



CUBA: Blockade not over

# End war in Ukraine!

## Washington backs bombing on Russian border

By Greg Butterfield

June 8 — Ukraine’s far-right government, backed by Washington, launched a new military offensive against the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics on the night of June 2 through June 3.

The Donbass people’s militia responded quickly, first sending Kiev’s forces scurrying in panic and then digging in for the hard battle for control of Marinka, a city southwest of Donetsk’s capital, against a Ukrainian military increasingly funded by the U.S. and armed with NATO weaponry.

“In the course of [the June 3] fighting and shelling of Marinka and suburban areas of Donetsk, 15 to 20 civilians were killed and dozens injured,” military analyst Colonel Cassad reported on his blog. “Overall, this is the bloodiest day of the war since the end of the battle of Debaltsevo, when the Ukrainian Army suffered huge losses trying to escape.”

Donetsk Deputy Defense Minister Eduard Basurin reported that 20 militia were killed and 100 wounded. Meanwhile, some 400 Ukrainian troops were killed, said Donetsk head Alexander Zakharchenko. Sixty pieces of Ukrainian military equipment were destroyed, including four artillery batteries. (Dan-News.info, June 5)

Though initially centered near Marinka, fighting has now spread across the entire “contact line” between Ukraine and the Donbass republics — the buffer zone established by the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement of February.

The latest attack by the Kiev junta of oligarchs, neo-liberal politicians and fascists comes after a month of steadily growing ceasefire violations by the Ukrainian military, mostly through indiscriminate shelling of civilian targets — including the destruction of the home of 11-year-old Katya Tuv in Gorlovka on May 26. Katya and her father were killed; her young brother was injured; her mother Anna was gravely wounded, losing her arm.

### Warnings ignored

It was from the vicinity of Marinka that Ukrainian occupation forces launched many deadly artillery attacks targeting Gorlovka, Donetsk city, and other residential areas.

For weeks, the anti-fascist militias in Donetsk and Lugansk had warned of the quickening buildup of Kiev’s military forces in the region, including heavy weaponry expressly forbidden by the ceasefire agreement.

And for weeks, political leaders of Donbass shouted to the world that new provocations would likely coincide with a major meeting of the European Union powers, timed to help Washington get its way with pursuing



the war and extending sanctions against the Russian Federation.

The embattled people of Donbass, the primarily Russian-speaking mining region formerly part of southeastern Ukraine, took to the streets in late May to protest Kiev’s continuing war crimes. They recognized that the Tuv murders were the beginning of a new phase of the war that began in April 2014 and has officially claimed 6,400 lives — but far more by most estimates.

The corporate media ignored all the warnings, while U.S. State Department officials denied Kiev’s continuous violations of the ceasefire.

On cue, Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko addressed the Rada (parliament) June 5, claiming that

*Continued on page 9*

## Subscribe to WorkersWorld

- 4 weeks trial \$4  1 year subscription \$30
- Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program [workers.org/articles/donate/supporters\\_/](http://workers.org/articles/donate/supporters_/)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Workers World** 212-627-2994  
 147 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl, NY, NY 10011 [workers.org](http://workers.org)

## BALTIMORE

Assembly on police violence 7

## GREECE

Down with austerity 11

## YEMEN

## DETROIT

Fighting foreclosures 5

## LGBTQ Pride Month

## CAITLYN JENNER

Welcome editorial 10



Michigan plaintiffs in marriage equality case, Jayne Rowse (left) and April DeBoer, with their four children at Motor City Pride, June 7. See page 4.

# Canadian genocide condemned

By G. Dunkel

Beginning in 1820 and continuing until the 1980s in some provinces, Canada had an explicit policy of erasing the culture, languages and religion of Indigenous nations — First Nation, Métis and Inuit — by taking children from their parents and placing them in foster homes or residential schools.

The government seized 150,000 children, of whom at least 6,000 died and thousands suffered physical and sexual abuse. The Catholic Church had a major hand in running these schools. Some leaders of Idle No More, a militant Indigenous rights group in Canada, have called on the Catholic pope to personally apologize for the church's crimes.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up by the Conservative-led national government in 2007, released its report of this program June 2. Thousands of people, mainly First Nation and their supporters, as well as contingents of Métis and Inuit, marched from Gatineau, Quebec, across the Ottawa River into Ottawa, the Canadian capital, on May 31. To the demonstrators, the publication of the TRC report officially acknowledged Canada's policy of "cultural genocide," which lasted for 160 years.

Melissa Mollen-Dupuis, one of the founders of Idle No More, gave an interview June 7 to the French TV channel TV5, pointing out that Indigenous people had long known about this cultural genocide. They lived it; they felt it and its effects. But the question was: What would be the effect of the TRC report on the broader Canadian public?

Mollen-Dupuis also said there had been "physical" genocide. Canada has had a number of "physical" exterminations — the clearest and most complete being the extinction of the Beothuks in 1829. This occurred in Newfoundland, which at that time was not part of Canada but was part of British North America.

The Beothuks were a First Nation people, related to the Mik'maks of eastern Canada, who developed in New-

foundland after the Norse left L'Anse aux Meadows around 1000 C.E.

They had very antagonistic relations with the European-origin fisher folk who began to settle Newfoundland in the 17th century, with raids going back and forth. The Beothuks generally lost in any physical confrontation due to the superior arms of the Europeans. They were gradually driven off the coast, where they caught fish and seals that were an important part of their diet, into the interior where they starved.

The 2015 book "Unsettling Canada" presents a summary of the conditions Indigenous people face today in Canada: "Along with suffering all of the calamities of life that hit the poor with greater impact, our lives are seven years shorter than the lives of non-Indigenous Canadians. Our unemployment rates are four times higher. The resources to educate our children are only a third of what is spent on non-Indigenous children. Our youth commit suicide at a rate five times higher." (page 8)

Canada's economy heavily depends on resource extraction. Indigenous peoples, while only 4.3 percent of all Canadians, are the majority in two territories: Nunavut and Northwest Territories, which make up most of northern Canada. Indigenous peoples are often the majority in smaller areas in provinces like British Columbia and in territories like the Yukon. These majorities give physical weight to the legal and political demands Indigenous peoples are making, which are well documented in "Unsettling Canada" and on [www.idlenomore.ca](http://www.idlenomore.ca). □



PHOTOS: POWLESS  
May 31 march.

# WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.

The Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears ..... 3  
 'Texas Rising': TV mini-series hides slavocracy ..... 3  
 Motor City Pride: The fight is not over ..... 4  
 Pride weekend in Buffalo ..... 4  
 Assata Shakur mural removed ..... 4  
 On the picket line ..... 5  
 Oil strike not quite over ..... 5  
 Detroiters demand: Stop mass tax foreclosures ..... 5  
 Walk-ins protest proposed education cuts ..... 5  
 Workers World and FIST at Left Forum ..... 6  
 African-American and Palestine liberation ..... 6  
 Baltimore people's assembly a resounding success ..... 7  
 Organizer's car shot up in Baltimore ..... 7  
 Oakland police take another young Black life ..... 7  
 Festival honors Frank McQueen ..... 7

★ Around the world

End war in Ukraine! ..... 1  
 Canadian genocide condemned ..... 2  
 Can U.N. talks bring peace to Yemen? ..... 8  
 Attacks turn away medical volunteers ..... 8  
 Mass protest confronts G7 summit ..... 9  
 Criminal blockade of Cuba still in force ..... 10  
 Down with Greek austerity: Let the bankers pay! ..... 11

★ Editorial

Welcome, Caitlyn ..... 10

★ Noticias en Español

Departamento de Justicia, FIFA e imperialismo ..... 12  
 En Nueva York en una sola voz: ¡Liberen a Oscar! ..... 12  
 EUA a Haití: Sin dinero, no hay elecciones ..... 12

Workers World  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
 New York, N.Y. 10011  
 Phone: 212.627.2994  
 E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
 Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
 Vol. 57, No. 24 • June 18, 2015  
 Closing date: June 9, 2015

Editor: Deirdre Griswold  
 Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis, Keith Fine, Bob McCubbin

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Ramiro Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis  
 Copyright © 2014 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [workers.org/email.php](http://workers.org/email.php). Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

# 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. □

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

[workers.org/wwp](http://workers.org/wwp)

**National Office**  
 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
 New York, NY 10011  
 212.627.2994  
[wwp@workers.org](http://wwp@workers.org)

**Bay Area**  
 1305 Franklin St. #411  
 Oakland, CA 94612  
 510.600.5800  
[bayarea@workers.org](mailto:bayarea@workers.org)

**Cleveland**  
 P.O. Box 5963  
 Cleveland, OH 44101  
 216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

**Houston**  
 P.O. Box 3454  
 Houston, TX 77253-3454  
 713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

**Pittsburgh**  
[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)  
**Rochester, N.Y.**  
 585.436.6458  
[rochester@workers.org](mailto:rochester@workers.org)

**Atlanta**  
 P.O. Box 5565  
 Atlanta, GA 30307  
 404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

**Boston**  
 284 Amory St.  
 Boston, MA 02130  
 617.286.6574  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)

**Huntington, W. Va.**  
[huntingtonww@workers.org](mailto:huntingtonww@workers.org)

**Rockford, IL**  
[rockford@workers.org](mailto:rockford@workers.org)

**Baltimore**  
 c/o Solidarity Center  
 2011 N. Charles St.  
 Baltimore, MD 21218  
 443.221.3775  
[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 712 Main St #113B  
 Buffalo, NY 14202  
 716.883.2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

**Detroit**  
 5920 Second Ave.  
 Detroit, MI 48202  
 313.459.0777  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)

**Los Angeles**  
 5278 W Pico Blvd.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90019  
[la@workers.org](mailto:la@workers.org)  
 323.306.6240

**San Diego**  
 P.O. Box 33447  
 San Diego, CA 92163  
[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)

**Chicago**  
 27 N. Wacker Dr. #138  
 Chicago, IL 60606  
 312.229.0161  
[chicago@workers.org](mailto:chicago@workers.org)

**Durham, N.C.**  
 804 Old Fayetteville St.  
 Durham, NC 27701  
 919.322.9970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)

**Milwaukee**  
[milwaukee@workers.org](mailto:milwaukee@workers.org)  
**Philadelphia**  
 P.O. Box 34249  
 Philadelphia, PA 19101  
 610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)

**Washington, D.C.**  
 P.O. Box 57300  
 Washington, D.C. 20037  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)

# The Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears

By Dolores Cox

A grassroots campaign to remove President Andrew Jackson's portrait from the \$20 bill is receiving some attention. Why Jackson especially? A little history is necessary.

On May 28, 1830, President Andrew Jackson signed into law the Indian Removal Act, after having pushed the legislation through Congress. This deplorable act legalized the expulsion of Indigenous peoples from their land on a massive scale.

From the beginning of the 19th century the U.S. government had planned the removal of Indigenous people from their ancestral homelands. As a solution to the "Indian problem," early proposals allowed the Indigenous to remain on their homelands only if they agreed to adopt Euro-American behavioral and cultural practices. An 1823 Supreme Court decision had stated "Indians" could occupy lands but could not hold title to them.

The United States in 1830 consisted of only states east of the Mississippi River. That area had originally been inhabited by the Indigenous, referred to as Indians or Native Americans. Jackson called for Native removal from the Southeast, with resettlement in the West. Ancestral homelands of Northeast tribes were already being confiscated.

## Slave-owner Jackson promotes relocation

Jackson was a Southern slave owner and former military commander in wars with Native nations. He was a strong supporter of expanding federal territory

westward for white settlers and for ever-enlarging cotton fields.

In justifying his relocation policy to Congress, Jackson stated that the demise and extinction of Indian Tribal Nations was inevitable. He viewed the Indigenous as in need of "guidance" and presented the removal policy as beneficial to them. He stated their continued existence impeded the economic progress and prosperity of white settlers.

