apparatus that is guided by white supremacist and anti-worker views.

The chorus of calls for disarming and even abolishing the police is growing, especially from community organizations like the People's Power Assemblies, which are mobilizing for a major People's Tribunal Against Police Terror and Structural Racism. There will be more than enough evidence from graphic videos exposing police killings and beatings as well as live testimony from surviving victims and family members to show that these demands are justified. Along with that must come solutions of how communities can be empowered to protect themselves from racist occupation and state repression.

Along with defending and helping the Black Lives Matter upsurge to grow, this tribunal can also assist in bringing some justice for ALL the Walter Scotts in this racist society. □

## 'Help my husband get free'

### Wadiya Jamal describes visit with Mumia

*On April 9, Wadiya Jamal visited her spouse, Mumia Abu-Jamal, at SCI Mahanoy. Here are excerpts from her account of that visit.*

I had seen Mumia in the ICU at the hospital, where he was sitting upright, handcuffed to a chair. I saw the photos taken of Mumia during the visit on Monday, April 6, with my sister Pam Africa, I Abdul Jon and Johanna Fernandez. I cried when I saw those photos. But I still wasn't prepared for how Mumia looked seeing him in the prison visiting room. He was worse. I felt my husband is about to die.

Later on, after the three-hour visit with Mumia, we were guests on NMEMINDZ Radio with Professor Griff and co-host ZaZa Ali. To you all who love and support Mumia, here are some edited excerpts and an update on Mumia's medical condition.

Mumia had to bring himself down to the visiting room from the prison infirmary in an old wheelchair, not motorized, had to use his arms that were weak and in pain; his breathing was labored.

I was in shock at how he looked. We embraced and kissed. When I saw him reading legal papers his hands were shaking hard. I put my hands on his hands and tried to steady him so he could read the information. He was shivering so hard, my hands were shaking as well. I put my arms around him and my head to his chest to hear his heart and to bring some warmth to his body because he said he was freezing. And then the guard comes and tells us, "No hugging." I was just trying to keep him warm.

My husband is innocent. He killed no one. I've said it before and I'll say it again, his only crime is he survived a severe gunshot to the chest and a serious ass-whipping by "Philly's finest" and then they attempted to kill him in his hospital bed by stepping on his urine bag and flushing the poison back on him. And now they are trying to do it again.

The way my husband looks today, it looks like they are going to succeed, unless we get some real doctors up there to take care of him. Mumia's life is at risk. It is execution by medical neglect and mistreatment. The only way I see that Mumia is going to survive this is if he is free, because I can't trust any of them.

Mumia didn't have a history of diabetes. Did you see the picture of Mumia, before his illness, how strong he is, how big he is? You see the difference in him now?! I've never seen him so weak like this in my life. You have to understand that I am angry. I'm hurting. I could feel his shoulder blades — that's how thin he is. I was rubbing his thighs and I could feel the scabs underneath the jump suit. Whatever this stuff is, it is killing Mumia — and it's on purpose.

Please, please, please, I beg of everybody to help my husband get free, because he is dying in there. He just needs to be home. He should never have been in prison to start off. Not a day.

*To demand adequate health care for Mumia, go to [iacenter.org/prisoners/mumia/maj2-040615/](http://iacenter.org/prisoners/mumia/maj2-040615/). Also check Mumia Abu-Jamal on Facebook for more information.*

# At OAS & People's Summits — Broad support for Cuba

Continued from page 1

(CELAC) are new cooperative structures that have surpassed the OAS.

To make up for being excluded from six summits, Raul Castro requested that the OAS eight-minute time limit be extended — and wound up speaking 46 minutes. He said the financial, economic and commercial blockade of Cuba unilaterally imposed by the U.S. is still very much in force and effect. He reviewed the history of U.S. attempts to annex and dominate Cuba that led to the 1898 U.S. occupation of Guantanamo Bay.

Raul Castro specifically defended Argentina's struggle to reclaim the Malvinas Islands and its current defense of its financial sovereignty against U.S. courts and vulture capitalists. He supported Puerto Rico's self-determination and independence and Ecuador's battle against transnational corporations and the environmental damage they have caused. He called for "reparations for damages brought on [Haiti] by slavery and colonialism."

