

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

One year after Mike Brown's murder **Police terror rises**

By Abayomi Azikiwe

A Department of Justice study completed earlier this year and released to the press has been published in paperback form. Entitled "The Ferguson Report," this 173-page study shows clearly the systematic denial of fundamental civil rights to African Americans in St. Louis County, Mo.

The Ferguson rebellion and mass demonstrations returned the ongoing national oppression of African-American people to its proper place as the major issue that exposes the contradictions within the U.S. capitalist system in the 21st century.

Utilizing internal communications among law-enforcement personnel and the courts, the study makes a strong case for holding the authorities criminally liable for their premeditated plans to exploit and socially control African Americans through unwarranted stops, excessive fines and jail sentences.

In the introduction to the report, Theodore M. Shaw — Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina — surmised that the DOJ conducted the study to unravel the political and economic context of the developments in the aftermath of the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown. Even though the white police officer Darren Wilson who killed Brown was not criminally indicted, given the overall context, the municipality of the city of Ferguson stands guilty for its illegal nationally oppressive and racially discriminatory policies conducted through daily interactions with its African-American residents.

In relation to the ostensible Fourth Amendment rights of African Americans, which are supposed to protect them from illegal search and seizure, the Ferguson Report reads: "In reviewing Ferguson Police Department records, we found numerous incidents in which — based on the officer's own description of the detention — an officer detained an individual without articulable reasonable suspicion of criminal activity or arrested a person without probable cause.

"In none of these cases did the officer explain or justify his conduct. Many of the unlawful stops we found appear to have been driven, in part, by an officer's desire to check whether the subject had a municipal arrest warrant pending. Several incidents suggest that officers are more concerned with issuing citations and gen-

Cleveland Black Lives Convening:

'I believe that we will win!'

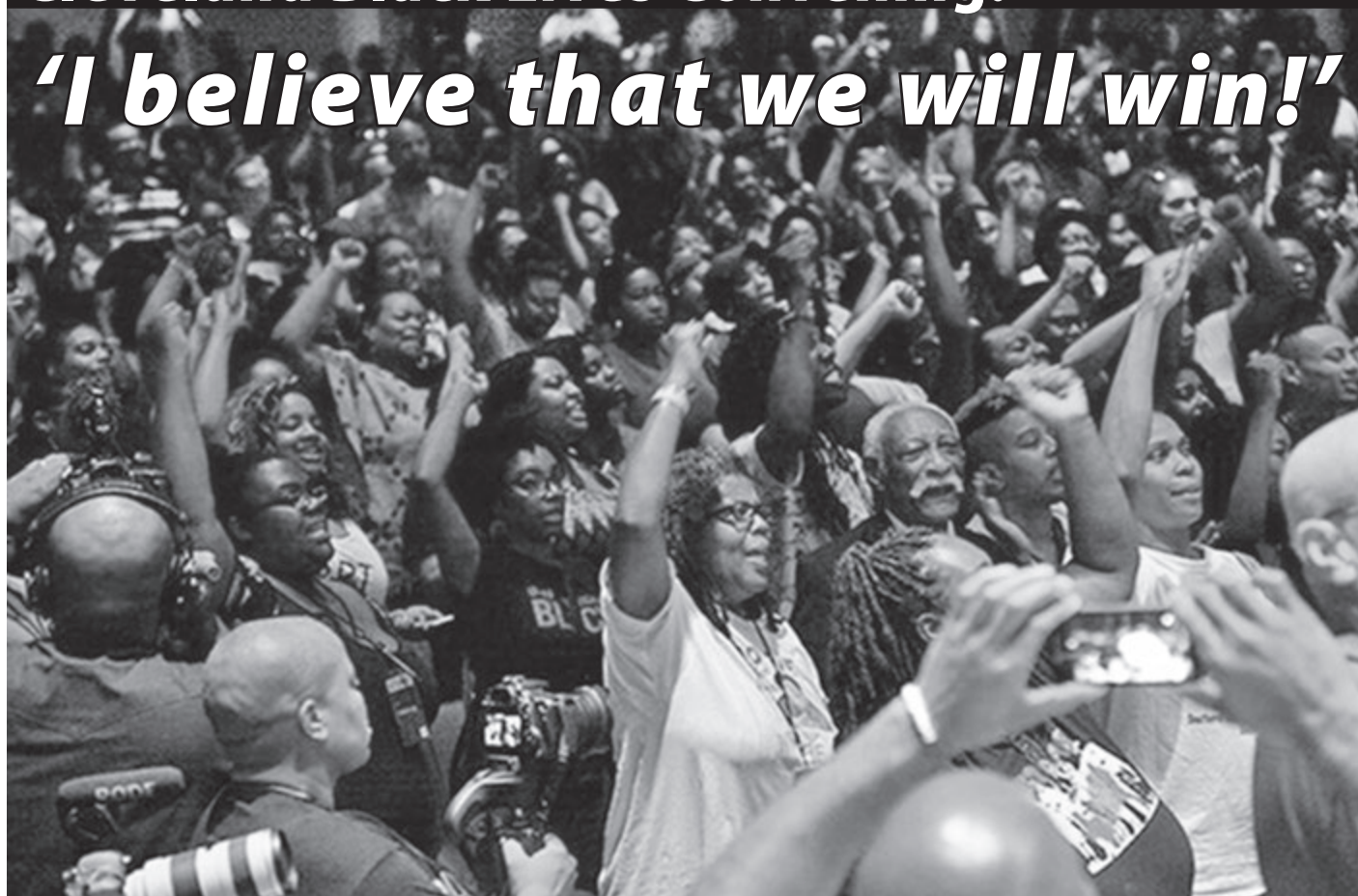


PHOTO: LAYLA AMATULLAH BARRAYN

A gathering of almost 2,000 majority people of African descent, July 24-26. Read more on page 7.

erating charges than with addressing community needs."

In part, the aggressive policing operations against African Americans in Ferguson and St. Louis County stem from the desire to reap economic gains through excessive citations that are often reinforced by an already biased court system. Despite these observations by DOJ investigators, no criminal charges for civil rights violations were filed. Consequently the situation will remain the same until a mass revolutionary movement develops that can effectively challenge the institutionalized system of racism and national oppression.

What has changed in the last year?

This report was published on the eve of the first anniversary of the brutal killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown on Aug. 9, 2014, that triggered mass demonstrations and rebellions in Ferguson and revived the anti-racist struggle in the United States. A small suburb of just over 20,000 people, mainly African Americans, Ferguson be-

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People's State of Nation



San Francisco

Philippines President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III delivered his last State of the Nation Address on July 27 at the joint session of the 16th Congress at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, in metropolitan Manila. Shortly after he finished, a group of left-wing legislators unfurled a protest banner that read in English translation: “Human rights violator.”

On the same day in San Francisco, Calif., over 100 Filipino activists from BAYAN USA Northern California, GABRIELA, NAFCON and other supporters held

a People's State of the Nation speakout at Union Square. Speaker after speaker spoke of human rights violations and economic conditions forcing the mass migration of Filipinos from their homeland to the U.S. to find jobs to support their families in their homeland.

The protesters then marched through the busy shopping areas around Union Square and Market Street, ending at the Philippines consulate where they held a closing rally.

— Report and photo by Terri Kay

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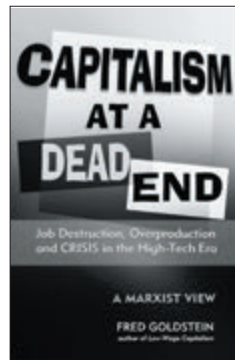
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El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.



Capitalism at a Dead End

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

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

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Sandra Bland — #Say Her Name

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Aug. 3 — At every progressive political event in Texas since July 13, the name Sandra Bland has been there — in the signs, on the banners, from everyone speaking into microphones or bullhorns. The name has also been on TV news, in the press, on the radio and in the hearts of those who are still shocked and outraged over Bland's death in the Waller County, Texas, jail just three days after her arrest by a Texas state trooper.

Last week in several cities there were Light Brigade events for Sandy Bland. From the overpass above Interstate 59 in Houston, to the bridge over the Chicago River, to Washington Square Park in New York City, to San Diego on the West Coast, highways and bridges lit up her name "Sandy Bland" and the hashtag "#SayHerName."

In Houston the North Texas Light Brigade, the Texas Organizing Project and

Code Pink sponsored the lighting event. The bridge over the highway was filled with a multinational crowd of young activists, new activists as well as seasoned ones, all wanting to hold one of the lit-up signs that spelled out S-A-N-D-Y B-L-A-N-D.

Tomorrow night in Houston, Black Greeks Speak Social Justice and Human Rights Council will host a community forum titled "#WHATHAPPENED-TOSANDRABLAND?" to be held at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University. Speakers include Marlon Smith, Black Greeks Speak; Tarsha Jackson, Texas Organizing Project; Professor Howard Henderson, TSU School of Public Affairs; Sarah Guidry, Earl Carl Institute executive director; and DeWayne Charleston, former Waller County Justice of the Peace. The chief of the TSU Police Department is also on the speakers list.

While many activists are questioning why any police officers need to be on the panel, one of the speakers, Charleston,

was the first African American elected in Waller County and served two terms as Justice of the Peace. Charleston was involved in the federal lawsuit that resulted in Prairie View A&M University students finally being allowed to vote, based on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1979 in *The United States v. Waller County*. But for years after the ruling, students at PVAMU were under attack.

As Charleston told Amy Goodman on "Democracy Now!," "There have been three city [councilmembers], a county attorney, a minister, a judge, two public officials, all arrested, all indicted, some convicted, after they participated in get-out-the-vote efforts, and 19 students, I might add, were also indicted, after they all participated in some get-out-the-vote or campaign initiatives. We're talking about the suppression of voting rights since the Supreme Court assured that right in 1979. There was one district attorney who threatened to send any students to jail if they dared attempt to vote

in Waller County. Nothing happened to him." (July 27)

Charleston's book about Waller County, "Then Me: The United States v. Waller County," gives chilling details about the long racist history of this county where Sandy Bland died. It's available on Amazon.com.

The next major events in Texas and around the country will occur on the one-year anniversary of the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. In Texas people will descend on the Waller County Jail in Hempstead, 701 Calvit St., on Aug. 9 at 5 p.m. Buses from Houston are being organized by the Texas Organizing Project.

The event is sponsored by Truth 2 Justice, which says, "Aug. 9th will make one full year that Michael Brown Jr. was killed and the BlackLivesMatter movement begun. So, in remembrance of Mike Brown, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and so many others we are asking that you respond, Aug. 9th at Waller County Jail! Justice For Sandy." □

'Trans Uprising' marks Baltimore's Gay Pride

By Steven Ceci
Baltimore

Baltimore's Black trans community and allies came together to hold a "Baltimore TransUprising" march and rally on July 24. They demanded full rights and respect for the transgender community in Baltimore, the day before Baltimore's Pride parade. Organizers emphasized that transgender women and men are a part of the history, the present and the future of Baltimore and will no longer be marginalized or silenced by fear and hate.

More than 200 people came out to express their solidarity and support for transgender rights. The idea of the title #Baltimore TransUprising was the brainchild of transgender activist Bryanna A. Jenkins, who participated in the Baltimore uprising around Freddie Grey but felt that the trans community was not fully accepted and so decided to bring more attention and awareness to the transgender community.

The marchers gathered at North Avenue and Charles Street, in a neighborhood where many members of Baltimore's transgender community live. They

marched for about a mile to Baltimore's Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon, the center of Baltimore's LGBTQ community, where a rally was held. The march and rally were sponsored by Sistas of the T; the Baltimore Transgender Alliance; and Black Transmen, Inc.-Maryland/DC. The People's Power Assembly participated in the march and carried signs that read "Black Trans Lives Matter — Say her name: India Clark," a transgender woman killed in Tampa, Fla., in July. Speakers at the rally included Merrick Moise, Dionne Halsey, Dane Edidi, Tyler Vile, Danielle Revlon and Monica Stevens.

