



FREE CHELSEA MANNING!
 WW commentary, page 6

Native Nations resist EPA's toxic destruction

By Chris Fry

Corn, melons, squashes and other crops, along with sheep and cattle — these are what the Diné (Navajo) farmers grow and raise along the San Juan River in the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. They use the water from the river to irrigate their crops and provide water for the livestock. Except that now they can't.

The Navajo Times reported on Aug. 5, instead of first removing and treating contaminated water from the closed Gold

King Mine near Silverton, Colo., excavators hired by the federal Environmental Protection Agency breached a wall at the mine, causing 3 million gallons of yellow-orange waste water to be dumped into nearby Cement Creek, which flows into the Animas River and then into the San Juan River.

Since then, toxic heavy metals have increased dramatically in the Animas River. Lead in the river after the spill has been measured at 5,720 parts per billion, far higher than the 50 ppb concentration

level that requires municipal water suppliers to shut down. Cadmium was measured at 6.13 ppb (safe limit: 5 ppb); arsenic at 264 ppb (safe limit: 10 ppb); iron at 326,000 ppb (safe limit: 1,000 ppb); copper at 1,120 ppb (safe limit: 1,000 ppb); and manganese at 3,040 ppb (safe limit: 50 ppb). Elevated levels of zinc, beryllium and aluminum have also been found. (denverpost.com, Aug. 11)

Many communities in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah are also threatened by this spill. Much of the heavy metal set-

ties in the river bottom, only to be stirred up by future storms and washed downstream. This contamination may last for years.

Particularly hard hit is the Navajo Reservation, the largest Indigenous territory in the country. Stretching across portions of Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, at 27,000 square miles it is larger than 10 of the states in the U.S. Its population now surpasses 250,000. Diné language and culture are scrupulously maintained.

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Honor Mike Brown



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

One year after Mike Brown's death by police gunfire in Ferguson, Mo., over a hundred activists and community members held a rally on Aug. 9 at North Broad Street and Erie Avenue in North Philadelphia. Organized by the Philly Coalition for Racial, Economic and Legal Justice, participants were encouraged to use an open mike to express their frustration at the continuing police murders of Black and Brown men and women. A 2-mile march through the heart of Black Philadelphia ended at Broad and Cecil B. Moore Avenue, where a 150-foot scroll with the names of women killed by police was stretched across the wide thoroughfare. Their names were read out loud before four and a half minutes of silence was observed to honor Brown and all the victims of police violence.

In Denver, one year after the murder of Mike Brown, 500 people marched to honor him.

— Joe Piette and Viviana Weinstein

GREECE

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Racist repression

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WW PHOTO: ALBERTO BARRETO CARDONA

Local 8751 President Andre François and Vice President Steve Kirschbaum, two of the four leaders of the Boston School Bus union fired by Veolia/Transdev Corp.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Police violence at Target store denounced

By Workers World New York Bureau

The organizations Equality for Flatbush (E4F) and the New York People's Power Assembly held an Aug. 3 press conference and community speak-out against racial profiling and police violence in the Flatbush and East Flatbush areas of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The spark for this action, held in front of the Flatbush Junction Target store, was New York Police Department violence against Alando Brissett in the store on July 25. Brissett family members participated in the press conference and speak-out.

On the evening of July 25, Brissett, a 23-year-old Black man, was violently attacked by NYPD officers at the Target. The incident stemmed from Brissett simply asking an employee for a receipt of his transaction after using the bottle redemption services.

Imani Henry, executive director of E4F, stated: "Target's management needs to tell our community what its so-called 'safety concerns' were that led to them calling the police on Alando Brissett. Our understanding is that there were no threats of violence or a physical altercation prior to the cops arriving on July 25. Why would Target's management allow a verbal disagreement over a receipt escalate to the point where a young Black man almost lost his life?"

"Given the 70th Precinct's long history of police brutality and murder in Flatbush," continued Henry, "why would Target be so reckless and jeopardize not only Brissett's safety, but that of all the shoppers in the store that night? Both the NYPD and Target need to be held accountable."

Flatbush resident Michael Rolland captured the NYPD's assault on video. It showed two NYPD officers violently beat Brissett on his back and head with their fists, while three other cops pinned his body to the floor, using their knees to hold his head down. Target shoppers were shouting for the cops to stop and were crying out that Brissett had done nothing wrong.

Soon more than 20 cops swarmed into the store and formed a barrier around the scene, "protecting" their fellow officers from being videotaped. The incident can be viewed on YouTube at tinyurl.com/pnrto2f.

'Black and Brown youth constantly harassed'

"It was five cops against one unarmed person. This

could have easily been another Eric Garner or Freddie Grey police murder situation," said 23-year-old Donnay Edmund, a lifelong Flatbush resident and member of E4F's Police Accountability Working Group.

"Every day in East Flatbush and Flatbush, the police racially profile, brutalize and harass young people of color for no reason," stated Edmund. "The media have already started painting Alando as a criminal, but what they are not saying is that Black and Brown youth are constantly harassed and falsely arrested for nonviolent 'broken windows' violations [ticketing of people for minor offenses in the hope that greater "crimes" will be discovered], especially in gentrifying neighborhoods like Flatbush."