The Cuban president also criticized the world financial system and the domination by "less than a dozen news conglomerates, mainly from the U.S." that "determine what is read, seen or heard

across the planet." (Granma, April 11)

## U.S. list of 'state sponsors of terrorism'

A U.S. State Department review and recommendation needed to formally remove Cuba from the U.S.-created list of "countries sponsoring terrorism" was completed April 9. The White House is now reviewing it prior to presidential approval and formal submission to Congress.

Obama initiated the review on Dec. 17. Thus a lot of time has already passed in which to remove this insulting and baseless designation. Most of the four main categories of sanctions imposed on countries on this arbitrary U.S. list do not apply to Cuba. For example, Cuba seeks no U.S. foreign assistance, defense exports and sales, or uncontrolled exports of dual-use items.

The Cuban Adjustment Act, commonly known as "wet-foot-dry-foot," gives special status to Cuban immigrants, and was not originally intended to apply beyond the early wave of Cubans leaving the revolution. The U.S. also entices Cuban doctors to abandon their international assignments and come to the U.S.

If Cuba is removed from the "terrorist list," this may allow Obama to exercise his presidential powers and carry out ad-

ditional actions. Such actions were projected by Cuban diplomat Josefina Vidal in an interview with the newspaper Granma, "The Blockade Has Not Ended." (Feb. 12) In it Vidal points out that it is possible for Obama to authorize direct bilateral trade, but that trade through third countries and allowing U.S. tourists to visit Cuba must be authorized by Congress.

Removal from the terrorist list is also considered key to restoring normal banking rights, which have been denied to the Cuban Interests Section and Cuba's United Nations mission.

While President Obama claims the United States is standing up for universal principles and human rights around the world, U.S. policies cannot be separated from the coups in Honduras and Paraguay that have taken place during his administration.

Washington also intervenes in the domestic affairs of other countries, for example, via the U.S. Agency for International Development. USAID had contracted the now-forgotten Alan Gross to install secret, military-grade communication systems in Cuba. And there is the National Endowment for Democracy, which spends U.S. tax dollars for Radio and TV Marti to broadcast propaganda

to Cuba — money that should be spent on human needs here.

At the official summit, U.S. credentials were issued to notorious characters like Felix Rodriguez, a CIA agent involved in killing Che Guevara, who also has ties to the perpetrators of terror attacks launched against Cuba from the U.S. The Cuban American National Foundation and former U.S. Interests Section staff organized and oriented the presence of U.S.-funded Cuban "dissidents."

In addition, it was very difficult for popular organizations to get credentials to participate in panel discussions. Requests by organizations like the National Front for Economic and Social Rights — which is made up of 53 Panamanian organizations — were rejected. The Construction Workers' Union of Panama, one of the largest labor unions in Central America, was rejected. Several teachers and student leaders were denied participation. The Cuban labor confederation was denied credentials.

This led to popular organizations calling a People's Summit to give voice to the thousands of social movements, from environmental groups to unions, that had been excluded. (See "Voices from the People's Summit," Telesur) □

## 'Between equals' FARC statement on the peace talks

The following is a statement by Marco León Calarcá, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), made on April 3 and translated from the Spanish by the Mundo Obrero staff.

Feelings and political positions aside, it is time to build peace. That is in essence, the responsibility of the Conversation Table and therefore merits full solidarity.

To recognize this reality, 51 years of armed confrontation, in this latest stage, the guerrilla's belief is that war cannot be Colombia's destiny, as the unforgettable commander Jacobo Arenas proclaimed and as it is written in the pronouncement embodied in the first official document of the FARC-EP, the Agrarian Program of the Guerrillas, which clearly shows the revolutionary goal taking the road available, be it the armed conflict imposed by the attack at Marquetalia or through the peaceful one if the conditions exist. [Editor's note: Marquetalia was a rural autonomous area attacked in May 1964 by the Colombian military. The defenders of Marquetalia later formed the FARC.]

The establishment and especially the imperialist transnationals need peace, not towards noble ends or thinking about people's social well-being, but they require peace for the exploitation of mining and energy resources located in areas where there is a strong guerrilla presence, and to take the land they need for the development of agro-industrial mega-proj-



Marco León Calarcá, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)

ects intended to produce agro-fuels.