Bryanna A. Jenkins read off a list of 14 demands, excerpted here:

1. An investigation into the death of Mya Hall
2. An end to the police brutality and police profiling of transgender people of Baltimore
3. That every cold case involving the murder of a transgender person be reopened and solved
4. Intentional efforts to reduce the recidivism rate among transgender people in the prison system
5. That jobs be set aside for members of



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK
July 24, Baltimore.

- Baltimore's transgender community
6. Funding for a homeless shelter for LGBTQ individuals in Baltimore
 7. That cases referred to the Commission of Civil Rights involving discrimination at the workplace be pursued with the utmost importance and urgency
 8. That any hospital or clinic providing medical services to transgender people be competent and non-discriminatory in their treatment towards us
 9. Health care that is trans-specific and trans-inclusive
 10. That initiatives be put in place, with various grants to support these initiatives, to set aside vacant houses for LGBTQ people of color so they can own their own homes in the cities
 11. That LGBTQ children in Baltimore schools be protected from bullying and harassment
 12. That the city of Baltimore set money

aside for a mural to honor the lives of transgender people that we have lost in this city, so that they are never forgotten

13. That our allies use their privilege to interrupt patterns of transphobia, homophobia, violence and hate whenever they happen, whether someone LGBTQ-identified is in the room or not
14. That when you are working to meet the rest of our demands, you intentionally include us at the table, particularly trans women of color, so that you are making policy with us and not just for us

Jenkins asked the crowd to save the date of Nov. 20, when the Baltimore Transgender Alliance will host a Transgender March of Resilience at Baltimore City Hall. There we will see how the city has met our demands and honor our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us. □

On 45th anniversary of assassination Carl Hampton honored

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

On July 26, 1970, the Houston Police Department gunned down a 21-year-old leader of Houston's Black community, Carl Hampton, after a 10-day standoff outside of the Peoples Party II headquarters.

On July 25-26, Hampton was honored by fellow Black Panthers, his family, local politicians and many, many community activists in Hampton's home neighborhood of Pleasantville, on the 45th anniversary of his death.

"Forty-five years ago a brilliant leader was taken from us by the Houston police, a man who was educated, revolutionary and in tune with the needs of the African-American people of Houston, and today we honor him and his accomplish-

ments," said Akua Holt, chair of the July 25 rally at the Judson Robinson Sr. Community Center.

Hampton's sister, Audrey Hampton Bell, told Workers World that she was so pleased to have her brother remembered. "He was a special young man. To have him taken from us at such an early age, it was wrong." She received a proclamation from the office of U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee at the rally. "It still hurts to remember what happened, but the kindness here today is beautiful," Hampton's sister said.

Hampton had gone to Oakland in the late 1960s to work with the Black Panther Party and returned to Houston hoping to open a chapter. The national headquarters was not authorizing chapters at that time, thus Hampton named the organiza-



WW PHOTO:
GLORIA RUBAC
At the
gravesite of
Carl Hampton.

tion he began in Houston, Peoples Party II.

Among the speakers at the rally were Kofi Taharka, national chair of the National Black United Front; a representative of Workers World Party; and state Rep. Harold Dutton, who represents the Pleasantville neighborhood. Special guests were members of the Black Panther Alumni Association — James Aaron, "Bunchy" Crear, Claude Frost, Sensei Benton, Bobby Reed, as well as the minister of culture for the Black Panther Party, Emory Douglass, who displayed

decades of Panther art and also showed a PowerPoint presentation of Panther and U.S. history through art taken from the covers and cartoons of the Panther newspaper.

Musical presentations included a guest appearance by Archie Bell, who performed his best-known song, the 1968 hit "Tighten Up."

On July 26, the former Panthers and supporters held a graveside tribute to Hampton at Golden Gate Cemetery. To read more about Hampton, go to www.workers.org/2008/us/hampton_o807/ □

Fired GM workers— Four years in tent encampment, IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

By Martha Grevatt

Aug. 1 marked the four-year anniversary of the tent encampment outside the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, by Asotrecol, the Association of Injured Workers and Ex-workers of GM Colmotores. Asotrecol began the occupation to protest the work practices at General Motors' Colombian assembly plant. At that time, the U.S. government was GM's largest stockholder and creditor under the terms of the 2009 bankruptcy bailout.

In Colombia, GM hires people when they are young and strong, makes them sign a waiver on their right to join the plant union, and then makes them work long hours under brutal conditions that leave them with debilitating injuries. Asotrecol members are fired after suffering such injuries, following which their medical documentation is falsified to show their injuries as non work-related, making them ineligible for workers' compensation.

In 2012, Asotrecol members conducted a hunger strike, sewing their lips shut to draw attention to their plight. This led to mediation with GM, but talks broke down when Asotrecol refused to accept a paltry sum to settle their grievances. Since then, GM has refused to negotiate with Asotrecol.

The U.S. Embassy, which is supposed to monitor labor rights violations under the Labor Action Plan of the U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement, has been no help. When Asotrecol members chained themselves to the embassy building in protest, they were brutally beaten by embassy police. Asotrecol President Jorge Parra was detained and member Manuel Ospina suffered a fractured kneecap.

These heroic workers have persevered through tremendous hardship: living in tents, seeing their chil-

dren go without and facing foreclosure. Their struggle has attracted worldwide support, including from Detroit activists who demonstrated July 31 outside GM world headquarters. In Colombia, labor delegations visit the encampment regularly. Injured oil workers, fired under similar circumstances, joined the encampment in February.

Asotrecol's struggle has put pressure on GM; now workers injured in the plant are holding onto their jobs.

Asotrecol also found an ally in "Victimas de Banqueros" [Victims of Bankers], which defends homeowners from eviction. Carlos Trujillo was able to stave off foreclosure almost four years. In May, Victimas successfully blocked an eviction. His lender, Colpatria, committed mortgage fraud by illegally charging an exorbitant interest rate. In a sneak attack on June 24, with no notice and no chance for Victimas to mobilize, riot cops arrived at the house. They evicted the family and detained Carlos overnight.

Now injured workers are facing an ominous threat from the Colombian government. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos is soon expected to issue an anti-labor decree, giving the fired GM workers' struggle a new significance. The decree allows employers to lawfully fire workers who are injured on the job, with a maximum six months' salary severance payment. This will gut the legal rights of injured workers who won't be able to pass physical exams for other employment and will, therefore, be left destitute.

This will "legalize" the illegal treatment of injured workers by GM, Coca-Cola, and foreign oil and mining interests.

This is one of many reasons union supporters are joining Asotrecol in the tents in an anniversary solidarity action on Aug. 3. □

Milwaukee, WI

Hands off ATU Local 998

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 will resume negotiations with the Milwaukee County Transit System Aug. 10 with the assistance of a federal mediator.

ATU 998, which represents over 700 bus drivers and mechanics and is a majority African-American union with a progressive Civil Rights history, is fighting cut-back proposals from the county. These include attempts to decrease wages, increase part-time positions, gut the pension system and refuse to increase safety and bathroom breaks on bus layovers, which are now on average just four minutes.

The union, with widespread labor-community sup-

port, waged a 72-hour work stoppage July 1-4 in opposition to these proposals. Other protests have taken place at locations such as Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele's posh apartment in downtown Milwaukee. ATU 998 President James Macon says another work stoppage is a possibility if the county continues with its austerity proposals.

ATU leaders are asking supporters to call Abele and tell him to stop attacking the union with outrageous proposals that would drive down the standard of living even more for the bus drivers, mechanics and all workers in Milwaukee and statewide. Call Abele at 414-278-4211. For more information, go to the ATU-Local-998 Facebook page at tinyurl.com/pfxu3bd. □

'From Harlem to Havana, Black Lives Matter!'

By Ellie Dorritie and Cheryl LaBash
Buffalo, N.Y.

Chanting this year's central demand, "Black Lives Matter!" the 46th Venceremos Brigade marched across the Peace Bridge from Canada into the United States on August 2 and proudly declared that they had been to Cuba in defiance of the still-continuing U.S. blockade and travel restrictions.

In their press release, the Venceremos Brigade explained:

"Although the recent negotiations towards normalizing relations between the two countries were announced by both President Raúl Castro and President Barack Obama on December 17, 2014, the travel ban and U.S. blockade against Cuba are still in place. The Venceremos Brigade, along with its sister organization IFCO/Pastors for Peace, continues to claim the importance of engaging in civil disobedience through public Travel Challenges as one of the most effective means of mounting pressure on the U.S. government to change these policies. The Brigade will continue to do so until both the travel ban and blockade have been eradicated,

Venceremos Brigade



WW PHOTO: GARRETT DICEMBRE

Guantánamo military base is returned to Cuba, U.S. government funding ceases to programs of USAID and other organizations attempting to create political unrest in the country, and the U.S. respects Cuba's right to national sovereignty and self-determination."

The brigadistas were all wearing those demands as they marched and participated in rallies on both sides of the international bridge. This year's Brigade T-shirt

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

End AFL-CIO affiliation with 'police unions'

"We, UAW Local 2865, call on the [AFL-CIO] to end their affiliation with the International Union of Police Associations." So begins a stirring, long-overdue resolution passed July 25 by the union representing some 13,000 University of California student workers. Titled "Denouncing Police Unions," the resolution asks, "How can there ever be solidarity between law enforcement and the working class when elites call upon police and their organizations to quell mass resistance to poverty and inequality?" It specifically mentions the needs of Black workers and communities and cites the death of Freddie Grey in Baltimore and the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The resolution exposes the role of police unions in lobbying against police accountability legislation, shielding killer cops from prosecution and defending officers' crimes of racist brutality in court. The resolution takes aim at the institution of policing itself: "Policing in the U.S. has always served the needs of colonialism, racism, and capitalism by protecting the property of those who would steal land and exploit the labor of others." The full text is at tinyurl.com/q50pgje.

The last time UAW 2865 made headlines was in 2014 when it became the first major trade union to endorse the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" campaign against Israeli apartheid, reported in Workers World's Dec. 28, 2014 edition. (inthesetimes.com, July 27)

Verizon negotiations continue

Despite \$18 billion in profits in the last 18 months, Verizon still insists on slashing job and retirement security, while hiking health care costs by the thousands. Ed Mooney, vice president for Communications Workers District 2-13, representing workers from Pennsylvania to Virginia, said, "We're not going to walk into a trap set by Verizon. We'll strike when we think it is the right time to strike, and that is not tonight. The ball is in their court — we are waiting for them to get serious." (cwa-union.org, Aug. 1) Stay tuned.

Postal workers show union strength

Contract negotiations between the United States Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union broke down May 27 as the USPS' latest "offer" revealed an enormous gulf between management's interests and those of the workers. Whereas workers and supporters continue to fight for career-quality jobs with living wages and benefits, management's insistence on cutting wages, eliminating cost-of-living adjustments and outsourcing union jobs forced a stalemate. Federal law requires at least 60 days of mediation to resolve a bargaining impasse.

On June 3, APWU President Mark Dimondstein called on postal workers to wear union gear to work every Thursday during the mediation process to show the union's militancy in the fight for a fair contract: "Postal management pays attention to how many of our members are wearing union buttons, stickers and T-shirts, as well as how many union members are taking part in rallies and other events. They take it as a measure of the union's strength." (apwu.org, June 6 and June 12)

features banners and flags declaring "Black Lives Matter," "End the Blockade," "Lift the Travel Ban" and "USA Out of Guantánamo."

Television and print media coverage of the return of the Venceremos Brigade both before and after the event was plentiful and friendly. The Buffalo Channel 4 news report ended by indicating that people who are interested in participating in the Venceremos Brigade next year can find a link to the Brigade on the Channel 4 website!

When asked by Time Warner Cable News what she had learned from her trip to Cuba, Brigadista Latoya Strong responded, "When you put people over profits ... you get a better quality of life than we have in the U.S. ... where it's based on your skin color, based on how much money you have."

