



Free Óscar López Rivera
editorial 10

Wisconsin killer cop let off

Justice for Tony Robinson!

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne announced in Madison, Wis., on May 12 that police officer Matt Kenney would not be charged in the March 6 killing of Tony Robinson, an unarmed 19-year-old Black student. In response, hundreds of Black and Brown youth and their allies took to the city's streets that day and the next day to protest another injustice where a white police officer is not held accountable for killing a person of color.

This is the second time since 2007 that Kenney has killed someone while on duty and been allowed to walk free. He is now on paid leave. The Madison Police Department says an "internal investigation" is taking place and a decision will be reached soon on whether Kenney will return to the streets.

Anticipating the district attorney's decision, the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition called for an all-day "Black-Out Wednesday" on May 13. Protesters gathered at the house where Robinson was slain by Kenney.

There, Brandi Grayson, leader of Young, Gifted and Black, stated, "What we are seeing unfold in Madison is validation that Black lives do not matter. How can people say 'all lives matter' when they have yet to prove that 'Black lives matter'? This is a struggle for power, Black power, Black liberation. You understand that your liberation is bound in Black liberation and it is time for us to act accordingly," she emphasized.

The demonstrators then marched all day, carrying huge banners demanding, "Justice for Tony!" and "Black Lives Matter!" Black and Brown youth led the march, joined by their white working-class allies. They shut down streets around the city and held a civil disobedience action at the jail. There, protesters chained themselves together to demand justice for Robinson and an end to state violence.

Activists also held a "people's court" on the state Capitol steps. More than two dozen were arrested.

Solidarity protests in Milwaukee

In solidarity with the protests in Madison, the Coalition For Justice in Milwaukee held a "Justice For Tony Robinson" demonstration on May 13 at Red Arrow Park, where 31-year-old Dontre Hamilton had been gunned down a year earlier. The coalition formed after Milwaukee police officer Christopher Manney fired 14 shots at the 31-year-old African-American man on April 30, 2014. Manney was not charged for this heinous crime.

The Nation Of Islam Mosque No. 3 held a "Black Lives

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Hundreds take to the streets of Madison, Wis., May 13 in response to the non-indictment of killer-cop Matt Kenney.

'Shell: No Arctic oil drilling!'

By Jim McMahan
 Seattle

May 18 — Since the start of this year, a groundswell of opposition has arisen against Royal Dutch Shell's plans to drill in the Arctic. With barely any public notice, the Seattle Port Commission had granted a lease in early January for Shell to use Terminal 5 in that city to overhaul a Shell oil rig.

In response, environmental groups went into high gear to organize opposition. The sHell No! Action Coalition was formed, partnered with Bayan USA, 350 Seattle, the Backbone Campaign, the Mosquito Fleet and Rising Tide, Seattle. They work with Native peoples, es-

pecially the Duamish, the First People of Seattle. People sent thousands of emails and made calls to port authorities, held waterfront demonstrations and public speak-outs at Port Commission and City Council meetings.

These activists organized a three-day Festival of Resistance beginning on May 16 and building for Mass Direct Action on May 18. On the first day, the coalition held a Shell No Kayak Flotilla. Hundreds of people in kayaks and canoes with anti-Shell flags flooded the Port of Seattle in Elliott Bay in the Puget Sound. The Duamish people and other Native peoples rowed larger canoes. A banner called for "Climate Justice!"

The activists massed in front of the 400-foot-tall
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Fighting racism and imperialism FIST national congress held in Detroit

By Ramiro Fúnez and Sara Benjamin
Detroit

Young revolutionary activists from across the United States met in Detroit May 15-16 for the Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) 2015 National Congress. Attendees addressed the issues of racism and imperialism inherent in today's global capitalist system.

Along with establishing an organizational structure well-suited for tackling these issues, FIST members also initiated plans to participate in several upcoming actions. These include the People's Tribunal on Police Terror and Structural Racism, to be held June 6 in Baltimore, working alongside the People's Power Assemblies and the Black Lives Matter movement; contingents in the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer Pride marches around the country scheduled for June; and a March Against Capitalism in New York City later this summer to confront the financial institutions that relentlessly fund the prison-industrial and military-industrial complexes.

Members also discussed an upcoming FIST delegation to revolutionary Cuba to learn more about women's liberation, community organizing and socialism.

In addition to the Detroit FIST activists who helped organize the Congress, FIST members from Rockford, Ill.; Chicago; Janesville, Wis.; and Milwaukee represented the Midwest. Representatives also attended from Durham, N.C.; Lexington, Ky.; Morgantown, W.Va.; Baltimore; Philadelphia; and New York City.

Congress organizers selected Detroit for the event because of its financial and political situation, marked by rising poverty, inequality and racism. Water shutoffs, home foreclosures, gentrification and the dictatorship of banking institutions over public services characterize the city's crises.

Sara Benjamin, a FIST organizer based in Baltimore, drew parallels between the issues affecting Detroit and her home city. "Detroit looks a lot like Baltimore, divided



FIST National Congress participants gather for group photo, May 16.

WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

among the haves and the have-nots, the gentrified and the abandoned," she said.

In any urban city plagued with capitalism and structural racism, where jobs are scarce, education is inadequate, and people feel hopeless, you will also find anger and rebellion. The April 19 murder of Freddie Carlos Grey Jr. by racist police, for example, ignited a firestorm of rebellion led by youth in Baltimore. They expressed how sick and tired they are of the endless police killings of Black women and men. The uprisings in Baltimore were similar to those led by youth in Ferguson, Mo., who took to the streets for weeks after Michael Brown, an unarmed Black 18-year-old, was shot and killed by police.

In these situations, courageous young people faced arrests, tear gas and police harassment. They also faced similar forms of class warfare like water shutoffs, lack of health care and homelessness. These struggles have inspired many to join the fight against oppression.

FIST organizers, recognizing the urgent need for a mass youth movement to fight all forms of oppression, invite all revolutionary and socialist youth to consider membership.

For more information, visit fightimperialism.org.
Scott Williams contributed to this article.

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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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Amtrak train disaster and the media Rush to judgment

By Stephen Millies
Member, American Train Dispatchers
Association and Transportation Commu-
nications Union

When Amtrak train No. 188 derailed in Philadelphia on the night of May 12, eight people were killed and over 200 injured.

Among those killed was Derrick Griffith, dean of student affairs and enrollment management for Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, N.Y. Two of this writer's co-workers at Amtrak's "40" office — its New York dispatching center — were injured.

The wreck halted Amtrak trains between New York and Philadelphia and SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) commuter trains between Trenton and Philadelphia. Tens of thousands of people had to change their travel plans.

Many are wondering how this disaster could have happened. The train was going from Washington, D.C., to New York when it derailed on a sharp curve at Frankford Junction, almost eight miles east of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station.

This was near the site of a 1943 wreck of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Congressional Limited that claimed 79 lives.

Despite the devastation this train wreck caused, train service resumed a few days later on Monday, May 18. Union members worked around the clock to repair the tracks and install new catenary poles to carry the electrical power wires.

Capitalist media vs. engineer

The speed limit for this stretch of track was 50 mph. Yet the engine was going slightly more than 100 mph when it derailed.

Was the engineer incapacitated? Was there something wrong with the engine, which was a new model? What safety measures are needed to prevent this tragedy from being repeated?

Much of the capitalist media and political establishment ignored these serious questions and instead viciously assailed the engineer, Brandon Bostian.

Radio bigot Rush Limbaugh made homophobic attacks on Bostian and hinted that he wanted to commit suicide.

The New York Daily News' charming front-page headlines on May 15 were "Engineer's convenient concussion" and "Did I do that?" with a picture of Bostian.

Bostian did indeed suffer a concussion and "received 14 stitches in his head and staples in his leg as a result of the crash." (Newsweek, May 14)

Bostian was questioned for hours by investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), who described him as cooperating fully. But the Amtrak engineer can't remember what happened between the time the train went through North Philadelphia station and the derailment a few minutes later.

A loss of memory isn't unusual with people who suffer concussions or other accidents. This writer's brother broke his leg in a skiing accident years ago but can't remember the actual time of injury.

None of this prevented some media outlets from insinuating that Brandon Bostian was lying or covering up.

This defamation campaign even included ridiculing Bostian for having worked his way through the University of Missouri as a cashier at a Target. This is just sneering at workers, similar to presidential candidate Mitt Romney's notorious remarks about the "47 percent."

The Daily News described as "rants" the cogent posts that Bostian had apparently written earlier on the trainorders.com website, calling for the railroad industry to implement the safety measure called Positive Train Control.

Rocks, frame-ups and PTC

One possible theory is that a rock or some other object was thrown at Amtrak locomotive No. 601 as it pulled the soon-to-be-derailed train. This could have caused the engineer to be temporarily distracted or even lose consciousness.

An Amtrak Acela train and a SEPTA commuter train were reportedly stoned the same night, a few miles from the site of the derailment.

Rocks have been thrown at trains for generations, and that's not good. The New York Times described how President Teddy Roosevelt's train was stoned in the same Philadelphia neighborhood over a century ago. (May 17)

The FBI is now investigating. Look out! The FBI and Philadelphia police could concoct a frame-up like that of New York's "Central Park 5," who were falsely convicted of rape charges.

Those five Black and Latino teenagers spent years in jail before being exonerated and awarded \$41 million in reparations. But billionaire Donald Trump called for them to be executed.

This train wreck will probably speed up the complete installation of Positive Train Control on Amtrak's line between New York City and Washington, D.C. According to the NTSB, this safety system could have prevented the wreck.

The hold-up has been the years spent negotiating with private operators for the necessary radio bandwidth needed to operate PTC.

If ever there were a case for "eminent domain" — the taking of property with compensation by the government or utility for the public good — this is it. The Federal Communications Commission should have knocked heads and forced the private operators to deal with Amtrak.

The rest of the railroad industry is dragging its feet on installing PTC and is lobbying Congress to extend the December 2015 deadline.

Bring back 'firemen' and hire 'firewomen'

But there's another safety measure that needs to be adopted. Engineer Brandon Bostian, like most passenger engineers, was operating alone.

Years ago there would have been a 'fireman' in the cab who could take over in case of an emergency.

As Doc White, a retired locomotive engineer for Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad, told Workers World: "This was a tragedy waiting to happen. You need two people in a locomotive. On freight trains you usually have a conductor riding with the engineer, calling out signals. But on a passenger train you're all alone," said White, who started out as a 'fireman.'

The railroad industry spent years reducing crew size, which they denounced as "featherbedding." One result was the deaths of 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, when a 74-car runaway oil train filled with highly volatile crude oil exploded on July 6, 2013.

There was only a single employee — the engineer — in charge of this moving bomb.

The Philadelphia track tragedy could have been worse. The derailed engine stopped a few feet from a tank car. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

May 13 march commemorates bombing of MOVE and defends Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Mumia's life is STILL in danger! Act NOW!

The following excerpts are from a national appeal sent out May 17 by the International Action Center on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal supporters on his latest health crisis struggle, which began in late March. Go to iacenter.org to read the entire statement. As of the morning of May 18, Wadiya Jamal was allowed a 15-minute phone call with Mumia due to the growing pressure of the phone calls to the Department of Corrections.

Mumia once again taken to hospital outside SCI Mahanoy; held incommunicado from family, attorneys and doctor. We need to act now!

Political prisoner and internationally renowned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal has once again been taken from the prison infirmary at SCI Mahanoy in Frackville, Pa.; this time to Geisinger Medical Center in Dansville, Pa., about three hours from Philadelphia.