In congressional addresses, Jackson described how Euro-American "forefathers" had found the country "covered with forests" and occupied by "savages," as compared to the "extensive Republic studded with cities, towns and prosperous farms, embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12 million happy people."

Slaveowners also considered slavery as absolutely essential to progress and growth; without slavery, there could be no civilization. They stated that slavery freed them from manual labor and the economic worries of day-to-day life. Thus, they could supposedly devote more time to intellectual and artistic pursuits and inventions.

The systematic removal of Native peoples from the Southeast focused on five Tribal Nations: the Seminole, Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Creek. They were referred to as the "Five Civilized Tribes," as they seemed the most adaptable to white "civilized" culture in their attempts to assimilate and peacefully co-exist.

Pressure, military and otherwise, was put on the Indigenous to sign removal

treaties. They signed in order to appease the government in the hopes of retaining some of their land, or to protect themselves from the onslaught of harassment by hostile whites who squatted on their land, stole their belongings and livestock, and burned their villages. Tribes that resisted resettlement were massacred.

Indian Nations strategically resisted removal both through wars and nonviolence. The Seminoles, who protected and harbored fugitive slaves in Spanish Florida, were targeted and invaded by Jackson's troops. After several wars, they were allowed to migrate to southern Florida swamplands.

The Cherokees, after being tricked into signing an illegitimate treaty, unsuccessfully appealed to the Supreme Court.

## Genocidal history of forced removal

The march westward in 1838-39 became known as the "Trail of Tears." More than 46,000 Native peoples were forcibly expelled by federal troops. Thousands died of hunger, cold, disease and exhaustion. Forced relocation, until 1858, resulted in close to three-quarters of Indigenous land coming under federal con-

trol. As a result, the white population was given ownership to 25 million acres of stolen land, which subsequent generations of white families inherited. And slavery was expanded southwest into Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas.

In what was to become Texas, settlers fought the Mexican government, which resulted in the U.S. government annexing that part of Mexico by 1836. U.S. history portrays frontier expansion as part of the progress of humanity and as spreading the "empire of liberty." However, U.S. history is replete with genocidal and racist treatment of Indigenous people in its colonies and globally.

Attacks on oppressed people, including its citizens, who demand freedom, justice and independence are common. War has always been preferred. Peaceful coexistence is not in the DNA of the U.S., domestically or internationally.

The legacy of the Indian Removal Act is seen on Indigenous reservations today throughout the West, where its devastating economic, social and political impact continues. On the East Coast, the residual damaging effects of displacement on remaining Native peoples are also evident. □

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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

**Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes

**Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy

**Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** Leilani Dowell

**The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead

**Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee

**Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights**

**& Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad

**Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal ... **and more!**

Available online and at other bookstores.



GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

# 'Texas Rising': TV mini-series hides slavocracy

By Gene Clancy

On May 25, a highly promoted TV miniseries with many big-name stars premiered on the cable network History Channel, which is co-owned by two giant corporations, Hearst and Disney.

According to the title of the already published companion book by Stephen L. Moore, "Texas Rising" is "the epic true story of the Lone Star Republic and the rise of the Texas Rangers."

The five-part TV series purports, through a series of stories, or vignettes about some of the main characters in the seditious revolt, to cover the Anglo Texas war against Mexico, from the fall of the Alamo to the battle of San Jacinto, which led to the establishment of the brief Republic of Texas before it was annexed by the United States.

According to a New York Times review, the so-called adventure drama is filled with stereotypical characters in which "the good guys" — the Anglo Texans — are good, and "the bad guys" — Native peoples and Mexicans, including the Mexican president and Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna — are "repellent caricature[s]" who exist to be hated. (May 22) A trailer shows Mexican soldiers massacring and abusing civilians and focuses on the killing and kidnapping of Black people. (tinyurl.com/nuy127a)

This version of the story is not just a different narrative or some sort of "dramatic license"; it is an outright lie, and a racist falsification of the historical facts.

## Slave traders, swindlers and murderers

The Anglo men at the battle of the Alamo, which resulted in an overwhelming Mexican victory, are portrayed as a group

of rugged frontiersmen, fighting for the noble cause of Texian independence, and who died as heroes at the hands of villainous Mexicans. A brief investigation into the lives of these so-called heroes shows that this is untrue.

For example, Jim Bowie, famous for his "Bowie knife" and a co-commander at the Alamo, was a large capitalist landowner who had acquired his more than 400,000 acres in holdings through huckstering. He was angry that the Mexican government had closed down his lucrative — and illegal — business.

Bowie first acquired his fortune as a slave trader in Louisiana, where he illegally imported enslaved people captured by another "patriot," the pirate Jean Lafitte, at Galveston Island, and resold them within the U.S. He then used this money, more than \$4 million in today's currency, to engage in a number of fraudulent land deals in Louisiana and Arkansas before coming to Texas to engage in more skulduggery.

Bowie acquired a certain amount of fame when he used his knife to murder a banker who had refused him a loan. His wealth and political influence gave him the rank of colonel at the Alamo.

William Travis, Bowie's co-commander at the Alamo, first made a name for himself in the Anahuac Disturbances, which were a sort of trial run by the Anglo Texans against the Mexican government over immigration issues, particularly the importation of enslaved people. In 1829, the Republic of Mexico abolished slavery throughout its territories.

In August of 1831, the commander of a Mexican customs and garrison post at Anahuac, Mexico, who strongly believed in Mexico's prohibition against slavery,

gave asylum to three Black men who had escaped slavery in nearby Louisiana.

The slave owner retained William Travis as a lawyer to help him get the enslaved people returned. Knowing he had little chance in the Mexican courts, Travis proceeded to organize a rebellion to separate Anahuac and its Texian population from Mexico. Although this uprising failed, Travis was later rewarded with the title of lieutenant colonel in the Texas Rangers, and ended up at the Alamo.

Another character, who was not at the Alamo but plays a major role in the History Channel series, is Mirabeau Lamar, who participated in the battle at San Jacinto and went on to become the second president of the Texas Republic.

Lamar, who came to Texas from Georgia shortly before the revolt began, openly held white supremacist views, especially where Native peoples were concerned. He referred to them as "tigers and hyenas" and "wild cannibals of the woods." As president, Lamar decided to completely expel all of the Indigenous peoples from Texas, including some formerly friendly Cherokee. He initiated a campaign in which he called for "an exterminating war ... which will admit of no compromise and have no termination except in their total extinction." (Gary Clayton Anderson, "The Conquest of Texas: Ethnic Cleansing in the Promised Land, 1870-1875")

The producers of "Texas Rising" even attempt to revive the long discredited legend of the "Yellow Rose of Texas" (Los Angeles Times, May 25). This racist canard originated with a song written by the Christy Minstrels, a white minstrel troupe performing in blackface during

the 1890s. Reactionary "historians" from Texas A&M University during the 1950s combined the song with local legends to assert, in the most racist and sexist terms possible, that a "biracial courtesan" spied for the Texans and contributed to the Mexican defeat at San Jacinto. (tshaonline.org)

Not a shred of direct historical evidence supports this story, but "Texas Rising" has made this imaginary incident into a major subplot of the series.

The "Texas Rising" was a treasonous uprising by the slaveholders for "independence" from Mexico's outlawing of slavery. Abolitionist Benjamin Lundy, who was in Texas at the time fighting to make it a safe haven for freed peoples, said that the "rising" began when they "ascertained that slavery could not be perpetuated ... under the government of the Mexican Republic."

In "The War in Texas," Lundy says, "The immediate cause and the leading object of this contest originated in a settled design, among the slaveholders of this country, (with land speculators and slave traders) to wrest the large and valuable territory of Texas from the Mexican Republic, in order to re-establish the SYSTEM OF SLAVERY; to open a vast and profitable SLAVEMARKET therein; and, ultimately, to annex it to the United States." (www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/lundy.htm)

Very often, what is offered up as "history" is really about the present. The producers of "Texas Rising" are, in reality, shamelessly whipping up present-day racism and present-day anti-immigrant bigotry by presenting a false narrative of the events that created the short lived Republic of Texas. □

# Motor City Pride: The fight is not over

By Martha Grevatt

Thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people, and their allies, took to the streets June 7 in the annual Motor City Pride parade. Thousands more attended the weekend-long celebration in downtown Detroit.

While the parade and festival celebrated the many aspects of LGBTQ pride, community and culture, organizers acknowledged that the fight against discrimination is not over. “The way we put it, ‘Married on Saturday, fired on Monday,’” said Bill Greene, interim executive director of Pride sponsor Equality Michigan. “People are coming out more, getting married. Unfortunately, the state of Michigan lags behind many states in its friendliness to the LGBT community.” Equality Michigan is the statewide LGBTQ civil rights organization that is currently fighting to get LGBTQ protections added to state civil rights laws.



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

The marriage equality fight was in the spotlight this year, particularly in Michigan, with a Supreme Court ruling expected by the end of this month on whether marriage bans in Michigan and three other states are unconstitutional. A positive ruling will make same-sex marriage legal in the 13 states where bans still remain

in place. Festival goers cheered April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, two Detroit-area nurses and plaintiffs in the Michigan marriage case, as they strolled the grounds with their four adopted children.

Members of the Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs, Workers World Party and the revolutionary youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together marched together with signs supporting the right to marry and declaring that “Black + Trans Lives Matter.” Their booth attracted a steady stream of visitors interested in fighting capitalism.

Other progressive forces that marched and tabled include Metro AFL-CIO, the union UNITE HERE, and the Restaurant Opportunities Center. A stronger presence, however, from organized labor would strengthen the fight for equality

in this state, where a reactionary Legislature continues to pass bills attacking the LGBTQ community. The United Auto Workers, for example, has not had a contingent, and this in the city where the union was founded 80 years ago.

Pride, which celebrates the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, has become commercialized over the years. The grand marshal for this year’s parade was not even a person but a Fiat Chrysler Automobiles vehicle, acknowledging FCA’s sponsorship.

The Human Rights Campaign gives FCA a rating of 100 percent on its scorecard of LGBTQ issues. This writer, a 28-year Chrysler UAW worker, disagrees, as the company does not provide bereavement pay or family leave for same-sex partners where marriage is not recognized and does not have contract or policy language to cover anti-transgender discrimination.

Nevertheless, the parade was a strong statement of the willingness of the LGBTQ community to keep up the fight for full equality. □



WW PHOTO: GARRETT DICEMBRE

## Pride weekend in Buffalo

On Sunday, June 7, activists with the Buffalo, N.Y., branch of Workers World Party carried a banner in the Buffalo Pride Parade that was greeted by the huge crowds with roars of approval, applause and high-fives all along the route. It was the only contingent in this year’s parade to raise the urgent need for solidarity with the Black Lives Matter and Trans\* Lives Matter movements, along with support for the struggles and uprisings against police brutality from Ferguson to Baltimore.

The previous evening, the Dyke March celebrated Buffalo’s lesbian history, including a tribute to those who have died and noting WW Managing Editor Leslie Feinberg’s pioneering role in the struggle.

— **Ellie Dorritie, Marge Maloney and Garrett Dicembre**

## Assata Shakur mural removed

By Workers World Milwaukee bureau

A mural depicting Assata Shakur was removed in May by Marquette University officials after an unrelenting right-wing campaign.

Shakur, a people’s hero and icon of the Black Lives Matter movement, is a former Black Panther falsely accused and convicted of killing a cop in New Jersey in 1973. She escaped prison and has been in exile in Cuba for more than 30 years. The U.S. government has a \$2 million bounty out on her.

The mural had been on display in the Alumni Memorial Union near the Marquette Gender and Sexuality Resource Center since March. Shortly after the center posted photos of the mural on its Facebook page, a longtime conservative professor, John McAdams, joined a campaign to have the mural removed. McAdams critiqued the center on his blog for “glorifying a black militant cop killer.”