Anick Boyd, who has lived in Flatbush for the last eight years, witnessed the police attack and was so outraged by the cops' violence that she began reaching out to community groups, such as the PPA and E4F, to help mobilize a community response.

"If the mission of the NYPD is to 'preserve the peace, reduce fear and to provide for a safe environment,' then I believe that law enforcement officers who fail to fulfill that mission should be held accountable for their actions," said Boyd.

Equality for Flatbush demands: Dropping all criminal charges against Alando Brissett; a full, independent investigation of the police assault; public release of the names of the five officers involved in the attack; that these five officers be immediately put on administrative duty; an end to the NYPD's racial profiling, constant "broken windows" ticketing, and excessive police presence in Flatbush and East Flatbush, Brooklyn; and that Target immediately issue a public apology for their reckless endangerment of the life of Alando Brissett and its customers on July 25.

E4F is also gathering more eyewitness accounts and video of this violent NYPD assault. Community residents who witnessed this brutality and/or can document other incidents of police violence and harassment in Flatbush and East Flatbush, please contact E4F at flatbushequality@gmail.com or call/text 646-820-6039. You do not have to give your name. Para parlantes de español llame 513-445-8532. □

WORKERS WORLD

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Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

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

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

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

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

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis
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WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

workers.org/wwp

National Office
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Bay Area
1305 Franklin St. #411
Oakland, CA 94612
510.600.5800
bayarea@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org
Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.286.6574
boston@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org
Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0777
detroit@workers.org

Lexington, KY
lexington@workers.org
Los Angeles
5278 W Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
la@workers.org
323.306.6240

Rockford, IL
rockford@workers.org
San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
sandiego@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.221.3775
baltimore@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
712 Main St #113B
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org
Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
312.229.0161
chicago@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org
Huntington, W. Va.
huntingtonww@workers.org

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org
Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org
Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, D.C. 20037
dc@workers.org

Appeals court denies bond to Rev. Pinkney

By David Sole
Lakeland Correctional Facility
Coldwater, Mich.

On Aug. 4, the Michigan Court of Appeals denied bond to the Rev. Edward Pinkney, pending appeal. Two judges on the three-judge panel ruled against the bond request.

The decision was issued as a one-sentence response to a motion filed by Pinkney's attorney, Tim Holloway, who submitted a thorough brief spanning 42 pages.

Pinkney is from the small city of Benton Harbor, Mich., where 89 percent of the people are African Americans and almost half live below the poverty line. Benton Harbor is in Berrien County, which is 80 percent white and more affluent. Pinkney has long been a thorn in the side of the power structure there.

In 2014 the African-American community organizer was charged with altering five dates on a recall petition against the white mayor of Benton Harbor. For this alleged "crime," Pinkney was tried and convicted before a white judge, by a white prosecutor and by an all-white jury. On Dec. 15, he was sentenced to 2.5 to 10



Rev. Edward Pinkney (center) with supporters Marcina Cole and David Sole inside Lakeland Correctional Facility, Aug. 16.

years in prison.

The jury was told, "You do not need evidence to convict Rev. Pinkney," and the judge said he was "going to make an example" of Pinkney.

Holloway's motion covered many reasons why Pinkney should be released on bond now, showing that the Black reverend will most probably win his appeal when it is finally heard in the coming months. In addition to Pinkney's community service and the nonviolent nature of the charges, the motion described the blatant constitutional violations of his rights.

Prosecutor Michael J. Sepic hammered all Pinkney's witnesses, demanding to know who chaired meetings, who spoke at rallies and who was the press spokesperson for the recall campaign. These constitutionally protected acts relating to freedom of speech and assembly were used to prejudice the jury against Pinkney. Finally, the only evidence offered against the reverend boiled down to the fact that he led the recall campaign and therefore should be presumed to be the guilty party.

Sepic made only one argument in answer to the defendant's exhaustive brief. He argued that the Court of Appeals could not grant bond pending appeal unless the lower court had "abused its discretion in denying bond."

On Aug. 11, attorney Holloway filed a motion for reconsideration to the Court of Appeals.

Since no explanation by the Appeals Court accompanied its denial, Holloway's motion argued that "a palpable error occurred if the Court of Appeals accepted the prosecution's argument." Holloway

cited case law that the Appeals Court had its "own independent judgment and the exercise of its own discretion as to whether bond should be granted" and that "failure to exercise discretion when called on to do so constitutes an abdication and hence an abuse of discretion" by the Court of Appeals.

On Aug. 10, Pinkney made a phone call from Lakeland Correctional Facility to a joint meeting of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice in Detroit. He thanked all his supporters for their hard work on his behalf.

While disappointed at the Aug. 4 ruling, Pinkney vowed to continue the fight. At his urging, plans are underway to organize a protest and press conference outside the Michigan Court of Appeals in Grand Rapids. A tentative date of noon on Aug. 26 has been set for the protest at the State Office Building at 305 Ottawa N.W.