In Fort Erie, Ontario, on the Canadian side of the bridge, the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association-Niagara organized a greeting and solidarity rally before the brigadistas marched over the bridge.

On the Buffalo, N.Y., side of the bridge, the solidarity rally and picnic were organized by Workers World Party, the Buffalo/WNY International Action Center and the WNY Peace Center's Latin America Solidarity Committee Task Force. □

War on migrants continues unabated

The deadly side of U.S. immigration policy

By Teresa Gutierrez

While the courts quibble with the Obama administration on his November executive action, hundreds of thousands of workers continue to become casualties of the war on migrants.

Last November, President Barack Obama announced a program that would allow the undocumented parents of children born in the U.S. to obtain temporary work permits so they could stay in the country with their “citizen” children. The legislation is currently stalled in the courts.

But the war on migrants continues. This war has brought conditions so grave that the situation for immigrants today has truly become one of the great humanitarian crises of our times.

Like the war on Black people, the attacks manifest themselves in many ways and demonstrate that workers are deemed expendable by the capitalist system.

The global economic crisis is bleak for billions around the world. Racism and centuries of colonial imperialist domination make it even bleaker for workers of color.

Immigration in the U.S.

The issue of immigration has made the front pages since 2006, when Washington attempted to pass one of the most repressive anti-immigrant bills ever, the Sensenbrenner legislation.

That bill was defeated by one of the largest upheavals of workers in decades when millions of immigrants and their supporters demonstrated throughout the spring of 2006.

This was the beginning of a period of fightback, one when the migrant movement helped to revive the honoring of May Day in the U.S.

Since then, however, conditions for immigrant workers have worsened.

Currently, immigration in the media

On the picket line

Stopping wage theft

The New York City Council passed the Car Wash Accountability Act in late June, a law that requires the 200 car washes in the city to be licensed and regulated to prevent wage theft and environmental abuses. Facilities must post a surety bond to ensure workers’ wages. Since “Wash New York” was launched over three years ago, nine facilities in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx have won contracts that improved wages; won overtime, benefits and protections; and helped over 1,000 workers win over \$4.5 million in back wages and other damages. Wash New York is a collaboration of “Make the Road NY” and “NY Communities for Change,” with support from the Department Store Union (RWDSU). (maketheroadny.org, June 30)

Meanwhile, wage theft continues in New York City. Bronx Papa John’s pizza franchise owner Abdul Jamil Khokhar pleaded guilty on July 15 to charges of failure to pay minimum wage and overtime to about 300 current and former employees — amounting to \$230,000 in lost wages. This is the first criminal case in the U.S. by a state attorney against a fast food franchise for cheating workers. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said this “sends a loud and clear message to every fast food franchise: if you steal wages you will be held accountable and you can go to jail.” Khokhar was sentenced to 60 days. (amny.com, July 16) □

is handled like a hot potato, a topic to be tossed from one presidential candidate to another.

Since racist demagogue Donald Trump made his disgusting anti-Mexican immigrant comment, there has been a non-stop discussion on immigration in the media with Trump disturbingly stealing the headlines.

The reality for immigrants in this country is, however, very serious. No candidate of the capitalist parties talks about it genuinely.

Two of the most critical areas on immigration policy today are, first, the mass detentions of millions of workers, including children, and, second, the horrifying human crisis of abuse and conditions that come as a result of the forced mass exodus of people who have left their homelands, particularly from Central America.

The mass deportations of over two million workers under Obama should of course also be denounced.

The mass exodus of workers from their homelands into this country and the mass detentions truly have led to a major humanitarian crisis of epic proportions.

This is a global crisis as migrants from Africa, Asia, Caribbean, and the Middle East are forced to make their way to Europe. This year alone, almost 2,000 workers have drowned already in the Mediterranean Sea. (Missing Migrants Project, Aug. 3)

Another ‘Trail of Tears’

In the spring of 2014, immigration again made the front pages as a wave of unaccompanied children made their way to the U.S.-Mexico border.

The vast majority of these migrants, many of them traveling in family units, were from Central America. Over 60,000 children and young people made the dangerous journeys from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras into the U.S.

Little is said about the role of U.S. imperialism in forcing migrants to leave

their homelands. In fact, were it not for the decades of intervention by Washington supporting reactionary regimes, and military attacks against popular movements, Central Americans and Mexicans would not have to leave their countries.

Forced migration is big business. As the workers make their way into the U.S., they are prey for organized crime syndicates backed by the Mexican government. Money is stolen, women are raped, and people are held hostage until families in the U.S. send exorbitant amounts of ransom money. These are just some examples of the danger.

No one would make that trek unless they had to.

Once in the U.S., the detention of workers is also a lucrative business. Government legislation mandates that at least 35,000 beds be filled every night in prisons run by the infamous CCA (Corporation Counsel of America) or the prison company GEO Group, the same private corporations that unjustly incarcerate Black and Brown youth.

This policy comes as a result of the U.S. providing more money annually “to border and immigration enforcement agencies than to every other federal law-enforcement agency combined, including the FBI and the DEA.” (New Yorker, April 27)

Incarceration is exactly what happened to the beleaguered women and children of Central America who fled traumatic and violent conditions at home only to be rewarded with incarceration for their efforts to get their families out of harm’s way.

As an advocate in Texas points out, whether it is organized crime in Mexico or the “GEO group, it’s a for-profit enterprise that makes its money by holding people in boxes until they pay.” (New Yorker, April 27)

What happens in those “boxes” is exactly the same kind of inhumane and brutal torture that happens in prisons throughout the U.S.

Several months ago, detained women and children struggled to get the word out about conditions in the new, so-called family detention centers that opened up in Texas to hold the unaccompanied children as well as some of the women migrants.

The Karnes County Residential Center was built in South Texas by the GEO Group and holds 500 women and children. Thanks to the movement for immigrant rights, which listened to the cries for help, information came out that many women imprisoned at the detention center were accusing guards of sexual assaults. A federal complaint charged that guards were promising women help with their cases in exchange for sexual favors.

Problems with food were reported. The air conditioning is turned up so high that the detention centers are commonly referred to as “iceboxes.”

Conditions overall are so bleak that a professor advocating for these families stated in an Aug. 2 Migrant Clinicians Network publication: “The long-term damage on the mothers and the children is extraordinary. We haven’t seen anything like this since the Japanese internment camps in World War II.”

The solution is solidarity

What is needed to turn this situation around?

Imagine the fear among the ruling class if the families of the over 2.5 million people incarcerated in U.S. prisons joined with the families of migrant detainees. Mass incarcerations of Black and Brown workers have become one of the solutions to the ruling class’s economic crisis. As police terror continues unabated against the Black community, as racist violence spews unchecked, solidarity is key to pushing back this offensive.

The solution for the workers is to join hands across the border, through every prison fence and border wall, and fight back together under the banner “All lives will matter when Black lives matter.” □

Bolivarian Venezuelan Embassy opens

HUGO CHÁVEZ LIBRARY

By Cheryl LaBash
Washington, D.C.

The Embassy of Bolivarian Venezuela inaugurated the Hugo Chávez Library in Washington on July 31, the week marking what would have been the late president’s sixty-first birthday. The new library reflects the contributions of Chávez’s visionary leadership in advancing continental integration and development, and empowering the most oppressed and marginalized sectors of Venezuelan society.

The program featured Oliver Stone’s film “My Friend Hugo,” with glimpses of Chávez’s energy, warmth and reciprocal love with the red clad masses — men, women and children. Remarks by Ambassador Designate Maximilien Sánchez Arvelaiz explained how the library’s photo displays of Chávez with many authors highlight his love of reading and books.

A spectacular mural, spanning a whole wall and painted collectively, depicts Chávez at the United Nations with an internationalist representation of people from around the world. An Iranian woman in the audience commented on the

Venezuelan Ambassador-designate Maximilien Sánchez Arvelaiz being interviewed.



WW PHOTOS: CHERYL LABASH

people, people of African descent and workers in general. Also guaranteed are gender equality and the right of every person to vote.

Chávez’s leadership in continental integration through the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — initiated together with Cuba’s former president Fidel Castro, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and other formations — was an important factor changing the U.S. posture toward revolutionary Cuba to begin direct talks and re-establish embassies.

Although the library is a work in progress and currently open only by appointment, it is already an important source for information about Chávez and the Bolivarian process that continues today. □

Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Black woman found dead in jail cell

By Susan Schnur
Cleveland

Aug. 2 — Ralkina Jones is yet another African-American woman who died in police custody under suspicious circumstances.

Jones, 37-years-old, had an alleged altercation with her ex-spouse, Brandon Jones, in a parking lot in the suburb of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, on July 24.

Although Mr. Jones refused to press charges, the Cleveland Heights police took Ralkina Jones to the local jail on charges of felonious assault, domestic

violence and child endangerment. The Jones' 12-year-old daughter was in her mother's car when she allegedly attacked Mr. Jones and his vehicle.

By Sunday morning, July 26, Ralkina Jones was still in jail and dead.

Jones had been suffering from several medical problems and was under a doctor's care. Her family visited her on Saturday afternoon and she was doing well. By early evening, however, Jones was lethargic and taken to the HealthSpan emergency room. Twelve hours later, she was found dead in her cell.

"How do you release someone within

two hours from going to an ER room? You know, just in such a hurry to take her back to jail?" asked Jones' sister, Renee Ashford. (theroot.com, July 28)

Ashford said the family has repeatedly called the police department seeking more information after they heard the news of her sister's death. "Every time we call we don't get an answer and that's the upsetting part," stated Ashford. (colorlines.com, July 28)

An autopsy report released July 27 said "no suspicious injuries" were visible on Jones' body. (St. Louis American, July 28) As of this writing on Aug. 2, no offi-



Ralkina Jones

cial cause of death has been determined or released to the public.

In all likelihood Ralkina Jones would be alive today if she had not been tossed into jail and mistreated in a racist and deadly manner. □

Cincinnati

Killer cop charged in murder of Sam Dubose

By Kris Hamel

The terrifying video of an African-American motorist's life being snuffed out by a white racist cop, University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing, has been seen by millions of people worldwide.

Samuel Dubose, 43, was shot once in the head during a July 19 traffic stop that Tensing quickly escalated until it was out of control. The cop's body video camera recorded the deadly shooting, which took place less than two minutes after Tensing approached Dubose's vehicle allegedly for not having a front license plate.

Hamilton County (Ohio) Prosecutor Joseph Deters announced a murder charge against Tensing at a news conference July 29 after a 12-person grand jury had reviewed the available evidence.

"He purposefully killed [Dubose],"



Cincinnati protest; Sam Dubose.

charged Deters, who also called the officer's shooting of Dubose "totally unwarranted," "senseless" and "an absolute tragedy." (cincinnati.com, July 30)

However, charges will not be brought against the two other cops who engaged in a coverup with Tensing of what happened at the scene. All three cops main-

tained at the murder scene that Tensing was being dragged by Dubose's vehicle. The video proves that assertion is an outright lie.

Despite the evidence, the grand jury did not indict the other two police officers. Deters explained the cops' lies this way: "These officers were totally coop-

erative in the investigation and consistent in their statements. There was some confusion over the way the initial incident report was drafted, but that was not a sworn statement by the officers and merely a short summary of information." (usatoday.com, July 31)

In jail on a \$1 million bond, Tensing spent only 27 hours there, in a protective unit, before his father reportedly posted \$100,085 for his release on July 30. (cincinnati.com, July 30)

While this killer cop walks freely until his murder trial, African Americans, Latinos and Latinas, and Indigenous peoples across the United States face constant danger and death at the hands of racist killer cops and jailers.

A vigilant struggle will help achieve a guilty verdict and prison time for killer cop Ray Tensing.

Justice for Sam Dubose! □

Memphis cops kill Black youth, protests follow

By Brent Ford

The following is a guest article submitted by a political activist in Memphis, Tenn.

