



Aid ship bound for Yemen, page 11.

From Ferguson to Baltimore

JAIL KILLER COPS!

By **Monica Moorehead**

The murder of 18-year-old Michael Brown last Aug. 9 by white police officer Darren Wilson ignited an almost two-week uprising in Ferguson, Mo. Led by Black youth, this rebellion began the process of shining a spotlight on the deep-seated, horrifying atrocities that have been taking place inside and outside police departments around the U.S. for many decades. The current ground zero of this upsurge is Baltimore.

Even though the U.S. Department of Justice in early March failed to indict Wilson for civil rights violations in Brown's murder due to "probable cause," it issued a damning report March 4 that confirmed rampant racism in the Ferguson Police Department. This report would not have seen the light of day so quickly were it not for the heroic rebellion that exposed the militarization of the police there.

Abayomi Azikiwe wrote about the DOJ

report for this newspaper: "Data collected by the Ferguson Police Department from 2012 to 2014 shows African Americans account for 85 percent of vehicle stops, 90 percent of citations, and 93 percent of arrests made by FPD officers, despite comprising only 67 percent of Ferguson's population. African Americans are more than twice as likely as white drivers to be searched during vehicle stops even after controlling for non-race-based variables such as the reason the vehicle stop was initiated, but are found in possession of contraband 26 percent less often than white drivers, suggesting officers are impermissibly considering race as a factor when determining whether to search." (workers.org, March 10)

This report came less than four months after a secretive Missouri grand jury failed to indict Wilson for Brown's murder. Also, the white Ferguson police chief, Thomas Jackson — reportedly a

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Police attack Africans in Israel

See editorial, page 10.



Buffalo, N.Y., activists support Baltimore Rebellion, May 3. See more on page 7.

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BP, Marathon strike still on

By Martha Grevatt
Oregon, Ohio

In the first national oil strike since 1980, the United Steelworkers took on the most profitable industry in the capitalist world on Feb. 1. The union selectively struck 15 refineries of Shell, Marathon, BP and other transnational conglomerates. Most of the thousands of strikers are now back at work, having won national and local plant agreements that address some of the union's concerns — overtime, job security, health care and the core issue that drove workers to walk the picket lines: unsafe conditions that endanger workers and residents of the surrounding communities.

However, management is still playing hardball with the union and workers are still on strike in Whiting, Ind.; Texas City, Texas; and Oregon, Ohio.

In Whiting, Local 7-1 has negotiated a tentative local contract with BP but is fighting over the terms of the return-to-work agreement. Plant management wants to cancel the long-term disability insurance policies for strikers who did not personally pay the premiums while they were on strike. Also, the local objects to the company disciplining members who allegedly committed infractions while on the picket line.

The number of unresolved local issues between Marathon and Local 13-1 in Texas City has dropped from 28 to 15, but the parties remain far apart. They disagree on safety measures and forced overtime — life-and-death issues in a refinery — and job security. This refinery was the scene of a tragic explosion 10 years ago that killed 15 workers and injured more than 170. The union won stronger safety language from BP, which owned the refinery at the time, but current owner Marathon wants to gut those protections.

A massive explosion took place in 1947 in the port of Texas City, inhabited by 30,000 residents. When ammonium nitrate on board the docked ship Grandcamp ignited, the blast's impact shattered windows 40 miles away in Houston. The shocks registered on a seismograph in Denver. Flying red-hot shrapnel landed inside the refineries, causing more fires and explosions. Some 581 people lost their lives and 3,500 were injured.

This unforgettable disaster symbolizes corporate disregard for people's safety. With that infamous catastro-



BP refinery workers on strike in Ohio, May 8. WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

phe in mind and the 10th anniversary of the BP explosion marked this year, "There is not a lot of love between the workers and the industry," a 13-1 member who works nearby for Shell, told this writer. "This is a strong local and a strong community."

BP 'trying to bust the union'

This writer spoke with Local 346-1 members who are on strike at the BP Husky refinery in Oregon, near Toledo, Ohio. A group gathered at the union hall to discuss the negotiations that had just taken place with a federal mediator present. The sticking point is "management rights" language. Plant bosses want to eliminate or combine jobs at their discretion — gutting contract language that says those changes have to be negotiated with the union.

The local even agreed to company demands to eliminate certain positions. "But the company still said no," a striker stated. "All I can figure is they're trying to break the union."

With more work being done by fewer workers who are forced to work longer hours, fatalities and injuries occur. With a shrinking workforce having to constantly monitor more aspects of the refining process, mental stress increases. That stress has the same intensity experienced by air traffic controllers that led to their strike in 1981.

Only 15 out of 320 USW members have crossed the line. Striker Mike told this writer, "Those are the ones I really give a hard time to." Workers on the picket line are solidly behind the union. □

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WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Stop killing Mumia Abu-Jamal

By WW New York Bureau

An important press conference was held in Harlem, N.Y., on May 7 to continue the national and international campaign pressing for emergency medical intervention for U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. An array of speakers demanded Abu-Jamal be diagnosed and receive immediate treatment by physicians outside the prison system.

The Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (New York City) organized the event and stated in a release:

“The need for independent medical diagnosis and treatment for renowned political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is urgent.

“An open letter was delivered on April 29 to Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Wolf and Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel in Harrisburg documenting the medical neglect and malpractice that has characterized Abu-Jamal’s treatment.

“Over a period of four months, Abu-Jamal’s initial skin problem, diagnosed by the prison doctors as eczema, deteriorated drastically, and his health condition became life threatening from undiagnosed diabetes as he went into diabetic shock in the prison.

“This open letter was signed by, among many others, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Minister Louis Farrakhan, former president of the U.N. General Assembly Father



Pam Africa demands treatment for Mumia, May 7.

Miguel d’Escoto, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Danny Glover and Alice Walker.”

Participants demanded Gov. Wolf and Secretary Wetzel immediately allow outside doctors of Abu-Jamal’s choosing to conduct the proper diagnosis and treatment to save his life. Speakers included Pam Africa, of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

and MOVE; Noelle Hanrahan, executive director of Prison Radio; Joseph Harris, M.D., of MD’s for Mumia; Larry Holmes of the People’s Power Assembly; Jamal Joseph, professor of Film, Columbia University; Juliette Seydi, assistant for International Affairs for the mayor of Saint-Denis; Didier Paillard, Comite Mumia Saint-Denis; Estela Vasquez, executive vice president, Local 1199 Service Employees union;

and Cornel West, professor, Union Theological Seminary, and professor emeritus at Princeton University.

Dr. Suzanne Ross of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC) further stated in a media advisory: “Supporters of Abu-Jamal note [in the open letter] that the horrific medical care he has received at SCI Mahanoy with serious consequences is by no means unique to him. They call for an independent investigation of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections medical system. They note that this investigation must focus in particular on profit-making organizations hired by the Department of Corrections that place priority on cost cutting rather than the quality of care provided to prisoners. Fewer referrals to hospitals are made, and deaths increase.

“Finally, given the extensive evidence of Abu-Jamal’s innocence, long prevented from being addressed fairly in the courts, and now the evidence that his very life is in danger while in the prison system, the letter calls for Abu-Jamal’s immediate release from prison.”

A video of the press conference can be found online at youtu.be/Wat71Z_tl8o. For information on how to help in the campaign for immediate lifesaving medical care for Abu-Jamal, call the hotline at 212-330-8029 or visit freemumia.com. Join [officialmumiaabujamal](https://www.facebook.com/officialmumiaabujamal) on Facebook. □

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Another murder by cops

Rally demands justice for Frank McQueen

By Joe Piette
Chester, Pa.

Family, friends and Philly REAL Justice Coalition activists rallied on May 9 at the site of the June 2, 2014, police killing of Frank McQueen in Chester, Pa.

Delphine Matthews, McQueen’s mother, brought a yellow school bus and several carloads of supporters to the sidewalk across the street from 1210 Culhane Street, where speakers asked for witnesses to come forward with any information about what really happened there after 3 a.m. last June 2.

McQueen was a 34-year-old Black man studying for a master’s degree, and the author of the novel “Red Devil” and two other books. A 2011 interview with the writer can be heard at tinyurl.com/ngzuj7t.

Missing details, many questions

Almost a year after he was shot over 20 times and killed by the Chester Police Department, very little other information has been released. The police were quick to release McQueen’s criminal record, but a criminal record alone does not justify police shootings.

After an internal police investigation, the Chester Police Department claimed the shooting was justified, saying a police officer suffered a minor wound from the alleged gun police claim McQueen fired

at them as he was leaving his estranged girlfriend’s home.

But many questions remain. Who fired the first shot? Why were so many shots fired? What were the names of all the police involved? Do any of the involved cops have a history of police violence? Did the bullet that hit Officer Matt Stewart come from friendly fire or another gun? Did forensic evidence prove that McQueen’s hands were covered with telltale firearm discharge residue? What about fingerprints? Were there any witnesses other than cops? Were there any videos of the incident? Why was the full police report never made public?

The coroner’s report has not been made public, and McQueen’s personal belongings have still not been released to his mother.

Appeal for eyewitness information

Rally participants handed out fliers to drivers in passing cars, asking them to honk their horns if they opposed police brutality. Protesters talked about the case with area residents drawn by the chants and sound-system-amplified voices.

The whole group marched with banners and signs while chanting, “No justice, no peace” and “Justice for Frank McQueen” and handing out fliers to bystanders in the suburban neighborhood.

Chester, a city of 34,000, has one of the



Protesters demand answers, May 9.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

highest rates of people living in poverty in the U.S., with more than 33 percent of the population below the federal poverty line. Seventy-three percent of Chester’s residents are Black. (neighborhoodscout.com/pa/chester/)

Chester police were also questioned about the killing of a 30-year-old man in 2012. An aspiring rapper who performed in Philadelphia, Noahcell Bagley was fatally shot by cops after a traffic stop. Facing an outstanding arrest warrant against him, Bagley fled and was shot in the back of his right arm and buttocks.

“A Taser could have taken him down,” his mother Barbara Bagley said. “We all make our decisions in life. Noah made his. Does that give the officer the right to take his life? These are the questions left unanswered.” (Wilson Times, Jan. 21, 2013) Bagley’s mother is white and his father is Black.

The district attorney cleared police of any wrongdoing because allegedly “At the time that the officer discharged his service revolver, the officer was in a situation where he reasonably believed his life to be in danger of serious bodily injury or death.”

Delaware County prosecutors refused to reveal the cops’ names in the shootings of both McQueen and Bagley. In nearby Philadelphia, prosecutors also refused to reveal the names of cops who killed Brandon Tate Brown, a Black man also killed after a traffic stop. (Wilson Times, March 5, 2013)

Just as in the cases of Mike Brown, Eric Garner and untold other Black men and women, the police are systematically allowed to shoot and kill whenever they claim fear of harm. Refusing to release all details about police-involved shootings raises further criticism of the so-called justice system.

McQueen’s family is demanding that all information and evidence be released and an independent investigation be conducted.

A community event in honor of McQueen’s life will take place on June 6 at Chalmers Park at 30th Street and Lehigh Avenue in Philadelphia. All proceeds will go to a college fund for McQueen’s children.