For more information on upcoming events, see Moratorium-Mi.org. For background on the decade-long persecution of this African-American community leader, go to workers.org and search archives for "Pinkney."

Former Black Panther killed in Calif. prison

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Hugo Pinell, 71, a former comrade of George L. Jackson, was killed on Aug. 12 in California State Prison-Sacramento near Sacramento, Calif.

Pinell, known by many as "Yogi Bear," had recently been released from 46 years of solitary confinement and was the longest serving prisoner held in administrative detention in the state of California. He had written to one of his supporters that he feared for his life at the prison. (KPPFA interview with Kiilu Nyasha, Aug. 13)

In 1965 Pinell was given a 3-years-to-life sentence for rape, a crime for which he said he was not guilty. He and his mother were told that if he did not confess, he could face the death penalty.

Pinell was stabbed to death by another prisoner on the first day he was released into general population at CSP-Sacramento. The corporate media described the circumstances surrounding his killing as a "riot" when clashes erupted after Pinell was brutally stabbed in the prison yard.

His death has sent shockwaves through the ranks of veteran Black Panther Party members, supporters of political prisoners and anti-racist forces.

San Quentin Six and George L. Jackson

Pinell was a member of the San Quentin Six, who were involved in the attempted prison break to liberate George Jackson on Aug. 21, 1971, where Jackson was gunned down by guards. Three prison guards and two white inmates also lost their lives in that incident. After the rebellion, six inmates were charged in their deaths: Hugo Pinell, Willie Tate, Johnny Larry Spain, David Johnson, Fleeta Drumgo and Luis Talamantez.

Long before that, George Jackson was already well known throughout the African-American revolutionary movement and the left as a whole. His prison letters were published in the 1970 book entitled "Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson."

The Soledad Brothers were three African-American prisoners, George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette, who

were charged with killing a guard at San Quentin in January 1970. Several days earlier, three Black inmates had been killed by white prison guard snipers during a racial melee in the yard.

A national movement arose in defense of the Soledad Brothers, which drew the support of Angela Davis, a Communist Party member and lecturer who had been terminated by the University of California, Los Angeles in 1969 because of her political beliefs.

Jackson had originally been sentenced to a 1-year-to-life sentence in California in 1960 for being in the company of several others who stole \$70 from a gas station. During his tenure in prison, Jackson began to read voraciously about history, military science, philosophy and Marxist-Leninist theory.

Prison authorities attempted to break Jackson's confidence and defiance for many years. He became a leader and mentor for other prisoners during a period when the Civil Rights, Black Power, anti-war and left movements were gaining tremendous ground in the U.S.

Pinell spent decades in solitary confine-

ment for refusing to compromise with the system, and was the only one of the San Quentin Six remaining in prison. All the others had been released decades earlier.

Black August started by political prisoners

Pinell's killing occurred during Black August, an annual commemoration of the resistance of African Americans to oppression and exploitation. Created by political prisoners years ago, Black August continues to be commemorated across the U.S.

The month-long acknowledgement of resistance stems from the historical fact that many great efforts aimed at liberation took place during August. Such historical developments include the beginning of the Haitian Revolution (1791); Nat Turner's Rebellion in Virginia (1831); John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry (1859); the Watts Rebellion (1965); the attempt by Jonathan Jackson, the younger brother of George, to free him from prison (1970); the San Quentin Rebellion (1971); and the 2014 police murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

The killing of Pinell illustrates the char-

acter of national oppression, economic exploitation and political repression against African-American people. Resistance to the inhumane conditions prevailing both outside and inside prison walls is continuing today through the rebellions and mass demonstrations in Ferguson, Baltimore and other cities.

African Americans are still jobless at rates at least twice as high as whites. Millions are confined to low-wage jobs with no economic security or social benefits.

Every week news stories report that African Americans are being gunned down by police and vigilantes.

The school-to-prison pipeline is still very much in evidence in urban areas. A disproportionate number of inmates and people under judicial supervision are African Americans and Latinos/as from poor and working-class backgrounds.

There are still many political prisoners inside the U.S. despite the "human rights" posture of successive administrations. Until the system of national oppression and capitalist exploitation is overthrown there is no hope for ending the prison-industrial complex. □

People's Assembly's plan of action for struggles ahead

By Bill Bateman
Providence, R.I.

The Rhode Island People's Assembly — which fights against racism, war, economic exploitation and environmental destruction — held a summer assembly in Providence on Aug. 15. The assembly brought out 30 people — despite blazing heat — to discuss how to advance the organization as a multi-issue home for workers, and poor and oppressed peoples in the state.



PHOTO: ROCHELLE LEE

Providence, R.I.

The group's organizers emphasized the importance of studying major past events — such as Black August, which honors fallen African-American freedom fighters, and the Watts Rebellion — in order to better fight now for a future which guarantees freedom for the oppressed and economic security to all poor and working people.

Myia X of the Boston Women's Fight-back Network led a discussion of a Providence-Boston plan for a new Free-

dom Charter for people of color, and an Economic Bill of Rights for all poor and working people.