July 22 — Darrius Stewart, 19, of Memphis was gunned down by Memphis police Officer Connor Schilling on July 17. According to the police and a video shot by a bystander, Schilling, white, pulled over the car Stewart was riding in for a broken headlight. Apparently, now the price of a Black life is a broken headlight.

According to the video, Stewart was placed in the back of the patrol car while Schilling checked him for warrants. When the check came up positive for two warrants for nonviolent offenses for a Darrius Stewart, Schilling attempted to take Stewart out of the car and handcuff



Darrius Stewart

him. At this point, the unarmed Stewart moves toward the officer and the video shows them struggling on the ground. During the struggle, Schilling pulls his gun and shoots Darrius, mortally wounding him. Schilling had back-up. He also had 100 pounds on Stewart. (Schilling is 6 feet 2 inches tall, 200 lbs. Stewart was 5 feet 6 inches tall, 100 lbs.) One wonders why he felt the need to go straight for his gun. At best, it shows a complete lack of both professionalism and training. At worst, it shows a callous disregard for a young Black life.

him. At this point, the unarmed Stewart moves toward the officer and the video shows them struggling on the ground. During the struggle, Schilling pulls his gun and shoots Darrius, mortally wounding him.

It is reported that Schilling was arrested for DUI last year, but was not charged, and also faced an excessive force case in 2013 that was not pursued. Why was he even legally allowed to have a badge, let alone a gun or authority over other people? Yet again, the "blue wall of silence" has led to the death of a young man. Sadly, given the Memphis Police Department's history of violence against minorities and the LGBT community, none of that comes as much surprise here in Memphis.

According to statements Stewart's family gave to the local news, the police had the wrong kid. Those warrants, she said, were for another Darrius Stewart, and, in fact, police had stopped the now dead Stewart in the past and told him "to be careful because there is someone out there with the same name and a lot of warrants." (wmcactionnews5.com, July 22)

It would appear that not only did the officer shoot an unarmed teen; he also had the wrong guy. Of course, the MPD will undoubtedly continue to defend Officer Schilling and demonize Stewart in the media.

To add insult to injury, and in an attack on transparency, the MPD has decided to turn the investigation over to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the local branch of the FBI. By law, the TBI is not required to release the details of their investigation unless Officer Schilling is charged, and in fact, they could possibly keep the information secret unless Officer Schilling is found guilty of a crime.

As this killing was an attack not only on Darrius, but also the whole Black community of Memphis, it is disgusting that the people will be kept uninformed. Yet, it is no surprise, as the police do what they can to avoid transparency and accountability.

The community has already begun rallying, with a candlelight vigil held the evening of July 20, and multiple Black rights and empowerment groups calling for continued marches and protests across the city in memory of Stewart to be held until Officer Schilling is brought to justice.

Community activists say they will not rest until this killer is safely behind bars and no longer able to hide behind his badge and gun. They shall march until there is justice for Darrius Stewart. Their voices will echo through the streets, into the halls of government and justice, and show the police that the oppressed and everyone in solidarity with them have had enough.

The movement's battle cry is "Enough!" There will be no peace until there is a full dismantling of this rotten system that keeps down the poor and people of color. No peace until justice is served, not only for Darrius Stewart, but for all those who have fallen victim to a violent and racist system that has been allowed to stand for far too long. Let each life lost be remembered in the people's collective consciousness, and their names added to the pantheon of heroes struck down in our struggle for a just and equal world for all. □

60,000 signatures demand justice for Tamir Rice

It has been eight months since the police killing of the 12-year-old Black youth, Tamir Rice, in a Cleveland park. On July 23, over 150 people marched to the Cuyahoga County (in)Justice Center to demand that Officers Timothy Loehmann and Frank Garmback be charged with his killing and brought to trial. Over 60,000 signatures were collected in an effort spearheaded by the Tamir Rice

Justice Committee. A delegation including LaTonya Goldsby, Tamir's cousin, presented the petitions to the office of Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty. As of Aug. 3, there are still no charges filed.



— Susan Schnur

THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES CONVENING in Cleveland

A pivotal moment for liberation



By Lamont Lilly

Read entire article at workers.org.

Cleveland — From July 24 to July 26, according to organizers close to 2,000 registered Black activists and organizers from all over the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean converged in Cleveland for the 2015 Movement for Black Lives National Convening. In addition to police terror and state violence, pertinent issues such as mass incarceration, economic empowerment, education, housing and Black health were all centered at the table of Black consciousness.

The Movement for Black Lives Convening was more than just an assembly of passionate activists and talented organizers. It was more than just workshops and Black radical thought. This here was a weekend of love, a sacred and safe space for Blackness that isn't typically created, particularly on a national level.

We could collectively celebrate our ability to survive, in peace, in whatever form we chose to do so. We laughed together. We cried together and cheered for one another. We challenged each other and shared experiences. We shared resources, studied together and created new networks. We debated. We danced. We chanted. We partied together. We healed.

Everything U.S. America refuses to allow us to do on a regular basis, we did for three whole days. We embraced the full essence of ourselves as living beings —

our own culture, our own heritage, our own ancestors — our history, our roots and the many forms in which Blackness is uniquely packaged. For three whole days, ALL BLACK LIVES stood together, regardless of one's religion or sexual preference, regardless of one's age, gender or political affiliation.

Workshops, learning and dialogue

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement hosted sessions on "Jackson [Miss.] Rising" and "Chokwe Lumumba, Assata Shakur and Black Nationalism." Southerners On New Ground hosted workshops on Black love, Black leadership and Black power. The Black Youth Project hosted a session entitled "Building Black Women's Leadership."

There were discussions on Black culture, Black art and the Black aesthetic — workshops specifically addressing "The Miseducation of Hip Hop," "Theatrical Jazz" and revolutionary poetry. Dr. Treva Lindsey led a workshop on "Black Scholar Activism." Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza led a session on "Conflict Resolution" within the movement.

There were discussions on revolutionary parenting and reproductive justice, social media and technology, farming and land reform, classism and labor, feminism and internationalism — gender, sexuality and Black health. There were two workshops on AIDS and HIV. There

were live yoga workshops and meditation spaces.

In a special tribute Friday evening, we were addressed as a mass assembly by several of the recent families who have lost loved ones to police brutality and state violence. As each family approached the podium, we cheered and loved them up through crowd support. It was eerie how we had seen them on the news over the previous few years, proud, but slightly broken.

Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, was there. Martinez Sutton, brother of Rekia Boyd, also spoke. Tracy Martin, father of Trayvon Martin, spoke. Amberly Carter, cousin of Emmett Till, also brought words. At one point, nearly all of us in the building were crying.

It was very important that hashtags became human again. There were so many faces and names, some of them we had almost forgotten. Ironically, Cleveland was initially chosen as the host city to honor the lives of 12-year-old Tamir Rice and 37-year-old Tanisha Anderson, both local victims of police terror. It was so good to be reminded of just how strong these families really have been.

Personal growth

This convening was also a moment of personal growth. It was here at the Black Lives Convening that the Black queer and trans question became one of a personal

matter, with implications that are much more than just political. I realized that these beautiful lives are more than just comrades. They're my kin folk, my cousins, my aunts, my BLOOD! We are more than just "politically" intertwined: we are one people, one resistance, one struggle to simply survive. Over the course of the weekend's events, I not only stood with trans comrades, I really listened to them, with my spirit. And in listening, I began to identify with their quite simple, but burning quest for complete liberation — Black liberation, the same kind that I want. Lol ... I even learned a new prefix, "cis," which I couldn't wait to use in a public write-up.

Deeper meaning, deeper needs

The Movement for Black Lives National Convening was framed as a space and time that would be used to "reflect on our histories of struggle, build a sense of fellowship that transcends geographical boundaries and begin to heal from the many traumas we face." To those who were there, it was just as advertised. This convening was not only historic; it was right on time. We needed this as a people. We needed this as freedom fighters. We needed this as a movement.

For those of us who have completely invested ourselves in this current movement for Black lives, we very often fight,

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Imani Henry
WW PHOTO

By Kathy Durkin

Imani Henry, an organizer of the People's Power Assembly, attended the Movement for Black Lives National Convening at Cleveland State University from July 24 to July 26. Henry reported on this historic occasion at a Workers World Party meeting on July 31 in New York City and described it as "one of the best experiences of my life."

Nearly 2,000 people participated. They came to Cleveland on buses or airplanes from all over the country. A busload of activists came from Los Angeles, as well as from Harlem and Brooklyn, N.Y. There were international representatives from Africa, with others traveling from Canada, the Dominican Republic, England and Germany.

Henry explained that the event commemorated the two-year anniversary of Black Lives Matter's founding, amidst mass outrage at the July 2013 acquittal of racist vigilante George Zimmerman for killing African-American youth Trayvon Martin. The organization, which describes itself as a national network, mobilized to support the movement in Ferguson, Mo., protesting the police killing of Michael Brown, another African-American youth. BLM now has chapters all over the country which have organized and joined protests against racist killings by police and vigilantes.

'One of the best experiences of my life'

The Movement for Black Lives blog explains: "This historic event comes at a pivotal time for the growing movement for Black lives in the United States. Black people are facing unabated police violence, increasing criminalization, a failed economic system, a broken education system, and the loss of our communities to gentrification and development. Our trans and queer communities face the increased risk of physical and economic violence.

"Many have taken to the streets in response to this ongoing state of emergency. ... Black people from across the country have led a wave of resistance that has spread around the world. A new crop of freedom fighters has emerged and urgent desire for Black victory has been rekindled in the hearts of seasoned activists. ... "This convening presents an opportunity for us to reflect on our histories of struggle, build a sense of fellowship ... and begin to heal from the many traumas we face. ... We will strengthen a budding community that is diverse in voices, origin, perspective and strategy."

This gathering was held in the city where 12-year-old Tamir Rice was gunned down. Henry told the meeting that the night before the program began, its participants demonstrated against the racist police murders of Rice and so many other African Americans.

Henry stressed that BLM's co-founders and leaders are Black women — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullers and Opal Tometi — and that two are queer-identified. He told of BLM's "Day of Action" in solidar-

ity with Black trans women under the slogan "Black Trans Lives Matter."

There was a strong youth presence. Many who came have been activists for the last two years, since BLM began. Among the many communities who attended were Black-identified Latinos and Latinas — or "Blatinas," as they call themselves. The Dream Defenders, led by Black and Brown youth, were there. Ramona Africa was there. Freed four-decade prisoner Eddie Conway and other former political prisoners participated, including Dhoruba bin Wahad.

'All Black Lives Matter!'

There were many highlights of this monumental event. Before a standing-room-only crowd, the conference opened with its first panel. Up on stage were family members of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and other African-American victims of police and vigilante violence. The audience leaped to their feet chanting, "Black Lives Matter!" for 15 minutes. "Black Trans Lives Matter!" was another strong chant as was "All Black Lives Matter!"

During much of the weekend, Henry participated in the Ella Baker Freedom School, a "liberated space" with revolutionary child care. The Cleveland Freedom School participated, too. They discussed the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements. Recognizing that youth and children are part of today's movement, they talked about their experiences and thoughts about police brutality and activism in Ferguson and other

cities. Songs of freedom and struggle rang out.

Among the many workshops was a popular one organized by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, which discussed creating people's power in the U.S.

At the closing session, everyone was urged to take care of themselves. The theme prevailed that "We believe we can win!" Everyone was reminded to join actions in Ferguson on Aug. 8 and 9, the anniversary of Michael Brown's death — or to participate in solidarity actions in New York City, on the West Coast and elsewhere.

Yet, the day was not over, stressed Henry. Convention participants rushed to defend a 14-year-old Black youth who had been stopped, frisked and arrested by Cleveland police at a bus stop near the venue. Activists surrounded the police car in which he was being held, locking arms in a direct action protest and chanting, "Let him go!" Police officers then responded by pepper-spraying everyone on the line.