Anyone with information about Frank McQueen’s death should contact Delphine Matthews at 267-393-3823. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance LeiLani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights Imani Henry

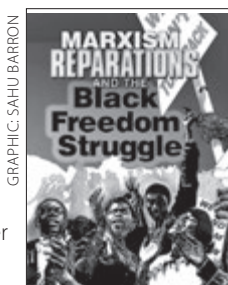
Black & Brown Unity: Human Rights & Global Justice! Saladin Muhammad

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal

Racism & Poverty in the Delta Larry Hales

Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? The 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker

Available at major online booksellers.



GRAPHIC: SAHIL BARRON

Jim Miller, revolutionary worker & organizer

By Stephen Millies

James E. Miller fought for socialism and working people all over the world. He was just 65 when he died on April 14.

Jim grew up in Madison, Wis., and attended the University of Wisconsin during the late 1960s. The Black liberation struggle was surging forward and so was the movement against the Vietnam War.

Like Berkeley in California, Madison and its big campus became a political center. Police attacked University of Wisconsin students demonstrating against Dow Chemical, which made millions supplying the Pentagon with napalm that burned people alive. Black student athletes at UW led struggles against racism.

Tens of thousands of young people across the United States wanted to make a revolution within what Che Guevara called “the belly of the beast.” Jim Miller was one of them.

He was attracted to Marxist theory and read the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao, Plekhanov and Trotsky. Above all, Jim Miller was a fighter.

He joined the Milwaukee branch of Workers World Party in 1967 and became chair of Milwaukee’s chapter of Youth Against War and Fascism. YAWF contingents in anti-war demonstrations proudly carried the flag of Vietnam’s National Liberation Front.

YAWF’s number one job was to fight racism. YAWF members joined Father James Groppi and the NAACP Youth Council in marching inside the old Milwaukee Auditorium in 1968 to disrupt presidential candidate George Wallace’s hate rally. Wallace was an Alabama governor and one of the U.S.’s top racists.

Fighting racism meant defending Black Panther Party members Booker T.



James E. Miller

Collins Jr., Jesse Lee White and Earl W. Leverette. They were framed on ridiculous charges of firing a shotgun at a Milwaukee cop through the back side window of a Volkswagen Beetle!

Every Sunday, YAWF members joined scores of other militants in picketing the House of Detention, where the “Milwaukee 3” were held. Sheriff’s deputies pointed their weapons at them.

Milwaukee police have a bloody history of murder and brutality. During the single month of December in 1974, cops killed four Black people, including the unarmed 16-year-old Jerry Brookshire.

Milwaukee Police Chief Harold Briener repeatedly denounced YAWF in 1968 for daring to leaflet high school students. Also in 1968, YAWF organized a bus to go to Chicago to protest Mayor Daley’s cops clubbing demonstrators at the Democratic Convention.

“Red Squad” police officers would regularly park their vehicle in front of the local Workers World Party and YAWF headquarters at 150 East Juneau. In 1971, Milwaukee police attacked a demonstration protesting the Attica prison massacre. They arrested three YAWF members: Ben-

ita Orozco, Jim Miller and Bill Colangelo.

A few months later, “Red Squad” cops attempted to storm the local party headquarters. They were beaten back but several comrades were arrested.

These cops were furious that YAWF had helped organize an 800-person strong demonstration that night against George Wallace and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, who had spoken at two adjoining meetings.

The most serious charges were against Comrade Benita Orozco, who was facing years in jail for allegedly beating police at the Attica protest.

Jim Miller became the heart and soul of her defense, doing much of the tedious and painstaking work required by a legal defense. Judge Hugh O’Connell almost had conniptions when a jury acquitted Benita Orozco.

Jim also helped to defend the anti-war GIs known as the “Camp McCoy 3.” Their indictment was announced by Attorney General John Mitchell, who himself was later to be sent to prison as one of the criminals in the Watergate case of illegal interference in the 1972 presidential election.

What made Jim’s diligent effort even more amazing was that he was working the nightshift at a bakery.

Union leader and father

Jim Miller was greatly influenced by the older, worker revolutionaries in the Milwaukee branch of Workers World Party.

These included Betsey Stergar and Al Stergar, and Shirley Plaster and Earl Plaster.

These four had stood firm during the McCarthyite anti-communist witch hunt of the 1950s and became teachers for a new generation of revolutionaries.

Milwaukee was one of the most segregated cities on the planet. But thousands of Black workers were employed in the city’s factories. As late as 1980, half of the African Americans employed in Milwaukee held manufacturing jobs.

Jim went to work in the bakery proudly wearing a “Free Angela Davis” button on his leather jacket. He defended workers and became president of the bakery workers local union.

Jim later became an American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union organizer in Fond du Lac, Wis., before returning to work in a bakery.

Bakery work helped kill Jim. Like millions of other workers, Jim Miller’s early death is probably linked to occupational causes. For years, Jim was forced to breathe in flour dust while working.

But this didn’t stop Jim from enjoying life. He was a loving father to Peter and Sara Miller.

And while he was a student of Marxism, Jim was also a sports fan, particularly of the Dodgers, because Dodger African-American star Jackie Robinson integrated major league baseball in Brooklyn.

Long live the memory of Jim Miller, bakery worker and revolutionary! □



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Members of Black.Seed (formerly Black Brunch) and Asians4BlackLives took over the Oakland City Council meeting on May 5. In its place, the more than 100 activists held a People’s City Council meeting. The action was taken to oppose the proposed East 12th Street apartment tower, slated for development on public land near Lake Merritt.

Community residents created a human chain in front of councilmembers’ seats and locked themselves to each other. They also sang, “Which Side Are You On?,” a famous union song. The Council adjourned their meeting without discussing items on the agenda, including the proposal in contention.

During the People’s City Council meeting, residents discussed gentrification issues, such as development and displacement, as well as police practices in Oakland. Many speakers made important connections between police violence and gentrification.

Xan West, from Black.Seed and a former resident of the Eastlake neighbor-

hood, said during the People’s City Council: “The inconvenience we’re causing is temporary. The real inconvenience will take place for Black and Asian Eastlake residents if the city sells the land to the luxury condo developer. These residents won’t be able to call the Eastlake neighborhood home anymore.” (Save the E. 12th Street Parcel for the People Facebook page, May 5)

In the midst of a housing affordability crisis in Oakland, the city is proposing to sell publicly owned land to private developers UDR and Urban Core to create a 24-story, 300-unit, luxury high-rise apartment tower near Lake Merritt. The median rent would be \$3,000 per month, and the development would not have any affordable units.

Across the bay in San Francisco, hundreds of activists stormed into San Francisco City Hall on May 8, protesting gentrification. Organized by the Plaza 16 Coalition, they marched inside with a huge banner reading “No Monster in the Mission.” They demanded lawmakers place a moratorium on luxury-priced housing developments in the Mission District. □

Transit workers fight back

By Gene Clancy
Rochester, N.Y.

More than 300 members and supporters of Local 282 of the Amalgamated Transit Workers militantly marched and picketed on May 7 at the Rochester Genesee Regional Transit Authority headquarters. They held signs and chanted, “It’s not fair! It’s not right! Fire Bill Carpenter tonight!” and “They say cut back! We say fight back!” Protesters barged into a scheduled RGRTA meeting after picketing for several hours.

The loud protests were directed at transit authority CEO Bill Carpenter, who on

April 28 abruptly decided to discontinue transporting Rochester public school students on city buses. He took this action without even holding a Board of Commissioners vote! In addition to callously stranding 9,000 mostly Black and Latino/a school students, this arbitrary move would cause 144 layoffs — more than 40 percent of Rochester’s transit workforce.

In announcing his anti-union, anti-student move, Carpenter resorted to racist rhetoric. He claimed that his decision was due to “student violence” at the brand new, taxpayer-financed downtown terminal. (RGRTA website, April 28) He did not mention that the drivers and the

Long Live John Africa!

Save the date
5/13/2015

Join the **MOVE** family and people from around the world for our

30TH Commemoration Activities

This date marks 30 years since the bombing of MOVE family members and many innocent animals.

Our commemoration activities start with a **11 AM RALLY** at 62nd & Osage Ave.

Followed by a Press Conference **MARCH ... BIKE ... JOG ... CAR CARAVAN** to First District Plaza 3801 Market Street

Join us! Work with us! Help make this the successful event that it needs to be to send a strong message to officials that people have not forgotten and will never forget what happened that day and that we won't stop resisting until the **MOVE 9** and all political prisoners are home where they belong.

The program itself includes supporters from around the world:

- ! Angela Davis (via film message)
- ! Alton Maddox
- ! Michael Coard
- ! Nancy Mansour
- ! Ward Churchill
- ! Cornel West
- ! Chuck D
- ! Chairman Fred Hampton Jr.
- ! Alice Walker (via film message)
- ! Glen Ford
- ! Amina Baraka
- ! Rebel Diaz
- ! Monica Moorehead
- ! Mmoja Ajabu
- ! Kanahus Manuel
- ! Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble
- ! Jeff Mackler
- ! Malik The Prophet
- ! Connie & Gerald Renfrow (Osage ave. residents)
- ! Impact Theater
- ! Members of 'Lessons of the MOVE Tragedy'
- ! Recorded statements from political prisoners

Call-ins from Delbert and Janine Africa as well as Mumia Abu Jamal

A speak-out by members of the various religious communities and a recognition of loved ones murdered by the police

For further info: call 215.386.1165 or 267.408.7802 or email us at OnAMovellja@gmail.com

Conference: 'End wars at home and abroad'

By **Betsey Piette**
Secaucus, N.J.

The United National Antiwar Coalition held its fourth national gathering in Secaucus, N.J., May 8-10 under the theme "Stop the Wars at Home and Abroad." Over 400 delegates from the U.S. and Canada took on the task of challenging endless U.S. imperialist wars abroad and the increasing militarization of domestic police from Ferguson, Mo., to Baltimore.

This conference was unique in the history of the U.S. anti-war movement, which has never before so clearly taken up the need to oppose the war waged against oppressed communities in the U.S. Support for the resistance of Black and Brown youth who are standing up to an epidemic of police brutality was a central theme of many panels and workshops. Solidarity messages came from Ukraine, Canada, Cuba, Germany and Britain.

Formed in 2010, UNAC has become the largest anti-war coalition in the U.S. today, with nearly 120 member organizations opposing U.S. wars in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America. UNAC co-coordinators are lifelong anti-war and labor activist Joe Lombardo and social justice activist Marilyn Levin.

Speaking at the May 8 opening session, Lawrence Hamm, chairperson and founder of the People's Organization for Prog-

ress in Newark, N.J., urged delegates to revitalize and strengthen our movements through an understanding that we are really fighting one war on many fronts. He raised the need to oppose "all U.S. boots on the ground; defeat the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); fight union busting and other attacks on the working class at home; and challenge white supremacist attacks on Black and Brown people."

Hamm urged UNAC to endorse the July 25 Million People's March against Racial Injustice and Economic Inequality in Newark, N.J., initiated by POP.

Longtime anti-war activist Kathy Kelly challenged people in the U.S. concerned by images of beheadings carried out by the Islamic State to study the history of the U.S. military, which includes the slaughter of thousands of surrendering Iraqi soldiers in 1991 and the deaths of over 500,000 Iraqi civilians, mainly children, from U.S.-imposed sanctions.