Under mass student, faculty and community protest, McAdams, an associate professor of political science, was suspended in 2014 for criticizing a graduate student teaching assistant on his blog for how she handled a discussion of gay marriage in her class. He faces possible termination.

Charlie Sykes of the WTMJ radio station in Milwaukee, one of the most rabid right-wing media personalities in the United States, helped the campaign to have the mural painted over. Sykes has a daily radio show and a TV program, and edits “Wisconsin Interest,”

a magazine from the right-wing Wisconsin Policy Research Institute. This think tank for decades has participated in the destruction of social safety nets such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the public school system, and unions and called for the privatization of public services.

Despite a mission statement proclaiming that the university encourages a diverse community with “vigorous yet respectful debate,” university spokesperson Brian Dorrington spoke for the Wall Street interests that really run Marquette University, the administrators and their servants, and the cops, on May 20, when he said: “The facts in this instance are clear: A mural of a convicted murderer has no place here.”

Dorrington, of course, said nothing about the innumerable photos, statues and memorabilia littering the Marquette campus and Milwaukee generally that glorify real criminals and murderers such as slave owners, those who’ve committed genocide on Native peoples and plundered whole continents, and the bankers and industrialists responsible for the vicious exploitation, oppression, and murder of workers and oppressed peoples.

Shortly after the mural was removed, the director of the center, Dr. Susannah Bartlow, either resigned under pressure or was fired. There is now a campaign to have her restored to her position. Supporters can email Dr. Michael Lovell, president of Marquette University, at michael.lovell@marquette.edu or call

414-288-7714. A petition can be found at [ipetitions.com](http://ipetitions.com).

### We will not be silenced!

The Coalition of and for Students of Color at Marquette University issued a statement May 18 after the mural was removed:

“Marquette University does not waste a moment. They painted over a mural with inspirational quotes from activist Assata Shakur without asking anyone (the students) if it was ok the same day of graduation. This is an attempt to erase our voice and silence the people, but we refuse to be silenced MU! Remember you are only functioning because we pay tuition and the Coalition doesn’t believe the mural should have been painted over. This is disrespectful and unacceptable!”

The Gender and Sexuality Resource Center was built after the university administration rescinded a job offer to Jodi O’Brien, a lesbian professor and noted author of gender and sexuality books. The center offers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students and allies space where they can seek counseling and resources. It is also designed to address issues of sexual violence on campus. The center, under Dr. Bartlow’s leadership since 2012, has also become an oasis for students of color on the majority white and affluent campus.

At a time when every progressive law, every policy, every organization and every resource is under attack by the right wing in Wisconsin, the destruction of the mural must be seen as part of the overall

effort by Wall Street and their servants to attempt to smash what’s left of the labor-community movement and to make the state a Jim Crow, low-wage, non-union, deregulated playground.

Besides the usual seething racism by right-wing forces against people’s warriors such as Shakur and against all people of color, the mural attack is also an attack on Cuba and the burgeoning youth- and student-led Black Lives Matter movement in Wisconsin. These inspiring forces have been connecting race, class, gender, sexuality and other issues such as the environment and supporting unions. The right wing is also attempting to divide white workers from their direly needed allies.

As the students, faculty and their supporters fight back, the two quotes from Shakur on the original mural are giving them inspiration to continue the struggle: “No one is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them. Nobody is going to teach you your true history, teach you your true heroes if they know that that knowledge will help set you free.”

“Before going back to college, I knew I didn’t want to be an intellectual, spending my life in books and libraries without knowing what the hell is going on in the streets. Theory without practice is just as incomplete as practice without theory. The two have to go together.”

For more information: [tinyurl.com/qdkcc74](http://tinyurl.com/qdkcc74), [tinyurl.com/GSRCMarquetteFB](http://tinyurl.com/GSRCMarquetteFB) and [#ASSATAMU](https://twitter.com/ASSATAMU) [#HANDSOFASSATA](https://twitter.com/HANDSOFASSATA) □

## On the Picket Line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

### Thousands protest N.J. pension fund cuts

Some 4,000 members of the Communications Workers and other public sector unions turned out on May 12 to protest N.J. Gov. Chris Christie's latest \$1.6 billion cut to the state's pension fund. The Christie administration has withheld a total of \$14.9 billion in pension fund contributions since 2010, from what is already one of the least generous pension plans in the country. Ignoring public sector workers' right to care for their families after retirement, Christie and New Jersey lawmakers have diverted billions of dollars from the pension fund to corporate subsidies and tax cuts to the rich.

Protesters wore red T-shirts and carried signs demanding that Christie "Tax millionaires! Fund the pension!" and "Don't betray retirees!" Workers and union leadership vowed to continue the fight for their hard-earned pensions, chanting "We will be back!" (CWA-union.org, May 14)

### Wash. state workers walk, demanding promised raises

In the largest coordinated job action since their successful strike 14 years ago, thousands of workers in the 40,000-member Washington Federation of State Employees (an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) walked out of more than 70 worksites on May 20. They were demanding that the Legislature end the stalemate on their negotiated 4.8 percent pay raises. The walkout comes a week after a salary-setting board OK'd 11 percent raises for legislators while the Senate continued to reject modest raises for state employees — 3 percent on July 1 and 1.8 percent on July 1 of next year. These would be the first raises for state employees in seven years. For two years, they took 3 percent pay cuts, furloughs and layoffs. (The Stand, May 19)

Because of the Senate's latest budget plan unveiled on May 28, which holds WFSE's contract hostage, the state government may be shut down on July 1, temporarily laying off thousands of WFSE members. (wfse.org, May 28) Stay tuned.

### Tobacco workers protest at Reynolds stockholders' meeting

At the May 7 stockholders' meeting of tobacco giant RJ Reynolds in Winston-Salem, N.C., about 30 allies of tobacco workers made compelling statements about unhealthy, unsafe, unjust conditions in the fields. This is the eighth year that the Farm Labor Organizing Committee has attended these meetings to pressure Reynolds to sign an agreement guaranteeing labor rights for tobacco workers. Board chairperson Wajnert rebutted their demands with a bold-faced lie, calling their demands "illegal and unworkable." Outside, several hundred FLOC supporters led a loud, colorful, forceful march through the streets. To support FLOC demands, sign the petition on the website of the International Labor Resistance Forum. (ilrf.org) ¡Hasta la victoria!

### ROC haunts restaurant industry trade show

Restaurant Opportunities Center United (ROC) haunted the country's most powerful employer lobby group, the National Restaurant Association, at its trade show in Chicago, May 16-19. ROC held numerous impromptu protests calling for a meeting with NRA President Dawn Sweeney. During one talk, with Sweeney on stage, several workers stood up holding signs and chanting "\$2.13 is not the American Dream [sic]!" The figure \$2.13 is the federal minimum wage for tipped workers, including servers, bartenders, hosts, bussers and dishwashers. ROC statistics show that the vast majority of servers are women, often women of color, young, immigrant and rural, who use food stamps at double the rate of the rest of the U.S. workforce, are three times as likely to live in poverty and face obscenely high rates of sexual harassment. While ROC's activities surely got Sweeney's attention, the press also took notice.

### N.Y. Gov. Cuomo orders raise for fast food workers

In a May 6 op-ed in the New York Times, N.Y. Gov. Andrew Cuomo addressed low wages in the state's fast food industry: "Fast-food workers and their families are twice as likely to receive public assistance compared with other working families. ... While workers in the fast-food industry are struggling, the industry is healthy, having taken in \$551 billion in global revenues last year." Cuomo announced plans to create a panel to investigate fast food workers' wages and to issue a recommendation for an industrywide minimum wage within three months. New York state law does not require legislative approval for the governor to raise an industry's minimum wage. As the movement for \$15 an hour and a union surges nationally, workers and activists must keep up the pressure to ensure Cuomo makes good on his promise. □

## Walk-ins protest proposed education cuts

By Workers World Milwaukee bureau

Hundreds of educators, staff, parents, students and community supporters participated in walk-ins at 17 Milwaukee public schools on June 5. Participants are engaging in ongoing protests at schools and other locations in Milwaukee and statewide. They're demanding that numerous provisions in the 2015-2017 state budget that would result in the dismantling of public education be taken out.

The proposed state budget now before the right-wing legislature calls for the takeover (privatization) of Milwaukee

public schools, millions in cuts for K-12 and higher education, and the elimination of tenure and shared governance in the University of Wisconsin system. This is among other austerity provisions in efforts to benefit Wall Street interests, in particular the banks and bondholders.

On June 11, a statewide protest at the state Capitol called "Another Budget Is Possible" will take place. For more information and to join the struggle, visit: [tinyurl.com/nnh7nbnm](http://tinyurl.com/nnh7nbnm), [tinyurl.com/oaycomy](http://tinyurl.com/oaycomy) and [wibailoutpeople.org](http://wibailoutpeople.org). □

PHOTO: MTEA

## Oil strike not quite over

By Martha Grevatt

After four months on the picket line, workers at the BP Husky refinery in Toledo, Ohio, are starting to return to work. United Steelworkers Local 1-346 was the most recent local to ratify a local agreement in the national oil strike that began Feb. 1 and at one point involved 15 refineries across the country. That leaves only the Texas City, Texas, Marathon works still out.

Local 1-346, like all 30,000 USW members in the oil industry, wanted to save jobs and stop excessive overtime for the sake of safety. The local was up against a particularly hostile management. Refinery manager Mark Dangler even wrote an anti-union op-ed piece that was published in the March 3 Toledo Blade. Dangler made the outrageous claim that "the strike is about union clout, not safety or pay."

The contract, which the union leadership did not recommend, passed by a slim majority of strike-weary members. It allows BP to cut 28 out of roughly 300 jobs as workers quit, retire or die. This was a setback but not a total defeat for the union, as Dangler and his team wanted unlimited powers to eliminate positions as workers leave.

Members of Local 13-1 in Texas City rejected the company's offer on May 18.



PHOTO: USW.ORG

Marathon is still trying to gut safety provisions that previous owner BP agreed to after a 2005 explosion killed 15 workers. On top of that, management wants workers to wear pagers that would allow the company to call them to work outside of their regular scheduled hours, with only an hour's notice.

USW Local 7-1, at the other struck BP refinery in Whiting, Ind., was also one of the last to get a local agreement. There, the contract passed in early May, with 92 percent of the members voting for it. "It's got the safety stuff the workers wanted," said Local 7-1 Director Mike Millsap. "I think it shows that when pushed, workers are willing to stand up." (Northwest Indiana Times, May 11) □

## Detroiters demand: Stop mass tax foreclosures



Demonstrators gathered outside the Wayne County Treasurer's office in the Greektown section of downtown Detroit on June 8 to protest the tax foreclosure of more than 25,000 homes. Activists had stopped the mass foreclosures, originally slated for March 31, by picketing the site and causing the treasurer to enact two short moratoriums. The last foreclosure extension expired June 8.

This time protesters took the street, much to the chagrin of police who repeatedly ordered the crowd, to no avail,

to get back on the sidewalk or face arrest. Shown here are activists with banners who blocked the street to keep police from other demonstrators.

Organizers with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs called the action "the launch of a summer of resistance to stop foreclosures and water shutoffs and defend the people of Detroit against bankers, developers and their politicians."

— Report and photo by Kris Hamel



# Workers World and FIST at Left Forum

By Scott Williams  
New York

More than 1,300 speakers and thousands of activists and academics met in New York City from May 29 through May 31 for the annual Left Forum, this year with the theme “No Justice, No Peace: Confronting the Crises of Capitalism and Democracy.” Workers World Party and its allies in the revolutionary socialist youth organization Fight Imperialism, Stand Together and members of the United National Antiwar Coalition participated in numerous panels and debates on the major crises facing working-class and oppressed people.