The General Agreement ending the conflict and building a stable and lasting peace, signed on Aug. 26, 2012, allowed the public start of peace talks in Havana and is based on bilateral agreements, obligations and duties of the signatories: the national government and the FARC-EP.

In the absence of winners or losers, we are in a dialogue between equal partners, marked by the pursuit of agreements in different points and aspects. Therefore, every attempt of unilateral imposition should be considered an attack on the Conversation Table. That is, no more or no less, among others, the Legal Framework for Peace, the reference point to which the leadership of transition and the promoted

transitional justice do not find space.

From sectors of the right and the extreme right, vociferous attacks are made on the Conversation Table and the Santos government is accused of handing the country over to the guerrillas, to terrorism; they only see a process of subjugation.

At the same time, self-declared leftist groups accuse the insurgency of giving up its principles and betraying the people by engaging in this dialogue. In the middle exists the majority that works for peace.

The discussion is not about legality or legitimacy, since in this area there will never be an agreement because of the political ideology that separates us.

We hear, read and see the ranting of

the surveys that reject any agreement that would be on an equal footing because "the Colombian people do not accept that the guerrillas developed a political struggle, they are bandits." What is never said outright and is known by the poor of the earth, that immense national majority, is that these statements come from the desire of the minority enriched at the expense of the people.

And they never mention or reflect on the reality of millions and millions of inhabitants of Colombia, men and women dissatisfied with the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental development of the country, people who valiantly resist and struggle for their ideals and diverse demands that bring change in order to enjoy a worthy life of work, education and health, decent housing and national pride in sovereignty and independence, without giving up or forgetting the revolutionary objectives.

It is imperative to channel the social forces and unite them into a single stream towards the necessary structural changes that will make peace and social justice possible, weaving them, linking them, connecting them with all the popular efforts that lead us to democratic, peaceful and sovereign objectives. The various modes of expression, creativity and transformative power make it possible. The efforts to make them invisible will continue, but that is part of the struggle. □



Marco León Calarcá

## Mensaje a la Cumbre de los Pueblos

### **A nuestros hermanos y hermanas en la Cumbre de los Pueblos:**

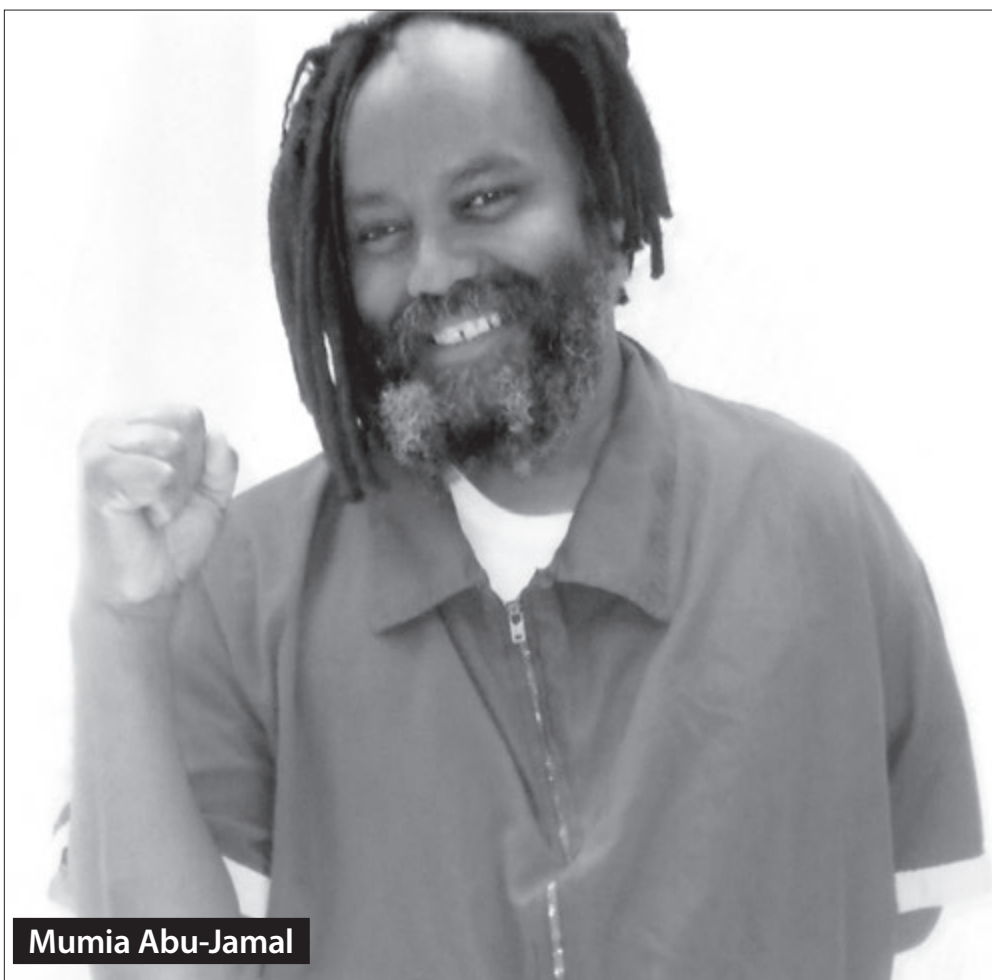
El movimiento progresista y revolucionario en los EE.UU. se solidariza con la Cumbre de los Pueblos celebrándose en Panamá del 9-11 de abril. Nos solidarizamos con la Revolución Cubana, la Revolución Bolivariana de Venezuela y con todos los que luchan en contra del imperialismo en las Américas y a través del mundo.