Having received no phone calls from Mumia, including on Mother's Day, when he always calls, Mumia's spouse, Wadiya Jamal, called the prison infirmary on Tuesday, May 12, and learned of the transfer. Since then Mumia has been out of communication with his immediate family and doctor, despite the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' obligation and agreement to keep Wadiya Jamal informed of his medical condition.

State regulations also prohibit prison officials from blocking attorneys' access to their clients; however, visits by his attorneys have also been denied.

On Wednesday, May 13, Wadiya was told that immediate family visitation was approved by Superintendent John Kerestes and the DOC. This was confirmed by Laura Neal of the DOC Legal Counsel's office.

Wadiya prepared to visit Mumia at the hospital on May 13; however, she was then told by Neal that Geisinger Hospital would not permit the visit because Mumia was not in critical condition, and the hospital has a policy of not allowing visits to prisoners.

Mumia's family and attorneys have been given conflicting reports that updates on his medical condition were released to authorities at SCI Mahanoy. Wadiya was told repeatedly by medical officials at SCI Mahanoy that no medical updates had been given to them. However, Donald Zaycosky, litigation counsel at Geisinger told Rachel Wolkenstein, an attorney representing Wadiya Jamal, that a medical update had been provided to infirmary doctors on Thursday, May 14.

Wolkenstein reported that on Friday, May 15, Zaycosky stated that under the

circumstances an exception could be made to the hospital's "no visitors" policy. He explicitly stated that Geisinger did not object to phone calls or family or legal visitation, but wanted to make sure it was okay with the DOC.

On May 15 at 9:30 a.m., Wolkenstein forwarded Zaycosky her correspondence with Laura Neal that stated that the DOC had approved family visitation. Since then, despite phone calls and emails, there has been no communication from either the prison infirmary or the hospital regarding either medical updates on Mumia's condition or to confirm or deny family visitations.

Mumia's family, attorneys and supporters are extremely worried about his current medical condition and alarmed that he is being held incommunicado while his spouse, legal counsel and his private doctor are being denied any access to him.

When Mumia was first rushed to the emergency room this March in diabetic shock, a global network of supporters sprang into action to inundate phone lines of prison and hospital officials demanding that they allow visitation from his family and attorneys. ONCE AGAIN, IT'S TIME TO ACTIVATE THAT SUPPORT.

Just last week, supporters delivered a letter to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, calling on him to release Mumia from prison in order to get the proper medical care he needs. It was signed by numerous world dignitaries, including South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Minister Louis Farrakhan; New York Congressperson Charles Rangel; Executive Vice President of Local 1199 SEIU, Estela Vasquez; actor Danny Glover; writer Alice Walker; and many more. A significant press conference was also held in Harlem on April 30.

Please call the officials below to demand:

- **Unrestricted hospital visitations by Mumia's family**
- **Access for his attorneys**
- **Let Mumia call family, supporters and doctors**
- **Stop the state's attempt to murder Mumia by medical mistreatment**
- **Release Mumia from prison to be able to obtain needed health care**

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fax 717-772-8284; governor@pa.gov
Geisinger Medical Center: 570-271-6211 □

DETROIT

Fight continues against foreclosures, water shutoffs, banks

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

The struggle to stop mass tax foreclosures and water shutoffs continues in Detroit, along with the political struggle to place the onus of these outrageous acts squarely on the banks and the bankers. Many activists see this struggle as part of the worldwide fight against finance capital and its bloodsucking thirst for ever-greater profits at the expense of the world's workers and oppressed.

A broad coalition has come together in Detroit and adopted a program for a moratorium on tax foreclosures, which the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs has been advancing.

A letter drafted by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan called for the Wayne County Treasurer to enact "an immediate moratorium on all tax foreclosures of occupied homes until your office can ensure that they are done fairly and in accordance with the law." Many groups and individuals signed it, including Moratorium NOW!, Sugar Law Center, ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services) and Detroit People's Platform.

The following statement summarizes the 10-page letter: "Carrying out the planned tax foreclosures will cause an unprecedented human rights catastrophe." A well-covered press conference and demonstration outside the treasurer's office in downtown Detroit on May 12, the day the mass tax foreclosures were to go into effect, announced the letter's call for a moratorium.

As a result of community pressure and demonstrations, led primarily by Moratorium NOW!, the county treasurer was forced once again to delay the home seizures. The foreclosures of 20,000 to 25,000 occupied homes are now scheduled for June 8.

Community efforts to stop this wholesale displacement of 25,000 families have already twice postponed the original March 31 foreclosure date.

Fighting for water, against banksters

At the same time that this struggle to stop mass tax foreclosures is in full swing, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has started shutting off water to another 25,000 homes. Last year, because of the struggle, the water department was forced to offer payment plans that were slightly better than those previously in place.

But the plans were unrealistic for low-income, unemployed or impoverished families, which make up the bulk of this oppressed majority-African-American city. They just delayed the crisis through the winter, when subfreezing tempera-

tures stopped water shutoffs anyway. Of 24,000 people enrolled in the plans, all but 300 are now in default and facing shutoffs once again.

To add insult to injury and human suffering, in the midst of this double crisis facing tens of thousands of families, JPMorgan Chase is arrogantly having its board of directors meeting in Detroit on May 19.

Chase's way of handling housing loans is a prototype for the racist, subprime mortgage fraud that robbed and devastated cities and communities across the U.S. starting around 2006. Chase is also the leading holder of interest rate swaps worldwide, including the swaps that bankrupted the Detroit water department and are behind the city's mass water shutoffs.

A Moratorium NOW! leaflet for a demonstration outside the bank's annual meeting states that Chase has made "trillions of dollars worldwide through its derivative unit, robbing cities and whole countries through its interest rate swap swindles. In Detroit, Chase and its fellow banksters were given \$537 million out of the water department's \$1.1 billion bond deal in 2011-2012 marked for infrastructure repairs. These banks are the real culprit in the mass water shutoffs."

Moratorium NOW! is demanding that Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and all the banks be made to pay to remove the blight and destruction they caused and to rebuild Detroit.

Currently federal monies earmarked for the Helping Hardest Hit Homeowners program, intended to keep families out of foreclosure and in their homes, are being used to tear down abandoned and vandalized structures. Administering these millions for further destruction is none other than Dan Gilbert, head of Quicken Loans, which is being investigated by the federal government for mortgage fraud.

The demonstration at the Chase annual meeting is set for May 19 starting at 9 a.m. outside the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel, corner of Michigan Avenue and Washington Boulevard, in downtown Detroit. For more information, call 313-680-5508 or visit moratorium-mi.org.

The International Social Movements Gathering for Water and Affordable Housing will be held in Detroit from May 29-31 at various locations in the city. Coordinated by the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and the Detroit People's Water Board, to which Moratorium NOW! belongs, the three-day "gathering of regional, national and international allies [will] draft solutions and strategize on efforts to demand water and housing affordability and access for all people." For more information, go to socialmovementsgathering.info. □

Mothers for Justice United

Members of "Mothers For Justice United" marched and participated in various activities in Washington, D.C., on Mother's Day weekend, May 8 to 10, to demand an end to the epidemic of police terror and other forms of state violence directed against Black and Brown communities.

Maria Hamilton demanded justice for her son, Dontre Hamilton, whom killer cop Christopher Manney shot 14 times and killed on April 30, 2014, in Milwaukee. Andrea Irwin, mother of Tony Robinson, a 19-year-old Black youth whom killer cop Matt Kenney murdered on March 6 in Madison, Wis., also participated, as did other mothers of police victims.

"This is a call for everybody to wake up," Hamilton said as the main march began May 9. "We are



PHOTO: MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE UNITED

here on behalf of our babies to tell the United States government that we aren't going anywhere. We aren't going to continue to keep burying our babies. Do something and do it now."

Mothers For Justice United is planning a series of actions across the U.S. this spring and summer. For more information: facebook.com/mothersforjusticeunited. □

On-the-Picket-Line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

N.Y. cracks down on abuse of nail salon workers

A 2014 Department of Labor investigation revealed an epidemic of labor abuses throughout New York state's nail salon industry. In a survey of 29 nail salons, investigators found 116 violations of state labor laws, including wage theft, unpaid overtime, paying for a job and unsafe exposure to noxious chemicals. On May 11, one year after the report's release, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of a multiagency, emergency task force to further investigate and enforce labor law violations in the state's nail salons to "help ensure that no one — regardless of their citizenship status or what language they speak — is illegally victimized by their employer." (governor.ny.gov, May 11)

In addition to closing and revoking the licenses of nail salons that do not comply, the task force will offer information sessions in six languages to educate the workers, predominantly immigrant women who speak Chinese, Korean or Spanish, to learn about their rights and how to anonymously report violations and unsafe conditions.

The report revealed that many manicurists have a variety of respiratory and skin ailments due to working with highly toxic chemicals that speed up drying time and prevent polish from chipping. Three of these substances are known to cause cancers such as Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma and leukemia, and a variety of reproductive health hazards like miscarriage, abnormal fetal development and low-birth-weight babies.

Manicurists will now be required to wear gloves to reduce the risk of contracting skin conditions like fungal infections, warts and burns from handling chemicals. Ventilation will be required to reduce chemical fumes, and the state's Health Department will conduct a study before setting up comprehensive safety standards.

Postal workers' National Day of Action against privatization

With the American Postal Workers Union's contract set to expire on May 20, workers and supporters called a National Day of Action on May 14 to demand "Good Postal Service! Good Jobs! Good Contract!" The postal workers seek to counter continuing efforts by management of the U.S. Postal Service to outsource union jobs to such notorious union busters and low-wage employers as Staples and Walmart. Workers also called on management to end cuts in service and keep post offices open longer in order to better serve customers. Workers and supporters rallied outside post offices in more than 131 locations throughout the U.S. to deliver the message: "I stand with Postal Workers." To send an e-card to the Postmaster General with that slogan, visit apwu.org. (May 14)

Twin Cities janitors picket Kohl's shareholder meeting

Retail store janitors, many immigrants organized by Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL; Center of Workers United in Struggle), descended upon Kohl's department store's annual shareholder meeting May 14 in Menomonee, Wis., to demand fair wages and safe working conditions. Protesters called on Kohl's to adopt the same Responsible Contractor Policy enacted by Twin Cities Target stores in June 2014. The policy guarantees contracted janitorial workers the right to collectively bargain and form safety committees, and prevents janitors from being forced to work seven-day weeks. (KARE11.com, June 10, 2014)

Kohl's janitors in Minneapolis and St. Paul employed by the contractor Eurest/Kimco have reported widespread wage theft in amounts as high as 35 hours per week, according to a lawsuit filed in 2014. An Occupational Safety and Health Administration report found that Eurest/Kimco illegally subjected more than 1,700 workers nationwide to dangerous conditions over the last six years. (CTUL.net, May 12)

Brooklyn carwashers' strike pays off

A four-month strike at Brooklyn's Vegas Auto Spa came to a victorious end April 6 when the car wash workers agreed to a labor contract with wage increases, paid sick leave and personal days, and a \$1,500-per-person bonus. The workers, organized by the Department Store Union and community groups, led a militant struggle that included filing a suit charging at least \$600,000 in wage theft, marches and civil disobedience. RWDSU President Stuart Applebaum and two other union officials were among those arrested during worker-led direct actions against the car wash management on March 4. These workers are the ninth group of immigrant, self-described "carwashers" to win a labor contract in New York City since the "Wash New York Campaign" was started three years ago. (washnewyork.org, March 17; New York Daily News, April 5) □



MOVE bombing tribute unites anti-police brutality forces

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Right near the site where, about 30 years earlier, Philadelphia authorities had authorized the dropping of a bomb from a State Police helicopter on the MOVE compound, around 1,000 people rallied this May 13.