The militant Boston School Bus Drivers Union, led by USW Local 8751 President Andre François, along with Vice President Steve Kirschbaum and numer-

ous other members, connected with labor and community allies on their struggle against multinational union-buster Veolia/Transdev and the city of Boston in a panel entitled “Union Power: Boston School Bus Drivers take on Goliath.”

Abayomi Azikiwe, editor of the Pan African News Wire, along with Sara Flounders of the International Action Center and UNAC, Ramiro Fúnez of FIST and Honduran Resistance, and Teresa Gutierrez of the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights and a Workers World Party Secretariat member, spoke on a panel on how to unite the struggles against racist police brutality, endless intensifying U.S. wars, and deepening budget cuts and austerity.

Bill Doares of the International League of People’s Struggle, along with Azikiwe, Lamis Deek of Al-Awda New York,

and Kazem Azin of Solidarity Iran discussed the Palestine liberation struggle, relations between the U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran, the role of ISIS and the ongoing wars in Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

FIST organized a debate on the struggle against U.S. war and the potential for uniting groups against imperialism. Nick Maniace from New York FIST debated members of the Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee, along with other socialist organizations, on the defense of countries oppressed and exploited by U.S. imperialism, with particular focus on U.S. imperialism’s intervention in Syria.

Organizers of the People’s Power Assembly in New York, including Claudia Palacios, Colin Ashby and Ramiro Fúnez of FIST, discussed the importance of the question of national oppression and liberation within the context of the Black

Lives Matter movement. Monica Moorehead, editor of “Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle,” and Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes joined the panel as well, discussing the need for broader sections of the left to stand in solidarity with the movement against police brutality and against broader state repression of the movement.

There were also important panels on struggles in Latin America, the fight to free political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oscar López Rivera, the MOVE 9, and many more.

While the Left Forum is often dominated by academics and left organizations that take few positions against U.S. imperialism, Workers World, FIST and allies remained a strong anti-imperialist, revolutionary socialist current at the event. □

## WW Commentary

# African-American and Palestine liberation

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A series of opinion articles have been published recently in Newsweek contradictorily condemning and praising the Barack Obama administration’s efforts to reassure the state of Israel that United States imperialism is on its side all the way in suppressing and eliminating the Palestinian people. The authors go so far as to caution Obama against drawing any comparison between the plight of African Americans and the Palestinian struggle for national liberation.

Such an editorial slant reveals that the shapers of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East are concerned about growing support for Palestine in the U.S., especially among African Americans and their allies.

Israeli foreign policy is a by-product of the overall imperialist designs of Washington and Wall Street in the region. Not only is it necessary to maintain the settler-colonial state in Palestine as a bulwark of Pentagon and NATO military strategy, but it is also important to continue the domination of Egypt and other states in North Africa and the Middle East.

Successive U.S. administrations have waged wars against the people of Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Sudan. Consequently, any notion of a lessening of support for Israel flies in the face of the annual multibillion-dollar subsidy to Tel Aviv, along with the transfer of arms and other military technology that is tested on the Palestinian people in Gaza and the other occupied territories.

Efforts are underway to make the recent national elections in Israel a representation of the uncertainty of the domination by conservative forces centered around Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Nonetheless, the uneasiness of the Obama administration about Democratic Party and U.S. policy in general toward Israel is partly to blame for the appearance of differences of approach to the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a May 24 Newsweek magazine article titled “Tel Aviv Diary” written by Marc Shulman, “The one person who seems unwilling to accept the results of the election here appears to be the current occupant of the White House and other members of his administration. President Barack Obama has

been exceptionally harsh in his criticism, which is starting to create a backlash among Israelis.”

The question is: backlash against what? Obama has continued the same imperialist agenda throughout the region and is providing firm support to the current war against Yemen waged by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance.

Public opinion in the U.S. is increasingly in favor of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and statehood. Demonstrations during the summer of 2014 against the Israeli Defense Forces’ massive bombing and ground incursion into Gaza were the largest protests in history against these repeated genocidal acts.

### African Americans and U.S. foreign policy

Both African-American and Palestinian peoples suffer from national oppression and efforts aimed at genocidal removal by the racist governmental structures in both states.

During 2014, when the U.S. witnessed the largest Palestine solidarity demonstrations ever in response to the bombing and ground invasion of Gaza, African-American youth played a prominent role in these actions. Both Palestinians and African Americans spoke out clearly of their common struggle, from Gaza and the West Bank to Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore.

In Detroit demonstrations during “Operation Protective Edge” — in which the Israeli Defense Forces pounded Gaza and escalated repressive measures against Palestinians living in the West Bank — signs appeared demanding water for the people of both Gaza and Detroit. Weekly protests at the Detroit Water Sewerage Department known as “Freedom Fridays” during the summer of 2014 often joined rallies and marches taking place outside the Federal Courthouse in solidarity with Palestine. At this same time the Detroit bankruptcy proceedings were still being litigated in federal court. This was the most significant municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

Expressing concern about the more vocal opinion in support of Palestine among African Americans and its potential impact on electoral politics in the U.S., with a national election looming during 2016, Shulman wrote in the June 3 issue of Newsweek: “Of course, if Obama wants to

have any chance of swaying Israeli opinion, he needs to decouple his view of the ‘plight’ of the Palestinians from that of African-Americans in the United States. It is true that both groups have been, and are, discriminated against, and certainly both groups have suffered.

“However, the historical analogy between the two is very weak. African-Americans were taken as captives from their homes and kept as slaves until a civil war freed them. Many African-Americans endured a century or more of discrimination, even after the Civil War ended.”

Weren’t the Palestinians driven from their homes by the Israeli state with the full backing of the U.S. and the imperialist nations? Both Africans in the U.S. and the Palestinians have been subjected to national oppression involving mass killings and forced removal from urban and rural areas.

In a failed attempt to draw such a distinction between the history and conditions of Africans and Palestinians, the same author writes, “The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a traditional nationalistic conflict, with two peoples claiming the same land. This conflict would have ended long ago if Palestinians had agreed to any of the previously offered compromise solutions.”

Such an argument is reminiscent of the racist newspaper editorials which blame Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray and others for their own deaths. Similar are those reports describing African Americans involved in militant demonstrations against police terrorism and judicial impunity as “thugs” for engaging in the destruction of property and self-defense tactics against law-enforcement agencies.

These victims of settler colonialism and institutional racism are somehow expected to acquiesce to oppression in favor of the continuation and worsening of their social plight.

There is a firm political basis for the connection linking apartheid, Jim Crow and Zionism in its present and historic forms. Israel has inflicted racist treatment on the Palestinians, but also against those from Africa who have migrated to the country.

In recent years, attacks against African immigrants from Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia have gotten international media attention. Netanyahu recently met with an African IDF soldier who was attacked by police for racist reasons. Yet what Netanyahu and his cohorts do not mention is that his political coalition has deliberately exploited racist attitudes and social policies toward Palestinians and Africans in order to maintain control over a settler state that is losing support even within the U.S. and of course throughout the broader international community.

Both the U.S. and Israel are facing growing opposition internally and globally. These racist and nationally oppressive states can only rely on military might and the economic dominance of imperialism to provide any semblance of a secured future.

Greater solidarity between Palestine and African Americans will be an important factor in the burgeoning struggle against imperialism. Whether the White House, Congress and Wall Street recognize or accept this shifting situation, it is inevitable, and will change the course of history in support of the oppressed and working people of the world. □

## Come out for Pride! Come out for W

June is Pride month, with rallies and marches all over the world commemorating the 46th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion. Workers World has a proud history of reporting on the living struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer justice and equality. But Workers World also made a theoretical contribution to that struggle with the publication of WW contributor and staff member Bob McCubbin’s book, “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View” (World View Forum, third ed., 1993).

Drawing on the theoretical work of Frederick Engels and Dorothy Ballan to provide a dialectical materialist explanation of LGBTQ oppression, McCubbin showed how early communal societies accepted all forms of human interrelations, but after material surpluses developed and male supremacy arose, rigid rules governing gender and sexuality were adopted. That’s what we’re fighting to end today.

That analysis drives Workers World’s view that the LGBTQ struggle is a vital component in the overall struggle to end capitalist oppression.



WW PHOTOS:  
SHARON BLACK



# Baltimore people's assembly a resounding success

By the WW Baltimore bureau

The Baltimore People's Power Assembly and the Greater Baltimore chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference held a People's Assembly and Tribunal on June 6. More than 150 people participated.

Along with testimony from victims of police terror, the assembly resolved to call for national actions on the Aug. 9 anniversary weekend of the Ferguson rebellion along with a number of local actions and campaigns, including a "Know Your Rights/Cop Watch" campaign, local protests in defense of arrested youth, and "Black women and girls lives matter" protests on June 20 and June 21. Workers World will print an extensive article on the tribunal in next week's issue. □

## Organizer's car shot up in Baltimore

The following press statement was released by the Baltimore People's Power Assembly and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on June 4. The groups held a press conference at 2011 N. Charles St. in Baltimore on June 5.

"To the Baltimore City Police Department and all concerned: We will not be intimidated, silenced or stopped! Our organizations and organizers will continue to stand strong until justice is won for Freddie Grey and all of the victims of police terror. We look forward to a strong and united People's Assembly and Tribunal on Police Terror called for this Saturday on June 6."

This past Tuesday [June 2, Baltimore People's Power Assembly organizer] Sharon Black's car was shot up with what appears to have been a 357-magnum weapon. Bullets went through several layers of steel from back to front, aimed at the driver's head rest. The rear window was also shot up.

Black, her son Steven Ceci and a guest from South Central Los Angeles, John Parker, were at her East Baltimore row home after returning from work at the PPA's nearby offices when all three heard five to six gunshots several yards from the residence at approximately 11 p.m.

This attack is combined with a series

of threatening phone calls to both the PPA's phone line and Black's personal phone, including a barrage of robotic attacks to both phones and disruptions to the organization's communications systems.

Black and the Rev. C.D. Witherspoon, president of the Baltimore City Southern Christian Leadership Council, jointly stated: "We take this attack and other threats very seriously and want to send a clear message to the Baltimore Police Department, the Fraternal Order of Police, and any and all forces that may wish us harm, that we will not be intimidated, silenced or stopped in our continuing fight

for justice for Freddie Grey and all victims of police terror. We want to say to all of our concerned friends and supporters: We are stronger than ever and look forward to a vibrant and productive assembly this Saturday, when we will not only hear from the victims of police abuse but plan our next steps toward ending police terror and winning jobs and livable wages now."

Saturday's [June 6] Assembly will take place at New Unity Church, 100 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201 (corner of West Franklin and Cathedral streets) from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. □

## Oakland police take another young Black life

By Terri Kay  
Oakland, Calif.

Oakland Police Department officers took yet another young Black man's life on the morning of June 6. According to initial reports, the man was unconscious behind the wheel of his car, which was stopped at the curb in a lane which exits from I-580 near the Lake Merritt shopping district. The police were called by firefighters after they had approached the car to provide assistance, but saw a gun on the passenger seat.

Police officials said that they attempted to awaken the man by shooting bean bag rounds at the car windows. They then used another instrument to break the windows. Police Chief Sean Whent, in a press conference that afternoon, said, "Upon the last attempt to (make contact), officers approached the car, the person at that time was awake, a confrontation ensued with the officers and the person, one officer deployed a Taser, a second officer deployed a firearm, the person in the car was struck by the gun-

fire." (insidebayarea.com, June 6) He was pronounced dead at Highland Hospital soon afterwards. The yet unnamed man who was killed had at least one child, a daughter in grade school, according to the mother of her best friend.