Then, 75 New York City activists took over a restaurant's parking lot in solidarity. Some people rushed back from the airport to help. Suddenly, medical and legal advisers appeared. The young man's mother was contacted, and he was ultimately released. People's power prevailed.

Among representatives of the many organizations which attended were other members of the People's Power Assembly, the revolutionary youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST), and Workers World Party. □

Trial of Ebola vaccine seen as promising

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

A recent trial of a vaccine to prevent the Ebola virus disease has taken place in the West African state of Guinea, where the latest and most lethal strain originated in late 2013.

Tested on 7,500 people, the vaccine is designed to protect those exposed to the virus as well as others who come in contact with them.

The trial study testing the effectiveness of the drug began on March 7 with the vaccination of Guinean officials. Other frontline personnel have been vaccinated since March 25, beginning with medical workers at the Donka hospital in Conakry, the capital.

Preliminary findings from the Guinea Phase III efficacy vaccine study show that

VSV-EBOV, developed by Merck, Sharp & Dohme, is effective against Ebola. This body of international researchers — the Data and Safety Monitoring Board, which conducted the experiment — advised that the trial should move forward. An article published by the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, says the trial suggested 100 percent effectiveness. (Aug. 3)

Based upon that research report, the vaccine is safe and also provides the first evidence that unvaccinated people may be indirectly protected from Ebola when the VSV-ZEBOV vaccine is provided, using what is categorized as a ring vaccination strategy.

Using the ring methodology, some of those participating in the study are vaccinated for protection soon after an EVD case is diagnosed. Later other partici-

pants are vaccinated after a 21-day period. This differs from utilizing a placebo in a randomized control group for comparison, as it guarantees that all contacts are given the vaccine within the course of the trial.

In an article published by *Science Daily*, Dr. Marie Paule Kieny, co-director of the World Health Organization, was quoted as saying: “Before the trial started, in most clusters there had been a series of Ebola cases over the weeks prior to randomization. However, since the trial started, we have seen no new cases in vaccinated volunteers within 10 days of vaccination, regardless of whether vaccination was immediate or delayed.” (July 31)

WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said of the trial results: “This is an extremely promising development. The

credit goes to the Guinean Government, the people living in the communities and our partners in this project. An effective vaccine will be another very important tool for both current and future Ebola outbreaks.” (who.int, July 31)

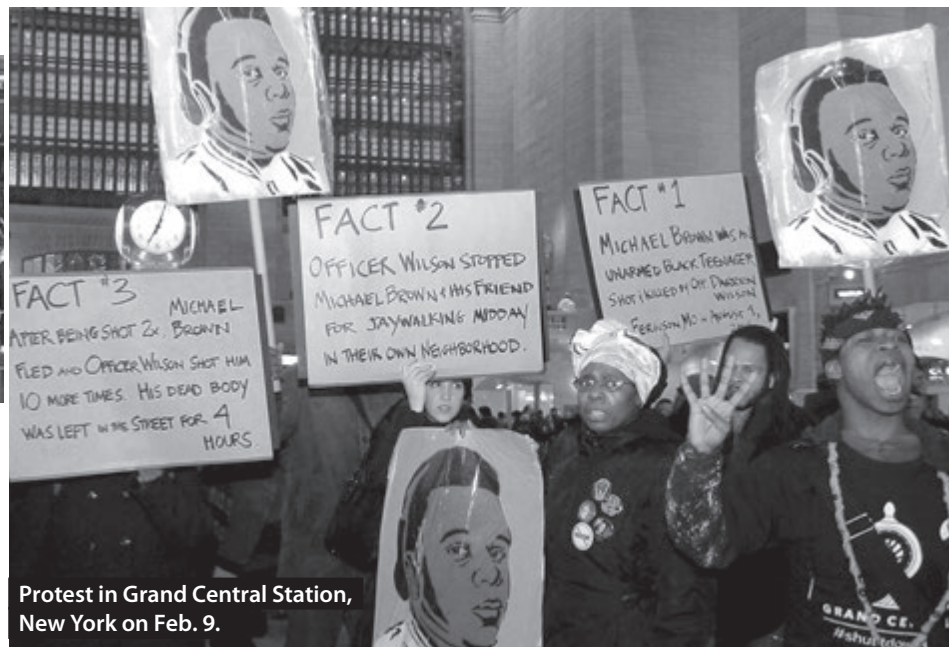
In the same press release, Dr. Sakoba Keita, the Guinean national coordinator for the EVD response, said of the initial trial: “This is Guinea’s gift to West Africa and the world. The thousands of volunteers from Conakry and other areas of Lower Guinea, but also the many Guinean doctors, data managers and community mobilizers have contributed to finding a line of defense against a terrible disease.”

Although the vaccine is said to have

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Black Lives Matter rally in Union Square, New York, on Nov. 24, 2014, after the grand jury decision in the killing of Michael Brown.



Protest in Grand Central Station, New York on Feb. 9.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Cleveland Pivotal moment for liberation

Continued from page 7

but forget to feel. We feel, but very often fail to heal. Some of us are so busy moving around, mobilizing and organizing, we don’t even eat properly. We don’t sleep enough and take care ourselves.

While I was in Baltimore for a month during the People’s Rebellion, I met organizers there from both Ferguson and New York who had slept in cars for over a week. All they had was food and gas money. All they had was their courage and dedication. I gave them what little cash I could spare and we traded contact information.

For those on the outside looking in, please understand that some of us are giving all we have — some of us are giving our lives. That’s what last weekend was all about: Black struggle, one sacrifice, a renewed sense of dedication, clearly emanating from a bold and brilliant new generation. As Ramona Africa so poignantly stated in one of the workshops: “Don’t be afraid to be a revolutionary. We have nothing to lose.” □



Read online at: tinyurl.com/65fe5y

One year after Mike Brown’s murder Police terror rises

Continued from page 1

came the center of the struggle to recognize the value and sanctity of Black life in the United States.

The White House was forced to pay lip service to the problems of police brutality and arbitrary killings in light of protests involving millions throughout the country and the world.

Newspaper editorials, even in countries allied with the U.S., questioned the U.S. ruling class’ commitment to tens of millions of people who were said to be “citizens” but were treated as prisoners of war through arbitrary stops, beatings, arrests, injuries and killings. Nevertheless, despite this international political pressure, coupled with burgeoning domestic unrest, there has been virtually no change in the system of repression and exploitation.

During the first seven months of 2015, over 500 people have been documented as being killed by police. Many more have been beaten, tortured, thrown into jails and railroaded through the courts to long-term prison sentences.

The Black Lives Matter movement, which emerged in 2013 and expanded after Michael Brown was killed, is currently the most vibrant expression of the Black Liberation struggle in the form of fighting police violence and other forms of racist terror.

Local prosecuting attorneys and grand juries have by and large refused to file charges against police who kill African Americans. One exception occurred in Baltimore regarding the death of Freddie Grey on April 19, when a rebellion occurred that caught the ruling economic interests and surrogate politicians by

surprise. Six Baltimore police officers were indicted on a variety of charges, including involuntary manslaughter.

The shooting death of Sam Dubose at the hands of the University of Cincinnati police on July 19 resulted in an indictment of a police officer. There was no reason for Dubose to have even been pulled over. This stop led to his deadly encounter with the white cop.

Nevertheless, most killings of African Americans, Latinos/as, Indigenous peoples, the poor and often disabled people go unpunished. These blatant acts of terror are justified by criminalization of the victims through the corporate media and law-enforcement spokespeople.

Judging by their limited reaction, the White House administration of President Barack Obama, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, does not view this crisis as a central issue. Democratic and Republican candidates for the 2016 presidential race have given no indication that policy initiatives are in the works to restrain, prosecute and imprison police and assorted racists for the killing of African Americans and other people on a broad scale.

At the same time, the U.S. maintains the highest per capita prison population in the world, where oppressed and poor people make up nearly all inmates. In addition, political prisoners such as Mumia Abu-Jamal, Sundiata Acoli, Leonard Peltier, Oscar López Rivera, the MOVE 9 and many more still languish in U.S. dungeons. Freedom fighter Assata Shakur continues to be denied amnesty and has relied on revolutionary Cuba for political asylum.

In the state of Michigan, the Rev. Ed-

ward Pinkney was sentenced to 30-to-120 months in prison in December over trumped-up charges related to a successful recall campaign against the mayor of Benton Harbor. The mayor is perceived as an agent of the Whirlpool Corp., which is headquartered in the southwest region of the state. Pinkney is appealing his case with the support of thousands throughout Michigan and around the U.S.

National movement needed to fight racism and capitalism

Ferguson, Baltimore, Charleston, S.C., and other cities typify the plight of African Americans in 21st century U.S. capitalist society. The deaths of Sandra Bland, Kindra Chapman, Ralkina Jones and others who have died so recently in detention lay bare the hypocrisy of the so-called “human rights agenda” of the Obama administration and previous U.S. regimes.

However, until there is a revolutionary mass organization aiding a movement to vigorously fight racism and the class oppression at its root, there can be no real hope for the African-American masses and other people-of-color communities in the United States. Violence against the oppressed is carried out in a myriad of ways, including economic deprivation and the destruction of public education in the cities and suburbs.

A mass movement led by organized, conscious forces among the workers and oppressed is the missing element in the current reemergence of the popular struggle. Such an organization could fight on both the domestic and international front.

The massacre of nine African Americans in Charleston, S.C., at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Church on June 17 should be answered with massive demonstrations and economic consequences for the capitalist class. Also the double-digit jobless and poverty rates prevailing among oppressed youth could not escape the full attention of politicians and the ruling-class interests that provide direction for their actions if there were hundreds of thousands of organized youth and workers prepared to engage the system. And they would have to do so in a way that would not be defined by the confines of the two mainstream capitalist political parties.

The repressive and exploitative character of U.S. and world capitalism in its present phase is a reflection of its weakness. The system is in decline, and a well-organized revolutionary organization and movement could, with proper tactics and strategies, severely weaken and topple the ruling class. That would set the stage for the reconstruction of the U.S. and the world in the interests of meeting the pressing needs of the people. □

With U.S.-NATO support

Turkish regime opens dirty war on Kurds, leftists

Continued from page 8

100 percent effectiveness among those who took part in the trial, additional evidence is still needed to ensure its ability to shield large populations through what is known as “herd immunity.” As a result, the Guinean national regulatory authority and ethics review committee have given the go-ahead for additional research.

EVD outbreak most lethal in history

The latest strain of EVD, one of a number of viral hemorrhagic fevers, has proven by far the most lethal. The disease was first noticed in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1976.

Subsequent epidemics have come and gone, sparking concern but not nearly as many deaths. Between 1976 and 2013, it was reported that less than 2,500 people had been infected. But since December 2013, there have been over 26,000 cases, resulting in more than 11,000 deaths.

The countries most severely impacted in the West Africa region were Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea-Conakry. These states are facing formidable development challenges due to the legacy of colonialism and neocolonialism that have left them without the necessary health care, educational and social services infrastructures as well as trained medical personnel.

Sierra Leone and Liberia underwent extended civil wars during the 1990s and early 2000s in which millions were displaced, among them health care professionals and educators. These countries are yet to recover from these tumultuous events.

Guinea-Conakry, a former French colony, has been the scene of military coups, mutinies and civil unrest since 1984, after the death of its first president, Ahmed Sekou Toure.

A limited number of cases also occurred in the West African states of Nigeria, Senegal and Mali but were rapidly contained.

The outbreak reached its peak during mid-2014, prompting the deployment of thousands of U.S. troops to states already targeted through the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

Hundreds of Cuban health care professionals volunteered for the relief efforts. They were recognized for their professional and selfless dedication to eliminating the disease.