The bomb contained military grade C-4. The resulting fire destroyed 62 homes in the Black working-class neighborhood near 63rd Street and Osage Avenue, killing 11 men, women and children in the MOVE organization.

Before the fire ignited, over 500 police had fired more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition at the MOVE home in a racist onslaught against this Black urban community. This blatant act of police brutality, fully supported by public officials and whitewashed by the MOVE Commission, set back the fight against police terror in Philadelphia for decades.

In the 1970s, following state prosecution of the Black Panther Party, the MOVE organization had become the dominant anti-police brutality group in this historically Black city. Nine MOVE members were sentenced to 30 years in prison after a months-long standoff against a police assault on their Powelton Village compound ended in 1978 when a police officer was killed — most likely by “friendly fire.”

Former BPP member and prominent journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal covered this conflict, frequently coming into open conflict with then-Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo. Activists like Abu-Jamal who spoke out against police corruption and violence ended up targeted as well. In 1982 Abu-Jamal was framed for murder by police and court officials and sentenced to death row.

Solidarity with Baltimore youth rebellion

For Philadelphia the movement against police brutality has come full circle. The 30th anniversary observation of the 1985 MOVE bombing was markedly different from earlier events. It united an historic struggle against police brutality led by MOVE with the emerging and youthful Black Lives Matter movement.

Participants included three generations of MOVE members marching side by side with anti-police brutality activists from Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, Boston and North Carolina. Many carried banners naming victims of police brutality, including Freddie Grey, Rekia Boyd, Brandon-Tate Brown, Frank McQueen, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, as well as the MOVE 9.

Speakers at the rally expressed solidarity with the rebellion of Black youth in Baltimore in the wake of the murder of Grey, who died April 19 after his spinal cord was severed by police. At a rally outside a police station, a solidarity message was delivered to demonstrators in Madison, who were marching there to protest the May 12 decision not to file charges against police officers who killed Tony Robinson on March 6.

Participants also included low-wage workers fighting for \$15 and a union, members of the Philadelphia Student Union fighting against school closing and education cuts, and Osage Avenue neighbors engaged in a 30-year struggle to save their community.

After the rally, a spirited march wound through West Philadelphia, stopping for a speak-out at a police precinct. Some ran the 3-mile route, others rode bicycles or walked.

The bicyclists and runners acted like Paul Revere, telling people that a march was coming. A caravan of cars bearing

the names of the MOVE adults and children murdered by the state on May 13, 1985, followed the marchers.

Students at a middle school and two high schools, as well as people on porches or standing outside stores in commercial districts, cheered as the march passed. Some joined in.

Indoor event draws 1,700

A late-afternoon indoor rally at the First District Plaza on Market Street drew over 1,700 people; extra chairs had to be added. Photos of the 11 who died were arrayed on stage next to the message, “Never let it happen again.”

Messages of solidarity were delivered by video conference from Angela Davis, Alice Walker and Minister Louis Farrakhan. Imprisoned MOVE 9 member Janine Africa called in, and a radio interview was aired from Mumia Abu-Jamal, currently hospitalized. Several speakers addressed the state’s latest attempt to murder Abu-Jamal through medical mistreatment and demanded his release from prison.

Rally speakers included Pam Africa, Cornel West, Michael Coard, Gloria Rubac, Amina Baraka, Suzanne Ross, Johanna Fernandez and Ramona Africa,



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

the lone survivor of the bombing, Rebel Diaz, Chuck D, Impact Theater and the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble provided entertainment.

Sharif El-Mekki, principal of Mastery Charter School, brought students and staff to the program, noting, “We must teach the younger generation. We should never forget what happened.” Two longtime Osage Avenue residents, Connie Renfrow and Gerald Renfrow, voiced concern over attempts to gentrify their neighborhood and push people out of their homes.

Several speakers urged continuing the struggle to free all political prisoners, including Abu-Jamal and the remaining members of the MOVE 9, who still languish in Pennsylvania prisons, unable to gain parole. Two of the MOVE 9, Merle Africa and Phil Africa, have died under mysterious circumstances while incarcerated. □

OAKLAND

Conference backs U.S. political prisoners

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

“I am here today to ask people to support our political prisoners. If we all get together, I am sure we can bring them home,” said Richard Brown, a former Black Panther Party member and himself a former political prisoner from San Francisco. Brown spoke on a panel of formerly incarcerated political prisoners that was the final session of the one-day, “No More Locked Doors Conference on Political Prisoners,” held May 16 at the Qilombo Collective in Oakland.

According to conference organizers, “No More Locked Doors” was organized to commemorate the 30th anniversary of “the horrific bombing of the MOVE Organization by the Philadelphia police,” and to build awareness of U.S. political prisoners. On May 13, “Let the Fires Burn,” a documentary about the May 13, 1985, bombing of the MOVE house in Philadelphia, was shown at the Omni Commons in Oakland as part of this effort for political prisoner support.

Throughout the day, workshops were held to educate community activists about the cases of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Óscar López Rivera, the MOVE 9, Herman Bell, Jalil Muntaqim and other political prisoners currently serving long sentences in U.S. state and federal prisons. Several workshops focused on Mumia’s medical condition and activist efforts to get him released from jail. A video ex-



Former political prisoners Richard Brown and Bo Brown speak at the final No More Locked Doors Conference plenary.

cerpt from the People’s Video Network of a recent New York City press conference to protest the medical neglect suffered by Mumia was played throughout the day.

The case of Óscar López Rivera, a leader of the Puerto Rican independence movement, was also highlighted at the conference. Supporters invited everyone to participate in May 29-30 national days of protest to free Rivera.

The conference ended with a panel of formerly incarcerated political prisoners. All of the speakers talked about the need to build a movement to free all political prisoners. “The power of the people really makes a difference. That’s why I am here on the streets today,” said Sundiata Tate, a formerly incarcerated political prisoner and comrade of George Jackson, a revolutionary prisoner who was assassinated by San Quentin guards in 1971. Tate, who faced serious felony charges as a member of the San Quentin 6, was later acquitted of all charges. For more information check out nomorelockeddoors.org. □

‘Justice for Tony Robinson!’

Continued from page 1

Matter” forum on May 13 in Milwaukee.

Numerous other acts of solidarity took place on May 13, and many statements were issued, too, demanding justice for the slain youth. The Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement denounced the outrageous decision not to indict Kenney for killing Tony Robinson. Their statement said: “We stand in full solidarity with the Robinson, Hamilton and all families affected by their loved ones being murdered by the police. We stand in solidarity with the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition and the Coalition For Justice. We demand justice for Tony, Dontre, Rekia Boyd, Freddie Grey and all victims of police terror.”

The group demanded the prosecution and jailing of all police who have committed fatal acts of terror against Black and other oppressed communities, and called for disarming the police. Their statement concluded with: “All out for May 13 protest actions in Milwaukee and Madison! Living wage jobs and other people’s needs, not police terror!” (wibailoutpeople.org)

Fight Imperialism, Stand Together

(FIST) of Rockford, Ill., stated: “Today, the Dane County district attorney announced that there would be no charges against Madison Police Officer Matt Kenny for the murder of Tony Robinson, an unarmed Black youth. FIST sees this as the continuation of justice denied to Black and Brown communities that face police terror and occupation.

“We stand in full solidarity with the Robinson Family and those who are fighting back against this injustice.” The statement concluded by expressing solidarity with the Robinson family, calling for actions on May 13 and the jailing of “killer cops.” (facebook.com/RKFDIST)

The Young, Gifted and Black Coalition and the Coalition for Justice are continuing to organize actions demanding justice for Tony Robinson, Dontre Hamilton and all other victims of police terror.

For more information on activities, see Facebook.com/justicefordontre; Facebook.com/fergusontomadison; #Justice4TonyRobinson; #BlackOutWednesday; #BlackLivesMatter and #MKEtoMadison. □

Guantánamo in Chicago

Imperialist war and police torture

By Fred Goldstein

In 1990, Lathierial Boyd, 24, was asked by police to come to a facility in Chicago to help them investigate a murder. Boyd was confused, but, as he had been at his sister's house on the other side of town the night of the murder watching a basketball game, he was not worried. He had a real estate business and was doing well.

He went to the infamous police facility called Homan Square not knowing that an untold number of people, mostly Black and Latino/a, had been “disappeared” into that building. He met Detective Richard Zuley and soon was shackled to a wall and the floor. Zuley went through Boyd's nice apartment. Finding nothing, Zuley returned and told Boyd, “No n_____er should live like this.” (Guardian, Feb. 19)

Zuley had Boyd framed up by suppressing exonerating evidence and faking incriminating evidence. Boyd was finally freed in 2013, after 23 years in prison, on the grounds that he should not have been tried in the first place.

From Homan Square to Guantánamo

Angel Perez is the latest man to level similar accusations, telling the Guardian he was taken to Homan in October 2012 after being called to a meeting by cops who wanted him to touch base with a drug dealer they believed he knew. He declined to do so. Perez says the cops then put him in a cagelike room, sat on his chest, pushed their palms into his eyes and threatened his family — all to get him to participate in a \$170 drug sting operation. The cops shackled him, taunted him and began running a metal object — Perez says an officer implied it was a gun — along his skin and then forced it into his rectum. “He jammed it in there and I started jerking and going all crazy.” (Newser.com, March 15)

These are just two of countless examples of people being lured into the CIA-like secret site in Chicago to be tortured and coerced into confessions and/or collaboration with the cops, often in frame-ups. At times, masked cops have swooped down on people in the streets and brought them to Homan Square with no charges and no official arrests.

If a person is not arrested, then he or she doesn't have to be entered into the system, given a lawyer, have the family notified or have his or her rights read. The person just “disappears” into the police torture dungeon.

There is a strong political connection between police torture and imperialist war. Zuley was on the police payroll for 20 or more years until he took a leave to be part of the Joint Task Force for torture interrogations at Guantánamo prison.

Wrote the Feb. 18 Guardian: “Zuley's tactics, which would be supercharged at Guantánamo when he took over the interrogation of a high-profile detainee as a U.S. Navy reserve lieutenant, included:

“Shackling suspects to police-precinct walls through eyebolts for hours on end; accusations of planting evidence when there was pressure for a high-profile murder conviction; threats of harm to family members of those under interrogation used as leverage; pressure on suspects to implicate themselves and others; threats of being subject to the death penalty if suspects did not confess.

“While ‘assigned’ to the U.S. military base at Guantánamo Bay ... Zuley led one of the most brutal interrogations ever conducted at the prison. ‘I've never seen anyone stoop to these levels,’ a former Marine Corps prosecutor said.”



Jon Burge, police torturer

The torture inflicted by the Chicago police in Homan Square is not new. In the 1970s and 1980s police detective and commander Jon Burge ran routine torture operations that he had learned while in Vietnam. Burge framed up hundreds of people and extracted false confessions, often to capital crimes.

Burge headed a band of police named the “Midnight Crew” between 1972 and 1991. They systematically tortured and abused Black men and women to coerce false confessions. Methods they used included suffocation, beatings, burnings, electric shock with cattle prods, electric wires attached to the genitals, and other methods that caused severe physical and mental injury.

The Chicago-based Innocence Project uncovered so many coerced confessions and got so many capital cases overturned that Gov. George Ryan in January 2003 commuted all 163 death sentences in the state, emptying death row in Illinois. Some of those pardoned were Burge's victims.