Participants brainstormed on how to build a strong organization based on multinational solidarity and unity in action through education and mobilization. Their ultimate goal is to create a liberated, socialist future where "we can all breathe free, free from police, bill collectors, pollution and the other ills of the system." □

Detroit recovery? Don't believe it

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan African News Wire
Detroit

A recent study of residential patterns and employment availability in the Detroit area has exposed the lie told by the corporate media that this majority African-American city is undergoing an economic resurgence.

Reporter Mike Wilkinson described some of the truth in Bridge magazine: “Hundreds of thousands of city residents, many without access to a car, live in areas where there are fewer than 200 jobs for every 1,000 residents, neighborhoods that are miles away from where most jobs can be found, both in and outside of the city. Nearly 80 percent of city residents live over 10 miles from a central business district, one of the highest rates of the country.” (Aug. 6)

Corporations such as the auto companies that took jobs out of the city are heavily responsible for the present situation.

Successive administrations in Washington, D.C., and Lansing, the Michigan state capital, have refused to initiate jobs programs that could employ hundreds of thousands of people on a permanent basis.

With the decline in jobs and subsequent drop in population and falling tax revenues, the city was forced to borrow from banks. This ensnared the city in predatory arrangements that drained Detroit further. All of this came to a head during the recession of 2007-09, causing further disaster.

The city of Detroit was forced into emergency management and bankruptcy during 2013-14 on the pretext that it needed major financial restructuring. This process suspended bourgeois democratic rights — pushing aside the elected government. Meanwhile, city workers, retirees and residents witnessed the wholesale theft of at least \$7 billion in health care and pension benefits. This theft benefited the banks and financial institutions that caused Detroit's massive home foreclosures, devastating neighborhoods throughout the city. The sell-off and seizure by the state of public assets such as Belle Isle, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Detroit Public Works and the Detroit Institute of Arts were also in the works.

Take from the poor, give to the rich

Presently, hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks are being given to two leading billionaires whose businesses are based in the downtown area. Pizza magnate Mike Illitch, who owns the Detroit Tigers Major League Baseball team, and Dan Gilbert, CEO of Quicken Loans, have greatly benefitted from the restructuring through donated

“It’s not one thing ... It’s everything!”

People’s Assembly and Speakout
Saturday-August 29 2 PM
Grand Circus Park, Detroit
(Woodward Ave. at E. Adams St.)

- Stop police killings and brutality – jail killer cops!
- Stop the school to prison pipeline!
- Demand \$15 minimum wage!
- Stop tax and mortgage foreclosures – Release Hardest Hit Homeowners funds to keep people in their homes!
- Stop mass water shutoffs and theft of Detroit’s water department—Adopt the Water Affordability Plan now!
- Stop destruction of public schools - End Emergency Management!
- Protest pension cuts, wage/benefit cuts, union busting!
- Protest lack of public lighting!
- Demand world class public mass transportation and paratransit services, for people with disabilities!
- Full employment now. Make the banks pay for a \$2 billion program to put our youth to work rebuilding the city!

For more information: 313-680-5508
web: Moratorium-mi.org Facebook: [MoratoriumNowCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/MoratoriumNowCoalition)

public land and real estate speculation funded through taxes.

None of this large-scale transfer of wealth that accompanied the denial of civil and economic rights has trickled down to benefit the majority of residents. Poverty, joblessness, educational decline, water shutoffs, foreclosures and evictions continue unabated.

Tens of thousands of property tax foreclosures have been carried out, and homes in the city will now be auctioned off to real estate developers, causing the eviction of thousands of homeowners and residents.

Gilbert chairs the Detroit Blight Removal Task Force, which targets properties throughout the city for seizure through the Detroit Land Bank Authority. The principal focus of the seizures is residential properties, not the thousands of abandoned factories, warehouses, commercial structures and schools.

More than \$200 million allocated under the federal Hardest Hit Fund in 2009 remain in state coffers. Despite this, the Wayne County Treasurer and other public officials have not filed suit against the state and the U.S. Treasury Department for failure to use the funds for their original purpose — to keep people in their homes.

Tens of millions of these dollars are being misused by Gilbert and his task force to tear down homes. Instead, these homes could easily be rehabilitated, creating thousands of jobs and revitalizing communities. Gilbert is currently being sued by the Department of Justice for mishandling Federal Housing Adminis-

tration loans.

Economic “development projects” are underway. These are geared to maximize profits for the rich by utilizing expropriated public assets and tax revenues. Meanwhile, the people of Detroit are being denied the right to decide how public funds are being used in the city.

People’s Assembly on Aug. 29

A petition drive is underway to place the proposed regionalization of the water system in a ballot initiative. The Detroit Active and Retirees Association (DAREA) is spearheading the petition drive.

This burgeoning struggle will be the focus of an upcoming People’s Assembly and Speak-Out on Aug. 29 in downtown Detroit.