The Anti Police-Terror Project's first responder team was on the scene shortly afterwards, trying to find witnesses and gather evidence. They were able to obtain police dispatch records. Daniela Kantorova posted on Facebook a summary of what she found:

"Between 8:12-8:42, police firing bean bags at the car, and reports NO MOVE-

MENT in the vehicle. Then, and these are quotes:

8:42:26 making contact

8:42:33 everybody hold their position

8:42:47 taking suspect into custody

8:42:55 start medical from Lakeshore

8:43:22 GET MEDICAL HERE RIGHT NOW"

So in the space of less than one minute, the announcement went from "no movement" (presumably he was still unconscious) to that he was Tased, shot and killed.

The community is outraged and the APTP has organized a vigil for Friday,

June 12, at 6 p.m. at Lake Merritt. At this writing, 824 people have joined the event on Facebook.

It remains to be seen how the OPD will respond to this large nighttime gathering. They are still trying to enforce a new policing policy, ordered by Mayor Libby Schaaf and implemented for the first time on May 21, that prohibits night marches in the streets. The community has been holding frequent protests against this new "curfew" ever since. Another one, "Whose Streets? Our Streets!" is called for June 10 at Oscar Grant Plaza (14th Street and Broadway) by the Black Youth Project. □

## Festival honors Frank McQueen

A year ago on June 2, Frank McQueen was shot and killed by Chester, Pa., police. Since then, McQueen's mother, Del Matthews, has been seeking justice and trying to get answers on why cops killed her son.

Matthews organized a June 6 community festival dedicated to McQueen's memory and to raise money for his children's college fund.

A highlight was when McQueen's sister, Genita Beckham, read the poem "Ameri-

ca's Problem: Black Man" from "My Way of Saying Thank You," one of McQueen's three published books, revealing the talent lost when cops killed her brother.

—Story and photo by Joe Piette



*You created the genocide we now witness,  
plus the modern-day slavery  
of drugs and jail cells  
minus reparations, education, and rehabilitation.  
And this is supposed to be equal?  
America the beautiful?  
Where's the beauty in sweeping problems under the rug?  
"Outta sight, outta mind," is for the ignorant.  
But I know, oh I know it still exists.  
So because I don't close my eyes  
I am another one of America's problems!  
Because I don't shut my mouth  
I am another one of America's problems!  
Because I was born Black  
I am another one of America's problems!  
Well then, I accept my fate.  
America, you got a problem  
and I refuse to go away easily!*

## Workers World!

We invite you to Join the WW Supporter Program, set up 38 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-LGBTQ, working-class truth and build the many campaigns needed to crush capitalism and usher in socialism.

Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at [workers.org/donate/](http://workers.org/donate/).

We are grateful for your help in growing the revolutionary press in the U.S.

# Can U.N. talks bring peace to Yemen?

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

June 8 — Even though peace talks are slated to begin on June 14 in Geneva between the major parties involved in the conflict over control of Yemen, the fighting rages on inside this underdeveloped Middle Eastern state.

Prior to the announcement of the U.N.-sponsored talks, discussions were taking place between the Obama administration's State Department and the Ansarullah movement (Houthis) in Oman. An alliance led by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and backed by the U.S., has been conducting aerial bombardments and supporting militias to attack the Ansarullah and the forces in the military still loyal to former President Abdullah Ali Saleh.

Even before negotiations began, Saudi-backed political forces of fugitive Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi set parameters for the talks based upon restoring Hadi's government to power in Sanaa, Yemen's capital city.

Hadi had fled to the south of Yemen and later to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he claims to be the country's legitimate head of state. The U.S. appears to recognize Hadi as the de facto regime in Yemen despite Ansarullah taking large amounts of territory. The White House withdrew 100 special forces from Yemen earlier this year and recalled its diplomatic personnel. Hundreds of Yemeni Americans have been stranded in the embattled state where Washington has ignored the plight of those who hold U.S. passports.

A June 8 Associated Press report noted: "Yemen's internationally recognized prime minister said Monday [June 8] that upcoming United Nations-sponsored peace talks in Geneva are aimed at 'restoring power' to his government and pressuring Shiite rebels to withdraw from the capital and other cities. Speak-

ing to reporters from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, Khaled Bahah said he hopes the June 14 meeting will lead to more intensive negotiations on a road map for Yemen's future, including an eventual referendum on a draft constitution and fresh elections."

A spokesperson for the Ansarullah forces immediately dismissed the assertion by the Hadi faction. Their position is that the discussions should focus on the implementation of a U.N. resolution passed earlier this year calling for the withdrawal of armed forces from various regions of the capital and throughout the country.

In a statement reported in AP, Houthi spokesperson Mohammed Abdel-Salam stressed that the Hadi regime is illegitimate and therefore in no position to force preconditions for U.N.-supervised talks. Abdel-Salam characterized Hadi as a "tool of Riyadh" and asserted that his Saudi-backed regime "can't talk the language of logic, instead they can talk the language of aggression."

Ansarullah movement forces question whether the Hadi regime even wants the Geneva talks to take place, saying that U.S.-allied interests would not be able to unify its own fractious elements irrespective of a national mandate for peace.

## Ground attacks intensify along Saudi border

In response to the Saudi-led coalition's massive bombing campaign in Yemen, the Ansarullah and Saleh-loyal forces are taking the war into eastern Saudi Arabia. Cross-border attacks into Saudi Arabia have resulted in dozens of casualties.

A missile launched from Yemen on June 8 was reported to have fatally struck two Saudi soldiers. These deaths were acknowledged by the Riyadh-led coalition. (Al-Arabiya, June 8) Just a few days before, at least four Saudi troops were killed in a similar attack.

According to a June 8 media release carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, a National Guard soldier and a member of the Border Guard were killed in these attacks, which occurred in the Asir region. An additional two Border Guards were killed in a missile strike in the same area in late May.

It is estimated that 37 people in Saudi Arabia, many of whom were members of the armed forces, have been killed in border clashes and cross-territorial shelling since March 26, when the Saudi-led coalition began bombing Yemen.

An additional four soldiers were slain along with dozens of Yemenis on June 5, when units loyal to former President Saleh launched an offensive operation in the Saudi border districts of Jazan and Najran. Scud missiles were fired into Saudi territory but were repelled, say official sources in Riyadh.

On a regional level the war is being portrayed as a conflict between Saudi Arabia and the GCC-backed coalition supported by the U.S. on one side and the Islamic Republic of Iran and its allies on the other. Any proposed settlement will have to consider these factors.

In addition, inside Yemen itself, a secessionist movement in the south has re-emerged, evoking the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in existence from the late 1960s to the early 1990s. The demands for greater autonomy and possible independence must also be taken into account in projecting the future of the country.

Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State are also active in Yemen. The U.S. has for years launched drone attacks resulting in many deaths, including people who held U.S. passports, claiming to target the AQAP.

## Fighting continues in the south

Intense battles are still raging in the southern port city of Aden, where the An-

sarullah are regaining territory they lost in recent clashes with militias backed by Saudi Arabia and the GCC and given air cover by Pentagon-coordinated aircraft.

Reuters reported on June 3, "Saudi-led air strikes killed a group of around 20 Houthi fighters outside the southern Yemeni port city of Aden on Wednesday [June 3] and also shook the capital Sanaa in the north, militiamen opposed to the Houthis said. The militia sources said the Houthis were killed when the air raid hit their military convoy as it was transporting an artillery piece toward the northwest suburbs of Aden. The death toll could not be independently verified."

People living in Aden consistently report deteriorating conditions, as the U.S.-backed forces have implemented a blockade preventing food and fuel from reaching many areas of the city. In the district of Crater, where fierce battles have taken place for weeks, residents said that four people died of dengue fever on June 2. Regular service of electricity, water and trash removal have been severely hampered since the intensified fighting began on March 26.

Washington's foreign policy is creating more deaths and destruction in Yemen and throughout the region. In Iraq, Syria and Libya, the impact of Pentagon regime-change wars is continuing to prompt dislocation and human misery on a mass scale.

Yet efforts to reshape the Middle East and North Africa are being resisted in Yemen and in other states. The bombing of Yemen for more than two months has still not resulted in the defeat of the Ansarullah and its allies.

Until the people of the region unite against imperialist intervention, the humanitarian crisis cannot be abated. The resources and waterways of the region belong to the people, not the multinational corporations and the international financial institutions. □

## Eyewitness Yemen rescue ship

# Attacks turn away medical volunteers

*This slightly edited report is one of several eyewitness accounts provided by International Action Center and FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) youth activist Caleb Maupin, who took part in a humanitarian aid mission to Yemen in May.*

By **Caleb Maupin**  
Tehran, Iran

May 29 — The mission of the Iran Shahed Rescue Ship to Yemen, as previously reported, was unsuccessful. Massive Saudi bombing of the Hodiedah port and 15 hired Sudanese mercenaries with rocket launchers made delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen impossible.

The 2,500 tons of medical supplies, food and water were handed over to the U.N. World Food Programme for distribution when Saudi terrorism made it impossible for us to deliver them to the people of Yemen.

Since our ship docked in Djibouti and my return to Tehran, the Saudi bombing campaign has only increased. The total number of Yemenis now dead is estimated to be well over 4,000. The Saudi bombers, being refueled by the U.S. Air Force and directed by U.S. satellites, are specifically targeting the region of Hodiedah, where we intended to deliver

the food and supplies.

According to reports, the port of Hodiedah has been "completely destroyed" after days of relentless bombing. In addition, the Saudi airstrikes have targeted a medical university in Hodiedah. Twelve young Yemenis who were sitting in class, studying to become doctors or nurses, were killed. Scores of others have been wounded.

How can the Saudi military and its U.S. allies, or any rational human being, justify slaughtering noncombatant medical students?

This horrendous act may have been retaliation against the Red Crescent Society of Yemen because it dared collaborate with the Red Crescent Society of Iran in planning the delivery of humanitarian aid from our ship. This speculation fills me with feelings of extreme grief, sadness and anger.

## Risking their lives to help

There are many Red Crescent Society volunteers currently in Yemen. As a wealthy U.S.-backed autocratic kingdom unleashes its forces of destruction on one of the poorest countries on earth, those volunteers are stepping up and doing what must be done. The medical volunteers who are aiding the people in Yemen right now

are risking their lives each day to bring aid to those in great danger.

While I was on the Rescue Ship, I had the honor of having many in-depth conversations with Red Crescent Society volunteers. Many of them have spent years working in international operations. They have been all over the world, throughout the Middle East and to Latin America, Asia and Europe, and they have sometimes been in very dangerous situations.

One of the volunteers told me his life story. He described how his two older brothers died in the Iraq-Iran war during the 1980s.

He told of how his mother, after losing her two oldest sons in that horrific war, had psychological trauma for the rest of her life. He told of going to Iraq in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion as a Red Crescent Society volunteer. In Iraq, he was captured and spent months held prisoner by an armed faction. He was eventually able to escape in the chaos of the fighting.

Because I do not speak Farsi, I was unable to communicate with many of the others on board. If I had, I am sure I would have heard many more amazing stories.



Caleb Maupin on board the Iran Shahed Rescue Ship.

## A great honor

When it was announced that our ship was unable to go to Yemen, these volunteers were filled with bitter disappointment. They wanted to go to Hodiedah and help those who needed them. They felt they had a moral responsibility to get to Yemen. They were so let down, unable to do what they had set out to do.

These volunteers are from a different country, half a world away from where I was born in Ohio. They have a different religion and a different political perspective than I do. Regardless, I still hold



# Mass protest confronts G7 summit

Munich, June 4.

By John Catalinotto

Like medieval lords plotting against an impending peasant revolt after a bad harvest, the heads of the seven most powerful imperialist countries — the U.S., Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — met June 7-8 in a renovated castle-turned-hotel in Elmau in southeastern Germany to plot on behalf of the tiny group of billionaires who rule the world.

The capitalist world economy has been in crisis since 2008. The role of this summit meeting, which is costing \$350 million, is to resolve the crisis on the backs of the working class and the weaker nations.