Burge carried on for two decades before he was finally brought to court in 2010. He was sentenced to a light term for perjury and recently got out.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel was forced to accede to the demands of the Black and Latino/a communities for reparations to Burge's victims. He began to speak about doing so only to placate the oppressed communities during the mayoral primary campaign, when he was running behind Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, who mounted a strong campaign and was winning support in the Black and Latino/a communities. Even though Emanuel was forced to apologize for the crimes of Burge, the Homan Square torture site has been up and running all through his mayoralty.

Imperialist war and torture at home

It is no coincidence that both Zuley and Burge learned torture in the service of U.S. imperialism: in Vietnam and Guantánamo. Torture is a feature of imperialist war against colonial resistance.

Torture was gradually outlawed in Europe and the U.S. in the 18th and 19th centuries. Torture had been practiced during the medieval Spanish Inquisition, by the European monarchs and lords, by Protestants against nonbelievers or by Puritan fanatics against women declared to be witches. Outlawing it was part of the bourgeois democratic revolution and the establishment of limits on the repressive powers of ruling-class authorities at that time.

No such bourgeois democratic restraints applied, however, to the African-American people under slavery or to the colonized Native peoples in the U.S. Likewise, no such restraints applied in the colonized regions and oppressed countries.

In Kenya, Malaya and Aden and in other places where wars were waged against national resistance, the British put hundreds of thousands in concentration camps and carried out unspeakable torture.

The same applied to the French in the

It is no coincidence that both Zuley and Burge learned torture in the service of U.S. imperialism, in Vietnam and Guantánamo. Torture is a feature of imperialist war against colonial resistance.

war against the Vietnamese liberation struggle and against the Algerian National Liberation Front. French torture became infamous around the world when a book by the French Algerian communist Henri Alleg, “The Question,” describing his own torture by the colonial authorities, sold worldwide in spite of being banned in France.

U.S. atrocities in the Philippines during the Philippine-American (also known as the Spanish-American) war of 1898-1902 shocked the world. U.S. tiger cages, massacres like My Lai and brutal torture methods in Vietnam were condemned by the world. In the same way, the struggle to crush the resistance in Afghanistan and Iraq drove the U.S. to use torture in secret sites, as well as the more widely publicized horrors at Abu Ghraib.

The important point is that torture methods devised by the imperialist “democracies” sooner or later come home to be used against the oppressed. And the racism that feeds both the war at home and the war abroad is intensified as those wars deepen and widen.

Police racism and torture part of system

It is important to note regarding police killings of unarmed Black and Latino/a men and women that exposures, commissions, hearings, even punishment of cops and prison guards do not stop police brutality, torture, abuse of prisoners or mass incarceration.

Baltimore defunds schools, funds youth jail

By David Card
Baltimore

The Maryland Board of Public Works unanimously decided on May 13 to spend \$30 million for the construction of a new youth jail facility in Baltimore. It was soon announced that \$11 million had been cut from funding for education in Baltimore. Coming right after the rebellion of Baltimore youth against police killings, these decisions concretely show the state of Maryland's and the ruling class' priorities.

On April 25 and 27, Baltimore's oppressed youth finally said, “Enough is enough!” and militantly fought back against the capitalist state. They smashed and burned cop cars; they took what they needed to live from stores; several police officers reported broken bones.

This militant struggle has terrified Baltimore's ruling class, which has used every trick to restore “order” in the city. First the National Guard was called in, as a threat and show of force. Then there was the decision to charge the six officers; this was a clear concession by the state, which feared

Jon Burge and his “Midnight Riders” carried on their torture for two decades. Richard Zuley and his racist cohorts have been operating Homan Square for almost two decades. This takes place in plain view of the ruling class of Chicago, the Justice Department in Washington and the bankers and bosses who are the makers and shakers in capitalist society.

The New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Wall Street Journal and all the other luminaries of the big business media establishment never lifted a finger to run a really thorough exposé of the torturers. It took the Guardian newspaper of Britain, which also publicized the revelations by Edward Snowden, to persevere and uncover this ugly, racist torture den.

While the exposures of torture are a setback for the cops, they will stay in the business of killing, torture and brutality unless and until there is a mass movement that is powerful enough to shake the foundations of the capitalist system. The ruling class is used to endless exposures. The publicists of the exploiters have mastered the art of riding with a wave of condemnation until it dies down, and then they go back to business as usual.

Only a strong assault from below can shake the cops and their paymasters in the board rooms and push them back. In the final analysis, mass incarceration, police occupation and racist repression must be swept away, along with the capitalist system they serve. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

PPA says: 'Jobs & education, NOT YOUTH JAILS,' at Baltimore City's Juvenile Justice Center, May 16.

further militant protests if police were obviously unpunished. While Baltimore's ruling class wants the people to believe that the current system can handle and address their needs, the approval of this new budget shows what they really plan.

The city and state officials all understand that regardless of the outcome in the case of Freddie Grey, the basic policy of the police in the U.S. will not change under the current system. They understand that more people will be murdered, and, increasingly, more people will fight back. While they will talk about “Black-on-Black crime,” drug use and other things unrelated to the rebellion, it is no coincidence that they are building a jail for young people right after a major uprising of people who were almost entirely under the age of 30. The ruling class is saying loud and clear that both austerity

90 years after birth of Malcolm X

The material basis for Black Lives Matter movement

By Larry Hales

The rebellions in both Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore in response to state terror — more commonly called police brutality — are the most tremendous examples of rising social upheaval in the United States. The Black Lives Matter movement that has sprung up in the wake of many high-profile police killings of Black men, women and children is a continuation of the Black struggle for liberation.

Like any political movement, it is growing, changing and learning. The rebellions, while part of the burgeoning political climate that is leading in a more radical direction, are of a spontaneous nature. Despite the calls for peace from more mainstream activists and bourgeois politicians, the rebellions will most likely spread to other cities, as the conditions of oppression, repression and economic warfare continue in oppressed communities.

The political development of the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as the masses who rebel — in this period and anytime — is rightly appraised in the context of objective and subjective factors.

Malcolm X gave a major speech at Columbia University, entitled “The Black Revolution and Its Effects upon the Negroes of the Western Hemisphere,” on Feb. 18 1965, three days before he was assassinated. He stressed, “It is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict or black against white, or as a purely American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” Considering the fact that May 19 marks the 90th anniversary of Malcolm’s birth, these remarks made three days before his assassination are as true now as they were then.

Of course, the times and political climate were different then. The capitalist system was at a different point: It was still expanding in the 1960s, despite the ongoing social explosions in the imperialist centers and in the political and social revolutions in the oppressed world.

However, there is much to compare between that period and now regarding the international situation and, specifically, the movements within the internal colonies in the U.S. Change depends upon such conflict — social, political as well as cultural.

Capitalist state fosters terror

State terror is nothing new. Even when there are no social explosions, the terror of state forces, not merely the police, but the whole oppressive apparatus, has always

and repression are here to stay, regardless of the words of any individual politicians.

What the youth of Baltimore need right now is amnesty for any charges related to the rebellion, as well as increased investment into the most poor and oppressed communities in Baltimore. That means funding quality education, recreation centers, health care, suitable housing and jobs with a livable wage. Youth do not need an increased presence of police to terrorize them, nor more jails to lock them away.

When a people are left without any decent jobs, without the education required to get jobs (if they existed), without other basic necessary services — and all they are left with is police and jails — they will demand systemic change. If the city and state governments continue down this path of austerity, they will be sowing the seeds of future rebellions. □

loomed over the internally oppressed colonies in the U.S. — the Black, Indigenous, Mexican, Puerto Rican and other Latino/a peoples. It endangers immigrants who have been forced to migrate to the U.S. from oppressed countries — due to armed conflict led or backed by Washington or its proxies or because of imperialist economic warfare on their homelands.

In the Black, Brown and Indigenous communities or on Native reservations, this state terror has been the most acute. This is because of the doctrine of white supremacy, which is woven into the foundation of the capitalist system itself; it affects the cultural and belief systems and the politics and laws in the entire superstructure of capitalist and imperialist societies. To maintain their dominance, internally and externally, the oppressor nations find it necessary to maintain the division between white people and the darker people of the planet, who live in countries where many resources lie.

In the U.S., this racist division is needed so capitalists can drive down wages and line the pockets of owners of industries which thrive off the imprisonment of primarily oppressed people. Oppressed people are vilified to “justify” their criminalization and incarceration by the state.

While police killings are the focus and the catalyst of the rebellions and the Black Lives Matter movement, they are not new developments. It is only that modern technology facilitates the instantaneous travel of news and because cell phone video cameras are ubiquitous. However, the underlying oppressive conditions are what keep the ire of the Black community simmering.

Oppressed communities hit by system’s changes

These conditions did not spring from nowhere. Those that prevail in many Black communities are a continuation of policies set in motion by the processes of today’s capitalist system — with its revolutionizing of the productive forces and the resulting shrinking labor force, particularly impacting oppressed people. Governments at all levels deliberately neglect these communities. Paying back the banks at exorbitant interest rates is the priority of government, at the sake of people’s needs.

This is exemplified by the lack of jobs or the availability of only low-wage jobs with no benefits, the shrinking of the public sector and attacks on union rights, cutbacks

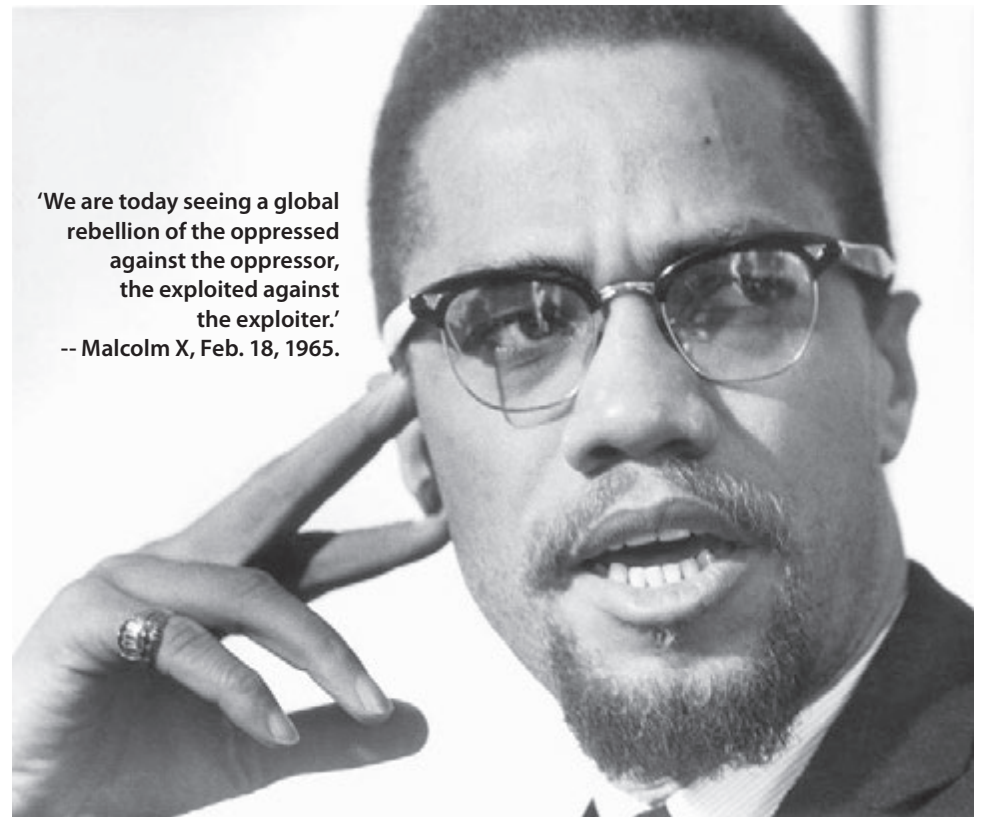
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Polar Pioneer drilling rig platform, which had arrived only days before. A rally was held on a barge only a quarter-mile from the oil rig.