Issues to be discussed include the rise in police killings of civilians; the demand for a federal and bank-funded jobs program to rebuild the city; and the restoration of public control of Detroit Public Schools, which have been under emergency management in one form or another for over a decade. Ending foreclosures, evictions and utility shutoffs; the release of the Hardest Hit funds to assist homeowners; freedom for Michigan political prisoner Rev. Edward Pinkney; support for African-American shop owners and taxi drivers being driven out of downtown; and other struggles will also be addressed.

For more information, contact the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs at moratorium-mi.org or call 313-680-5508. □

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Unions organize online news media’s workers

“Digital media is growing up, and it’s time our digital reporters received the same benefits and protections as their print media colleagues,” said NewsGuild-Communications Workers President Bernard Lunzer on July 29. U.S. writers and staff for the British online news publication The Guardian voted unanimously that day to unionize with the News Media Guild. (newsguild.org, July 29)

The announcement followed another successful union drive at online media group Gawker, whose editorial staff voted overwhelmingly June 4 to join the Writers Guild of America, East. Since then, editorial staffs at two more online publications, Salon and Vice, won WGA union representation on Aug. 1 and 7, respectively. (newsguild.org, Aug. 1 and 7)

Phony police ‘union’ exposes its true class role

Anybody still unsure of what separates police “unions” from bona fide labor unions need only look as far as a recent announcement made by the Columbia Police Officers Association, the collective bargaining unit representing officers in Columbia, Mo., some 100 miles west of Ferguson. In a post on its Facebook page, the police organization declared Aug. 10 “Darren Wilson Day” in honor of the racist cop who murdered Mike Brown on that day in 2014. (stltoday.com, Aug. 10)

Compare this with such bold acts of class solidarity as the International Longshore Workers Union’s May 1 port shutdown to demand an end to racist police terror. (WW, May 4) Or the endorsement and \$1,000 donation made by the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751 to #BlackLivesMatter Boston. (WW, Feb. 2) Or the July 25 resolution passed by the University of California Student Workers Union, United Auto Workers Local 2865, calling on the AFL-CIO to end its affiliation with police “unions” which only serve “the needs of colonialism, racism and capitalism.” (WW, Aug. 7)

When real labor unions like these organize and fight back, they make life better for people both in and outside the workplace. When police organize around their interests, what results is invariably racist, anti-worker depravity that knows no limits.

Northeast Verizon workers continue fight for fair contract

From Maine to Virginia, about 40,000 Verizon workers, represented by the Communication Workers and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have been working without a contract since theirs expired Aug. 1. But they’re conducting picket lines, rallies and marches to protest the cutback contract the giant telecom company, which makes \$1 billion a month in profits, is demanding. “Verigreedy” wants to slash job and retirement security while hiking health care costs by the thousands. “Our members are angry; we took major concessions in 2012 and that’s why [Verizon’s] doing so well now,” CWA Local 2108 President Marilyn Irwin said at a picket outside a Verizon facility in Silver Spring, Md., on Aug. 13. “We feel cheated. And now they want us to pay even more and we say ‘Hell no.’”

The workers are also conducting at-work actions, including wearing camouflage on Militant Mondays, red on Thursdays and black on Fridays. Irwin explained: “We cannot just go to work and act like it’s business as usual; it’s not business as usual. And if we act as though it’s business as usual, we’ll just get these concessions shoved down our throats.” (Union City, Aug. 16)

Nat’l Writers Union calls for treatment for, release of Mumia Abu-Jamal

At the national meeting of its Delegate Assembly on Aug. 9, the National Writers Union, United Auto Workers Local 1981, unanimously passed a resolution by acclamation to “Save the Life of Mumia Abu-Jamal from ‘Medical Neglect.’” Abu-Jamal has been an honorary member of the NWU since 1995, when he was facing the death penalty in Pennsylvania. The resolution calls for his release from prison “so he can get the treatment he is entitled to.” The NWU also passed other progressive resolutions, including support for the GM workers with disabilities in Colombia, with a \$250 donation, and one from the Civil Rights Committee that included, among many anti-racist planks, solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. At noon that day, the Delegate Assembly was silent for four-and-a-half minutes in memory and honor of Michael Brown, who was murdered in Ferguson, Mo., a year ago, accelerating the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Davis, a longtime leader in the NWU and founder of Writers for Mumia in 1995, initiated the resolution and the silent tribute.

VEOLIA / TRANSDEV = 'EVIL CORP'

By Terri Kay
Boston

As the Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751, move into a crucial stretch of their struggle to rehire their four fired leaders, and for a just contract and safety for Boston's school children, Workers World newspaper here examines their primary opponent, Transdev Services Inc., formerly Veolia Transportation Services.

This notorious corporation has earned the wrath of progressives throughout the world, from those seeking justice for Palestine, including the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, to environmentalists, anti-privatization activists, and fighters for labor and the rights of people with disabilities.

While the Boston Public Schools management and Mayor Marty Walsh should have ultimate control of their contractor, Transdev/Veolia, this despicable corporation's actions in its two-year battle with the school bus drivers raise questions about whether this is a case of "the tail wagging the dog."

To investigate more about Veolia's tactics, WW reached out to others across the country who have had run-ins with Transdev/Veolia.