Jaribu Hill, founder of the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights, called for solidarity with youth raising the banner "Black Lives Matter" and the fight for "\$15 and a Union." Noting that resistance to the status quo is the only way forward, she called the youth who rebelled in Baltimore "young Steve Bikos and Harriet Tubmans."

The May 9 opening panel embraced international struggles against imperialism, led by co-chairs Honduran activist Lucy Pagoada and Janine Solanki, from Mobilization Against War and Occupation in Vancouver. Panelists included Palestinian activist and author Susan Abulhawa; Johnny Achi, with Arab Americans for Syria; Abayomi Azikiwe, from Pan-African News Wire; Joel Andreas, author of *Addicted to War*; Bernadette Ellorin, with BAYAN USA; Glen Ford, of Black Agenda Report; Irina Koval from Odessa, Ukraine; and Phil Wilayto from the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality. Former CIA analyst Ray McGovern concluded the panel by noting that the U.S. thrives on confrontation because "conflict is good for business."

Afternoon panels took up support for political prisoners and the cost of endless war and austerity. Alejandro Molina urged support for the May 30 March to free Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar Lopez Rivera. Also raised was the need to free two international political prisoners held in U.S. jails — Dr. Aafia



Members of newly elected slate of USW 8751 with Pam Africa (center), May 9.

WW PHOTO

Siddiqui of Pakistan and Simon Trinidad of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). Lynne Stewart, former political prisoner, received a standing ovation after her remarks about fighting for human rights.

Pam Africa invited everyone to Philadelphia for a mass rally marking the 30th anniversary of the police bombing of MOVE. She gave an update on the serious health crisis facing political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal as a result of prison officials attempting to murder him through medical neglect.

Abolish the police & shut down capitalism

Clarence Thomas, of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 that has shut down ports in support of Palestine, South Africa and Mumia, stated, "If you want to stop endless wars, racial inequality, and police brutality, you have to shut down capitalism!"

A highlight of the afternoon session was a delegation of Boston school bus drivers from United Steelworkers Local 8751, who have been fighting a nearly two-year battle against attempts by transnational corporation Veolia to bust their union.

USW 8751 President-elect Andre Francois described recent victories, including pushing back a company move to jail union founder and Vice President-elect Stevan Kirschbaum and the stunning, landslide victory of union progressives who captured all positions in the local's April 30 election. But, Francois noted, the battle continues to reinstate four union leaders, including himself and Kirschbaum, who were illegally fired in October 2013.

Sara Flounders, of the International Action Center, and Imani Henry, with the Brooklyn, N.Y., anti-gentrification group Equality for Flatbush Project, chaired the final session on May 9 billed as "Tribu-

nal on the Militarization of the Police & Structural Racism." Flounders noted that 1.5 million Black men are "missing" in the U.S. today — many victims of prisons, rotten medical care and police violence.

Henry asserted that police brutality and gentrification go hand in hand. He described hundreds of police checkpoints in Brooklyn and Manhattan that target youth of color in order to push them out of their neighborhoods and make room for wealthy whites.

The panel included Orange, N.J., teacher Marilyn Zuniga who is fighting efforts of the Fraternal Order of Police to have her fired after her third-grade students spontaneously wrote get-well letters to Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Larry Holmes, with the New York People's Power Assembly, raised that as far as the government is concerned, Black Lives Matter is today's anti-war movement. He called on the traditional anti-war movement to come out fully in support of this Black, youth-led movement, stating, "We are not going to be relevant if we don't do this. The system needs to be abolished — first the police, then capitalism."

Resolutions passed at the final conference session on May 10 included a call to support Black Lives Matter and other anti-racist, pro-women and pro-lesbian-gay-bi-trans-queer groups calling for actions on May 21. There was also a call for coordinated anti-war actions in October. A resolution supporting Iran's Red Crescent ship taking humanitarian supplies to challenge the U.S. and Saudi Arabia blockade of Yemen passed unanimously.

Audio and video coverage of this historic conference are at *Go Pro Radio Network and Community Progressive Radio (cprmetro.org)*. A complete list of speakers, panels and workshops is available at unacpeace.org. □



Transit workers in Rochester, N.Y., May 7.

WW PHOTO: LYDIA BAYONETA

transit authority are in the middle of contract negotiations.

Local 282 President Jacques Chapman and Vice President Domminck Zarcone fired back at Carpenter, accusing him of "reckless" behavior, leaving "the high school students in the lurch." (Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, May 9) They pointed out that 7,000 of the students currently being served do not even go through the downtown terminal and that the Rochester City School District strongly opposes the cancellation of the decades-long service.

The same article quotes Chapman and Zarcone, saying, "RGRTA now potentially faces [Federal Transit Administration] claims that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act has been violated by cutting service in a way which manifests an unlawful discriminatory practice."

Rochester has the third-highest rate of child poverty in the entire country. The public schools are almost totally segregated and chronically underfunded, while the teachers and their unions have been subjected to an unrelenting torrent of blame and abuse.

At the same time that it is cutting its workforce, RGRTA is pursuing several multimillion-dollar expansion projects and paying for them with federal, state and local subsidies. All of them utilize "eminent domain" laws to force residents out of their homes.

With this latest move, Carpenter and his politician and big business cronies have clearly shown their hand. They are attempting to destroy both the public school system and union rights won by the workers — while further slandering and isolating Rochester's oppressed youth. □

Detroit

Auto parts workers say 'Union yes'

When we think of low-wage workers, it's often service workers who come to mind — fast food and retail workers in particular. Yet growing numbers of workers are toiling in non-union factories, supplying the auto industry with parts, for little more than minimum wage. Over 70 percent of these workers are unorganized.

These exploited workers are realizing they need a union to boost pay and benefits and improve working conditions. On May 8 dozens of United Auto Workers members came out early in the morning in Detroit with signs to support workers at Sakhti — an upstart parts supplier where workers earn about \$9 an hour — who were voting in a union-representation election.

More UAW supporters came back in the afternoon to give the same morale-boosting message to the afternoon shift. One



of the chants was "Nine dollars an hour is slave pay, going union is the way!" Most of the workers honked their vehicle horns and gave a "thumbs up" or raised their fists. One courageous worker had a big "Union yes" sign taped to his van.

Sakhti occupies the former General Motors Ternstedt plant, shuttered during the wave of closings in 1987. The plant was the first UAW plant to prove the effectiveness of a work slowdown in the 1930s. At that time some UAW leaders were skeptical that the factory workers, a majority of them women and half of them Polish speaking, could be organized. Stanley Novak, a Polish-born communist organizer popular in the immigrant communities, helped the women win union recognition with this experimental but effective strategy.

Sakhti workers are continuing this legacy of struggle. Despite company intimidation, including firings, by the end of the day the National Labor Relations Board reported that a majority voted for the UAW.

— Story and photo by Martha Grevatt

Killed by cops Justice for Mario Romero

By Terri Kay
Vallejo, Calif.

The Justice for Mario Romero Coalition held a rally on May 8 at the steps of Vallejo City Hall calling for a federal investigation by the U.S. Attorney General into the Vallejo Police Department. More than 50 individuals held signs to protest police bullying, discrimination and terror.

Also participating were members of the Oscar Grant Committee, the National Committee to Prevent Police Brutality, the Anti-Police Terror Project and the Alan Blueford Center for Justice. They came to support the Romero family, but also to call for accountability and investigations of police violence.

On Sept. 2, 2012, Mario Romero, 23, and Joseph Johnson, 21, were sitting in Romero's parked car in front of his home in Vallejo, when they were gunned down by police officers Dustin B. Joseph and Sean Kenney. The Solano County coroner said Romero was shot 30 times. Johnson was also shot and wounded.

Both police officers involved had been cited for violence in the past: Kenney had been named in several fatal shootings and excessive force complaints, and many complaints had cited Joseph for abusive behavior.

The Solano County District Attorney's Office announced on June 12, 2013, that the police acted in self-defense. Howev-



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

Mario Romero supporters rally.

er, Cyndi Mitchell, Romero's sister, has strongly asserted that her brother had never gotten out of the car and that the evidence showed he had his hands up when he was shot.

The Facebook page for "California for the Rich Only???" Community Includes Everyone," states the protest demands, which include that "criminal charges be filed against Sean Kenney and Dustin Joseph for the murder of Mario Romero," that drug testing be enforced for all Vallejo police officers ... and that there must be "an end to criminalization of homeless and disabled individuals and protections against [police] terror."

Seniors at the rally also called for the return of a pool table taken from the Florence Douglas Senior Center. It had been removed by the administrators, in what is characterized as a racist maneuver, one intended to push African-American seniors out of the facility. □

Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh

'On lynching & the Ku Klux Klan'

This May 19 will mark the 125th birthday anniversary of the great anti-imperialist leader, Ho Chi Minh. "Uncle Ho" was a leader of the National Liberation Front, a people's army that defeated both French and U.S. military invaders in Vietnam. In honor of this legendary figure and the current Black Lives Matter uprising, WW is printing the following excerpts from a report made by this Vietnamese communist at the Fifth Congress of the Communist International gathering held in July 1924 in Moscow during the "National and Colonial Question" session. He died in 1969, six years before Vietnam's liberation from U.S. imperialism. Go to tinyurl.com/n5nlck6 to read the entire report.



It is well-known that the Black race is the most oppressed and the most exploited of the human family. It is well-known that the spread of capitalism and the discovery of the New World had as an immediate result the rebirth of slavery. What everyone does not perhaps know is that after sixty-five years of so-called emancipation, American Negroes still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings, of which the most cruel and horrible is the custom of lynching.

[Charles] Lynch was the name of a planter in Virginia, a landlord and judge. Availing himself of the troubles of the War of Independence, he took the control of the whole district into his hands. He inflicted the most savage punishment, without trial or process of law, on Loyalists and Tories. Thanks to the slave traders, the Ku Klux Klan and other secret societies, the illegal and

barbarous practice of lynching is spreading and continuing widely in the states of the American Union. It has become more inhuman since the emancipation of the Blacks, and is especially directed at the latter.

From 1899 to 1919, 2,600 Blacks were lynched, including 51 women and girls and ten former Great War soldiers.

Among 78 Blacks lynched in 1919, 11 were burned alive, three burned after having been killed, 31 shot, three tortured to death, one cut into pieces, one drowned and 11 put to death by various means.

Georgia heads the list with 22 victims. Mississippi follows with 12. Both have also three lynched soldiers to their credit.

Among the charges brought against the victims of 1919: one of having been a member of the League of Non-Partisans

From Ferguson to Baltimore, JAIL KILLER COPS!

Continued from page 1

Confederate sympathizer — was forced to resign a week later. But the Ferguson police scandal was just the beginning.

Endless atrocities

On Dec. 4, after a two-year investigation, the DOJ issued a report on the Cleveland Police Department, stating, "unreasonable and unnecessary use of force" is systemic. The report went on to say that not only were firearms used indiscriminately by a 65-percent-white police department against a population that is 53 percent Black, but also Tasers, chemical spray and beatings were employed. The report also found that the police had used excessive force against people with mental disabilities and employed tactics that escalated potentially nonviolent encounters into dangerous confrontations. (New York Times, Dec. 4)

This report came less than two weeks after the heinous, fatal police shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in a Cleveland park on Nov. 22. Rice was carrying a toy gun when shot by a white police officer who had a known history of violence that had led him earlier to resign from another police department. Rice's shooting was captured on videotape.