International cooperation in vaccine trial

The research design used in the trial was developed by a group of experts from Canada, France, Guinea, Norway, Switzerland, Britain, United States and the WHO. The group included Professor Donald A. Henderson of John Hopkins University, who led the WHO smallpox eradication effort using the ring vaccination approach.

Although the initial trial provides promise for containing and eradicating EVD as a major threat to the most severely impacted states, long-term solutions to the crisis must address the need to train medical personnel, build hospitals and clinics as well as construct economies in West African countries that serve the interests of the majority of people.

The Cuban medical personnel, who set high standards in the relief efforts, illustrate the ability of a socialist society to develop scientists, educators and health care workers who operate on a planned basis designed to address the needs of the people. Prioritizing education, research and health care prepares a population for natural and human-made disasters. □

By John Catalinotto

The reactionary Justice and Development Party (AKP) government of Turkey, led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, began a military offensive on July 24 against the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) and against people of Kurdish origin throughout the geographical area of Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Another primary target of this offensive is Syria's government.

The Turkish regime has also arrested 1,200 people within Turkey, charging them with “suspicion of terrorism.” Most are from Kurdish and/or leftist groups. A Turkish politician from the AKP's rival capitalist Republican People's Party (CHP), Faruk Logoglu, said, “The true target of the AKP regime is not the I.S., but the PKK.” (Junge Welt, Aug. 3) The PKK has been defending Kurdish regions against Turkey's army with a guerrilla war since 1984.

U.S. imperialism and its NATO military alliance has given the Turkish offensive its full political, diplomatic and military support. The Turkish regime is now allowing the Pentagon to use Turkish airbases at Incirlik and Diyarbakir in the southeast of the country to carry out bombing attacks in Iraq and Syria. In return, the U.S. and NATO are allowing Turkey to set up a “buffer zone” inside Syria in Rojava province.

Turkey has been a NATO member since 1952, after its armed forces intervened under U.S. command against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Washington sends more military aid to Turkey's armed forces — second in size in NATO only to the U.S. — than to any other countries except Israel and Egypt.

Through most of the post World War II period, Turkey had its closest military ties to U.S. imperialism and closest economic ties to Western Germany. Currently, Turkey does significant trading with Russia and China. About 3 million people of Turkish background, including Kurds, live and work in Germany now as second-class residents, and Germany's arms industry sends weapons to Turkey.

The pretext for Turkish aggression is the alleged war against the Islamic State. It is also the pretext for U.S. and NATO support and for the Pentagon intervention in Syria and Iraq.

Since the war within Syria opened up in 2011, the Turkish regime has supported and armed those forces fighting the Bashar al-Assad government, including the reactionary Islamic forces like the Islamic State. Only after the Islamic State opened a successful offensive in Iraq in 2014 and Washington designated this

group as an enemy did Ankara even try to hide its support.

Behind Erdogan's offensive

The first step leading to Erdogan's offensive against the Kurdish movements throughout the region and against the left within Turkey was the surprising setback for his party in the June elections. Hoping to win 60 percent of the seats in parliament, the AKP instead lost its majority and won only 258 of the 550 seats. A new leftist coalition party, the Peoples Democratic Party (HDP), with much support from the Kurdish population won 13 percent of the votes and 79 seats.

What had boosted the mood among Kurds and left forces in Turkey just before the election was the military victory by armed, mostly Kurdish elements against the Islamic State in the town of Kobane in the Kurdish region of northern Syria. Women played an active role among the Kurdish fighters of the PKK and its Syrian sister party. The popular liberation fighters became a rallying point for leftists all over Turkey and among European communists.

Because of the severe damage in Kobane, progressive youth were rallying on July 22 in Suruç, Turkey, just six miles from the town in Syria, planning to go there to reconstruct buildings for Kobane's youth.

As Workers World warned in its June 21 article reporting on Turkey's June 7

national election, “The Turkish police, intelligence services and the massive armed forces, with nearly 700,000 personnel and with close ties to both the U.S. and German armed forces, are still the power behind the electoral façade.” It took only a month for Erdogan to move in the direction of using the repressive apparatus of the state to reverse his electoral defeat.

The rally in Suruç was hit by a suicide bomber, allegedly an operative of the Islamic State, which left 32 of the socialist youth dead. Many suspected the hand of the Turkish political police in arranging or allowing the bombing to take place. This suspicion grew as Erdogan used the terror attack on a left group as a pretext to arrest 1,300 people, all but 140 of whom were leftists, and accuse them of terrorism, as well as to launch the bombing attacks.

In Iraq, the Turkish Air Force described its targets in Iraq not as the Islamic State but as “PKK camps.” The official state Anatolia news agency claimed that the airstrikes had killed 260 and wounded 400 PKK fighters in Turkey and northern Iraq as of July 30, including the brother of the co-chairperson of the HDP.

It is common for oppressive forces to exaggerate their military successes, just as the U.S. did in Vietnam. The PKK response was that they had few casualties among fighters but that many civilians, including children, were killed in the northern Iraq town of Zergele. □

Role of the Workers' Party of Kurdistan

The Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) has been involved in a guerrilla war against the oppressive Turkish regime since 1984. Originally defined as a Marxist-Leninist organization with the goal of an independent Kurdistan — Kurds make up 18 percent of the total 83 million people in Turkey and are a majority in the southeast — over the last decade the PKK has dropped Marxist-Leninist ideology and set its goal as autonomy within Turkey.

PKK leader Ocalan has been imprisoned since 1999. For the last few years the PKK had observed a ceasefire with the regime, while attempting to negotiate an end to the fighting.

The PKK has never used “terror” tactics directed at civilians but has carried out a war of liberation against the Turkish ruling-class oppressors. In the past

year, the PKK and its sister party in the Kurdish regions of Syria have shown themselves to be effective fighters against the Islamic State. Nevertheless, the U.S. and the European Union continue to define the PKK as “terrorist.”

The Erdogan regime has purposefully smashed the peace talks through its brutal attack on Kurdish organizations and Turkish leftists. The PKK called the regime's bombing attacks “a very serious error,” implying it can retaliate. (rebellion.org, Aug. 2)

The Erdogan regime has pushed the class struggle in Turkey closer to civil war, and U.S. imperialism stands right behind it. In their struggle against the Erdogan regime, the PKK deserves the solidarity of progressive and working-class forces worldwide.

— John Catalinotto

U.S. solidarity for slain youth in Turkey

Members of the revolutionary youth organization Detroit FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) show solidarity on July 26 with the young cadre of the Socialist Youth Associations Federation (SGDF) who were slaughtered by agents of imperialism in Turkey who set off a bomb. The young revolutionaries were there in the town of Suruç, just six miles from Kobane in Syria, to aid the Kurdish people's struggle there by reconstructing destroyed buildings. On July 20, some 32 people were killed and 104 wounded in an attack allegedly carried out by the Islamic State. The sign reads “FIST stands with SGDF.”

-- Joe Mchahwar



Sign says 'FIST stands with SGDF'

PHOTO: FACEBOOK, BY JIMMY DOMINIC

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Zimbabwe and the killing of Cecil

It has taken the illegal and cruel killing on July 1 of a beloved lion named Cecil by a stereotypically arrogant U.S. “trophy” game hunter to bring Zimbabwe back into the news here. Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer paid \$55,000 under the table to have the lion lured from its game preserve to where he could kill it with a powerful, high-tech bow. The magnificent beast never had a chance. The Zimbabwean government has demanded the extradition of Palmer to stand trial for his criminal behavior.

Zimbabwe, it should be remembered, used to be called “Rhodesia” after the British explorer and colonialist Cecil Rhodes. One of the last holdouts of outright white racist colonial rule in Africa, it was finally liberated in 1980 by Robert Mugabe’s Zimbabwe African National Union.

White settler control over much of the economy continued, however, until the Zimbabwean government, beginning in 2000, undertook a land reform program in which the richest farmland, monopolized by just 4,000 descendants of settlers who had violently stolen it in the early 1900s, was turned over to African veterans of the independence war. Viciously attacked in the Western media at the time, who predicted the collapse of Zimbabwe’s economy, the land reform eventually brought about a huge improvement in agricultural production and the rural standard of living.

The land seizures were too much for the “international community” — read the imperialist U.S. and European ruling classes — who engineered a series of sanctions against Zimbabwe and its leaders that were supposed to topple the government.

The good news is that the sanctions didn’t work. At first, the economy was dragged down, and the regime-change engineers thought they’d be back in the catbird seat soon. But something happened in 2008 that started the country

back on the road to development. Just when Western economies were falling off the cliff with the financial collapse that year, Zimbabwe’s economy started to grow again.

Part of the reason, in addition to the land reform, is that the Republic of Zimbabwe and People’s China began a closer relationship, negotiating a series of economic agreements that are vastly improving the infrastructure of this much-abused country.

A complaining headline in a British imperialist broadsheet two years ago said it all: “Zimbabwe is booming but its future lies in Chinese hands — China’s willingness to do business with Robert Mugabe makes a mockery of Western sanctions.” (The Telegraph, Aug. 1, 2013)

Last year, according to Zimbabwe’s leading newspaper, the African country and China “signed nine landmark agreements that will see the emerging global giant from Asia providing financial support for the much-needed economic enablers in critical sectors that include energy, roads, national railway network, telecommunications, agriculture and tourism as part of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation.” (The Herald, Aug. 26, 2014)

The article emphasized that, “contrary to media reports that Zimbabwe was to securitize the funding of the agreed projects with minerals, the fact is that no sub-soil assets were used to securitize the commitments.” The agreement was between the governments of China and Zimbabwe, and will strengthen the state-owned institutions in that African country.

A despicable “big game hunter” from Minnesota may have succeeded in killing a beloved lion that symbolized the country’s national pride, but the people of Zimbabwe are proudly moving ahead, building an economy and a nation that won’t bow down to the dictates of the imperialist banks and corporations. □

Haitians remember U.S. invasion of 1915

By G. Dunkel

The United States began its military occupation of Haiti a century ago, sending an armed force ashore on July 28, 1915, just south of Port-au-Prince.

A bit earlier, a raiding party of U.S. Marines had stolen Haiti’s gold reserve of about \$500,000 and turned it over to First National City Bank in New York — now Citibank.

In Haiti and its diaspora, activists held demonstrations and conferences to mark this hundred-year anniversary. In New York, a conference and cultural evening were held in the Haitian community and at John Jay College.

Given the significance of the present mass expulsion of Haitians and Haitian-Dominicans from the Dominican Republic, some of the speeches were in Spanish while others were in Creole, French and English.

Historical background to the occupation

Haiti was the second country in the Western Hemisphere to gain its independence. After a hard-fought, 12-year-long struggle against France ended in 1804, slavery was eradicated and the slave owners expelled from the country.

The U.S. sent its first foreign aid — \$750,000 worth of food and arms — to the slave owners in Haiti to put down the revolt. At that time, \$750,000 was big money. The U.S. Constitution enshrined slavery and U.S. leaders held up Greece and Rome, whose economies and societies depended on slavery, as models for the state they were building.

The U.S. didn’t recognize Haiti as an independent country for 60 years, actively working to keep Haiti diplomatically and economically isolated. U.S. slave owners were extremely worried that Haiti’s example might be contagious, especially since 10,000 whites had fled from Haiti to the U.S.

Haiti’s “original sin,” in the opinion of many Haitian historians and activists, was becoming the only country to have had a successful slave revolution.

Opposition in both Haiti and U.S.

Justifications for the U.S. occupation,

which lasted until 1934, were filled with lies and outright falsehoods. President Woodrow Wilson openly declared its purpose was to “establish peace and good order” and “has nothing to do with any diplomatic negotiations.” But his orders to the admiral running the operation involved changing Haitian law to protect U.S. and other foreign interests.

The U.S. invoked the Monroe Doctrine to justify its violation of Haitian sovereignty and forced the Haitian Parliament to agree to a 10-year treaty that made Haiti a U.S. political and financial protectorate.