First, this WW reporter talked to Chris Finn, president of Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1555, comprised of Bay Area Rapid Transit workers. BART workers were forced into a strike in 2013. (See "Two workers die as BART management operates trains during strike in California" at workers.org)

Workers World:
"Why did BART management engage Thomas Hock of Veolia on their negotiating team during negotiations for the BART contract?"

Chris Finn: "BART has a notorious history of labor relations. Despite a concessionary contract in 2009 following the start of the Great Recession, and both managers and members of the Board of Directors acknowledging they would need to reward the workers in 2013 for their role in helping the agency's financial state, BART hired Tom Hock in October 2012, writing that they determined well before negotiations began that they would need to engage in "traditional" bargaining practices, which is the adversarial form, compared with what is known as Interest Based Bargaining.

"An independent consultant hired by the BART Board of Directors to look into what went wrong with the 2013 negotiations stated in the 225-page public report that Hock was one of the main problems and that he knew and informed management early on that the position they took would cause a strike. ATU had representatives from around the country come to the Bay Area to discuss the role of Tom Hock in causing public transit strikes when he was at the table.

"The strikes were unfair labor practice strikes, based on a growing number of ULPs. Hock's strategy was to force a strike and try to outlast the union. There

were no attempts to bargain and reach resolution."

WW: "What role did Hock play during the negotiations?"

CF: "He was the chief negotiator for BART. He wasn't initially hired for that role. He was hired supposedly as a consultant to assist, but they ended up moving their own head of Labor Relations to the side and upping Hock's contract to take over as chief negotiator. Even when he was sent back to Cincinnati, he attempted to prevent BART from negotiating an agreement with the unions and ending the strike."

WW: "What was the outcome of your struggle?"

CF: "BART ended up receiving a lot of bad press and being seen as having lots of problems. They received a 225-page



Chantal Casimir

report outlining the main problems with BART negotiations. We ended up with a 4-year contract. Hock was gone by then. He was sent away before negotiations were concluded. We had three federal mediators there and had the framework for a deal while Hock was out of town for a few days. When he came back, he piled on a few concessions that were guaranteed to cause a strike, which was what precipitated the second strike when the two fatalities occurred. He left at the beginning of the second strike to go to Cincinnati and BART finished it without him, though he was still attempting to prevent them from settling.

"We also had a bunch of 'last best final offers' — at least six, maybe more, all trying to provoke a strike, loaded with major concessions."

STOP VEOLIA SEATTLE

Workers World also reached out to Susan Koppelman of "Stop Veolia Seattle," where Veolia has had the contract for MetroAccess Paratransit service for the elderly and people with disabilities since 2008. At that time, 140 drivers represented by ATU Local 587 either lost their jobs or were forced to take pay cuts.

The initial low-bid contract represented an annual \$1 million cost savings to the county, but after the first year costs



Phebe Eckfeldt and Bobby Trayham

went up. For the last four years, the county has paid at least \$7 million more per year. (See Koppelman's article, "Pressure mounts on executive Constantine to take action on Veolia," in the March 26 South Seattle Emerald.)

WW: "How has Veolia/Transdev earned the wrath of so many people worldwide?"

Susan Koppelman: "Veolia and its subsidiaries and spinoff companies like Transdev — which is 50 percent owned by Veolia and 50 percent owned by a French financial institution — have a horrendous track record of violations to human rights, labor rights and the environment globally.

"Dating back to an imperial decree of Napoleon III, some of the first contracts this company held were providing public services to the French colonies, so there's a direct line between the founding of the company and Veolia's role in occupation, colonization and imperialism today.

"Veolia is the largest privatizer of public water services in the world. Repeatedly Veolia has been found guilty of overcharging residents for water, while criminally underinvesting in water infrastructure, jeopardizing public health and safety.

"In 2010, Paris ended its contract with French multinational Veolia and was able to lower the cost of water to consumers while also increasing investment in the public water infrastructure, proving that alternatives to privatization are not only viable but are greatly preferential.

"However, in the same year that Paris was successful in escaping Veolia's corporate stranglehold over their public water supply, the residents of Tucumán province in Argentina found their sovereignty and control over their public water supply undermined by the World Bank's defense of Veolia, which then went by the name of Vivendi.

"In 1996, consumer groups in Tucumán took action to halt Vivendi's escalation of the cost of water to residents in the poor province. But the World Bank's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes ultimately ruled that the company had 'a right to make a profit' and awarded the company \$105 million in damages, an amount nearly equal to 10 percent of the public debt of Tucumán province.

"Trade agreements like the Trans-Pacific Partnership will only tip the scales further in favor of massively powerful corporations. It is imperative that we continue to take on corporate giants like



PHOTO: HANNAH KIRSCHBAUM

Garry Murchison, one of the Local 8751 leaders fired by Veolia with Susan Koppelman, right, speaking at a rally for the union.

Veolia and work for trade agreements that protect the rights of residents and the environment and maintain water as a public trust that cannot be sold to the highest bidder in the hopes of achieving racial and economic justice.

"We must not allow corporations like Veolia to come in and profiteer from natural disasters or ongoing military occupation, like they have following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and in Palestine."