Some 500 demonstrators, organized by the sHell No! Action Coalition, marched today on Seattle’s Terminal 5 where the oil rig is docked. They blocked entrances to the 50-acre site; no truck traffic went in or out, and the terminal was shut down all day. There were no arrests during this resistance action, reported participants.

On Jan. 7, an article titled “Limiting Tar Sands, Coal, Arctic Oil Is Key to 2-Degree C Goal,” appeared in the journal Nature. Its premise is that Arctic oil must be left in the ground and not burned to avoid catastrophic climate change. This attracted much attention from environmental activists in Seattle and elsewhere.

Additionally, the arrival of Shell’s monster Polar Pioneer oil rig happened on the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Hori-



‘We are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.’
-- Malcolm X, Feb. 18, 1965.

in governmental programs, such as food stamps, unemployment benefits, housing subsidies, and the closing of schools and hospitals. Police terror reigns.

Baltimore and Ferguson are perfect examples of the changes happening in the U.S. for different reasons. The demographic shift of oppressed and poor people from the cities to the suburbs, such as Ferguson, and the subsequent growing poverty in this and other suburbs are due to gentrification, the lack of jobs, services and so on. St. Louis has been impacted by gentrification, the decline of manufacturing and port jobs, mass incarceration of the oppressed and so forth. Baltimore, too, is experiencing some of the same developments.

It should be noted that gentrification is not some peaceful process whereby developers buy up land and properties cheaply in areas long redlined where there is no social spending by governments — and where there are not even grocery stores! Before that can happen, laws and ordinances are enacted that criminalize the people in the community and a more active police presence increases, as brutalizations and killings terrorize the population into fleeing.

This situation has some similarities to the conditions in the U.S. South that led

to the great migration to the North by the oppressed who left to escape terror, but also to get plentiful jobs. The difference today is that jobs are not really plentiful anywhere, and there is a huge surplus of labor among the oppressed, especially Black people.

Any movement needs contextualization of the objective reality. In this instance the system is in crisis and the financial markets are jittery. Political confusion and disorganization exist among forces in the leftist movement in the U.S.; it is not a united entity. There are volatile conditions outside the country with U.S.-led or -backed covert and overt wars. Competition is fierce between imperialist countries for markets, while developing capitalist economies have to fight their way in.

The period of the 1960s and 1970s — the era of political figures like Malcolm X, one of the pre-eminent radicals in U.S. history — differed in many aspects from today. However, upheavals and rebellions like those in Ferguson and Baltimore will become more commonplace, and the Black Lives Matter movement will continue its growth and radicalization to meet the demands of the burgeoning political and social movements. It should be supported by all progressive forces in the U.S. □

‘Shell: No Arctic oil drilling!’

zon disaster (also known as the BP oil spill) in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven people were killed on April 20, 2010, in what is known to be the worst oil spill in the petroleum industry’s history.

White House OKed Arctic drilling

The White House gave the green light on May 11 for the oil rig to come in, when Shell won conditional approval to drill in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska’s northwest coast. The oil giant intends to drill in 140 feet of water in an area with major storms and waves up to 50 feet high. The risks for a major oil spill are very high.

Shell’s record in Alaska is disastrous. In 2012 their drill rig Kulluk ran aground; Shell pleaded guilty to eight felony offenses related to safety.

Washington’s easy approval is due to the oil monopolies’ tight control over the capitalist state. Shell Oil and allied oil corporations, together with the banks and

the military-industrial complex, occupy the commanding heights of the capitalist system.

Shell made over \$15 billion in profits in 2014. Petroleum products are contained in consumer and industrial commodities everywhere in the capitalist markets. Big Oil dictates the oil wars against the peoples in the Middle East and Africa.

Drilling for oil is an attack on the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic and oppressed countries across the globe who are struggling against rising oceans from Bangladesh to Barbados. Arctic drilling is a direct assault on the Kyoto Treaty and other international agreements attempting to stop global warming.

The capitalists’ insatiable drive for profits must be met by a rising tide of working-class militancy and solidarity. The struggle must be aimed against this heinous system which threatens the planet and all its inhabitants. □

Ten years after her death

Remembering Pat Chin

By Monica Moorehead

Pat Chin, a national committee member of Workers World Party and WW contributing editor, died on May 16, 2005, following a more-than-decade-long, heroic battle against breast cancer. She was 56 years old. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, her heritage also included a Chinese grandfather. Chin moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., in the early 1960s. Following the Stonewall Rebellion, she came out as a lesbian in the early 1970s and was a founding member of Salsa Soul Sisters, an organization of mainly Black, Latina and other lesbians of color.

Chin evolved as an anti-imperialist and internationalist, influenced by the Black and other national liberation struggles at home and abroad and the triumph of the Cuban socialist revolution. She traveled to Cuba several times, starting out as a member of the Venceremos Brigade.

The year following her first International Working Women's Day event in 1986, she joined WWP. Never forgetting her Caribbean roots, this fearless Marxist fighter dedicated much of her party work to showing solidarity with the Haitian people's fight for liberation against the remnants of French colonialism and U.S. neocolonialism.

Pat traveled to Haiti numerous times, starting in 1990, to meet with representatives of the Haitian mass organizations and the people. Pat also traveled to Yugoslavia in 2000 as part of a delegation to see firsthand the mass destruction caused by the U.S. bombing of that country the previous year. Pat served as an international judge on commissions to help expose U.S. crimes against the peoples of Haiti and Yugoslavia. She documented her travels to Haiti and Yugoslavia with articles and photographs in WW.

Pat was a principled communist who

not only studied the works of Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Amilcar Cabral, Kwame Nkrumah, Walter Rodney, Fidel Castro, Sam Marcy and many other revolutionary leaders but also put this theory into practice when it came to the contemporary struggles of the workers and the oppressed fighting capitalism and imperialism. She was a worker, a unionist, an advocate for women's liberation, a brilliant writer and self-taught photographer, whose unique personality always lit up a room. She lived life to the fullest, including constantly sharing with others her love for the culture of the Caribbean peoples, whether it was with food or the arts.

If Pat were alive today, she would be

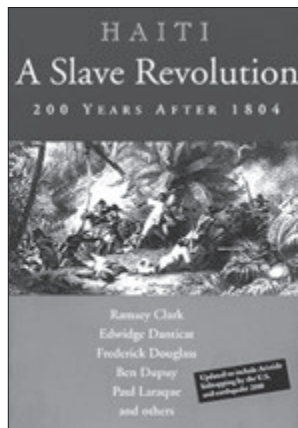
standing shoulder to shoulder with the Black Lives Matter upsurge against police terror and state repression.

Pat was tragically taken from her WWP comrades, family, friends and the movement all too soon. But her fighting, revolutionary spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her and future revolutionaries. Pat Chin, ¡Presente!

To read the full obituary, go to www.workers.org/2005/us/pat-chin-0602/.



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



HAITI

A Slave Revolution

Updated to include the Aristide kidnapping by the U.S. and the earthquake in 2010.

Available online and at bookstores around the country.

Pat Chin, a *Fanm Vanyan* in the Haitian Struggle

On the tenth anniversary of the death of Workers World Party leader, Pat Chin, the editors of *Haiti Liberté* wrote this moving tribute to her important contributions to the Haitian liberation struggle.

Comrade Pat Chin was the shining embodiment of international solidarity. Born in Jamaica, she already had an affinity for the struggles of neighboring Haiti. For close to two decades, she worked shoulder to shoulder with comrades engaged in the Haitian struggle, particularly in the Haiti Commission for Inquiry into the September 30 Coup d'Etat and the Haiti Support Network. She wrote articles and reports, spoke at events, photographed demonstrations and took part in several delegations to Haiti. Despite her reserved demeanor, she always brought sharp ideas and suggestions to meetings. She worked partic-

ularly closely with comrade Harry Numa, who also prematurely died in a tragic car accident in Haiti last August.

One of her last great contributions to the Haitian struggle was her collaboration with comrade Greg Dunkel in the publishing of the book "*Haiti: A Slave Revolution*." Just this spring, we met a young Haitian man at a meeting in Canarsie carrying a dog-eared copy of the book. "It is my Bible," he replied, when asked why he had it.

Comrade Pat, we miss your soft, wry laugh, your penetrating insights and your indomitable spirit. *Fanm vanyan* means, in Kreyòl, a crusading woman. That is what you were, and you live on in our hearts and memories. *Kenbe la, kenbe fèm alaganash!*

Haiti Liberté
May 18, 2015

Haitian people tell French President Hollande: 'We want money, not empty words'

By G. Dunkel

The people of Haiti greeted French President François Hollande on May 12 with cries of "Long live Dessalines! Down with Hollande!" Jean-Jacques Dessalines was the radical Haitian general who led the final struggle of the victorious Haitian Revolution against the French slave masters and declared Haiti's independence on Jan. 1, 1804.

The present Haitian government, led by President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Evans Paul, met Hollande at the airport in the capital city of Port-au-Prince with a red carpet and full honors.

Before coming to Haiti with his 300-person entourage, Hollande visited the French Caribbean island colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe. He briefly stopped in Cuba to look for business opportunities for French companies and to chat with President Raúl Castro and former President Fidel Castro.

In a speech on May 10 in Guadeloupe, Hollande saluted Martelly's presence as a representative of the first nation to end slavery by force of arms. He denounced the treaty that France had imposed on Haiti in 1825, forcing the country to pay



Haitians demonstrate against French president.

150 million gold francs as compensation for "lost" property — referring to Haitian people who had been brutally enslaved by the colonial country before 1804.

Calling this the "independence ransom," Hollande declared to great applause, "When I get to Haiti, I will in my turn pay the debt we have" to the country. (*Haiti Liberté*, May 13-19)

This is no small sum. In 2003, former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's government asked France to repay this amount with interest — which it calculated to be \$21.6 billion. The imperialist French government, of course, refused. Today, with interest, the total nears \$26.7 billion.

However, even before Hollande got to

Haiti, he backtracked. He was only acknowledging France's "moral" debt for slavery and the "ransom" extorted from Haiti's people. As David McFadden wrote on May 11, "French officials stressed he was referring to a 'moral debt,' not a financial one." (Associated Press)

But Norluck Dorange, a progressive Haitian writer, questions how one can pay off a "moral debt."

Thousands of angry protesters gathered in front of the stand that was erected for the official speeches in the capital's Champ de Mars plaza. They were furious that Hollande had turned a real debt into a "moral debt." Paid for with the blood and sweat of its people, Haiti had only finished paying the financial obligation

in 1947.

The demonstrators were also enraged because while Martelly and Hollande pointedly laid a wreath at the memorial to Toussaint Louverture, a Haitian liberation leader who died in a French jail in April 1803, they avoided the memorial to Dessalines — the general who decisively defeated the French and declared Haiti's independence.

Some university students were dressed and chained together, the way enslaved Haitians lived under French colonial rule. One person was dressed to resemble Dessalines and rode a horse, as the great leader did.