The occupying Marine forces came from the U.S. South, where anti-Haitian sentiment and racism were at high levels. The Marines forced Haitian peasants, the vast majority of the population at that time, into work gangs to build roads, bridges and dams.

Their treatment was so rotten that it provided the impetus for a revolt of the cacos, armed peasant guerrillas, under the leadership of Charlemagne Peralte and Benoit Batraville. This revolt lasted, even after the execution of Peralte and Batraville, until 1921. Even after the end of the armed resistance, popular opposition, sparked by nationalist students and by the formation of the Haitian Communist Party under Jacques Roumain, intensified, until the U.S. finally withdrew its troops in 1934.

The first opposition in the United States came from the Black community and was part of the NAACP’s international work. According to Mary Renda’s book “Taking Haiti,” the U.S. Communist Party, mainly working through allied groups, played a prominent part in organizing this opposition. The occupation of Haiti, and of the Dominican Republic, were issues in the presidential campaigns of the 1920s.

Withdrawing U.S. Marines didn’t really end U.S. control over Haiti. The National Guard, which became the Haitian army, was formed and trained by the Pentagon. It supported the reign of the Duvaliers, father and son, from 1957 to 1986. It then sponsored, maneuvered and supported various military regimes until the elections that brought Jean-Bertrand

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New book exposes U.S. ‘hidden war’ on Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Journalist Nick Turse has researched the increasing role of the United States Africa Command (Africom) over the last seven years, which he presents in his new book, “Tomorrow’s Battlefield: U.S. Proxy Wars and Secret Ops in Africa” (Haymarket Books, 2015). These military operations have impacted most African countries through the utilization of military bases, waterways and airspace.

Although Africom’s founding was ostensibly designed to enhance the national security capabilities of African nation-states, coupled with addressing alleged threats to U.S. interests, nothing like this has happened.

Since Africom was launched, instability has increased in Africa. The ongoing war in Somalia, the breakup of the Republic of Sudan and subsequent civil war in the newly created Republic of South

Sudan, and the wars against so-called Islamic extremists in Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Cameroon and Chad have fueled Washington’s militarism on the continent.

Instead of using the Central Intelligence Agency’s term “blowback” (unintended consequences of a covert operation), which the late Chalmers Johnson wrote about, Turse utilizes the phrase “blowforward.” He examines how failed U.S. counterterrorism operations throughout Africa, the Middle East and Asia have led to broader interventions and the promotion of military and intelligence theorists who devise them.

U.S. imperialism’s covert war

The U.S. military’s budgetary allocations for Africom have increased substantially since Obama’s election in 2008. In many respects, this U.S. war on Africa has remained hidden from domestic and international news coverage. Government spokespeople and corporate

media depict it as targeted Special Forces commando and drone strikes against operatives of “terrorist” organizations.

Turse writes: “For years, the U.S. military has publicly insisted that its efforts in Africa are negligible, intentionally leaving the [U.S.] American people, not to mention most Africans, in the dark about the true size, scale, and scope of its operations there. AFRICOM public affairs personnel and commanders have repeatedly claimed no more than a ‘light footprint’ on the continent.”

The author exposes the Pentagon, which claims “to have just one base anywhere in Africa: Camp Lemonnier in the tiny nation of Djibouti. They don’t like to talk about military operations. They offer detailed information about only a tiny fraction of their training exercises. They refuse to disclose the locations where personnel have been stationed or even counts of the countries involved.”

An example of this occurred in January

in an operation dubbed “Silent Quest 15-1,” which took place at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. Pentagon forces led by the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), in conjunction with 12 other countries, including Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway and France, carried out exercises which planned for military operations — labeled as a war against the fictional “Islamic State of Africa.”

Turse recounts a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing where Africom Commander David Rodriguez was the principal speaker. The Pentagon presented an open-ended strategy for military interventions in Africa. Spending for these operations seems limitless since there is no public debate surrounding U.S. imperialism’s plans.

Turse quotes Rodriguez: “Transregional terrorists and criminal networks continue to adapt and expand aggressively. Al-Shabab has broadened its oper-

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In aftermath of burning of Palestinian baby 'Declaration of war' on Zionist settlements

The July 31 Zionist terror attack on the Dawabsheh family in the Palestinian village of Duma resulted in the burning to death of 18-month-old Ali Saad and left her parents, Sa'ad and Reham, and 4-year-old brother Ahmad in critical condition. Their home had been fire-bombed in the middle of the night.

This was not an unusual incident carried out by unknown individuals. Genocidal crimes like this against unarmed Palestinian civilians have always been used by the Zionists during their over 100-year occupation of Palestine in order to try to break the resistance of the Palestinian people and their allies in Egypt, Lebanon and Syria.

According to the Alternative Information Center, an anti-Zionist "joint Palestinian-Israeli" online political/media project, "The system supporting Jewish terror gangs includes not only isolated messianic groups, but rabbis, educators and even security coordinators of settlements who know members of these gangs, as well as a wide swathe of supporters who remain silent out of solidarity. Condemnations by these people, and also by Knesset [Israeli Parliament] members who support transfer and apartheid, are an attempt to gain points and create an artificial space between them and the murderers." (*alternative-news.org*, Aug. 3)

Haitians remember 1915

Continued from page 10

Aristide into the presidency in 1991. It then supported and helped organize the two coups against him.

Since 2004, a United Nations military force called Minustah has occupied Haiti. It functions as a veil for U.S. troops, which could be quickly sent in if Washington felt it necessary. For example, 25,000 U.S. troops arrived in a few days after the earthquake of 2010 wiped out the U.N.'s command.

Beyond exercising military and political rule over Haiti, U.S. rulers want to humiliate it, pretending it can't run its own affairs without outside assistance,

New book exposes U.S. 'hidden war' on Africa

Continued from page 10

ations to conduct, or attempt to conduct, asymmetric attacks against Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and especially Kenya. Libya-based threats are growing rapidly, including an expanding ISIL presence. ... Boko Haram threatens the ability of the Nigerian government to provide security and basic services in ... the northeast."

Turse stresses, "Despite the grim outcomes since the American military began 'pivoting' to Africa after 9/11, the U.S. recently signed an agreement designed to keep its troops based on the continent until almost midcentury."

Some stunning statistics related to U.S. military expansion are raised. The author says that in 2013, there were 546 U.S. activities on the continent. "Last year, that number leapt to 674. ... U.S. troops were carrying out almost two operations, exercises, or activities — from drone strikes to counterinsurgency instruction, intelligence gathering to marksmanship training — somewhere in Africa every day."

Turse continues, "This represents an enormous increase from the 172 missions, activities, programs, and exercises that AFRICOM inherited from other geo-

The three following statements were issued on July 31 and Aug. 1 by the PFLP. Go to pftp.ps/english/

— Michael Kramer

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine denounced the horrific crime by settlers, burning Palestinian homes in Duma, near Nablus and killing the baby Ali Saad Dawabsheh, 1-1/2 years old, and gravely injuring his mother, father and brother. The Netanyahu government of terrorists and murderers bears the responsibility for this crime of unspeakable cruelty, which requires all of us to escalate the resistance and declare war on the settlers and their colonies.

Such heinous crimes against children are an integral part of the ongoing Zionist terror against our people which has not stopped for over 67 years, and massacres are part of the strategy of the Zionist settlers in their war against the Palestinian people and reflect the nature of the Zionist state in Palestine.

The Front urged the Palestinian masses to express their rage and respond to this crime at all levels, escalating the resistance to confront the occupation and the settlers, through collective confrontation and organization, and the formation of popular committees in villages, refugee camps and cities in the West Bank to deal with the settlers and their

and discount and deprecate its culture.

The Haitian progressive movement has organized protests of 100,000 people or more in Port-au-Prince and nationwide, even though most Haitians live without reliable electricity or telephone service. They can certainly organize themselves.

Their culture is alive and vibrant, as the poets and musicians who mixed Creole, French and English in their presentations in New York demonstrated. Long live a free and independent Haiti!

For more information, see the book "Haiti: A Slave Revolution," which can be read online at <http://www.iacenter.org/haiti/>. □

graphic commands when it began operations in 2008."

Camp Lemonnier expands operations

Africom is expanding its Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti to increase its operations in neighboring Somalia and to prepare for other potential missions in Libya, Sudan, Kenya and Egypt. Additionally, Washington intelligence forces are coordinating the Saudi Arabian-Gulf Cooperation Council war against the Ansurallah (Houthi) movement across the Red Sea in Yemen.

This book contrasts U.S. Africa policy, based on militarism, with that of China, which emphasizes infrastructural and scientific developments. Africa needs genuine partnerships with the international community based on mutual interests as opposed to neocolonial schemes to extend Western domination.

Only a revolutionary movement emanating from Africa in alliance with Western anti-imperialist forces can reverse the current trajectory of intervention and destabilization which characterizes U.S. policy on the continent. This book provides a useful tool for those who recognize that the burgeoning war drive must be stopped for the benefit of Africa, as well as for oppressed and working people worldwide. □

crimes, noting that it is clear that the security apparatus of the Palestinian Authority has failed utterly to protect our people from the settlers and their constant violence.

The Front also demanded that Palestinian officials declare a state of emergency and urgent action to respond to this brutal murder and the escalating crimes against our people and reiterated its demand that the Palestinian Authority must end security coordination with the occupation, particularly after the targeting and burning of children, and go to the international community to delegitimize the occupation state and pursue the political, military and settler leaders in international courts for their crimes against our people.

The Front emphasized that the escalation of Zionist crimes against our people requires real Palestinian unity of action at all levels that raises the Palestinian collective interest to the highest priority. The PFLP also called upon all forces of justice in the world, social movements and states to support the Palestinian people, expose the occupier's crimes against the Palestinian people, and promote and expand the comprehensive boycott and isolation of the occupier at all levels and all forums.

Responsibility for killing of baby Ali Dawabsheh rests with the entire Zionist project

The answer to the crimes of the occupation is held not only by Palestinians but requires Palestinian and Arab resistance, said Comrade Abu Ahmad Fuad, Deputy General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in a television interview with Al-Mayadeen TV on July 31.

He denounced the role of the United States and its strategic partnership with the Zionist state, highlighting the hypocritical statements denouncing the settler murder of 18-month-old Ali Dawabsheh while providing billions of dollars in military aid to the Zionist military to kill Palestinian children, and using the veto in the United Nations to prevent any accountability for Zionist political and military war criminals.

In addition, Fuad said, "we must not allow the enemy to single out the West Bank, or Gaza, or Lebanon, or our people in Palestine '48, while the Arab world remain spectators; our responsibility is not to protect this or that region, but to stand together collectively to defend all of our people, in Gaza, the West Bank, Occu-



The burial of Ali Saad Dawabsheh, a Palestinian baby, on the West Bank.

pied Palestine '48, and all of the Palestinian and Arab people, wherever they are."

He denounced the role of the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian official positions as insufficient, noting that existing Palestinian consensus decisions have not been implemented at all, emphasizing the need to immediately end security coordination and sever the relationship with the criminal enemy. "The responsibility for this crime does not lie with the settlers only, nor with individuals, but with the entire state of the occupation and the Zionist project, that is based on the settler colonial conquest of our homeland," said Fuad.

He reiterated his call for the abolition of the Oslo Accords, noting that they ended in reality long ago. He stressed that the logic of negotiations and bargaining has been deeply destructive to the Palestinian cause, to Palestinian refugees' right of return and to holding the occupation accountable.

Fuad urged all to name streets and squares after the martyr Ali Dawabsheh, everywhere, so that his name remains a witness to the fascist, racist crimes of the enemy, and that the compass of Arab countries must be re-pointed towards Ali Dawabsheh, and toward Palestine.

PFLP mourns martyr Laith al-Khalidi, pledges resistance

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on behalf of its General Secretary, Comrade Ahmad Sa'adat, Deputy General Secretary Comrade Abu Ahmad Fuad, and all of the cadres of the Front, deeply mourns the martyr, Comrade Laith al-Khalidi, son of Comrade Fadel al-Khalidi, murdered at dawn on Saturday, August 1, killed by Zionist forces as he protested near the Atara checkpoint against the settler attack and killing of 18-month-old child Ali Dawabsheh in Duma near Nablus.