The police on the scene refused to let Rice's 14-year-old sister, Tajai, come to his immediate aid following the shooting; instead they tackled her to the ground and handcuffed her. Her younger brother bled to death in the back of a police car.

On May 7, the San Francisco district attorney's office announced a widening probe into that city's police abuse. African Americans comprise only 5 percent of the city's population but make up 50 percent of those arrested and those incarcerated, as well as more than 60 percent

of detained juveniles.

Seven out of 14 San Francisco police officers were suspended April 3 for sending racist and anti-gay text messages to each other, including calling for the lynching of people of color. Firing was recommended for the seven; an eighth officer resigned and the other six received disciplinary actions. The probe also disclosed that sheriff's deputies organized betting pools among prison guards involving gladiator fights forced on prisoners. Deputies reportedly threatened to withhold food and impose violence on those inmates who refused to beat each other for blood sport. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

And now Baltimore

And then came the recent federal probe into the Baltimore police department in light of the torture death of Freddie Grey, who lapsed into a coma after his spinal cord was severed April 12 while in police custody. Six police officers, three white and three Black, have been charged with his death, which occurred on April 19.

Newly appointed U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced on May 8 that her office will be conducting an investigation to determine whether the Baltimore police department "engages in systematic discrimination, civil rights violations and excessive use of force." Lynch visited Baltimore days before making the announcement.

A citywide rebellion led by Black youth erupted in Baltimore after the funeral of Freddie Grey on April 27. The Maryland governor's response was to impose a five-day curfew and call out thousands of National Guard. At least 500 people were arrested between April 27 and May 2 when the curfew

was called off. Many of those arrested still languish in jail without any due process.

The Baltimore police are notorious for their brutality against the African-American population. Since 2012, the department has paid out an estimated \$6 million in compensation to the families of victims who brought lawsuits against the police.

Police scandal investigations are also taking place in other cities, including Seattle, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, and countless others.

Youth upsurge exposes economic injustice

The Ferguson rebellion ignited the Black Lives Matter movement — initiated by Black women and Black transgender people. This dynamic movement got an important jump start in 2012 before and after George Zimmerman was acquitted of murdering 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla.

Since the Dec. 3 national uprising after a Staten Island, N.Y., grand jury failed to indict the cop who killed Eric Garner in a chokehold, the Black Lives Matter movement has shut down highways, malls, bridges, businesses, etc., from coast to coast. These shutdowns have been accompanied with massive marches in the streets by militant youth, sometimes for many hours.

The Black Lives Matter struggle has helped to expose the root cause of this endemic police terror: the intensification of no jobs for young workers, especially youth of color. As youth unemployment and underemployment skyrocket to 40 percent and even 60 percent or more, so do police violence and mass incarceration.

On May 11, two prisoners were re-

ported killed during a rebellion in Tecumseh State Correctional Institution in Nebraska. Prisoners there had been complaining about overcrowding, among other inhumane conditions they are forced to endure. The prisons are overflowing with workers behind bars who are resisting isolation.

Numerous announcements have been made of probes into police abuse on the city, county, state or federal level, but this will not stop the epidemic of police killings and other forms of brutality, especially against Black and Brown youth.

Authorities are hoping against hope that these investigations will somehow either slow down or bring to a halt altogether the anti-police youth upsurge that is permeating the country. However, these investigations are nothing more than futile attempts to put band-aids on a malignant cancer that can offer no end to the disease, since it is the capitalist system itself that breeds racist terror, poverty, war and occupation.

These youth are proof-positive that where there is repression, there is resistance. Others in the working class will be sure to follow their lead because the police are no friends of the workers, especially workers on strike or fighting for \$15 and a union.

To demand the jailing of killer cops or any brutal cops is an important first step. The next step is to take it to a higher political level by calling to disarm and abolish the police. In their place must be community-controlled and -organized self-defense squads to protect the people from any form of oppression.

Getting rid of the capitalist police must become more and more a clarion call for youth, who are already raising the slogan of shutting down the entire system. □

May 16 protest set

Baltimore struggle continues

By Baltimore WW Bureau

May 11 — Close to 500 people have been arrested here since the rebellion that began on April 25 after the killing of Freddie Grey, yet another young Black man who has died at the hands of the police. Some 33 of those arrested remain in jail.

Some were brutally beaten and pepper-sprayed by police even as television cameras caught the action. Those still being held are in central booking or at a nearby juvenile facility, without due process. They were denied their right to see a court commissioner within the 24-hour period previously required. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan provided an excuse for this delay by proclaiming a “state of emergency,” which also authorized deployment of the National Guard.



The governor has never even considered declaring a state of emergency over Baltimore’s extreme poverty, unemployment and decaying schools and homes in the Black community. These unbearable conditions are what underlie the struggle in a major city that has been stripped of its once plentiful industrial jobs.

Those arrested included Baltimore youth, journalists, medics and legal observers. Allen Bullock’s parents urged

him to turn himself in after he was pictured in a news media photo allegedly breaking a police cruiser’s windows. Bullock is now facing life in prison. His bail was set at \$500,000 — more than three times the \$150,000 set for the six officers charged with the assault and murder of Freddie Grey.

In an outpouring of support, anonymous donors have posted Bullock’s bail.

The local Baltimore movement, including the Baltimore People’s Power Assembly and the Bmore United Coalition, has called for amnesty for all those arrested.

The People’s Power Assembly is planning a massive protest on Saturday, May 16, at 3 p.m., gathering at McKeldin Square, Light and Pratt streets, in downtown Baltimore. (See tinyurl.com/mtpf2vz for updates.)

A statement issued by the group says in part: “How can city officials equate property damage with the life of a hu-

man being? The youth of Baltimore need our support. We demand: Drop all charges and grant full amnesty! The people of Baltimore, especially the youth, need full employment at a livable wage, decent education and housing, not jails, racism and police terror.”

The PPA points out that the struggle continues, not only for amnesty for those arrested but for justice for Freddie Grey; for the conviction and jailing of the six police involved in his murder; and for the fight to end police terror. The group has plans for a massive tribunal and assembly on June 6, a date set prior to Grey’s death. (tinyurl.com/ou7wjyt)

Andre Powell, PPA volunteer and union activist, stated: “The June 6 tribunal and assembly on police terror and structural racism will take up the next steps, allow people to testify on police terror and project a citywide campaign for community control.” □

Ho Chi Minh

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(independent farmers); one of having distributed revolutionary publications; one of expressing his opinion on lynchings too freely; one of having criticized the clashes between whites and Blacks in Chicago; one of having been known as a leader of the cause of the Blacks; and one for not getting out of the way and thus frightening a white child who was in a motorcar. In 1920, there were fifty lynchings, and in 1922 there were twenty-eight.

These crimes were all motivated by economic jealousy. Either the Negroes in the area were more prosperous than the whites, or the Black workers would not let themselves be exploited thoroughly. In all cases, the principal culprits were never troubled, for the simple reason that they were always incited, encouraged, spurred on and then protected by politicians, financiers and authorities, and above all, by the reactionary press.

The place of origin of the Ku Klux Klan is the southern United States. In May, 1866, after the Civil War, young people gathered together in a small locality of the state of Tennessee to set up a circle.

The victory of the federal government had just freed the Negroes and made them citizens. The agriculture of the South — deprived of its Black labor — was short of hands. Former landlords were exposed to ruin. The Klansmen proclaimed the principle of the supremacy of the white race. The agrarian and slaveholding bourgeoisie saw in the Klan a useful agent, almost a savior. They gave it all the help in their power. The Klan’s methods ranged from intimidation to murder.

The Negroes, having learned during the war that they are a force if united, are no longer allowing their kinsmen to be beaten or murdered with impunity. In July 1919, in Washington, they stood up to the Klan and a wild mob. The battle raged in the capital for four days. In August, they fought for five days against the Klan and the mob in Chicago. Seven regiments were mobilized to restore order. In September, the government was obliged to send federal troops to Omaha to put down similar strife. In various other states the Negroes defend themselves no less energetically. □

BALTIMORE

Activist’s narrative on Uprising

The following edited comments were posted on Facebook the last week in April by Baltimore activist and Workers World Party member Lee Patterson. A fuller version of this article is at workers.org.

By Lee Patterson
Baltimore

The anger of Black people against capitalism exploded in rebellion last night [April 25]. The pain of homelessness, joblessness, miserable poverty and total violence against human needs came back as payback against the ruling class.

A window pane busted in a department store can be replaced. But the lives of Freddie Grey, Tyrone West, Anthony Anderson as well as Preston Barnes, Simmont Thomas and others could not be replaced. Racist denials of job opportunities, prison records, as well as homelessness exploded into a rebellion against the capitalist system in Baltimore, and are about to explode nationwide.

People are upset about the militarization of the cops all over the U.S., a violent provocation of war from the capitalist class. The violence doesn’t come from “outside protesters” but from the capitalist class itself. People no longer are “comfortable” with their oppression and are fighting back. It’s RIGHT to rebel! F**k the police and the capitalist system!

The violence of cutbacks against the poor, water being turned off, record homelessness and record poverty took its toll on the people and it resulted in destruction and an explosion in anger of the oppressed. We don’t want to “replace” capitalist politicians. We want to destroy capitalism, the whole system and its politician crooks.

It’s not “looting” that is happening. It is the liberation of goods for the human needs of the people. People are fighting back against the war on the poor. It is the end of the month, when people are at their poorest and are forced to go to food pantries and churches for help as food stamps and rent subsidies have been cut.



Lee Patterson speaks out at Workers World Party national conference, Nov. 15.

Baltimore is a Third World country, where decayed abandoned housing roofs are falling inwards and trees grow through the windows while the glitter of Harbor East and Johns Hopkins gentrification rise in the sunshine. The class distinctions and economic apartheid are becoming so clear to the most oppressed. The smoke of pre-revolutionary consciousness is in the air, and we communists must take full advantage to further raise the consciousness of our class towards the direction of socialism.

The ruling class media keep portraying the youth as “thugs” while completely ignoring police killings and poverty. People are becoming more aware of class and their oppression... The demonizing of the youth by the capitalist media is to promote divisions between working-class people. ... The rebellion makes sense. We have to guide the people in a revolutionary direction. Freddie Grey was the straw that broke the camel’s back, and the potential match stroke towards revolution.

Who the real ‘looters’ are

Calling impoverished, hungry, disenfranchised, undervalued people “looters” is an atrocious slur by the media to divide our class in a time of rebellion. The true looters are the gambling industry, Michael Beatty [of Beatty Development Group],

[H&S Bakery magnate John] Paterakis, RG Steel [Corp.] as well as [Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake]. We can’t let the neoliberal crowd dictate the narrative on our oppression. Not one demand has come from them to STOP KILLER COPS! The violence is still coming from the cops as we are told to “respect” the “rule of law.” Hell, Nat Turner burned down his own plantation.

It was exhilarating yesterday, comrades and I picking up our “Justice 4 Freddie Grey” placards and going out to show solidarity with the community. On the bus yesterday, it was an adrenalin rush to hear ordinary working-class people talking about police murder and poverty. I gave high-fives to people getting on the buses, as they were all made fare-free. Drivers were saying, “Never mind your passes or your fare. Just get on, hurry up.”