Rechazamos la campaña persistente de hostilidad por parte de Washington en contra de la soberanía de Venezuela y exigimos la revocación inmediata del decreto del Presidente Obama el 9 de marzo que declara a esa nación un “peligro” para la seguridad nacional de los EE.UU. En un país en que las vidas de negros son arrebatadas violentamente cada 28 horas por fuerzas del estado o represivas de manera completamente impune, los EE.UU. tiene absolutamente ninguna autoridad moral para emitir dicha declaración. Es en los EE.UU. en que existe una crisis permanente de los derechos humanos debido al asesinato de tantas personas jóvenes y de color.

Por los tanto, desenmascaramos la completa hipocresía de los EE.UU. que dice que los derechos humanos son violados en Venezuela.

En Venezuela, Leopoldo López, quien es responsable de la violencia suscitada en el atentado de golpe en contra del Presidente Maduro que dejó un saldo de 43 personas muertas, está recibiendo un trato muy bueno mientras es encarcelado por los crímenes que cometió, y tiene acceso a un gimnasio, computadora, visitas, etc. En contraste, en los EE.UU. al preso político Mumia Abu-Jamal, a quien se le ha fabricado un caso al ser injustamente acusado del asesinato de un policía y ha estado en prisión desde el 1982 por luchar en contra del racismo y la brutalidad policial, se le está negando un derecho básico: cuidado de salud adecuado en un intento por el estado para asesinarlo.

Como prisionero del Imperio, fue condenado a la muerte y fue solamente la lucha del pueblo que obligó al estado a cancelar la sentencia de muerte y trasladarlo con la población general de la prisión. Sin embargo, ahora el estado de Pensilvania insiste en ejecutarlo al



Mumia Abu-Jamal

negarle los servicios médicos que requiere.

El 30 de marzo, Mumia Abu-Jamal sufrió una emergencia médica y fue llevado a la Unidad de Cuidado Intensivo de un Centro Médico en Pottsville, PA. Cuando su familia y amigos descubren que su salud está deteriorando seriamente debido a la negligencia médica, inmediatamente viajaron al hospital para conocer mejor sobre su condición. Al principio, los miembros de su familia fueron negados el derecho de visitarlo y solo por medio de una campaña nacional exigiendo visitarlo fue que se logró este derecho.

Washington.

¡Que viva la solidaridad internacional! ¡Que vivan los pueblos de las Américas!

¡Fin al bloqueo en contra de Cuba!

Obama: ¡Revoque la Orden Ejecutiva en contra de Venezuela y saquen las manos de Venezuela!

¡Libertad para Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oscar López Rivera y para todos los presos políticos en los EEUU!

*Declaración emitida por el Centro Internacional de Acción: iac.org.*

### **¡Salve la vida de Mumia!**

Deseamos pedir su respaldo para salvar la vida de Mumia.

Fue solo el respaldo del pueblo lo que logró rescatar a Mumia de la condena a muerte. Y ahora necesitamos su respaldo para asegurar que el estado de Pensilvania no lo asesine a través de la negligencia médica.