The crowd chanted, "Long live restitution! Long live reparations! Down with occupation!" They were objecting to the United Nations Minustah military force's occupation of Haiti since 2004.

Videos showed that demonstrators were militant and did not back down until the cops brought in water cannons and tear gas. The police forced protesters away from the official stand before Hollande arrived.

Martelly was hoping for an event to embellish his credentials for the upcoming elections, but his hopes were dashed by the people's resistance. □

Baltimore anti-police brutality protest says 'Amnesty for all' arrestees

By Lamont Lilly
Baltimore

On May 16, hundreds of protesters gathered at downtown Baltimore's McKeldin Square in a show of solidarity with more than 500 mainly African-American protesters who were arrested and jailed locally over the last three weeks. While some arrestees have posted bail, many are still catching hell behind the walls of the Baltimore City Detention Center.

Organized by the Baltimore People's Power Assembly, concerned community members spoke out and marched for three miles through Baltimore's downtown and oppressed community, including Latrobe Homes. Community members of all nationalities were there to call for justice in the torture death of 25-year-old Freddie Grey by six Baltimore Police Department officers last month. It took more than a week — which included the rebellion and a five-day curfew — for these officers to be charged with Grey's

death.

In addition to honoring Brother Grey, others shared personal stories involving friends and loved ones who have also experienced negative encounters with Baltimore police — from racial profiling to beatings, to outright murder. It was obvious through the people's testimonies that the city of Baltimore does indeed have a very serious problem with police terror.

A rally led by Sharon Black and Rev. C.D. Witherspoon of the Baltimore People's Power Assembly had protesters continuously chanting: "What do we want? AMNESTY! When do we want it? NOW!" Rev. Witherspoon reminded the local media and attendees, "This is an uprising, not a riot. Our resistance is justified." His inspiring comments were right on time as the local police attempted to derail the route by way of an armed barricade.

Their intention was to cut off the route from entering the Black community in order to disconnect the oppressed community from their supporters and allies.

In a spontaneous show of sheer bravery, marchers refused to be moved and simply went around the cops. This small but heroic stand was important because the route was specifically mapped to cover the Black community, as well as two stops, one at the Baltimore Juvenile Justice Center and one at the city's Central Booking and Intake Center.

At both facilities community members spoke out against the state of Maryland's recent approval to construct a new \$30 million youth jail, which is only an insult to the recent rebellion. Speakers and protesters were careful to highlight the connections among police terror, militarization, the perpetuation of the prison-industrial complex through private prisons and the school-to-prison pipeline. It's unfortunate how the city of Baltimore can find money for more jails and prisons, but not money for better schools and recreation centers.

Protest attendees were very conscious of the fact that most of the inmates incarcerated in Baltimore are actually victims

of racist, systematic disenfranchisement, poverty and police terror — all ills of the capitalist crisis. Protesters were very aware that prisons and jails are merely tools that aid the process of continued oppression and state-sponsored violence. That is exactly the reason the Baltimore People's Power Assembly is calling for full amnesty for all rebellion-related arrestees.

Capitalism has run its course, and the system has now failed — both workers and youth alike. Those incarcerated for speaking truth to power must be defended. Those detained for standing up for justice must be released. We say jail the "real thugs" — the judges and corrupt politicians. Free the people and jail killer cops! Revolutionary socialism for the poor and oppressed!

Come stand in solidarity with the first session of the Baltimore Tribunal & People's Assembly on "Police Terror and Structural Racism," Sat., June 6, 2-7 p.m. For details and additional information, contact the PPA at 443-221-3775. □

Remember María Guardado

By Workers World Los Angeles Branch

Workers World Party members and thousands of others — from Los Angeles to El Salvador — are deeply saddened by the death of María Guardado, who died earlier in May in Los Angeles at the age of 81. Friends reported that she died peacefully and without pain after a long battle with cancer.

For those who are unfamiliar with María, a documentary film entitled "Testimony: the María Guardado Story," available on YouTube, is a good place to start to learn of her life.

In her home country, María had been a school teacher. Like so many Salvadoran workers, she was also an important activist in the national movement against U.S. domination. Like tens of thousands of others, she was caught up in the brutal campaign of repression carried out by the U.S.-backed right-wing government. In the late 1980s, she was kidnapped by death squads, brutally tortured and ultimately tossed out of a moving car and left for dead.



Collage includes murals of María Guardado in South Central L.A. (left) and Mexico City, and photos of María in the struggle.

Her abduction was a cause among activists and sympathizers. In one of the last sermons given by Archbishop Óscar Romero, just before he himself was assassinated,

he called on the death squads to release María Guardado. María survived and, with the help of a taxi driver, made it home to her family. She was then secreted out of the country and to the United States by co-activists. She won asylum and spent the rest of her life fighting against U.S. imperialism tooth and nail.

Her courage and energy throughout the years won the admiration and love of the entire progressive movement in Los Angeles — especially among the many Latino and Latina activists. María had become a symbol of what the U.S. has done to harm El Salvador, of the immigrant rights movement in the U.S., of the anti-war movement and of the struggle for justice in general.

Some of her injuries from torture were permanent — including trauma. When she spoke, she would lose her breath, pause, collect herself and continue. She always continued. Her activities for a number of years included trips to the annual mass actions at Fort Benning, Ga., by School of the Americas Watch,

even though — because of her health — it was difficult for her to fly cross country.

Four years ago, María joined Workers World Party. Although her health was already beginning to limit her activity, her determination to struggle strengthened the Los Angeles branch.

Every struggle that affected the working class was important to her, from union rights to fighting against racist cops, and she was an anti-imperialist to her core. All those who were victimized by imperialism were to be defended at all costs. That was María.

María was also a wonderful poet, and her first book of poetry is in the process of being published.

She wished to be buried in her home country of El Salvador, and a GoFundMe campaign has been set up to help her family do so. To contribute, see gofundme.com/maria-guardado. Her family and community are planning an all-night tribute for May 23 and 24, with a mass on Saturday morning and another community event on Saturday evening.

María Guardado, iPresente! □

NYC tenants demand affordable housing

By G. Dunkel

Thousands of tenants demanding their right to affordable housing gathered in Manhattan's Foley Square on May 14 and marched across the Brooklyn Bridge. They were joined by labor allies: 1199SEIU United Health Care Workers East, the Communication Workers Local 1080, the Professional Staff Congress, the Hotel Trades Council and the Distributive Workers all had contingents.

The rent regulations for New York City that limit what landlords can charge their tenants are scheduled to expire June 15. A million apartments are covered, the largest bloc of rent-regulated housing in the United States.

New York City's rent regulations are enacted into law by the state Legislature in Albany. The whole process is controlled

by three men — Andrew Cuomo, the governor; John Flanagan, the leader of the Senate; and Carl Heastie, the speaker of the Assembly. What these three men agree to is generally what passes.

Real estate interests are major donors in New York and the daily weblog, the Gothamist, reported on May 15 that seven of the 10 largest donors to Cuomo represent real estate.

Over the past 10 years, manipulations by developers and politicians have removed tens of thousands of apartments from rent regulations. Homelessness has increased because, even outside of Manhattan, with its astronomically priced housing, it is difficult for poor and working people to find affordable apartments.

What politicians like Mayor Bill de Blasio consider affordable is questionable. What he is pushing is "inclusionary zon-

ing," which makes developers set aside some percentage — usually a small percentage, typically 20 percent — of the new housing they develop for "low-income" tenants. For instance, a new development in the Bronx has low-income apartments for people making over \$28,000 a year, or \$13.50 an hour working a 40-hour week. (Jacobin, Fall 2014) Thus, even these "low-income" apartments are out of reach for many low-wage, part-time and unemployed workers.

A number of the speakers pushed going to Albany June 9, on the free buses 1199SEIU is providing, and several made the connection between struggling for affordable housing and "Black Lives Matter." Other speakers raised the issue of a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and a union. □

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Free Óscar López Rivera

At the 2013 funeral of South African President Nelson Mandela, who had been imprisoned by the U.S.-backed apartheid regime in South Africa for 26 years previous to liberation, President Barack Obama said that “around the world today, men and women are still imprisoned for their political beliefs.”

He should look homeward. Puerto Rican freedom fighter Óscar López Rivera has now spent 34 years in a U.S. federal prison for the “crime” of struggling for the freedom of his homeland — Puerto Rico. In 1981, he was convicted of “seditious conspiracy” for his participation in the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). That was for his political beliefs! There was no conviction for bombing or injuring anyone.

Yet despite strong pressure from the Puerto Rican government and political leadership, the AFL-CIO, Nobel laureates Desmond Tutu and Mairead Maguire, and many, many progressive organizations in the U.S. and around the world, Obama so far has refused to release him.

In 1999, over the protests of the FBI, the U.S. attorney’s office and Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Bill Clinton offered clemency to López Rivera and twelve other Puerto Rican nationalist prisoners. The twelve others accepted, but López Rivera turned the offer down. Clinton had demanded, however, that López Rivera serve ten more years of a fifteen-year sentence for a spurious “attempted escape” charge. López Rivera rejected Clinton’s offer, also not wanting to leave imprisoned other prisoners whom Clinton had excluded from his action.

Now, 16 years later, all the other nationalist prisoners are out of jail. But López Rivera still languishes in federal prison, the last “independentista” behind bars. He spent 12 of those 34 years in solitary confinement in some of the highest security prisons in the country.

Puerto Rico has been under U.S. domination since Washington seized the Caribbean island in 1898. Before that it had been a colony of Spain. U.S. citizenship was forced on Puerto Ricans in 1917 — just in time for 20,000 Puerto Rican

youths to be drafted into the U.S. military for World War 1.

In 1948, when López Rivera was five, the U.S.-controlled Puerto Rican legislature made it illegal to own a Puerto Rican flag, to sing a patriotic song, even to speak in favor of independence. That law was repealed in 1957.

At 14, López Rivera moved to Chicago. He fought in the Vietnam War, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal. He then helped establish Illinois’ first Latino cultural center and organized to improve housing for Puerto Ricans in Chicago.

During the 1970s, López Rivera devoted himself to the FALN and the freedom struggle for Puerto Rico. In his defense against the charges brought against him, López Rivera argued that under international law he has the status of “prisoner of war.” International organizations have declared Puerto Rico to be a colony of the U.S. The United Nations General Assembly, within a resolution against international terrorism, excluded people seeking “the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all people under colonial and racist regimes.” (mintpressnews.com, May 14)

The U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization approved a resolution in 2013 that called on the U.S. to “end the subjugation” of Puerto Rico and to release López Rivera.

On May 29, there will be a march to free López Rivera through 34 municipalities in Puerto Rico, ending with a huge rally at the Federal Courthouse at Hato Rey. There will be demonstrations and rallies in 34 cities across the U.S., as well as events throughout Latin America, Europe and Asia. In New York City, there will be “A Day For Óscar López Rivera, One Voice for Óscar,” a march and rally to demand the release of Puerto Rican activist and icon Óscar López Rivera.

Workers World urges its readers to support these demonstrations and meetings and join the call to free Óscar López Rivera.

See freescarnycmay30.org for more information. □

Build Workers World, a workers’ newspaper!

May Day 2015, Baltimore.

WWW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD



May Day began in the 19th century with strong demonstrations by thousands of women and men for the eight-hour workday.

Since 1959, Workers World has reported on and supported the struggles of the working class, with special attention to movements led by people of African descent, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Indigenous communities.

Today, this newspaper focuses on the fight for justice for immigrants, who face low wages, harassment, detentions and deportations.