This year's meeting excluded even capitalist Russia from a seat at the masters' table at the resort. The imperialist overlords accused Russia of "aggression" in Ukraine. That's because Russia has re-

fused to submit to the NATO countries' high-handedness in overthrowing the elected Ukrainian government in Kiev in February 2014 and NATO's plan to extend its military reach to the Ukrainian border with Russia.

Despite the meeting's isolation in the village of Elmau, the German hosts gathered nearly 30,000 cops and other employees of the state apparatus to block any protesters from getting close to the heads of state.

The protesters were demanding an end to the trade accords known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, whose overall effect is to eliminate jobs, cut workers' wages and create riskier working conditions. The activists also demanded effective measures to protect the climate and fight against poverty — which has been growing worldwide, including in the im-



perialist countries.

On June 4, some 40,000 people demonstrated in the nearest major city, Munich, in the largest of the protests. On June 8 in Elmau, some 7,000 most-

ly youthful protesters climbed right up to the security fence and the thousands of cops separating the powerful heads of state from the people they pretend to represent. □

## End war in Ukraine! Washington backs bombing on Russian border

Continued from page 1

there were more than 9,000 Russian troops in 14 tactical groups on Ukrainian territory.

"I wonder how he counted them?" was the caustic response of Donetsk leader Zakharchenko. "The Ukrainian president's talent is unique. It is very difficult to hide 9,000 troops of the Russian Armed Forces, not only from the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe], but also from us. ...

"If there were 9,000 [Russian forces] here, I wouldn't be explaining what happened in Krasnogorovka or Marinka. We would talk about [fighting in] Kiev or Kharkov." (Dan-News.info, June 5)

### G7 wine and dine, Donbass people die

The occasion for Poroshenko's bombastic speech was the Rada's adoption of a law allowing "admission of the armed forces of other states on the territory of Ukraine" for "international peacekeeping and security."

The junta has repeatedly called for U.N. or NATO "peacekeepers" to help put down the popular resistance in Donbass.

Previously, the presence of an international military force required adoption of a special law initiated by the president stipulating the length of the stay. Under the new law, no additional legal authorization is required and the length of stay is indefinite.

them up in the highest admiration. It was one of the greatest honors to be able to accompany them for two weeks. Especially as someone from the United States, a country which has so much blood on its hands, it means so much that I was trusted and welcomed onboard.

The actions of the Red Crescent Society volunteers point toward a side of human nature that the apologists for capitalism and neoliberalism simply do not acknowledge. Within the human spirit, there is a drive to help others or "stand with the oppressed," as Shia Muslims put it.

Though it is not rewarded in a global economic setup defined by profits, this kind of solidarity has not been, and will never be, driven from the human psyche.

Beyond the bombs and cruise missiles, there is hope for a better world. □

The law also states that "potential carriers of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction are permitted ... for short-term accommodation." (RT.com, June 5)

Lugansk chief negotiator Vladislav Danego pointed out that the law is also meant to justify the presence of foreign troops that are "already operating in Ukraine. There are some 20,000, primarily from Hungary and Poland," he told Interfax news agency, in addition to mercenaries from the U.S. and other countries.

U.S. President Barack Obama declared at the meeting of the Group of 7 imperialist countries the need to "stand up to Russian aggression in Ukraine" — ignoring the fact that his administration and Congress engineered the right-wing coup that deposed the legally elected government of Ukraine in February 2014 as a step toward expanding NATO military power to Russia's western border. (Sputnik News, June 7)

Here's a sample of what was happening in Donbass while Obama and other heads of the G7 — the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Japan — met at a luxury hotel in Bavaria, Germany, June 6-7, to discuss how to punish Russia.

The people of Telmanovo mourned at the funeral of 4-year-old Vanya Nesteru, killed by Ukrainian shelling on June 5. (Ren.tv) Kiev tanks attacked the village of Oktyabrsky, shelling a nine-story apartment building, where a resident had his leg blown off. (LifeNews, June 7)

Gennady Moska, Kiev's appointed "governor" of Lugansk, gave the order to turn off the water supply to the Lugansk People's Republic, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without water. (Anna-News.info, June 6)

"Heavy fights are in progress all over the frontline from Mariupol to Lugansk," reported New Russia Press June 7, citing Shyrokyne, Sahanka, Gorlovka, Marinka, Spartak, Pesky, Donetsk city, Donetsk Airport, Bahmutka and Shchastya.

### Preparing for war, not peace

Fighting continued June 8 around Donetsk, Gorlovka and Mariupol, while tanks and artillery shelled Shirokino, according to Timer.od.ua.

Also June 8, Donetsk Deputy Defense Minister Basurin said Ukraine "keeps bringing up heavy artillery to the contact

line," including multiple rocket launcher systems. "Fortifications have already been built on the highway between Konstantinovka and Dzerzhynsk, which block civilian traffic." (Novorossia Today)

In addition, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed a law authorizing martial law "in case of armed aggression or threat of attack, threat for Ukraine's independence or territorial integrity" — all buzzwords that have been previously used to justify the war against Donbass. Provisions of the law include "forced settlement of citizens of a foreign country that threatens to attack or conduct aggression against Ukraine," a threat that has frequently been levied against residents of Donbass. (TASS, June 8)

Perhaps most ominous, though, was Poroshenko's signing a law June 8 cancelling all military agreements with Russia in relationship to Transnistria, a breakaway region of Moldova, Ukraine's southern neighbor, where 1,200 Russian peacekeeping troops are stationed.

Along with the appointment of former Georgian President and U.S. stooge Mikhail Saakashvili as governor of the Odessa region and a reported buildup of Ukrainian military forces there, the voiding of military agreements signals plans afoot to provoke Moscow on a second front to further Washington's plans for NATO expansion, destruction of independent Donbass and regime change in Russia. □

## STOP U.S. PROXY WARS FROM YEMEN TO DONBASS!

YEMEN

DONBASS

**TELL THE WHITE HOUSE & CONGRESS:  
STOP FUNDING RIGHT-WING TERROR  
AGAINST VENEZUELA, SYRIA, IRAN, PALESTINE**

Today US-made and paid-for missiles and bombs are raining down on people around the world. Washington funds violent right-wing movements from Venezuela to Syria to Macedonia. It is interfering in a regional dispute in the South China Sea to threaten China. It's establishing more military bases in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. Here at home, police kill and brutalize people of color.

Saudi Arabia is waging a bloody war against the people of Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East. At least 1,400 people have been killed since the U.S.-allied Saudi coalition began airstrikes in March. A humanitarian aid ship from Iran was blocked and the port where it was to dock was completely destroyed. The Pentagon and CIA have been supplying war materials and reconnaissance for the bombing and ground war against Yemen. Washington and Wall Street have sought to control the Yemeni people, their land and waterways, for many years.

Ukraine has begun a new military offensive against the people of the breakaway Donbass region in violation of an international ceasefire agreement. The far-right Ukrainian government's war against the people of Donbass has cost at least 6,400 lives in the past year. This government includes open neo-Nazis and came to power in a U.S.-sponsored coup. Only financial and military aid from the U.S., EU and NATO keeps the regime afloat. Washington is determined to put NATO bases

**RALLY &  
SPEAK-OUT**

**SAT. JUNE 13 - 1 PM**

**CNN-TIME WARNER BLDG  
10 COLUMBUS CIRCLE  
@ 59 ST. & BWAY, NYC**

on Russia's border, no matter how many die. We know where U.S. proxy wars lead. Just look at Iraq and Syria, which the U.S. is now openly bombing in violation of those countries' sovereignty, under cover of "fighting terrorism."

### WE SAY NO!

We need a war against racism, poverty and police terror at home — not for Wall Street profits!

We demand money for jobs, a \$15 minimum wage, living wages for all, schools, health care, housing and food assistance — not war against the world!

Called by: **INTERNATIONAL ACTION CENTER - IACENTER.ORG - 212.633.6646**

Endorsers (list in formation): Cynthia McKinney, BAYAN-USA, FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together, Honduras-USA Resistencia, Pakistan-USA Freedom Forum, SI Solidarity Iran, Workers World Party

# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

# Welcome, Caitlyn

Bruce Jenner, the 1976 decathlon champion and Olympic gold medalist, came out as transgender to an international audience when a two-hour interview with Diane Sawyer aired on ABC on April 24. A record-breaking 20 million viewers watched the interview — really a mini-documentary — and heard Jenner speak his (the pronoun he used at the time) truth: “... I am a woman.”

In a two-part E! special, “Keeping Up With the Kardashians: About Bruce” in May, Jenner stated: “The only thing I want out of this is just to help people. Not just the trans community — it’s really bigger than that, it’s so much more. ... We need more tolerance in this world towards our fellow [people]. We are all human beings put on this earth; we need to learn to live together.”

Caitlyn Jenner was introduced on June 1 when the July cover of *Vanity Fair* magazine was unveiled. Millions of people around the United States and the world applauded Jenner’s courage, at age 65, to further reveal her lifelong struggle and come out publicly as a woman. On social media, trans people, including many trans women of color, were ecstatic, welcoming, proud and celebratory of Jenner’s transition.

Notwithstanding her wealth and political ideology, *Workers World* applauds

Jenner as well and affirms her right to self-determination. Moreover, we recognize that it is the decades-long movement for basic rights and liberation of and by trans people that built the platform Jenner now stands on as a transitioning, proud and out trans woman.

We fight against the legalized discrimination, oppression and violence facing many trans people, preponderantly transwomen and trans people of color. Many trans people face family rejection, homelessness, poverty and other oppressive and demeaning social problems. It is legal in most states to discriminate against trans people in jobs, housing and other areas. According to a report issued in January by the Human Rights Campaign and the Trans People of Color Coalition, violence against and killing of trans people is a “national crisis.”

And yet, trans people courageously live their lives in ways they choose, and become political leaders in struggles for liberation.

*Workers World* will continue to stand with the most oppressed and fight for full civil rights and liberation for all trans people. We applaud Caitlyn Jenner’s public celebration and all that she has done to encourage, inspire and raise the spirits of trans people everywhere. □

WORKERS WORLD  
MUNDO OBRERO 

## Departamento de Estado EUA a Haití: Sin dinero, no hay elecciones

Continúa de la página 12

tarse en las elecciones parlamentarias.

### Apoyo para Fanmi Lavalas

El 19 de mayo se vio una gran explosión de apoyo popular para Fanmi Lavalas, el partido político fundado por el ex presidente Jean Bertrand Aristide. Miles de seguidoras/es emocionados y militantes fueron de la casa de Aristide en Tabarre para acompañar a la Dra. Maryse Narcisse, la candidata de Fanmi Lavalas para la presidencia, a las oficinas electorales.

Antes, Narcisse viajó dos veces a Boston para solicitar apoyo en la comunidad haitiana donde se reunió con activistas comunitarias/os y sindicalistas haitianas/os.

El 23 de mayo, el CEP informó que 70 personas se habían inscrito como candidatas/os para presidente y plantearon objeciones a las calificaciones de 23 de ellos, incluyendo a Narcisse.

Dos días después de la asamblea de Fanmi Lavalas, el Asesor Especial en Haití del Departamento de Estado de EUA Thomas C. Adams, dijo a un grupo de periodistas haitianos en Washington que el Departamento de Estado consideró

que era el momento “oportuno” para que Haití cambiara su calendario electoral. Dijo que no tiene el dinero para llevarlo a cabo. (Haití Sentinel, 22 de mayo)

Durante los últimos 10 años la táctica que EUA y la burguesía haitiana han utilizado para asegurar que Fanmi Lavalas no ganara las elecciones ha sido no permitir a Fanmi Lavalas en la boleta electoral. Pero ahora EUA ha perdido el control de los procesos electorales. Muchos candidatos progresistas reconocidos están en la boleta electoral, como Moïse Jean-Charles de Platfòm Pitit Dessalines. Estos candidatos tienden a obtener los votos que quieren elegir las/os haitianos en lugar de votar por el mal menor.