Solicitamos que la Cumbre de los Pueblos apruebe una resolución en apoyo a Mumia Abu-Jamal, exigiendo que reciba de manera inmediata la atención médica adecuada y que Mumia no sea ejecutado por medio del uso de la negligencia médica. Solo el pueblo y los movimientos unidos podrán detener la mano de

## FARC-EP de Colombia

# Entre partes iguales

Por Marco León Calarcá  
Abril 3 de 2015

Sentimientos y posiciones políticas aparte, es hora de construir la Paz. Esa es ni más ni menos, la responsabilidad de La Mesa de Conversaciones y por eso es merecedora de toda la solidaridad.

Reconocer esa realidad, los 51 años de confrontación armada, en esta última etapa, el convencimiento guerrillero que la guerra no puede ser el destino de Colombia como lo proclamaba el inolvidable comandante Jacobo Arenas y la decisión plasmada en el primer documento oficial de las FARC-EP, el Programa Agrario de los Guerrilleros, que muestra con claridad el objetivo revolucionario siguiendo el camino posible, el armado que impusieron con el ataque a Marquetalia o el pacífico si existen las condiciones.

El establecimiento y sobre todo las transnacionales imperiales necesitan la paz, no con fines nobles ni pensando en el bienestar social, requieren garantizar la explotación de los recursos mineros y energéticos ubicados en áreas de fuerte presencia guerrillera al igual que las tierras necesarias para el desarrollo de los megaproyectos agroindustriales dirigidos a producir

agro-combustibles.

El Acuerdo General para la terminación del conflicto y la construcción de una paz estable y duradera, firmado el 26 de agosto de 2012 permitió el inicio público de los diálogos de paz en La Habana y se basa en la bilateralidad, es decir obligaciones y deberes de las partes firmantes, el Gobierno nacional y las FARC-EP.

Al no haber, vencedores ni vencidos, nos encontramos en un diálogo entre partes iguales, signado por la búsqueda de acuerdos en los diferentes puntos y aspectos. Por tanto todos los intentos de imposición, de unilateralidad, deben considerarse ataques a La Mesa de Conversaciones. Estos son, ni más ni menos, entre otros, el Marco Jurídico para la Paz, el referendo al cual no le acaban de encontrar acomodo, el comando de transición y la promovida justicia transicional.

Desde sectores de la derecha y su extrema se vociferan contra La Mesa de Conversaciones, se sindicó al gobierno santista de entregar el país a la guerrilla, al terrorismo, solo ven posible un proceso de sometimiento. Igual, fracciones que se autoproclaman de izquierda acusan a la insurgencia de entregar principios y traicionar al pueblo por comprometerse con los diálogos. En medio la mayoría que trabaja por la paz.

La discusión no es por legalidad y legitimidad, en ese campo nunca habrá acuerdo, pues nos separa la concepción ideológica política.

Oímos, leemos, vemos la perorata de las encuestas que rechazan cualquier acuerdo en pie de igualdad, porque “el pueblo colombiano no acepta que la guerrilla desarrolló una lucha con política, son bandidos”, lo que nunca se aclara y es conocido por los pobres de la tierra, esa inmensa mayoría nacional, es que dichas afirmaciones proceden del deseo de las minorías enriquecidas a costillas del pueblo.

Tampoco nunca dicen ni reflejan la realidad de millones y millones de habitantes de Colombia, hombres y mujeres inconformes con la situación económica, política, social, cultural y medioambiental del país, gente que resiste valerosamente y lucha por sus ideales y diversas reivindicaciones que acerquen a un cambio para disfrutar de vida digna producto del trabajo, educación y salud, vivienda decente y orgullo patrio por soberanía e independencia, sin abandonar, ni olvidar los objetivos revolucionarios.

Corresponde encauzar las fuerzas sociales y unir las en un solo torrente hacia los necesarios cambios estructurales que posibiliten la paz con justicia social, tejer, enlazar, puentear todos los esfuerzos populares nos conduce a los objetivos democráticos, pacificadores y soberanos. Las diversas maneras de expresión, la creatividad y el poder transformador lo hacen posible. Los esfuerzos por invisibilizarlas continúan, es parte de la lucha. □