Our pages promote the Fight for \$15/hour minimum wage for immigrants, people with disabilities, youth and all low-wage workers, including women, the majority earners of \$7.25 per hour or less.

Workers World reports on the growing Black Lives Matter Movement, which protests the epidemic of racist police and vigilante violence and mass incarceration throughout the U.S.

The newspaper presents anti-imperialist

news and analysis, siding with workers and oppressed people abroad who face capitalist globalization’s low wages and austerity, as well as U.S./NATO drones, wars and occupations.

Workers World boldly states that socialism is the only way to guarantee jobs, food, housing and medical care for the majority of people — and end the rule of the super-rich 1% and their racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ bigotry, the gouging of workers and war.

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U.S. bolsters military as Egyptian regime sentences ousted president to death

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Egypt’s military ruling class tightened its grip over the country on May 16 as three judges imposed death sentences on the former president, Mohamed Morsi, and 105 other people.

Within hours, three other Egyptian judges and their driver were reportedly attacked and killed in North Sinai. Resistance has escalated in North Sinai over the last two years since the military ousted the elected government of Morsi and his Freedom and Justice Party.

High-ranking officials of the current Egyptian regime have accused the Muslim Brotherhood of being involved in the attacks in North Sinai, a charge the organization has denied.

Morsi and the 105 others were charged with, among other things, breaking out of prison during the waning days of the regime of former dictator Hosni Mubarak. Between Jan. 25 and Feb. 11, 2011, the Egyptian people rose up in rebellion against the Mubarak regime. The jailbreak by Morsi and his colleagues coincided with 18 straight days of mass demonstrations that ended when Mubarak was forced to resign.

Morsi and his colleagues were also charged with supporting Hamas, the Palestinian resistance movement in Gaza. Tunnels located on the border of Sinai and Gaza and used to smuggle in food and construction items banned by Israel have been bombed repeatedly by the Israeli military as well as the Egyptian military, even during the tenure of President Morsi.

The current Egyptian government, under former military leader Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, has designated both the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas as terrorist organizations. Many of the defendants sentenced to death on May 15 were members of Hamas.

According to Ahram Online, “Hamas spokesman Sami Abu-Zuhri said in a statement on [May 16] that the verdict was based on ‘false information,’ saying that some of those Hamas members who were convicted in absentia, including ‘martyrs Tayseer Abu-Senema and Hossam El-Sanea,’ were dead at the time the offenses were carried out. Abu-Zuhri said that others convicted have been in the ‘prisons of the occupation [Israel] for years, such as Hassan Salama, who has been imprisoned for 19 years.’”

This decision has been condemned by many others throughout the world. Even Amnesty International said of the death sentences that they represented a “charade based on null and void procedures.”

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a rally in Istanbul: “The popularly elected president of Egypt ... has unfortunately been sentenced to death” and accused the United States government of

“turning a blind eye” to events in Egypt. (AFP)

Although the U.S. State Department has said that it does not support the death sentences, the Obama administration is continuing its direct aid to the Egyptian government to the tune of \$1.5 billion every year. The Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency coordinate their activities in North Africa and the Middle East with the Egyptian regime.

Egyptian regime moves even closer to the West

The regime of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi has become even more authoritarian and compliant with U.S. foreign policy objectives in the recent period. In Yemen and Libya, it has sought to bolster Washington’s foreign policy objectives. Cairo is allied with and dependent on Saudi Arabia and the oil-rich Gulf states, which are bombing Yemen.

The al-Sisi regime has supported the bombing, which has killed several thousand Yemenis since March 25. The U.S. government is providing Saudi Arabia with intelligence coordination and the refueling of fighter jets, many of which were purchased from U.S. military contractors.

In 2011, after the collapse of the Mubarak presidency, Egyptian special forces participated in the NATO war against Col. Moammar Gadhafi in neighboring Libya. Over the last few months, Egyptian war planes have bombed Libyan territory, adding to the chaos created over the last four years by the U.S. and European imperialists.

A recent report by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy emphasized Egypt as a pivotal country in the region. It was written by a number of functionaries of the U.S. military and intelligence establishment, including Samuel Berger and Stephen Hadley, both former national security advisors; James Jeffrey, a former ambassador to Turkey and Iraq; Dennis Ross, a former White House special envoy to the Middle East; and Robert Satloff, director of the Institute.

The article argues that “no strategy designed to bolster the state system in the Middle East is possible without a functioning U.S.-Egypt relationship.”

While acknowledging the violations of human rights in Egypt today, the report suggests that the only way to engage the al-Sisi government on these issues is within “the context of an ongoing U.S.-Egypt relationship.” The authors urge even stronger military ties between Cairo and Washington.

In a separate article related to Egypt’s involvement in the war against Yemen, Eric Tager of the Washington Institute wrote: “Entering the Yemen conflict also allows President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi to fulfill his oft-stated promise to help protect Egypt’s Gulf allies, who have given Cairo approximately \$23 billion since the July 2013 overthrow of Mohamed Morsi. Indeed, shortly after taking office [as president] in June 2014, Sisi declared that Gulf security was an ‘inseparable part of [Egypt’s] national security,’ and he recently called for establishing a joint Arab military force to defend the Gulf from regional threats. ... Cairo has already announced preparations for further air operations against Houthi positions, and signaled that it will send ground troops and special units if necessary.” □

Capitalism at a Dead End

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

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



As Saudi Arabia resumes bombing of Yemen

Let the Iranian relief ship pass!



Caleb Maupin representing U.S. anti-war groups on humanitarian ship to aid Yemen's people.

By Deirdre Griswold

May 19 — A Red Crescent Society cargo ship carrying medical supplies, food, water and other humanitarian aid to Yemen from Iran is presently in the Gulf of Aden, due to arrive at the Yemeni port of Hodaida on Thursday, May 21.

Human rights and antiwar activists on board the relief vessel, the Iran Shahed, are urgently calling on concerned people to contact the White House and demand that the ship be allowed to dock in Yemen so the aid can be delivered.

Two days ago, Saudi Arabia announced that, after a five-day pause, it had resumed the bombing of Yemen, begun two months ago with tactical support from the Pentagon. The oil-rich, reactionary kingdom has intervened in a long-lasting internal struggle in Yemen in order to restore a pro-Saudi political figure, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, to the presidency.

Saudi Arabia, a major U.S. ally in the Middle East, has also imposed an embargo on deliveries of food and water to Yemen, formerly a British colony and now the poorest country in the Middle East. Yemen is largely desert, and must import almost all the food for its 25 million people.

The internal struggle and the Saudi bombing have left at least 1,400 people dead since March 19, according to the United Nations.

According to an online database, since 2002 the U.S. CIA has carried out 124 drone and missile strikes in Yemen that have killed approximately 1,100 people. (securitydata.newamerica.net)

'The blockade must end!'

Caleb Maupin, a U.S. activist aboard the relief ship, reported in a May 18 message to people in the United States:

"There is no question in my mind about the absolutely humanitarian nature of this mission. I have personally looked inside the cargo areas of this ship and seen nothing but humanitarian items like band-aids, disinfectant, food and bottled water.

"The Iranian Red Crescent Society, like all organizations affiliated [with] the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Society in Geneva, follows seven guiding principles of work. Among them are non-involvement in military operations, non-partisan delivery of aid and volunteerism.

"The Iranians would welcome the United Nations or the International Red Cross/Red Crescent to inspect this ship. But the criminal Saudi regime and its U.S. and Israeli allies are simply not welcome aboard. The Iranian government has made that absolutely clear, and all of us in the delegation of peace activists from Germany, France and the United States absolutely agree with this decision.

"The Saudi regime, which beheads and tortures people routinely, and is currently burning the skin of Yemeni children with the chemical weapon white phosphorous, has no business entering this ship.

"If we have no interference, we will reach Hodaida on Thursday and deliver our 2,500 tons of supplies to the Yemeni people. We have recently been informed that the Saudis have already bombed the port of Hodaida in anticipation of our arrival.

"Let the hungry children of Yemen live! This illegal, immoral blockade must end."

For information on how to send a message to the White House demanding the humanitarian ship be allowed to pass, see the website of the International Action Center, iacenter.org.

'Stop the Saudi bombing of Yemen'

WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY



By Terri Kay
San Francisco

Well over a hundred people, most from the local Yemeni community, marched and rallied on May 16 against the Saudi bombing and devastation of Yemen. They gathered at the United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, marched down Market Street to the busy shopping area at Powell Street, and then returned to the U.N. Plaza for a rally.

Their demands included: "Stop the Saudi bombing!" "No to the war on Yemen!" "No to foreign intervention or imperialist aggression!" and "Yes to self-determination of the Yemeni people!"

Marchers chanted: "Everybody knows who we are! We are Yemeni! We'll stop

the Saudis!" and (rough translation of an Arabic language chant) "With our soul, with our blood, we'll redeem you, Yemen!"

"The Bay Area is home to one of the largest Yemeni communities in the U.S.," according to the "Stop the War on Yemen" Facebook event page. "While their families are struggling to survive this devastation, they are calling on all to stand against sectarianism, support their struggle for self-determination against foreign intervention and imperialist wars.

"The action is organized by a diverse group of Yemeni community members."

The event was facilitated by, but not called by, the Arab Resource Organizing Center. □

Manifestación exige justicia para Frank McQueen

Viene de la página 12

Después de una investigación interna de la policía, el DPC aseveró que el tiroteo estaba justificado, diciendo que un policía sufrió una herida menor por la supuesta arma de fuego con la que la policía afirma que McQueen les disparó cuando salía de la casa de su ex novia.

Pero aún quedan muchas preguntas. ¿Quién disparó el primer tiro? ¿Por qué fueron tantos tiros? ¿Cuáles eran los nombres de todos los policías involucrados? ¿Alguno de esos policías tiene historia de violencia policial? ¿La bala que hirió al oficial Matt Stewart proviene de fuego amigo o de otra arma? ¿Probó el forense que las manos de McQueen tenían residuos de descarga de arma de fuego? ¿Y qué de huellas dactilares? ¿Hubo otras/os testigos que no fueran policías? ¿Hubo videos del incidente? ¿Por qué el informe policial completo nunca se hizo público?

El informe del forense no se ha hecho público, y las pertenencias personales de McQueen aún no se le han dado a su madre.

Se solicita información de testigos presenciales

Las/os participantes en la concentración repartieron volantes a las/os conductores que pasaban, pidiéndoles tocar la bocina si se oponían a la brutalidad policial. Las/os manifestantes hablaron sobre el caso con las/os residentes de la zona atraídos por las consignas amplificadas por el sistema de sonido.

Todo el grupo marchó con pancartas mientras gritaban, "Sin justicia no hay paz" y "Justicia para Frank McQueen", repartiendo volantes a los transeúntes del barrio suburbano.

Chester, una ciudad de 34.000, tiene una de las tasas más altas de pobreza en EUA, con más del 33 por ciento debajo del umbral de pobreza federal. Setenta y tres por ciento de las/os residentes de Chester son negros. (Neighborhoodscout.com/pa/chester/)

La Policía de Chester también fue interrogada sobre el asesinato de un hombre de 30 años en 2012. Un rapero aspirante,

Noahcell Bagley fue fatalmente baleado por policías después de una parada de tráfico. Al tener una orden de detención pendiente, Bagley huyó y le dispararon en la parte posterior derecha de su brazo y en las nalgas.

"Un Taser podría haberlo inutilizado", dijo su madre Barbara Bagley. "Todos tomamos nuestras decisiones en la vida. Noé tomó la suya. ¿Eso da al oficial el derecho de quitarle la vida? Estas son las preguntas que han quedado sin respuesta. "(Wilson Times, 21 de enero 2013) La madre de Bagley es blanca y su padre es negro.