Washington recuerda lo que sucedió en 1990. Con una victoria aplastante Jean Bertrand Aristide venció al candidato respaldado por EUA que había gastado 60 veces más. Esa derrota estadounidense amenazó el control de Washington en Haití lo cual requirió dos décadas de intervención para restaurar.

Para evitar un retroceso similar en las próximas elecciones, Washington está proponiendo la posibilidad de cancelar totalmente las elecciones.

Es imposible perder una elección que no tiene lugar. □

## Diplomatic steps forward but Criminal blockade of Cuba still in force

By Cheryl LaBash

Ads and articles promoting travel to Cuba seem to be everywhere. Didn’t President Barack Obama announce a new relationship with Cuba on Dec. 17? Didn’t that mean the U.S. blockade of Cuba, a relic of the Cold War, was over?

Not so fast! The U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba is in full force and effect! And so are U.S. restrictions on U.S. residents traveling to and spending money in Cuba.

Respectful, equal and professional discussions between the U.S. and Cuba are working at formalizing diplomatic relations. This means having open and direct communication or a working relationship on issues of mutual interest, like hurricane warnings, and on international health emergencies, like the Ebola epidemic in Western Africa. Such discussions mean progress and are a victory for the Cuban Revolution, which is already a respected international partner around the globe.

But these limited discussions fall short of overcoming the severe, illegal and reprehensible web of laws and regulations that make up the blockade of Cuba. Washington’s small steps forward detract attention from its continued measures to undermine Cuba’s sovereign decision to build socialism. These measures include the blockade, which the U.N. General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to end each year.

### Three steps forward, with limitations

On May 29, Secretary of State John Kerry officially signed papers removing Cuba from the U.S. “terrorism” list, a unilateral designation for states Washington is hostile to. Kerry’s papers included no apology, much less reparations for the harm done to Cuba by the terror campaigns launched from U.S. soil. Admitted terrorist and convicted bomber Luis Posada Carriles and others live free in Miami today, protected by U.S. imperialism.

Regarding travel to Cuba, U.S. residents still cannot buy an airline ticket from a U.S. airport to a Cuban airport without filling out an affidavit and pledging to keep all records of the trip available for government inspection for five years. Plus the trip cannot be a “vacation,” as vacations to Cuba are expressly prohibited by U.S. law.

Because of U.S. restrictions, the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., has had to operate without a bank account for more than a year. A Florida bank has finally agreed to accept its business. According to Cuba’s chief negotiator in the discussions with the U.S., even this step forward had to receive a U.S. license in compliance with U.S. blockade regulations.

Although Obama announced on Dec. 17 that Mastercard and Visa issued by U.S. banks could now be used in Cuba, the fine print still leaves the decision to the issuing bank based on blockade restrictions.

### Cuba is not our enemy

Signed in September 2014, Obama’s Presidential Determination letter re-

newed sanctions on Cuba for another year, under the 1917 Trading with the Enemies Act. Without further action it will expire Sept. 14, 2015, and with it authorization for the Treasury Department’s Cuban Asset Control Regulations.

Reactionary U.S. representatives have attached amendments to transportation and appropriations legislation in the U.S. House in an attempt to reverse some of the measures Obama took to restore diplomatic relations with and liberalize travel restrictions regarding Cuba. The president may still have to veto these if they are passed. Why not just repeal the Helms-Burton Act — signed by Democratic President Bill Clinton in 1996 — which codified the blockade into law?

The Venceremos Brigade and IFCO/Pastors for Peace, which over decades have challenged all regulations by traveling to Cuba, demonstrate that Cuba is not our enemy. This summer these groups once again assert their right to freely travel and associate with the Cuban people without an affidavit, a license or a pledge to abide by the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Asset Control requirements.

### Obama can do more

But Obama himself has not done everything he has the power to do. In a Feb. 12 *Granma* interview, Josefina Vidal, director general of the U.S. division of Cuba’s Ministry of Foreign Relations, said, “The blockade has not ended. ... The president of the United States has options, I would say unlimited, to gut the blockade of its fundamental content. According to the attorneys who are advising us on this issue — because it is a question which has its complexities from a legal standpoint — there are only a few questions which the president cannot modify, because they are prohibited by law. ...

“Tourism in Cuba is prohibited by law [and] commerce with Cuba by subsidiaries of U.S. companies in other countries. ...

“Obama could tomorrow, for example, using his prerogatives, permit a U.S. company to do business with Cuba, trade in both directions, both export and import; ... allow other non-agricultural products to be sold to Cuba on credit; ... permit, for example, that products from other countries, manufactured with Cuban raw materials, be imported to the United States.

“It cannot be expected that in order to improve relations with the United States, or to advance in this long, complex process toward normalization which we have before us, that Cuba is going to negotiate questions of an internal nature, in exchange for a policy change on the part of the United States, when [the U.S. itself recognizes] that it has failed. Nor are we going to negotiate questions of an internal nature, of Cuban sovereignty, in exchange for the lifting of the blockade.”

Read the full *Granma* interview at [tinyurl.com/p2xorhv](http://tinyurl.com/p2xorhv). To contact the Venceremos Brigade, visit [VenceremosBrigade.net](http://VenceremosBrigade.net); for IFCO/Pastors for Peace, visit [IFCOnews.org](http://IFCOnews.org).

## Down with Greek austerity

# Let the bankers pay!

By Fred Goldstein

Since February, shortly after the electoral bloc Syriza won Greece's national elections on an anti-austerity program, negotiations have been going back and forth between Syriza and the Troika over Greek government debt. The Troika refers to the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission.

In the latest developments, the Greek government skipped a payment to the IMF of 300 million euros due on June 5 and is scheduled to bundle it with subsequent payments on June 30. Also, the Communist Party of Greece has announced mass demonstrations in the upcoming weeks.

It is important to grasp the nature of the present negotiations and this struggle. It is a struggle over concessions. It is a struggle by the Syriza government to loosen the viselike grip of austerity that has brought untold suffering to the Greek workers and to ward off new attacks on pensions and wages.

**Syriza: reformists trying to hold off an attack**

Syriza is not trying to overthrow Greek capitalism. Perhaps a more revolutionary struggle could eventually emerge, but even the most revolutionary leadership must understand that at this point the main axis of the struggle is to ward off the blows of finance capital aimed at the workers and to arrest the most extreme measures of austerity. Slogans against Greek capitalism and for socialism must be raised for the sake of the future of the struggle. But at the same time all efforts must be made to strengthen the immediate fight against austerity.

It is also important to understand the forces in the struggle. Syriza is a left social-democratic formation with different currents in it. The leadership, represented by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, is not at all revolutionary. It is administering the Greek capitalist state, which is based on capitalist exploitation and wage slavery. Whatever these leaders say, they are in the position of upholding Greek capitalism. They could capitulate at any time because the leadership is locked into the capitalist framework of the European Union.

But Syriza's main struggle now is not against the working class of Greece but against the financial oligarchy, which is trying to tighten the screws on the working class. This must be acknowledged in order to find the correct road in the struggle.

To be sure, the Syriza leadership is wavering and inconsistent, seeking to reconcile the irreconcilable — that is, to pay the debt but also get an "honorable settlement" that does not cross the red lines of pension protection, wage protection and general social protection for the workers.

Syriza, after initially repudiating the debt, now acknowledges the obligation to pay a large part of what is, in fact, a fraudulent debt imposed by means of financial extortion.

But having said all that, up to now the government, unlike previous gov-

ernments, has been trying to hold off an attack.

**Finance capital holds many strings**

It is important to understand the relationship of forces in the struggle. On one side is European finance capital, headed by German imperialism, along with the French, Dutch, Italian, Belgian and 17 other European imperialist powers.

***The Greek masses should not have to pay one more euro to the Troika. The onerous debt imposed by the financial vultures who prey on the working class should be thoroughly repudiated.***

On the other side is the Greek social-democratic government. The Greek government is not financially sovereign. It cannot issue its own currency under the rules of the eurozone. It cannot finance its way out of debt. It is totally dependent on funds from the ECB. And it is subject to harsh retaliation if it defaults.

The European bankers control the money. The ECB is dominated by Berlin. It can shut down the Greek financial system at any time by withholding funds from its banks. Money is the starting point of all production and commerce under capitalism, and the bankers control the money.

The relationship of forces is clearly unfavorable to the Syriza government in the present crisis. The question of leaving the eurozone and issuing drachmas, the former Greek currency, is one possible scenario. It should be explored and preparations made for such an eventual-ity — if that becomes necessary.

**Syriza's true leverage: mass mobilization and bankers' fear**

At the negotiating table, the Syriza government has some leverage.

First, the euro bankers and the U.S. bankers fear that unknown crises could result from a Greek default. They fear a default could set off a chain of defaults, such as happened when Lehman Brothers was allowed to fail in 2008.

This is a passive advantage held by Athens — if they can hold out. But the major card has not been played. The factor that would give greater leverage to Greek negotiators is for the masses to be out on the streets, fighting militantly against austerity.

Given the extraordinary imbalance in the relationship of forces between the Greek government and the euro bankers, it is incumbent upon the government to mobilize the masses. A strong mass fightback would not only electrify the people and frighten the bankers, but

could also set off solidarity struggles throughout Europe.

This is what the bankers in Berlin, Paris, Brussels and Washington fear most. The Political Secretariat of Syriza recently called for a national mobilization. But so far the Tsipras leadership has been nonstruggle. It does not match its defiant words in parliament and in public commentary with defiant deeds.

Several mass demonstrations took place during the early stages of the negotiations in February and March. But there has been no followup.

To appreciate the potential for mass resistance, it is worth remembering that Syriza was elected with around 33 percent of the vote. But after the victory, when Tsipras announced his plans — to fight austerity, demand a cut in the debt, rehire fired workers, protect pensions and collective bargaining rights, and subsidize the poor — his popularity in the polls shot up to close to 80 percent! This means that people who voted for the traditional bourgeois parties went over to Syriza in droves, at least in sentiment.

**Five years of austerity governments**

The history of recent Greek politics will give an appreciation of the impact on the population of Syriza's efforts to combat austerity, however inconsistent they may be.

The global capitalist financial crisis struck in 2008. Since 2009, all the Greek governments have acted as vassals for the German, French, Dutch, U.S. and other bankers. These governments passed austerity budget after austerity budget. These vassals from the New Democracy Party and PASOK (so-called "socialists") followed the dictates of the Troika.

The global financial crisis bankrupted the Greek government. The government in Athens owed hundreds of billions of euros in debt to bankers and private bondholders. In order to protect those bankers and bondholders against a possible Greek government default on its debts, the Troika lent "bailout money" to the government, on the condition that it impose austerity on the workers.

It was the banks that were actually being bailed out, not the Greek masses. For example, between March 2010 and 2012, the Greek government made 23 payments to the Troika, amounting to 206.9 billion euros. At least 77 percent of that

money went to the financial sector. (The International Attac network)

One Greek capitalist government after another paid hundreds of billions of euros to the bankers, who had caused the crisis in the first place and are now profiting from it. The Greek governments have been paying the bankers who loaned them bailout money with tax money taken from the workers and with money gained from cutbacks in pensions, wages, layoffs and privatizations of public facilities.

These governments have been a willing part of a vicious cycle. For five straight years, without letup, they attacked the working class in order to pay the rich. Half the population is now in poverty. Production is down over 25 percent. Unemployment is sky high. Hunger is everywhere. Greece is suffering from a Great Depression of its own. The Troika has been demanding draconian cuts — and each government has dutifully complied.

Syriza is the first government since the crisis began that has said "Enough!" and has tried to put a stop to the austerity measures. But it has few means to do this without the combative mobilization of the working class, the youth, the oppressed and all the victims of austerity.