As I was on the way, people were saying that they were tired of low wages and budget cuts and that the system, police and the politicians are responsible for the rebellion in the streets and that the poverty and violence of the system finally exploded.

When I went out with my comrades, we went out into the streets and as we were walking out to Penn-North [a Baltimore neighborhood], people saw our signs and asked for them, gave us fists up and shouted solidarity. People were excited.

We walked into the area to see riot police in a war posture intimidation line. They beat their nightsticks into their shields as they shouted “MOVE! MOVE! MOVE!” closing in on the people as the CVS smoked and burned. Then came the smoke bombs and we comrades stayed together as people charged the police back, shouting, “FASCISTS!” But what was really inspiring was to see people liberating the stores and supermarkets for toilet paper, meats, food, diapers. ...

This rebellion was more than about Freddie. It was about water cutoffs, poverty and police murder and systemic oppression, as well as blue-on-Black violence. □

Eyewitness Vietnam: U.S. bombs still kill

By Joyce Chediak and Paul Wilcox
Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

Quang Tri is on the 17th parallel, which artificially cut this country in half for two decades until Vietnam won its liberation in 1975. Surrounding it is a six-mile-wide strip called the Demilitarized Zone, which saw the heaviest fighting of the 10-year U.S. war.

Quang Tri Province, a little larger than Rhode Island, is the most bombed piece of earth in history. The Pentagon dropped more tonnage of explosives here, obliterating the provincial capital and about 3,500 villages, than was dropped on Germany in all of World War II.

Some 20 percent of the U.S. weapons did not detonate. (Huffington Post, Sept. 14, 2013) They are still here, armed and dangerous, and they can be found in 83.8 percent of this province.

Forty years after Vietnam decisively defeated the Pentagon and reunited the country, Washington's war continues by other means. Vietnamese people are killed and maimed every day by unexploded U.S. bombs littering the landscape and hampering social and economic development.

Vietnam's environment is still straining to recover from the massive amount of defoliants the Pentagon sprayed here for 10 years, destroying rainforests and unique ecological habitats and poisoning the soil. Washington has neither acknowledged these war crimes nor made significant compensation to Vietnam for these terrible wrongs.



Sign outside a school warns students about unexploded weapons.

Since 1975, some 7,078 people, or 1.2 percent of Quang Tri's population, have been killed and many thousands seriously maimed — losing a limb, being blinded or both — when they accidentally come upon U.S. mines and cluster bombs. (Landmine Monitor 2013, Vietnam Profile) Between 1975 and 2002 in Vietnam, some 42,135 people have been killed and another 62,143 wounded by these bombs. (AP, May 12, 2011)

Most victims are young people in rural areas, especially children naturally curious about a piece of metal glittering in the ground. Rice paddies are also common sites of explosions as people try to reclaim land for farming. (Journal of ERW and Mine Action, Summer 2011)

One-fifth of Vietnam contaminated with explosives

We enter Klu village of the Paku people, one of Vietnam's 53 ethnic minorities. In the early stages of the Pentagon invasion, the Paku people used their bows and arrows to fight U.S. fighter planes. Their determination to defend their land gave heart to many Vietnamese and showed the world the fighting spirit in Vietnam.

Ms. Thach, our guide, calls our attention to a large sign in front of the school picturing a large bomb in the grass and a skull and crossbones. It reminds the children to stay away from unexploded bombs.

Quang Tri is the only province where students have to study textbooks on mine identification and prevention. Cluster

bombs are the most malignant of the buried bombs and most easily picked up by children.

But Quang Tri is not alone. Some 7 million tons of bombs were dropped on Vietnam, nearly three times the amount dropped on all countries during World War II. According to the Vietnamese government, 16 million acres, or roughly a fifth of the country, is contaminated with some 600,000 tons of U.S. bombs, and only 5 percent has been cleared.

Washington boasts that it allocated \$62 million toward bomb cleaning in Vietnam. This is a drop in the bucket of U.S. criminal war pollution. A recent Vietnamese government plan to clear 1.2 million acres will cost \$595 million over the next five years.

From rainforest to moonscape

Unexploded bombs aren't the Pentagon's only legacy here. From 1961 to 1967, the U.S. Air Force sprayed 20 million gallons of concentrated herbicides over 6 million acres of crops and trees, affecting an estimated 13 percent of South Vietnam's land. Much of Quang Tri, one of the most heavily defoliated provinces, looked like a moonscape by the end of the war.

We were glad to see that most of the land before us is now green. Our guide explained that reforestation was accomplished and erosion stopped by planting fast-growing eucalyptus trees, which are cut for timber. We also see cultivated areas of corn, cassava (tapioca) and coffee.

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40 years after Vietnam's victory

Looking back at the anti-war movement

By Deirdre Griswold

In August 1962, when Youth Against War & Fascism held the first protest in the U.S. against the Vietnam War, the reaction of passers-by on 42nd Street in New York City was puzzlement. They didn't know where Vietnam was; some didn't even know it was a country. U.S. forces sent to South Vietnam at that time were called "advisers." Yet the resistance of the Vietnamese to becoming a U.S. neocolony and the struggle here against that dirty war were to define a whole generation. That generation is a lot older now.

The U.S. escalation came in 1964, with the fraudulent Bay of Tonkin resolution passed by Congress that gave President Lyndon Johnson authority to send millions of young draftees to Vietnam. The war finally ended on April 30, 1975, with the ignominious routing of the last U.S. Embassy personnel from Saigon, who clung to helicopter skids as they made their escape.

The 40th anniversary of that decisive defeat of the most powerful military machine on earth has now evoked many retrospective accounts in the U.S. media.

This writer, who was on that first U.S. protest and hundreds of others as the war and the movement against it grew, picked up a copy of the April/May AARP magazine the other day and found a photo of a YAWF demonstration in 1965 at the White House carrying signs saying "Bring the GIs home now." It brought back memories.

Many former soldiers still carry the physical scars of ferocious combat. Other tormented souls suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder after being pro-

grammed to believe it was patriotic to participate in atrocities. By contrast, those in the anti-war movement can look back on their youthful rebellion against the capitalist state and its propaganda machine with pride and satisfaction.

One of the biggest lies about the movement was that it was against the U.S. soldiers. Hell, most of them welcomed the slogan "Bring the GIs home now." That's what they wanted — just to come home, in one piece. Our quarrel was with the high-ranking officers, the ones who go through the revolving door to lucrative executive positions in the "defense" industry after they retire. And of course we demonstrated against the political architects of the war, in the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations, who saw it as key to the worldwide effort of U.S. imperialist rulers to defeat communism.

What they meant by "defeating communism" was stopping the effort of workers and farmers around the world to take charge of society and distribute the wealth only they create to its producers. The bosses wanted that wealth for themselves.

It was these bosses in and out of uniform, not the GIs, who understood which class had created that beastly war and followed its orders. YAWF, on the other hand, helped the rank-and-file soldiers build the American Servicemen's Union to assert their rights — such as refusing an illegal order like the order to fight in Vietnam — as well as to reject racism, sexism, saluting and "sir"-ing of officers, and all the other tricks of the military brass meant to divide the soldiers and keep them under control.



Deirdre Griswold carrying sign in August 1962 protest.

Black and Brown GIs in particular organized against the war. Many recognized in the vile language their commanders used to degrade the Vietnamese people the same racism and arrogance they suffered back at home. Young people inspired by the Civil Rights movement became increasingly anti-war, and soon Black leaders like Stokely Carmichael, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X campaigned against it.

The killing of four students at Kent State University by the National Guard on May 4, 1970, galvanized the movement into more militant actions. What has long been overlooked, however, is that just 11 days later, during a protest against that massacre, police in Jackson, Miss., shot and killed two Black students at Jackson State University and wounded many others.

YAWF: 'Stop the war on Black America'

The umbrella anti-war movement at that time was not as bold or politically

advanced as the youth in the streets. YAWF adopted the slogan, "Stop the war on Black America," that it brought to all the mass demonstrations against the Vietnam war. At one annual peace rally in Central Park, more conservative organizers of the umbrella movement actually dissed anti-war forces in Harlem by inviting Mayor John Lindsay to speak right after he had signed a stop-and-frisk order giving New York police an open door to arrest thousands of Black youth.

YAWF took scores of arrests that day marching against that order — while Lindsay said nothing about Vietnam in his brief remarks to the large rally and immediately went to speak at a small pro-war event elsewhere in the park.

Thus the struggle against the war also had to be a struggle against conservatism in the movement itself, especially regarding national oppression and racism.

YAWF was the youth organization of Workers World Party. Many other left parties sprung up in the 1960s, but few have endured today. The ideology that has sustained WWP is based on a Marxist, class understanding of contemporary society.

The war drive is rooted in capitalism itself, as the Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin explained so thoroughly in his 1916 work "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism." The anti-war struggle must be part of the fight against all the evils of capitalism — low wages, union-busting, racism, sexism, anti-lesbian/gay/bi/trans/queer bigotry, mass incarceration, police terror and more.

Imperialism is the last stage of capitalism — and this system has gotta go. □

Five Heroes strengthen Cuban Revolution

By Paul Teitelbaum
Havana

Last Dec. 17, U.S. President Barack Obama announced the release of the three remaining Cuban Five political prisoners — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero — after 16 years of unjust imprisonment in the U.S. for the “crime” of fighting terrorism directed against Cuba. The three returned home to join their two comrades, René González Schwerert and Fernando González Llort, who had already been released after serving their full sentences.

This historic announcement was no gift from U.S. imperialism. It was a result of the Cuban people’s unwavering commitment and the support of solidarity movements around the world demanding the release of the Cuban Five. It signified a defeat for U.S. imperialism in its attempts to isolate and destroy the Cuban Revolution and represents an important victory for the anti-imperialist movement.

The Five Heroes, as they are known in Cuba, continue to defend the Cuban Revolution, meeting with people throughout

their homeland and the world. Along with Cuban President Raúl Castro and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, the five led this year’s massive May Day celebration in Havana. More than a million people filled the streets and marched through the Plaza of the Revolution, showing their joy at the return of the Five Heroes and their determination to continue constructing socialism in Cuba. More than 115 delegations from 17 countries also participated in this historic May Day march.

On May 2, the International Solidarity with Cuba Conference met in Havana and focused on the gains made during the past year as well as the challenges ahead. Unity in struggle and the strength of international solidarity had achieved two great victories: The return of the Five and the presence of Cuba at the Summit of the Americas. These two topics, unity and solidarity, were raised again and again throughout the discussions at the conference.

The battles ahead, which include putting an end to the criminal U.S. blockade, defending the Bolivarian Republic



PHOTO: ISMAIL FRANCISCO

Gerardo Hernández at International Solidarity with Cuba Conference.

of Venezuela, fighting for the release of imprisoned Puerto Rican Independence fighter Oscar López Rivera and for the return of the U.S.-occupied Guantánamo naval base to Cuba, will require the utmost unity and solidarity.

Cuba is exemplary in demonstrating unity and solidarity, as can be seen by its more than 50 years of resistance to U.S. imperialism, during which it has sent doctors, teachers and material aid

to every corner of the globe. Cuba is unflinching in its support for the liberation struggles in Palestine, Latin America and Africa. The worldwide anti-imperialist and revolutionary movements are greatly inspired by Cuba’s example.