WW: "How did you come to learn about the Boston school bus drivers' struggle against Veolia?"

SK: [It was] "after I was already active in campaigns against Veolia for a number of years. I had the honor of meeting some of these incredibly strong and courageous drivers in the neighborhood where my grandmother grew up and where my father was born. I'm inspired by their epic stand for justice against these corporate bullies, and pray that the fired workers will have their jobs reinstated immediately."

Oppose Veolia from Boston to Palestine

Dalit Baum, American Friends Service Committee's Middle East Peace education director and co-founder of "Who Profits from the Occupation," a research center, gave additional input. She explained how the BDS movement supporting Palestine had successfully forced Veolia to sell off most of its companies supplying water and transportation services for illegal settlements in Occupied Palestine.

However, the company still owns interests in Jerusalem's light-rail service, which provides exclusive Israeli-only transportation to the illegal West Bank settlements.

Whoprofits.org reported in September 2013, "Veolia is still involved in the occupation; in transferring waste to Tovlan landfill in the oPt [occupied Palestinian territories] through a subsidiary and in the light train through its shares in CityPass and Connex Jerusalem." It further states that Veolia Environnement, through its subsidiary Transdev, still holds a 5-percent share in the CityPass Consortium, and Transdev fully owns Connex Jerusalem, which operates the trains.

The USW Local 8751 bus drivers, with a mostly Haitian and Cape Verdean workforce, regularly show solidarity with other workers. This militant local supports the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as the struggles for rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and for people with disabilities. Importantly, these workers stand with the Palestinian people and oppose Veolia's role on their occupied lands.

It is time now for everyone to stand with this fighting union local in its final push for justice for its members and the schoolchildren of Boston.

For more information, see Facebook Team Solidarity at tinyurl.com/pwk3ptb, bostonschoolbus5.org/ and workers.org/ □

Free Chelsea Manning!



PHOTO: POPULAR RESISTANCE

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the heroic WikiLeaks whistleblower and transgender activist currently jailed in the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, is now being threatened with “indefinite solitary confinement.”

While on active duty in Iraq as an intelligence analyst, Manning released 700,000 classified and sensitive military and diplomatic documents. They revealed details about modern imperialist wars never before made public. This included the infamous “Collateral Murder” tape of a U.S. “Apache” attack helicopter firing on civilians in Baghdad in 2007, killing 11 adults, including two Reuters journalists. Two children were seriously hurt. Manning also exposed previously hidden facts about the torture of U.S. detainees at the U.S. Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp.

A U.S. military judge sentenced Manning to 35 years on charges of “aiding the enemy” — a treasonable offense under the 1917 U.S. Espionage Act. Awaiting trial, she suffered torturous conditions, first held in a cage inside a tent in the Kuwaiti desert, threatened by guards with being “disappeared” to Guantánamo. Then Manning was held in solitary confinement in the Marine Corps Brig at Quantico, Va., where she was under 24-hour guard and subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment.

A valiant resistance fighter

Manning said about her release of the documents: “Once you come to realize that the co-ordinates in these records represent real places, that the dates are our recent history and that the numbers represent actual human lives — with all of the love, hope, dreams, hate, fear and nightmares with which we all live — then you cannot help but be reminded just how important it is for us to understand and, hopefully, prevent such tragedies in the future.” (The Guardian, May 27)

Manning has already suffered punishment amounting to torture for what the U.S. government has defined as a “crime.” So why the ramp-up of additional punishment for Manning now?

Military authorities give the superficial reasons of “disrespect” and “disorderly conduct.” The real reason is revealed in the “illegal” literature confiscated from her cell — the 2014 U.S. Senate report on torture, books and magazines about transgender issues, information about the “Anonymous” hacker movement and legal philosophy books in support of justice and fairness.

Using these resources, Manning continues to build powerful arguments from prison to organize against the exploitation of other countries by U.S. imperialism and the demonization of transgender people in the U.S. military and U.S. culture.

Chase Strangio, of the American Civil Liberties Union and an attorney for Manning, said of the threat of solitary: “Given the materials that were confiscated, it is concerning that the military and Leavenworth might be taking action for the purpose of chilling Chelsea’s speech or even with the goal of silencing her altogether by placing her in solitary.” (Buzz Feed News, Aug. 13)

Manning communicates regularly to the public through her Twitter account and publication of opinion pieces in the British Guardian.

Along with Edward Snowden and Julian Assange, also Wikileaksers, Manning

is an activist in the ongoing political and economic struggle over information. The U.S. capitalist government and military-industrial complex attempt to limit and control what the public knows about murderous plans for war and occupation in order to carve and re-carve the world for profits. Through its wars, the U.S.’s ultimate intent is to obliterate the self-determination of any nation resisting its economic and political domination.

Manning, the only one of the three whistleblowers prosecuted in the U.S., exposed the U.S. military’s manipulation of the “free press.” She pointed out the gap between what, as an intelligence analyst, she saw happening on the ground and what the public knew about U.S. wars. She revealed that “embedded journalists” reporting favorably on the U.S. military are given preference in covering this news and that those who are critical are prevented from doing so.