El fiscal de distrito exoneró a la policía de cualquier mala acción porque supuestamente "Cuando el oficial disparó su revólver de servicio, se encontraba en una situación en la que él creía razonablemente que su vida estaba en peligro de heridas corporales graves o de muerte".

Los fiscales del condado de Delaware se negaron a revelar los nombres de los policías en el tiroteo de McQueen y de Bagley. En la cercana Filadelfia, los fiscales también se negaron a revelar los nombres de los policías que mataron a Brandon Tate Brown, un hombre negro también asesinado después de una parada de tráfico. (Wilson Times, 5 de marzo de 2013)

Al igual que en los casos de Mike Brown, Eric Garner y otros incontables hombres y mujeres negras, a la policía se le permite sistemáticamente disparar y matar cada vez que dicen temer un daño físico.

La familia de McQueen exige que se revelen todas las pruebas e información y se conduzca una investigación independiente.

Un evento de la comunidad en honor a la vida de McQueen tendrá lugar el 6 de junio en Chalmers Park en la calle 30 y Avenida Lehigh, en Filadelfia. Todos los ingresos irán a un fondo educativo para los hijos de McQueen.

Cualquier persona con información acerca de la muerte de Frank McQueen debe ponerse en contacto con Delphine Matthews al267-393-3823.



WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

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Buffalo, N.Y., 3 de mayo.

De Ferguson a Baltimore:

¡CÁRCEL PARA POLICÍA ASESINA!

Por Monica Moorehead

El asesinato de Michael Brown, un joven de 18 años de edad, el pasado 9 de agosto por el policía blanco Darren Wilson, encendió un levantamiento de casi dos semanas en Ferguson, Misuri. Liderada por jóvenes negras/os, esta rebelión inició el proceso de enfocar las profundas atrocidades que han tenido lugar dentro y fuera de los departamentos de policía en todo EUA durante muchas décadas. El centro actual de este levantamiento es Baltimore.

Aunque el Departamento de Justicia (DJ) a principios de marzo no pudo acusar a Wilson por violaciones a los derechos civiles en el asesinato de Brown debido a "causa probable", emitió un informe condenatorio el 4 de marzo que confirmó el racismo rampante en el Departamento de Policía de Ferguson. Este informe no habría salido tan rápidamente si no fuera por la heroica rebelión que expuso allí la militarización de la policía.

Abayomi Azikiwe escribió sobre el informe del DJ para este periódico: "Los datos recopilados por el Departamento de Policía de Ferguson del 2012-2014 demuestran que las/os afroamericanas/os representan el 85 por ciento de los vehículos detenidos, el 90 por ciento de las citaciones, y el 93 por ciento de las detenciones efectuadas por agentes de DPF, a pesar de que comprende sólo el 67 por ciento de la población. Las/os afroamericanas/os tienen más del doble de probabilidad que los conductores blancos de ser registrados durante una parada del auto – aún después de evaluar las variables no basadas en la raza – como la razón de la detención del vehículo. Sin embargo, a éstos se les encuentran en posesión de contrabando un 26 por ciento menos frecuentemente que a los conductores blancos, lo que sugiere que los oficiales están considerando la raza como factor para determinar si se debe inspeccionar". (workers.org 10 de marzo)

Este informe se produjo a menos de cuatro meses después de que un gran jurado secreto en Misuri fracasara en acusar a Wilson por el asesinato de Brown. Además, el jefe de la policía blanco de Ferguson, Thomas Jackson – al parecer un simpatizante de la Confederación racista del sur – se vio obligado a renunciar una semana después. Pero el escándalo policial de Ferguson fue sólo el comienzo.

Atrocidades sin fin

El 4 de diciembre, después de dos años de investigación, el DJ emitió un informe sobre el Departamento de Policía de Cleveland, declarando que, "el uso irracional e innecesario de fuerza" es sistémico. El informe reportó que no sólo se utilizan armas de fuego de manera indiscriminada por un departamento de policía 65 por ciento blanco contra una población 53 por ciento negra, sino que también que utilizan armas Taser, agentes químicos en aerosol y golpizas. El informe también encontró que la policía

había utilizado fuerza excesiva contra personas con discapacidad mental y emplearon tácticas que escalaron encuentros potencialmente no-violentos en confrontaciones peligrosas. (New York Times, 4 de diciembre)

Este informe se produjo a menos de dos semanas después del fatal tiroteo de la policía contra el niño de 12 años de edad, Tamir Rice en un parque de Cleveland el 22 de noviembre. El niño portaba una pistola de juguete cuando le disparó el policía blanco de quien se sabía que tenía un historial de violencia que le había forzado a dimitir de otro departamento de policía. El tiroteo de Rice fue captado en video.

La policía se negó a que la hermana de 14 años de edad, Tajai, fuera inmediatamente en su ayuda después del tiroteo. Por el contrario, la tiraron al suelo y la esposaron. Su hermano menor mientras tanto, murió desangrándose en la parte trasera de un coche de la policía.

El 7 de mayo, la oficina del Fiscal de Distrito de San Francisco anunció una investigación amplia sobre el abuso policial en esa ciudad. Las/os afroamericanas/os comprenden sólo el 5 por ciento de la población de la ciudad, pero constituyen el 50 por ciento de las/os detenidos y encarcelados, así como más del 60 por ciento de las/os menores detenidos.

Siete de 14 agentes de la policía de San Francisco fueron suspendidos el 3 de abril por enviarse entre ellos mensajes de texto racistas y anti-homosexuales, pidiendo incluso el linchamiento de personas de color. Se recomendó el despido de los siete; un octavo oficial renunció y los otros seis recibieron medidas disciplinarias. La indagación reveló también que agentes del alguacil organizaban apuestas entre los guardias de la prisión que implican luchas de gladiadores forzadas sobre los prisioneros. Se reportó que algunos oficiales amenazaban con retener los alimentos y agredir a los presos que se negaban a golpearse mutuamente. Y esto es sólo la punta del témpano.

Y ahora Baltimore...

Luego vino la reciente investigación federal del departamento de policía de Baltimore a la luz de la muerte por tortura de Freddie Grey, que entró en coma después de que su médula espinal fue cercenada el 12 de abril mientras estaba bajo custodia policial. Seis agentes policiales, tres blancos y tres negros, han sido acusados por la muerte ocurrida el 19 de abril.

La recién nombrada Fiscal General de Estados Unidos Loretta Lynch, anunció el 8 de mayo que su oficina realizará una investigación para determinar si el departamento de policía de Baltimore "emplea discriminación sistemática, viola los derechos civiles y usa la fuerza excesivamente". Lynch visitó Baltimore días antes de hacer el anuncio.

Una rebelión por toda la ciudad liderada por jóvenes negros surgió en Baltimore después del funeral de Freddie Grey

el 27 de abril. La respuesta del Gobernador de Maryland fue imponer un toque de queda de cinco días y llamar a miles de Guardias Nacionales. Al menos 500 personas fueron detenidas entre el 27 de abril y el 2 de mayo, cuando el toque de queda fue cancelado. Muchos de las/os detenidos aún siguen en la cárcel sin el debido proceso.

La policía de Baltimore es conocida por su brutalidad contra la población afroamericana. Desde 2012, el departamento ha pagado alrededor de \$6 millones en compensación a las familias de las víctimas que pusieron demandas contra la policía.

Investigaciones de escándalos policiales también se están llevando a cabo en otras ciudades, como Seattle, Los Ángeles y Filadelfia, y muchas otras.

Rebelión juvenil expone injusticia económica

La rebelión de Ferguson encendió el movimiento La Vida de los Negros Importa (Black Lives Matter (BLM)), iniciado por mujeres negras y personas negras transgénero. Este movimiento dinámico tuvo sus raíces en el año 2012 antes y después de que George Zimmerman fuera absuelto de asesinar a Trayvon Martin de 17 años, en Sanford, Florida.

Desde el levantamiento nacional en Staten Island, Nueva York, el 03 de diciembre, luego de que un gran jurado no acusara al policía que estranguló a Eric Garner, el movimiento ha cerrado carreteras, centros comerciales, puentes, empresas, etc., de costa a costa. Estos cierres han ido acompañados de marchas masivas en las calles por militantes jóvenes, a veces durante muchas horas.

La lucha BLM ha ayudado a exponer la causa raíz de este terror policial endémico: el aumento del desempleo juvenil, sobre todo para las/os jóvenes de color. Mientras se dispara el desempleo y subempleo juvenil a un 40 por ciento y hasta un 60 por ciento o más, aumenta también la violencia policial y el encarcelamiento

en masa.

El 11 de mayo se reportó que dos presos murieron durante una rebelión en la Institución Correccional Estatal Tecumseh en Nebraska. Los presos se habían estado quejando de hacinamiento, entre otras condiciones inhumanas que se ven obligados a soportar. Las cárceles están repletas de trabajadores tras las rejas que resisten el aislamiento.

Se han anunciado mucho las investigaciones sobre el abuso de la policía a nivel municipal, del condado, estatal o federal, pero esto no detendrá la epidemia de asesinatos policiales y otras formas de brutalidad, especialmente contra las/os jóvenes negros y latinos.

Las autoridades tienen la esperanza de que estas investigaciones de alguna manera retrasen o detengan totalmente la rebelión juvenil anti-policía que está permeando al país. Sin embargo, estas investigaciones no son más que intentos inútiles para poner remedios que no curan el cáncer maligno, ya que es el propio sistema capitalista el que engendra el terror racista, pobreza, guerras y ocupaciones.

Éstos jóvenes son prueba de que donde hay represión, hay resistencia. Otras/os en la clase obrera seguramente seguirán su ejemplo porque la policía no es amiga de las/os trabajadores, especialmente las/os trabajadores en huelga o las/os que luchan por \$15 y un sindicato.

Exigir el encarcelamiento de policías asesinos o cualquier policía brutal es un primer paso importante. El siguiente paso es llevarlo a un nivel político más alto, exigiendo el desarme y la abolición de la policía. En su lugar debe haber grupos de autodefensa, organizados y controlados por la comunidad para proteger a las personas contra cualquier forma de opresión.

Deshacerse de la policía capitalista debe ser cada vez más un llamado de las/os jóvenes, quienes ya están levantando la consigna de "Cerrar todo el sistema". □

Manifestación exige justicia para Frank McQueen

Por Joseph Piette

Familiares, amigos y activistas de la Coalición Justicia REAL de Filadelfia, se reunieron el 9 de mayo en el lugar donde el 2 de junio de 2014, Frank McQueen fue ultimado por la policía de Chester, Pa.

Delphine Matthews, la madre de McQueen, trajo un autobús escolar y varios autos llenos de partidarios a la acera frente al 1210 de la calle Culhane Street, donde se pidió que se presentaran quienes tuvieran cualquier información sobre lo que sucedió allí después de las 3 a.m. el pasado 2 de junio.

McQueen era un hombre negro de 34

años de edad, estudiaba para su maestría, y es autor de la novela "Red Devil" y otros dos libros. Una entrevista de 2011 con el escritor se puede escuchar en tinyurl.com/ngzuj7t.

Detalles que faltan, muchas preguntas

Casi un año después de que el Departamento de Policía de Chester (DPC) le asesinara disparándole más de 20 veces, muy poca información se ha revelado. La policía se apresuró a reportar los antecedentes penales de McQueen, pero ningún antecedente penal en sí justifica el tiroteo de la policía.

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