Gerardo Hernández of the Cuban Five closed the International Solidarity Conference with the following comments, showing the importance of unity and solidarity. (Granma, May 4)

“Today,” he concluded, “you congratulate us, and you recognize that the resistance of the Five is no more than the resistance of the Cuban people, whom, for more than 50 years, imperialism has been unable to break. They have not isolated us; they themselves are the ones who have been isolated, since a socialist Cuba perseveres here, a people who are more determined than ever to struggle for its system. That is why we continue to trust in your support, your spirit of struggle and the solidarity of all of you brothers and sisters.”

Teitelbaum attended both the May Day celebration and the May 2 International Solidarity with Cuba Conference in Havana.

Ukraine, NATO and history

Communists defeated Nazis in WWII

By John Catalinotto

Seventy years ago, on May 8 and 9, 1945, millions all over the world gave shouts of joy and relief as the Nazi regime in Berlin crumbled while the Soviet Union’s Red Army rolled into the German capital and hung the red flag with its hammer and sickle on top of the Reichstag building, the parliament. Throughout Europe in 1945 and the years following, even the enemies of the USSR had to acknowledge its primary role in the Nazi defeat.

This year is the 70th anniversary of that great victory. However, the U.S.-led NATO governments have turned the world’s celebration of the defeat of Nazism into an ideological offensive against the Soviet Union and against today’s Russian Federation.

The imperialist West has used every effort to diminish the Soviet role in smashing fascist Germany. It has used this distortion of history as a weapon against Russia, which, even though now a capitalist country, has become an obstacle to U.S. world domination.

By 1945, not only had Nazi rule super-exploited and oppressed workers and nations throughout Europe, it had carried out programs of extermination of vast sectors of the population.

In 1945 and the following decades, it would have been nearly impossible to erase the truth of the Soviet role in winning the war. Germany’s early victories, beginning with its invasion of the USSR along an 1,800-mile front in June 1941, had ended with its defeat at Stalingrad in the winter of 1943. Germany was driven back, despite having more than three-fourths of its troops on the Soviet front.

The Soviet Red Army had carried the weight of the war and deserved the major credit for smashing Nazism. Communist parties allied to the USSR also led the resistance movements in countries occupied by German imperialism.

Not only Russians but all the peoples of the multinational USSR had also suffered the greatest casualties that Nazi-led German imperialism had inflicted. Some 27 million Soviet citizens died.

The British and U.S. forces waited until June 1944 to open up a second front with

the attack at Normandy. While this invasion and the later “Battle of the Bulge” have prominence in U.S. military history, the fighting on the Western Front never reached anywhere near the magnitude of that in the East. People all over the world, and especially the working class of Europe and even of the United States, knew of the Soviet role. Even decades of Cold War propaganda were unable to erase it from the collective memory.

Propaganda war part of attack on Russia

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the imperialist ruling class in the West had another opportunity to rewrite the history of World War II. The goal of its bought-and-paid-for “historians” was to erase the heroic contribution of the Red Army and the first socialist state in the defeat of fascism. This effort has reached a fever pitch this year, as the imperialist West had already begun an attack on Rus-

sia.

This imperialist offensive has extended the NATO military alliance to countries bordering Russia. It allied with Ukrainian fascists to place an anti-Russian coup regime in Ukraine, provoking a civil war. Even though Russia is now a capitalist country and no longer part of a socialist USSR — whose very existence had challenged the rule of world imperialism — Washington and its allies still aim to eliminate this competitor.

To ensure that the 1945 Soviet victory would also be a part of the Russian legacy, the current Russian government mobilized major celebrations in Moscow and across the Russian Federation. Reports were that a total of 20 million people participated, with 16,000 Russian troops marching in Moscow past 3 million people. From the viewpoint of internal mass mobilization, Russia showed it was far from defenseless against Western aggres-

sion and that its population supported the government’s refusal to submit to NATO.

President Vladimir Putin had invited all the countries involved in the anti-Hitler alliance to the Moscow celebration, including the current German government. NATO’s current offensive against Russia, however, pressured many to reject this invitation. Competitive celebrations were organized in NATO capitals and in some of the Eastern European states that have been turned into imperialist client states. The key places of conflict, however, were Moscow and Berlin.

Together with Putin in Moscow were Chinese President Xi Jinping, Cuban President Raúl Castro and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, along with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and other high-level representatives from South Africa, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India and the former

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Alberta elections shock Canada’s 1%

By G. Dunkel

The New Democratic Party, whose roots are in Canada’s labor and social democratic movements, swept Alberta’s elections on May 5, winning 53 of the 87 seats in the provincial legislature. The Progressive Conservative Party, which had run the province for the past 44 years, was ousted. The election results shocked Canada’s bourgeoisie.

Alberta is one of the major oil-producing provinces of Canada and the single biggest exporter of oil to the U.S. It is regarded as Canada’s most conservative province. Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s parliamentary seat and main base of support are there.

The Toronto Stock Exchange fell to its lowest point in a month after the election news broke. The Conservatives running the federal government were said to be despondent and overcome with a “morgue-like” spirit.

The major Canadian news services devoted article after article to analyzing the impact of the New Democratic Party

sweep, while its supporters throughout the country were jubilant. One professor, born and raised on a First Nation reservation in southern Alberta, stayed up all night to watch the results because he was so surprised and happy.

Some substantive issues were raised in the campaign. The global fall in oil prices has hit Alberta hard, especially since the Progressive Conservative government hadn’t set up a significant “rainy day” fund. The solution their campaign proposed was austerity: laying off 2,000 people, mainly in health care jobs, and slightly increasing taxes on individuals making more than \$250,000 (Canadian). User, cigarette and liquor fees and taxes would all rise, and so would parking ticket fines.

But while taxes would go up on individuals, so would the deficit. There would be no increase in corporate taxes, and the complicated royalty scheme on oil-sand and gas extraction wouldn’t be touched in the Progressive Conservatives’ budget. (CBC, March 26)

The New Democratic Party proposed increasing taxes on wealthy individuals

and businesses and cutting back on the extractions of oil sands and other highly toxic materials from Alberta.

In a discussion of the economy during a significant campaign debate between Jim Prentice, the Progressive Conservative leader, and Rachel Notley, the New Democratic Party leader, Prentice told Notley, “I know that math is difficult.” (New York Times, May 6) This was considered by many to be a sexist, arrogant comment.

Moreover, Notley, who will be the province’s new premiere, is hardly a novice at math; she began her career as a lawyer negotiating contracts for labor unions in Alberta and British Columbia.

When Prentice was asked in a radio interview who was responsible for the economic crisis facing Alberta, he arrogantly said, “We all need only look in the mirror.” (nationalpost.com, March 5) After losing the election, he resigned from both his party post and his legislative seat.

The New Democratic Party might not have enough of a mandate to push its program through, but its win has certainly shaken up Canada’s political establishment. □

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Racism, imperialism and Israel

A Black man was walking home with his bicycle. On his way, he was attacked by two cops, pushed to the ground and savagely beaten. The cops told their superiors that they were the ones attacked. But a bystander recorded the police attack on a cell phone, and the recording was soon put on the Web. This sparked huge protests stretching over several days, and clashes with police, who used horses, stun guns and water cannons. Many protesters were wounded, and 43 were arrested.

This scenario is familiar to many Black residents of cities and towns across the U.S., but it did not happen in Baltimore, in Cleveland, in Los Angeles or in Ferguson, Mo. It happened in Tel Aviv, Israel, on April 26.

The Black man's name is Damas Fikadey. He is an Ethiopian Jew, one of some 140,000 who now live in the state of Israel. He is a computer technician and a member of the Israeli military. His attack and the subsequent militant protests have exposed another racist facet of the U.S. imperialist-backed Zionist regime.

Ethiopian Jews face onerous discrimination in Israel. More than 35 percent live under the poverty line, compared to 18.5 percent of Israelis in general. Many have been denied the right to rent apartments or to be enrolled in schools. Most who have jobs are employed as unskilled labor and are woefully underpaid.

In 2009, a young Ethiopian-Israeli university student named Idano tried to board a bus in Rishon LeZion city. She knocked on the bus door, but the driver would not let her in. When the driver opened the door for someone else, she followed him inside. The driver told her, "Can't you see I am not taking Black people? Do you have buses in Ethiopia, or even shoes?" (irinnews.com, May 9)

In September 2011, some 281 Ethiopian Jewish children were prevented from registering for school in Petah Tikvah town because of their "background." In 2012, protests erupted when four apartment buildings in the city of Kiryat Malachi refused to rent to Ethiopians. (nytimes.com, May 5)

In 1996, it was discovered that all Israeli hospitals had disposed of all the blood donated by Ethiopian Jews.

Less than 2 percent of the Israeli population, Ethiopian Jews make up 30 percent of the population in juvenile jails. Many young Ethiopians report that they face the same barrage of police abuse and violence that young Black people face in the U.S.

Constantly under attack

Even though Ethiopian Jews have maintained their religious beliefs for thousands of years, their religious practices are constantly under attack in Israel. Ethiopian Judaism is called Falasha, and their religious leaders are called the Kesses. But the Kesses are not recognized as religious leaders by the Israeli religious elite, nor are many of their religious rituals and doctrines. Israeli rabbinic authorities typically demand "conversions" before performing Jewish weddings for the Ethiopians.

Discrimination against Ethiopian Jews is part and parcel of the same racist Zionist social system that wages genocidal war

against the Palestinian population. The regime that enforces this is fully armed and backed by U.S. imperialism because Israel offers a strong military base of operations in the vital oil-rich Middle East region.

Since the regime blocks entry to Palestinians living in Gaza or the West Bank to work in the Israeli sector, Ethiopian Jews are used as a source of cheap manual and contract labor and are heavily exploited by Israeli bosses.

Just as racism is fundamental to capitalist rule in the U.S., just as it is the obscene conception that drives the cruel police occupation of the oppressed communities here, just as it motivates cops to gun down unarmed Black men and women over and over again, just as it puts thousands upon thousands of oppressed youth into prisons, that same racism is a mainstay of U.S. imperialist rule around the world. And it is at the very foundation of the garrison state that is Israel, just as it is in the U.S.

The heroic resistance struggle by the Palestinian people in Gaza and elsewhere, the Black Lives Matter struggle that stretches from Ferguson to Los Angeles to Baltimore, and the Ethiopian Jewish struggle to end discrimination in Israel strike a blow at the very heart of the capitalist and imperialist social and economic structure, which needs to be brought down to end racism and oppression once and for all. □

Eyewitness Vietnam:

U.S. bombs still kill

Continued from page 8

This is a far cry, however, from the three-tiered rainforest canopy that originally covered this land, with its varied vegetation, animal life and medicinal plants rivaling the Amazon in diversity and unique ecosystems.

In some areas of Quang Tri the ecology was so disrupted that reforestation was impossible, and only scrub brush grows. The Vietnamese call this invasive grass on land that defoliants turned barren "American grass."

Bombs couldn't shut down Ho Chi Minh Trail

We stop at Route 9, where the Dakrong Bridge crosses the Cam Lo River, the site of a major road on the Vietnamese resistance's north-to-south supply route called the Ho Chi Minh Trail. When U.S. planes took out the bridge, says Thach, supplies were carried through the river until the bridge was repaired. Local women maintained the trail here, she adds.