The Front emphasizes that the blood of our martyrs shall not be shed in vain. Glory to the martyrs, freedom for the prisoners of freedom, and healing for the wounded. Victory is inevitable — no voice is louder than the voice of resistance. □

GAZA Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediak

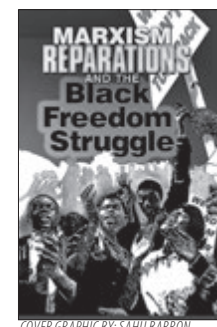
Here is the story of the most heroic resistance since 1948 to unrelenting Israeli oppression and violence designed to drive Palestinians from their homeland.

— Ramsey Clark



gazaresistancebook.com

Both books are available at all major online booksellers.

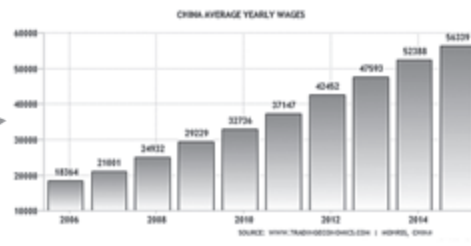


MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

COVER GRAPHIC BY SAHU BARRON

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

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China, aumento de salarios y militancia obrera

Por Deirdre Griswold

Los salarios de las/os trabajadoras en EUA se han estancado desde 1970 en términos de poder adquisitivo. Es de conocimiento común que ahora se necesitan varios asalariados en la mayoría de las familias de la clase trabajadora sólo para cubrir los gastos básicos. Mientras tanto, las/os trabajadoras de bajos salarios están en movimiento, luchando duro por un salario mínimo más alto y por representación sindical.

Los salarios en muchos países de Europa también están de capa caída. Y la crisis económica capitalista mundial que comenzó en 2008 ha devastado las economías de los países estrangulados por la deuda imperialista, desde Grecia hasta gran parte de África, Asia y América Latina.

Pero hay un punto brillante para los salarios de las/os trabajadoras - a pesar de ser poco conocido si usted confía en los medios comerciales para su información.

Es China.

Constantes aumentos salariales

De acuerdo con todos los reportes, los salarios en las fábricas en China, que por supuesto iniciaron a un nivel mucho más bajo que los salarios en los países capitalistas avanzados, se han más que triplicado en la última década. Algunos dicen que los salarios de obreros manuales han aumentado cinco veces en ese período. Esto no es lo que está ocurriendo en otros países en desarrollo.

Además, la inflación en China es baja - la tasa anual actual es de 1,4 por ciento, por lo que esos cheques sustanciales son reales.

Aquí están algunas de las fuentes occidentales de este año:

The Economist, 4 de marzo: "Desde 2001, los salarios manufactureros por hora en China han aumentado en un promedio del 12 por ciento al año".

¡Imagínese si las/os trabajadoras aquí hubieran estado recibiendo un aumento del 12 por ciento cada año durante los últimos 15 años! Incluso con un contrato sindical, los aumentos salariales en EUA apenas han seguido el ritmo de la inflación.

La sección de tecnología del New York Times, 24 de abril: "Olas de trabajadoras migrantes del campo llenaron las fábricas de China en las últimas tres décadas y ayudaron a que la nación fuera el mayor fabricante del mundo. Sin embargo, muchas empresas ahora se encuentran luchando por contratar suficientes trabajadoras. Y para los escasos trabajadoras que encuentran, la paga se ha más que quintuplicado en la última década, a más de \$500 al mes en las provincias costeras".

Estos informes están dirigidos a inversores estadounidenses, advirtiéndoles que si quieren hacer negocio explotando a las/os trabajadoras en China, les va a costar más que en el pasado.

Los salarios chinos no han tambaleado, sino que han aumentado a un ritmo muy constante incluso cuando la fuerza de trabajo ha aumentado, sobre todo con la gente que viene del campo. Junto a esto, ha ido el crecimiento planificado de

las grandes ciudades, con nuevas viviendas, transporte, escuelas, etc.

Lucha de clases viva y coleando

Hay dos cosas a tener en cuenta sobre estos cambios notables. Una es la lucha de las/os trabajadoras chinos por una vida mejor, y la otra es la respuesta del gobierno chino, dirigido por el Partido Comunista.

La lucha de clases de las/os obreros contra los patronos, muchos de ellos empresas extranjeras, está viva y coleando en China. Las acciones llevadas a cabo por las/os trabajadoras han crecido enormemente.

Nada merece la etiqueta de propaganda del gobierno de EUA más que la Voz de América (VOA). Pero esto es lo que VOA dijo recientemente sobre las huelgas en China: El Boletín Laboral de China - que sigue las disputas laborales - encontró que hubo cerca de 1.400 huelgas en 2014, y el número de protestas se ha elevado aún más en los dos primeros meses de 2015.

"Registramos las huelgas y protestas colectivas de trabajo como y cuando ocurren, y en el último par de meses hemos registrado 200 incidentes al mes, en promedio", explicó Jeffrey Crothall, un investigador de la oficina de Hong Kong de la China Labor Bulletin.

"El grupo registró 569 protestas en el cuarto cuatrienio del año pasado - tres veces más huelgas que durante el mismo período en 2013. La cifra indica también un fuerte incremento a partir de 2011, cuando sólo se registraron 185 protestas laborales durante todo el año..."

"La mayoría de los manifestantes están exigiendo mayores salarios, sueldos atrasados y mayores prestaciones y pensiones..."

"En 1995 China promulgó una ley laboral que concedió a todos los trabajadoras el derecho a un salario, períodos de descanso, eliminación de excesos de horas y el derecho a llevar a cabo negociaciones en grupo. El rápido crecimiento económico en años recientes ha sacado a millones de la pobreza, pero a medida que la economía se enfría, los salarios podrían estancarse y el desempleo podría aumentar, y muchos podrían comenzar a culpar al gobierno."

"Las autoridades de Beijing, con la esperanza de empujar a las autoridades locales a que confronten la situación, el mes pasado emitieron un aviso a los gobiernos locales para que la mejora de las relaciones laborales sea una 'tarea urgente'. La directiva decía que las autoridades trabajarán para asegurar que a los empleados se les pague a tiempo y en su totalidad, para lanzar programas que proporcionen mejores protecciones laborales para los trabajadoras rurales migrantes, y piden a los empleadores mejorar la seguridad del lugar de trabajo". (Voz de América, 9 de abril)

Poniendo esto en perspectiva, vemos cómo la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales de EUA mantiene un registro de las grandes huelgas que afectan a más de 1.000 trabajadoras. El año pasado hubo 11 tales huelgas en EUA, con un total de sólo 34.000 trabajadoras. Solía haber cientos de tales huelgas cada año, llegan-

do a tantas como 424 en 1974 que implicaron a 1,8 millones de trabajadoras/es. Pero los números comenzaron a declinar en la década de 1980.

Ejecutivo injusticiado y el estado al lado de los trabajadoras

La VOA también señaló: "Aunque muchos de los participantes en las protestas laborales han sido detenidos, pocos han sido procesados penalmente".

Para entender la frase "pocos han sido procesados penalmente," aquí está uno de los ejemplos más extremos: En 2009, se produjo un incidente que involucró a los trabajadoras del acero en Tonghua Iron & Steel Works en la provincia de Jilin en el norte de China. Después de una reunión masiva dirigida por el ejecutivo de la empresa de acero que iba a hacerse cargo de la planta, los trabajadoras se rebelaron y lo golpearon hasta matarlo.

"Chen Guojun, el ejecutivo del acero que fue golpeado mortalmente, había amenazado a 3.000 trabajadoras siderúrgicos en Tonghua con despidos que podrían tener lugar dentro de tres días. También había señalado que recortes más grandes de puestos de trabajos probablemente ocurrirían". (New York Times, 26 de julio de 2009)

¿Qué hizo el gobierno chino sobre esto? "El gobierno de la provincia de Jilin ordenó al Grupo Jianlong China abandonar la compra de la estatal Tonghua Iron & Steel Group luego de que trabajadoras que protestaban la pérdida de empleos mataron a un gerente, Beijing News dijo el lunes."

"La instrucción, la cual fue anunciada anoche a través de la red de televisión de Jilin, también ordenó a Jianlong con sede en Beijing a "no tomar parte jamás de ningún plan de reorganización de Tonghua, reportó Bloomberg News". (New York Times, 27 de julio, 2009)

Ahí quedó. La privatización se detuvo. Ni detenciones, ni procesamientos. ¿No es ese el tipo de poder que las/os trabajadoras debían tener en todas partes?

El crecimiento de la clase obrera

Al momento del triunfo de la Revolución en 1949, China era un país empobrecido y devastado por la guerra con una población de 542 millones. La gran mayoría era campesinas/os muertos de hambre, recién liberados de los terratenientes quienes los habían tratado casi como esclavos.

Hoy, es un país en rápido desarrollo de 1,3 mil millones de personas. Pero no fue hasta 2012 que la población urbana de China por primera vez superó a la que vive en el campo. Hoy la proporción urbana de la población trabajadora está en más del 60 por ciento.

La rápidamente creciente clase obrera tiene muchos agravios y no es pasiva. Las/os trabajadoras son militantes, están

organizados y exigen lo que saben que es su derecho: una vida estable con un salario digno y buenas condiciones de trabajo.

Desde el giro a la derecha dentro del liderazgo del Partido Comunista de China a finales de los 70, dirigido por Deng Xiaoping, China se ha abierto a la propiedad capitalista. Pero la reciente caída de la bolsa allí, que costó a muchas/os chinos sus ahorros, demostró que las ilusiones acerca de una riqueza instantánea bajo el capitalismo pueden tropezar con la irracionalidad básica del sistema capitalista.

El resultado de la caída, al igual que los grandes avances realizados por las/os trabajadoras, también muestran algo más. El estado en China no actúa de la manera que hacen los estados capitalistas en el resto del mundo. Es erróneo llamar a China un país capitalista.

Con el fin de modernizar, el PCC ha permitido existir muchas características del capitalismo; y los capitalistas han hecho cosas despreciables como no pagar a las/os trabajadoras, someterles a largas horas y condiciones inseguras de trabajo, etc. El crecimiento de millonarios y hasta multimillonarios ha alimentado la corrupción de los funcionarios públicos y ha provocado la hostilidad de las/os trabajadoras.

Pero junto a las empresas con dueños capitalistas hay una infraestructura estatal cada vez más poderosa y moderna a través de la cual se lleva a cabo la planificación socialista a largo plazo.

El gobierno fue capaz de estabilizar los mercados financieros en la caída más reciente - algo que los gobiernos capitalistas no pueden hacer sin sacarle el jugo a las masas. ¿Cuántos países capitalistas podrían sobrevivir una caída de más de un tercio en el mercado de valores sin recurrir a medidas draconianas?

Aún más importante, el estado controla el desarrollo planificado del país en términos económicos y sociales.

Organizaciones que luchan por un acuerdo internacional sobre las emisiones de bióxido de carbono para contrarrestar el calentamiento global se entusiasmaron cuando a finales de junio China hizo público su detallado plan para el desarrollo económico en las próximas décadas. Aunque seguirá con el crecimiento económico, China reveló exactamente cómo el país va a disminuir el uso de los combustibles fósiles y también va a reforestar amplias zonas para secuestrar el carbono que ahora está en la atmósfera.

Ningún país capitalista ha presentado un compromiso como ese con el futuro. ¿Cómo pueden, cuando las corporaciones y los bancos están en una competencia feroz entre sí para controlar y utilizar todas las palancas del gobierno para mejorar su propia ganancia por encima de todo? □



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

Cómpralo en cualquier gran librería en línea.