**Greek Communist Party to mobilize**

It is a good omen that the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) has called a mass demonstration for June 11 and another on June 25. Through years of class struggle and the fight against fascism and reaction, the party has earned a great following among the workers. Since the negotiations began with the Troika in February, their absence up until now has been sorely missed.

Hopefully, the KKE will find a way to attract the broader masses and to win them over to an anti-capitalist perspective and to the struggle for socialism. This has been their program.

But this can best be done by directing their fire at the Troika as the main enemy and supporting the demand for lifting the austerity alongside raising the anti-capitalist struggle. It is urgent that the masses see this first and foremost as the KKE and the workers in the unions pushing against finance capital, fighting the new attacks and battling to lift the austerity.

If the Syriza leadership falters and yields to demands for austerity, then a revolutionary left that has been in the struggle against austerity will be in a credible position to step in and give leadership.

The Greek masses should not have to pay one more euro to the Troika. The onerous debt imposed by the financial vultures who prey on the working class should be thoroughly repudiated.

The Greek masses should be organized and mobilized to resist any and all retaliation and punitive measures imposed by the bankers. And they should be prepared to leave the eurozone — if it comes to that. The KKE, and left forces in and out of Syriza, can and must play a key role in that struggle. It is not too late to strike a hard blow at finance capital — at all the monied powers lauding it over the workers and all the downtrodden. Make the bankers pay! □



Baltimore, 2 de Mayo.

## Departamento de Justicia, FIFA e imperialismo

### Editorial Workers World-Mundo Obrero

El repentino y dramático arresto de nueve funcionarios de alto rango de la organización de fútbol más grande del mundo y de cinco ejecutivos de corporaciones por el Departamento de Justicia (DJ) de Estados Unidos suscitó preguntas en las/os miles de millones de fanáticos del deporte más popular del mundo. Estas son dos:

¿Cuál es el papel de la Federación Internacional de Fútbol Asociado, FIFA, la organización privada que se encarga de la Copa Mundial de Fútbol que comenzó en 1930, y la Copa Mundial Femenina, que se inició en 1991?

¿Por qué el DJ de EUA encabezó una operación internacional encubierta que involucra a personas que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses en un deporte muy popular fuera de EUA?

Ahora la atracción por el fútbol está creciendo en EUA, especialmente en los deportes femeninos. De hecho, la próxima apertura el 6 de junio de la Copa

Mundial Femenina en Canadá podría aumentar el atractivo. Pero esto no afecta nuestras preguntas.

Los torneos de la FIFA traen miles de millones de dólares. Sus países anfitriones atraen a cientos de miles de turistas. La Copa Mundial de Fútbol es incluso más grande que los Juegos Olímpicos y que el Súper Bowl de la Liga Nacional de Fútbol.

No tenemos ninguna información “interna” sobre la FIFA. Pero “WW-Mundo Obrero” tiene una visión clara de cómo las mega corporaciones privadas funcionan en un mundo dominado por el imperialismo. Su objetivo es maximizar las ganancias. Eso significa la constante explotación de sus trabajadoras/es y de naciones oprimidas.

También significa el uso de todas las medidas, incluidos los sobornos y la intimidación – en el caso de EUA incluso amenazas de guerras – para captar nuevos mercados a precios rentables. Significa arriesgarse con todo tipo de actividad ilegal – desde el lavado de dinero

de drogas ilícitas en los bancos, hasta la provisión de armas – para mantener las ganancias. Eso es el capitalismo.

Los gigantes del petróleo, las farmacéuticas, el complejo militar-industrial y los mega bancos imperialistas mantienen relaciones estrechas con los gobiernos para engrasar la máquina de lucro. ¿Por qué debería sorprendernos que la FIFA pueda hacer lo mismo?

Por lo que hemos aprendido sobre la FIFA y sus principales ejecutivos, es que el primer ejecutivo reelegido Joseph Blatter, es un misógino que ha menospreciado el papel de las mujeres jugadoras. Su política islamofóbica desde 2007 hasta 2014 era no permitir el hiyab en el campo, excluyendo así a las mujeres musulmanas de este deporte. Sabemos que la FIFA permitió alguna construcción cuestionable en Brasil y algunas obras mortales en Qatar – donde 1.200 inmigrantes mal pagados, prácticamente trabajadores esclavos, han muerto en el trabajo desde 2010.

No tenemos ninguna simpatía por los ejecutivos de la FIFA. Tenemos nuestra

solidaridad con los trabajadores explotados de construcción a quienes se les paga centavos, y con los explotados jugadores de fútbol, pocos de los cuales logran salarios estelares.

Por otro lado, sospechamos la decisión del DJ de EUA en meter su puño imperialista en otro ámbito internacional. ¿Por qué? ¿Acaso EUA dio el visto bueno al DJ cuando perdió frente a Qatar por los juegos 2022? ¿Es para castigar a Rusia – que será sede de los juegos de 2018 – como parte de la ofensiva de Ucrania?

Aquí en este país hay bandas aún más peligrosas que la FIFA. Por ejemplo, los enormes bancos transnacionales cuyas especulaciones exacerbaron el colapso capitalista del 2008, y cuyos ejecutivos se han ganado el nuevo término de “banksters”. Las compañías farmacéuticas que utilizan artimañas para extender sus patentes. Fabricantes de armas que emplean a generales retirados para torcer brazos. Los departamentos de policía en todo EUA que arrestan, matan y ocupan las comunidades basados en el racismo. □

## En Nueva York en una sola voz: ¡Liberen a Oscar!

### Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Las calles de Harlem en Nueva York, vieron la más grande movilización que se haya dado hasta la fecha por la excarcelación del prisionero político puertorriqueño Oscar López Rivera este sábado 30 de mayo. Más de 3.000 personas bajo la consigna “Una sola voz por Oscar” le exigieron al presidente Barak Obama la inmediata liberación del patriota boricua.

Oscar López tiene ya 72 años y es ahora el prisionero político puertorriqueño más antiguo. El pasado 29 de mayo cumplió 34 años en cárceles del imperio, 12 de los cuales pasó en total aislamiento. Fue acusado de “conspiración sediciosa” – lo mismo que se le aplicó a Nelson Mandela – por pertenecer a las Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueña, FALN, basadas en Chicago que luchan por liberar a la colonia boricua del yugo estadounidense.

La manifestación en Harlem reflejó el amplio apoyo que en el último año ha conseguido el caso de López Rivera. La campaña basada en la violación a los derechos humanos, ha logrado sumar las voces hasta de políticos de derecha como se ve por la carta que el Caucus Hispano del Congreso estadounidense – el cual incluye a derechistas como la cubana Ileana Ros-Lehtinen – le envió recientemente a Obama pidiendo la excarcelación.

Familiares de Oscar López lideraron la marcha. Su única hija Clarisa López viajó desde Puerto Rico la noche anterior luego de participar en manifestaciones en la isla; y el hermano de Oscar, José López Rivera, profesor y reconocido activista comunitario en Chicago llegó desde esa ciudad.

Mujeres y hombres puertorriqueños con puestos políticos tanto en PR (la alcaldesa de San Juan) como en EUA (la presidenta del concejo municipal de

NYC, congresistas estatales y nacionales), con diferentes grados de tendencias progresistas estuvieron presentes.

Sin embargo, aunque la cobertura de los medios noticiosos destacaba la presencia de políticos y religiosos, fue el pueblo latino, mayormente el boricua, pero con acompañamiento del dominicano, mexicano y de otras naciones latinas, que fue el verdadero sujeto significativo en la marcha.

La mayoría de los contingentes identificados por sus banderas pertenecían a colectivos pro Oscar, con la presencia también de organizaciones sobre prisioneros políticos como Mumia Abu Jamal y Leonard Peltier. Hubo también una importante presencia del sector sindical con la presencia de un numeroso contingente del 1199 SEIU liderado por su vicepresidenta Estela Vázquez. Movimientos de solidaridad y de la izquierda estadounidense también dijeron presente.

### El pueblo en la calle

Las/os marchantes llegaron desde 25 estados y muchos contingentes se identificaban con sus ciudades de origen en la isla. Reflejando esto la inmensa ola migratoria que en los últimos años se ha producido dada la devastadora situación económica que atraviesa el país caribeño.

Aparte de la marcha, se iba produciendo otro fenómeno paralelo en las aceras. Muchas personas no sabían del caso de Oscar y querían saber más información. Se producían espontáneas tertulias donde se explicaba el caso de Oscar a la vez que se discutía la situación que ahoga la isla. Muchas personas querían saber cómo integrarse al movimiento de liberación de Oscar en la Gran Manzana. Desde los altos de edificios residenciales se veían banderas puertorriqueñas ondeando y sus residentes gritando las consignas y saludando a las/os marchantes. Una tienda de música boricua tocaba a

todo volumen una canción por el puertorriqueño Danny Rivera sobre la liberación de Oscar a la vez que ondeaban gigantes cas banderas boricuas.

### Campañas en PR y Latinoamérica

En Puerto Rico, el movimiento por Oscar ha aumentado como fue un día la exitosa lucha viequense. Cada día 29 se celebran actividades, incluyendo la de un grupo de mujeres llamadas “34 por Oscar”, representando los 34 años en prisión. Esta semana se celebró en la isla la 2da Caminata por Oscar que recorrió 40 pueblos en 34 días llevando información sobre el caso y recogiendo resoluciones de apoyo de los municipios por los que pasaban.

Pero la solidaridad se extiende fuera de PR. En Cuba se han hecho muchas actividades y conferencias, incluyendo un acto convocado por la OSPAAAL en la Misión de Puerto Rico en la Habana. En Venezuela

se formó un Comité de Solidaridad Oscar López Rivera en un vecindario creado por la Gran Misión Vivienda y bautizado con el nombre de Oscar. El Presidente Nicolás Maduro ha apoyado activamente la causa de la liberación así como otros líderes latinoamericanos como el expresidente José Mujica, el presidente nicaragüense Daniel Ortega y otros. En Madrid, Alemania y Panamá, se celebraron actos y recogido de firmas pidiendo la excarcelación. En más de 10 países latinoamericanos se convocaron actos por Oscar y Puerto Rico el 29 de mayo, como resultado de las resoluciones acordadas en la Declaración Final de la reciente Cumbre de las Américas realizada en Panamá.

Muchas personalidades también se han manifestado a favor de Oscar como los premios Nobel Rigoberta Menchú y Desmond Tutu.

¡La hora ha llegado para liberar a Oscar López Rivera y Puerto Rico! □

## Departamento de Estado EUA a Haití: Sin dinero, no hay elecciones

### Por G. Dunkel

El parlamento haitiano esencialmente se disolvió hace meses cuando finalizaron los términos de todos sus miembros, a excepción de 10 senadores. El presidente Michel Martelly, quien no puede postularse de nuevo, ha estado gobernando por decreto. El primer ministro de Martelly, Evan Paul, desempeña su cargo solo sobre una base de facto, ya que el Parlamento ha sido disuelto y por lo tanto no puede aprobar su nombramiento.

En marzo, el Consejo Electoral Provisional (CEP) estableció la agenda: Dos tercios del Senado y toda la cámara baja de diputados serán elegidos el 9 de agosto;

la elección presidencial será el 25 de octubre, con una segunda vuelta el 27 de diciembre si es necesario; las elecciones locales y municipales tendrán lugar en la fecha de octubre.

Algunas organizaciones políticas haitianas como la progresista Coordinación Dessalines y sus aliados se oponen a elecciones mientras que la Minustah de la ONU siga imponiendo una ocupación militar del país y Martelly, impuesto por EUA, sea todavía presidente.

Pero otros grupos han decidido participar.

El CEP anunció el 15 de mayo que 1.515 candidatos de 98 partidos van a presen-