But all the Pentagon's bombs and defoliants could not shut down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Even the U.S. National Security Agency's official history of the war called the trail system "one of the great achievements of military engineering of the 20th century."

Thach points to the tallest peak in the highlands — what U.S. soldiers called "the Rock pile." This high-tech observation post was part of the base network the U.S. built along Route 9.

We stop at Khe Sanh, one of those bases. Heavily armed and on high ground, Khe Sanh was thought invulnerable. But

'Muzzling Mumia' law struck down

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Efforts to uphold state-sanctioned muzzling of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and other prisoners seeking to speak out about their cases or any other issue were delivered a significant setback on April 28. Christopher Connor, chief judge for the federal court of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, ruled in favor of the plaintiffs who held that the so-called Revictimization Relief Act was unconstitutional.

More commonly referred to as the "Mumia Muzzling Act," versions of the law were quickly passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Senate last Oct. 22. Legislators were acting under pressure from the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, who had failed in their efforts to prevent Abu-Jamal from delivering a commencement address to Goddard College students on Oct. 5.

In one of his last actions before Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett was defeated in his bid for a second term, he signed the act in an elaborate ceremony at 13th and Locust streets in Philadelphia, scene of the 1981 shooting death of police officer Daniel Faulkner. While maintaining his innocence, Abu-Jamal was sentenced in 1982 to death row for Faulkner's murder until a global movement succeeded in releasing him to the general prison population in 2011.

Acting to preempt any implementation of the reactionary law that would negatively impact the plaintiffs, their attorneys appealed the law shortly after its passage. Plaintiffs included the Pennsylvania Prison Society, Prison Legal News,

the People's Liberation Army captured it in 1968. We visit the war museum that now stands there and honors the 320 Division of the Liberation Army, which besieged the base; the ethnic minorities who fought with sticks, bows and arrows, and scythes; and the women and men who ceaselessly brought supplies over the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Deliberate U.S. destruction

Although U.S. imperialism lost this war, it still wrote about much of its history. Washington neglects to report that some of the heaviest U.S. bombing took place when it was already clear that the Vietnamese would win their complete independence.

In 1965 General Curtis LeMay, head of

Abu-Jamal, other current or former prisoners and several media organizations.

The case was argued before Judge Connor on March 30 by attorneys David M. Shapiro, from the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center of Northwestern University Law School, and Eli Segal, on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union.

In delivering his decision Connor stated, "The court concludes that the challenged statute betrays several constitutional requirements; the enactment is unlawfully purposed, vaguely executed, and patently overbroad in scope." He further held that the law is "manifestly unconstitutional, both facially and as applied to plaintiffs" and in violation of the First and Fifth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The First Amendment prohibits making any law abridging the freedom of speech, while also protecting freedom of the press. Under the act, news outlets could be sued if they aired or quoted commentary from prisoners. The Fifth Amendment outlines constitutional limits on police procedure and due process of law.

Over 20 years ago the U.S. Supreme Court also held that restricting free expression of prisoners in order to protect crime victims from mental anguish was unconstitutional. Connor also noted that the law was so indefensible that Pennsylvania's attorney general had to distort its legislative intent to argue that it conformed to constitutional precedent.

Connor concluded his opinion by noting that the way to counter speech one disagrees with is by speech, not repressive laws. Apparently this message was lost on supporters of the defeated law, who are already talking about filing an appeal. □

the Strategic Air Command, said that his "solution to the problem" in Vietnam was to "bomb them back into the Stone Age." This is exactly what Washington tried to do — create as much damage as possible in Vietnam, poison it, set it back, destroy its infrastructure and burden it as much as possible. LeMay added to his infamous record by running as the vice presidential candidate on arch-racist Alabama Gov. George Wallace's ticket in 1968.

The Pentagon still wages war on the people of Vietnam — an economic war; a war of isolation; the lasting effects of a genocidal war that killed about 3 million men, women and children; and a war of denial of any responsibility for this deliberate devastation. □

Communists defeated Nazis in WWII

Continued from page 9

Soviet republics. NATO leaders, however, turned down the invitation.

German workers fear wider war

The other capital most affected by this anniversary was Germany's. The Berlin imperialists are securely tied, both politically and militarily, to U.S. imperialism, whether they like it or not. Thus they have done nothing to confront Washington's provocation of Russia in Ukraine and have joined sanctions against Russia.

On the other hand, the sanctions cost German business much more in trade and investment than they do U.S. industry and banking. Sometimes this contradiction leads to exposures in the usually pro-NATO German corporate media regarding the role of fascists in the Ukraine regime, for example, or Kiev's outrageous corruption.

The masses in Germany, especially the working class, oppose and fear a wider war in Ukraine, which is even more important than the maneuvers of the Bonn government. Such a war, which could involve NATO and thus German forces, seems all too close. Ukraine's capital, Kiev, is only 750 miles from Berlin.

In many German cities — among them Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Tübingen, München, Heidelberg and Berlin — there were demonstrations from May 8 to 10 by anti-fascist and pro-peace groups. They protested racism, xenophobia against refugees and the militarization of German foreign policy.

On May 10 in central Berlin, several thousand demonstrators gathered behind a banner reading "70th anniversary of liberation." Many carried red flags to show that the German working class, too, was liberated from the Nazi yoke by the Red Army victory. □

U.S.-backed Saudi war on Yemen continues

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

The Al-Massirah television station in Yemen, which supports the Ansarallah Movement (Houthis), broadcast a news report May 11 showing civilians standing by a downed F16 bomber used by Morocco, part of the alliance currently waging war on this Middle Eastern state.

The U.S.-made fighter plane is the same aircraft used by other members of the Saudi Arabian and Gulf Cooperation Council waging an aerial war against Yemen, the most underdeveloped state in the region.

Morocco, one of only three remaining monarchies still reigning on the African continent, joined the alliance “to restore legitimacy in Yemen” at the war’s inception in late March. The decision to join the war against Yemen was made by King Mohammed VI absent any consultation with parliament. (The Australian, May 11)

Reports indicate that Morocco has provided six aircraft to the Saudi-GCC operational command, although there is virtually no information about the North African country’s involvement. These F16 jets appear to be the same type used in the Pentagon-led strikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

U.S.-backed war kills many

Since March 26, the Saudi-GCC coalition has dropped an undetermined

number of ordnance on Yemen in a failed attempt to destroy the Shiite-based Ansarallah forces, which have formed an alliance with other political interests to oppose Washington’s attempt to control this nation through Riyadh. This imperialist-backed coalition, which receives logistical and intelligence support from Washington, has intensified its bombing campaign against Yemen in an attempt to reinstall the fugitive President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who now lives in exile in Saudi Arabia.

According to Press TV on May 11: “Saudi aerial attacks on the impoverished Arab nation continue to claim lives. In the latest raids, Saudi warplanes targeted the northwestern city of Ta’izz injuring 11 people. Earlier, Saudi jets attacked targets in Sa’ada and Hajjah provinces, killing at least five people. They also pounded a district in Bayda Province, leaving two people dead.” Also on May 11, it was estimated that 11 people were killed and more than 160 injured as Saudi jets struck an arms installation in the capital city of Sana’a.

Press TV reports that the raids set off numerous explosions, scattering pieces of artillery, with one crashing into the roof of a residential structure. After the attacks, clouds of smoke filled the sky and additional materials were scattered across other neighborhoods.

Just days before, on May 7, the Saudi foreign ministry announced a five-day

pause in the bombing to allow relief to be delivered to the people impacted by the bombing and the fighting on the ground. The Saudi-GCC alliance gave the Houthis an ultimatum that they must stop their resistance against the bombings or face more aggressive military attacks.

This announcement was made by Riyadh during the May 6-7 visit by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who said that Washington supported the war against Yemen and made threats against Iran, which is politically supporting the Ansarallah Movement. Kerry also called for a ceasefire and said the U.S. would supply \$68 million in humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

Of U.S. foreign policy about the war, Kerry stated, “We have urged all sides ... to comply with humanitarian law and to take every precaution to keep civilians out of ... harm’s way, as well as to provide the opportunity for humanitarian assistance ... to be delivered.” (VOA, May 11) Nonetheless, the Saudi-GCC alliance, bolstered and coordinated by Washington, has consistently bombed residential areas, internally displaced persons camps, airports and telecommunications infrastructure, creating enormous displacement and outmigration.

After visiting Saudi Arabia, Kerry then went to the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, which houses the largest Pentagon military base on the continent at Camp Lemonnier. The government of Djibou-

ti has done more than the U.S. itself in evacuating distressed people fleeing the war in neighboring Yemen.

Aid shipments face Saudi-GCC blockade

Although the U.S. has reached a “deal” with Tehran over its nuclear technology capabilities, the hostility toward the country continues. Many observers believe that the war against Yemen is designed to weaken the burgeoning influence of Iran throughout the Gulf region.

Several attempts by Iranian vessels and planes to provide assistance to the civilian population in Yemen have been rebuffed by Saudi vessels, backed up by U.S. warships.

Tehran, however, has reiterated its commitment to address the situation in Yemen. As Press TV reported, “Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the Islamic Republic is prepared to provide Yemen with any humanitarian aid and help the impoverished state work out a political solution to the ongoing crisis there.”

At a combined press conference in Tehran with South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Zarif said, “Since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen and the start of the illegal attacks on the country, the Islamic Republic of Iran has explicitly announced that the Yemeni [crisis] cannot be settled militarily and that these attacks will have no outcome but the killing of defenseless people.” □

‘Why I’m aboard the Rescue Ship to Yemen’

By **Caleb Maupin**
In the Persian Gulf

May 12 — I am a radical journalist and political analyst as well as an anti-war activist working with the International Action Center, Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) and the United National Antiwar Coalition.

I am 27 and grew up in Ohio. I currently live in Brooklyn, N.Y., with my loving spouse Meches. However, as you read this message, I am thousands of miles away from home on a ship in the Persian Gulf.

Why am I at sea on the other side of the world? I am part of a humanitarian mission carried out by the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are attempting to bring medical supplies, flour and water to the people of Yemen.

A criminal U.S.-Saudi war of aggression

In response to a massive uprising de-

manding democracy and self-determination in Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has unleashed an intensive bombing campaign. Over 1,000 innocent civilians are already dead. Schools, hospitals, power plants and mosques are being targeted.

As someone from the United States, nothing disturbs me more than the fact that the cruise missiles and other weapons used to terrorize and kill innocent Yemenis are provided by my own government. Our government constantly utilizes propaganda about “human rights” when attempting to isolate and demonize certain countries, but for more than half a century it has been coddling the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one of the most blatant human rights’ violators on the planet.

The Saudi regime not only beheads, tortures and exploits people within its own borders, but it represses people throughout the region.

The people of Yemen have long been held down by a corrupt, undemocratic regime backed and supported by Saudi Arabia and the U.S. The recently deposed President Mansour Hadi ran unopposed in the 2012 election as the official Saudi-backed and -selected candidate. The U.S./Saudi regime in Yemen has facilitated a horrific campaign of drone strikes by the U.S. military since 2002 that has left countless innocent civilians dead.

In response to years of impoverishment, repression and humiliation, the people of Yemen have risen up in revolution. The Ansarallah organization, commonly called the “Houthis” in U.S. media, is at the center of a broad coalition of forces that are writing a new constitution. Popular committees have sprung up all across the country.

Violence against a massive democratic upsurge

Despite what you have heard on CNN, this is not an ethnic or religious war. This is not a “proxy war” with Iran. This is a popular, anti-imperialist struggle for democracy and independence led by the Yemeni people themselves. The Ansarallah organization is aligned with Sunnis, secularists and various forces from across Yemeni society who want to free their country from foreign hands.

In response to this massive upsurge of people’s power, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with ISIS and al-Quaida in Yemen, is waging a campaign of violent terrorism. They hope to drown this popular revolution in blood, beat down the Yemeni people and force them back under Saudi dominion. The U.S. government is supporting the Saudi regime and its allies in their criminal attack, and this is abhorrent and immoral.

A few passing words of criticism and condemnation from U.S. officials do not change the reality of the ugly U.S. alliance with the Saudi regime. The U.S. officials

who arm and coddle the Saudi regime, as well as the U.S. and British oil corporations who make billions of dollars from this twisted relationship, are complicit in the crimes against humanity currently taking place in Yemen.

The Yemeni people, despite this horrendous bombing campaign, have not surrendered. The Ansarallah fighters have aligned with the Yemen Army and the tribal forces in a united front. Saudi Arabia’s attempt to form a “Free Army” of Yemen mercenaries has completely flopped. It is now reported that more than 642,000 Yemenis of various religious backgrounds have joined together to form people’s militias to beat back the Saudi assault.

A humanitarian mission

On board the Rescue Ship with me are other peace activists from the U.S., Germany and France, as well as many doctors and a few journalists from Iran. We intend to deliver our cargo of over 2,500 tons of food and medical supplies to the port of Hodeidah on the Red Sea.

Everything on the ship has been carefully checked to make sure nothing that could be considered a weapon is on board. This is a mission of peace, carried out by the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a nongovernmental organization recognized by the United Nations.

Iranian jets attempted to deliver medical aid on April 28. They were cleared for landing by Yemeni airports, but before they could touch down, they were repelled by Saudi fighter jets.

Blocking the delivery of humanitarian aid is an extreme violation of international law. As our craft propels through the Persian Gulf, we are loudly urging that no one interfere with this peaceful humanitarian mission.

Let the hungry children of Yemen live! This illegal, immoral blockade must end! Don’t block the Rescue Ship! □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

Mujeres combatientes quieren lograr la paz

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Cuando se les preguntó sobre el hecho de que la cúpula del liderazgo - el Secretariado de las FARC - son todos hombres, las panelistas afirmaron que el objetivo es mejorar, que “estamos en un estado perpetuo de crecimiento, para lograr ser mejor de lo que somos”.

Se respetan y protegen los derechos LGBT

La Subcomisión de Género también está revisando todos los acuerdos para que se respeten y protejan los derechos LGBT. “Tenemos el máximo respeto por las personas vengan de donde vengan, sexualmente hablando,” una miembro del grupo indicó. “Como cuestión de princip-

io, nunca discriminaríamos contra alguien por su orientación sexual”.

La delegación disfrutó de esta rara oportunidad de aprender cómo la democracia real del pueblo - un proceso que hace un gran esfuerzo para hacer que las voces de las/os más oprimidos se escuche - puede llevarse a cabo incluso en las condiciones más extremas de guerra, represión y austeridad neoliberal.

Martha Grevatt representó al Centro de Acción Internacional en la delegación patrocinada por la Alianza para la Justicia Global. La delegación también incluyó a representantes de la Asociación Nacional de Abogados y varios grupos de solidaridad con América Latina. □



WW PHOTO

A la izquierda, Berta Joubert-Ceci, con una líder de las FARC-EP, Victoria Sandino.

Estibadores cierran puertos en Área de la Bahía el 1º de Mayo

Por Terri Kay

Oakland, California, 1 de mayo - Una vez más las/os miembros del International Longshore and Warehouse Union (Sindicato Internacional de Estibadores y Almacenes) Local 10 realizaron una valiosa hazaña cuando votaron por cerrar todos los puertos en la Área de la Bahía y marchar a la Alcaldía de la ciudad de Oakland en contra del terror policial. El enfoque político en el momento de la decisión fue el asesinato por la policía, de Walter Scott el 4 de abril en Carolina del Sur. Scott tenía fuertes vínculos familiares con la Asociación Internacional de Estibadores (ILA) allí, y el ILWU Local 10 votó para mostrar su solidaridad con el ILA.

“Yo sometí la resolución para cerrar el puerto porque me siento orgulloso de la historia de resistencia de mi sindicato, y sentí que era tiempo de que los trabajadores se manifestaran fuertemente contra el terror de la policía”, dijo Stacey Rodgers, el miembro de ILWU que inició la acción del puerto. “Estamos en un momento histórico en nuestro país. Los trabajadores siempre han sido parte de los momentos históricos de este país, y continuamos ese legado el Primero de Mayo”.

Luego Freddie Grey fue asesinado por la policía de Baltimore.

Hoy, Día Internacional de las/os Trabajadores, la membresía del ILWU y más de 1.000 miembros de la comunidad salieron para mostrar su rabia sobre los recientes homicidios policiales y todos los casos de terror policial. El Local 10 y varios grupos comunitarios y otros sindicatos organizaron una manifestación en el Puerto de



FOTO WW: TERRI KAY

Local 10 de ILWU detiene trabajo para protestar contra brutalidad policial.

Oakland, seguida de una marcha por los Proyectos Acorn en West Oakland y otra manifestación en la Plaza Oscar Grant frente a la Alcaldía de Oakland.

En el puerto, las/os trabajadores portuarios denunciaron el terror policial, incluyendo a la familia de Jeremiah Moore, un hombre autista que la policía mató a balazos en Valejo, Calif., el 20 de octubre de 2012, y el tío de Richard ‘Pedie’ Pérez, un hombre desarmado a quien miembros del Departamento de la Policía de Richmond dispararon el 14 de septiembre.

La banda musical del ILWU encabezó la marcha. Las/os manifestantes llevaban banderas, incluyendo una que decía “Justicia para Yvette”. Yvette Henderson fue asesinada el 3 de febrero por la policía de Emeryville. En otras se leía: “¡Primero de Mayo!, ¡A luchar por Freddie Grey!”, “No a la ejecución por falta de

atención médica, libertad para Mumia Abu-Jamal” y “Alto al terror policial, ILWU Local 10”.

Las/os estudiantes en los parques de recreo de una escuela primaria y una escuela secundaria en la ruta de la marcha saludaban y gritaban jubilosamente al pasar las/os manifestantes. Éstos, a su vez se pararon para enseñarles consignas como “ Toda la noche, todo el día, lucharemos por Freddie Grey”.

Cat Brooks, de ONYX y el Proyecto Anti-Terror Policial, dijo en un comunicado de prensa, “La única forma que este país nos va a tomar en serio es si interrumpimos su comercio y hacemos un impacto en su economía. No funciona el simplemente apelar a su humanidad. Si ese hubiera sido el caso, la epidemia de genocidio negro a manos de la policía hubiera terminado hace décadas”.

Mujeres combatientes quieren lograr la paz

Por Martha Grevatt
La Habana

Las conversaciones de paz entre las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) y el gobierno colombiano, que tienen lugar en La Habana, Cuba, están progresando a pesar de muchos desafíos.

Del 11 al 18 de abril, 33 activistas de Estados Unidos, Colombia, Costa Rica y Puerto Rico tuvieron la oportunidad de reunirse en La Habana con miembros plenipotenciarios/os de las FARC-EP, así como con representantes del gobierno colombiano y de los países garantes, Cuba y Noruega, junto con los asesores legales españoles de las FARC-EP.

Una de las sesiones más esclarecedoras fue nuestro encuentro con la Subcomisión de Género. Esta subcomisión se estableció para asegurar que cualquier acuerdo entre las partes “avance la causa de las mujeres, darle a los acuerdos parciales una perspectiva de género, reconocer el papel central de la mujer y la autonomía de las mujeres para mejorar su posición”, según Victoria Sandino, una líder de las

FARC-EP en la subcomisión.

Las mujeres de las FARC-EP tomaron muy en serio las demandas planteadas por las mujeres colombianas durante muchos intercambios. Como consecuencia de ello, se creó la Subcomisión de Género.

Muchas de estas propuestas de organizaciones de mujeres y de lesbianas, gay, bisexuales y transexuales, se hicieron a través de un proceso que incluye un sitio web creado por las FARC para presentar sugerencias que luego se presentan en la “Mesa de Conversaciones” (así es como llaman al ámbito de las negociaciones entre las FARC-EP y el gobierno). El proceso es uno democrático que permite a las masas colombianas hacer conocer sus inquietudes y sugerencias. Más de 100 mil sugerencias se han recibido.

Las mujeres sufren de manera desproporcionada las consecuencias de la guerra que el gobierno de Colombia, con el apoyo de Washington, arremete contra el pueblo. Muchas mujeres han quedado viudas. Las mujeres comprenden el 70 por ciento de las millones de personas desplazadas. Experimentan discriminación en el trabajo. Ven a sus hijas/os asesinados. Y

para obtener los ingresos necesarios que les son negados, algunas se convierten en “mulas” que trafican drogas ilegales de Colombia. Como prisioneras políticas y prisioneras de guerra, están sujetas a tortura y a violencia sexual.

Todo esto salió a la luz cuando ambas partes en la Mesa de Conversaciones escucharon testimonios de las víctimas del conflicto, un proceso que las FARC-EP insistieron en que se diera. De las/os 60 testigos, seis eran de organizaciones de mujeres y dos de grupos LGBT. Sus propuestas se integraron al proceso de conversaciones. Alrededor del 80 por ciento de las mujeres colombianas ha sido víctima de la guerra en una forma u otra. “Pero”, destacó Sandino, “no somos sólo víctimas, somos actores, somos agentes políticos. Hemos estado luchando y haciendo demandas”.

Mientras el gobierno colombiano también está representado en la subcomisión, se hizo evidente que las mujeres de las FARC-EP eran su fuerza motriz. Las siete mujeres y el hombre que habló con nuestra delegación sobre la subcomisión pertenecían a las FARC-EP. “Las mujeres

combatientes queremos lograr la paz”, explicaron.

Las panelistas también disiparon algunos de los mitos sobre las mujeres en el ejército guerrillero. Los medios de comunicación capitalistas han presentado a las mujeres de las FARC-EP como esclavas sexuales de los hombres combatientes, haciendo declaraciones falsas sobre abortos forzados y otros innumerables abusos. Sin embargo, las mujeres siempre han desempeñado papeles principales desde la fundación de las FARC en 1964 y comprendan al menos el 30 por ciento de todas/os los combatientes. Muchas juegan papeles principales a nivel regional.

Todas las mujeres reciben la misma formación que los hombres - su formación incluye “el aprendizaje de las causas fundamentales de la opresión, los valores éticos y morales de ser revolucionaria/o, y los valores humanitarios por los que estamos luchando”.

Los derechos de las mujeres y las/os niños, incluidas las que experimentan violencia doméstica, son atendidos en las zonas bajo el control de las FARC-EP.

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