Manning has played a key role in breaking through the secrecy the U.S. has tried to impose on its continued military interventions worldwide. She has stood up for the right of nations to self-determination and has struck a powerful blow against U.S. militarism.

A fighter for transgender rights

However, Manning not only challenges the brutal exploitation of nations. The day after the imposition of her 35-year sentence, she came out as a transgender person. Identified then as Pvt. Bradley Manning, she asserted her determination to fight for her right to be “the woman I have always been.”

Gender-defiant, gender non-conforming, gender-fluid, trans* and transgender people insist on their right to self-definition and the freedom to individually determine how each one knows, experiences and lives out their unique sexes and/or gender expressions.

In her assertion of her right to define her own sex and gender, Chelsea Manning threatens one of the pillars that holds up capitalist economic and social exploitation. She challenges the arbitrary division into male and female that is imposed at birth on each child. She is resisting the lifelong enforcement of “either M or F” used to shut people up inside those assigned boxes.

This is another kind of prison in which Manning is fighting to survive and from which to liberate herself — and to offer hope of liberation to others. The U.S. military has “long classified being trans as a mental disorder,” Manning notes, and she condemns the psychology that pathologizes trans people.

Significantly, the CIA hired and paid \$81 million to “contract psychologists” to establish and justify the torture program at Guantánamo and CIA prison sites abroad to create tortures that would allegedly reveal who was “a terrorist.”

LGBTQ support for Manning

A strong current of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer movement has rallied to support Manning. She was chosen to be the 2014 San Francisco Pride Grand Marshall. Daniel Ellsberg, also charged under the 1917 Espionage Act for leaking the Pentagon Papers in opposition to the U.S. war on Vietnam, marched with her contingent.

This year “Free Chelsea” banners flew at Pride activities from London to Los Angeles. They were joined by members

of the National Organization for Women, CodePink, Haiti Action Committee, Middle East Children’s Alliance, Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, United

National Antiwar Coalition, International Action Center, Workers World Party and many more.

Workers World calls on its readers to rally in support of Chelsea Manning, a valiant resister. WW also restates the need to support the right of nations to self-determination, to live free of imperialism, and for the right of all people to determine their own sex and gender self-definition.

Free Chelsea Manning! □

Black transwomen killed

Detroit

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Aug. 16 — The hate-fueled killing of transgender people of color is yet another crime against the oppressed that happens all too often in the United States. The latest murder happened in the Palmer Park area of Six Mile and Woodward Avenue, where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have historically gathered in Detroit.

Amber Monroe, a 20-year-old Wayne State University student, was shot and killed there Aug. 8 as she exited a car. The young Black transwoman had been shot before on two occasions, but survived those attacks. Monroe was the 12th transwoman to be killed in the U.S. in 2015, and the 10th transwoman of color to be reported killed so far this year.

Just three days after Monroe’s death, another transwoman of color was shot in the early morning hours of Aug. 11. Walking in the Palmer Park area, she was fired on by someone from inside a moving vehicle. Fortunately, the bullet struck her hand and she survived the attack.



Amber Monroe

“Equality Michigan,” an advocacy organization serving LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities, learned another trans person of color was killed on July 14. The body of 25-year-old Ashton O’Hara was found in a Detroit field, the victim of a brutal homicide. O’Hara identified as genderfluid and trans and was using male pronouns at the time of his death. He loved to dance, perform and do hair and was beloved by his friends and family, according to those who knew him.

Between the Lines newspaper (Aug. 11 and 13), published at pridesource.com, was the source of information for this article.

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

Fuerzas de clase detrás del genocidio estadounidense en Hiroshima y Nagasaki

Continúa de página 8

afectó a 68 ciudades japonesas, matando a cientos de miles de personas.

El más grande y devastador de estos ataques tuvo lugar el 7 y 8 de marzo de 1945 cuando cientos de bombarderos B-29 hicieron caer 2.000 toneladas de bombas incendiarias en un suburbio residencial de clase trabajadora densamente poblado de Tokio, quemando vivas 130.000 personas. Washington tenía planes de continuar esta masacre de civiles japoneses durante una invasión que iba a comenzar el 1º de noviembre de 1945.

La primera bomba atómica del imperialismo estadounidense fue detonada en una prueba el 16 de julio 1945. La clase dominante de EUA no vacilaría un segundo para utilizar esta arma contra civiles japoneses si creía que era efectiva en la promoción de sus intereses de propiedad y de ganancias. La Primera y Segunda Guerra Mundial mostraron cómo las clases dominantes estaban listas para sacrificar no sólo a sus propios trabajadores y agricultores, sino mucho más a los del “enemigo”.

Hiroshima y Nagasaki fueron dos de las pocas ciudades japonesas que se salvaron en los previos bombardeos. No tenían ningún valor militar. La guerra iba a terminar pronto en el Pacífico — ya había terminado el 8 de mayo en Europa — así que Washington tenía una pequeña ventana para probar los dos tipos diferentes de armas de fusión nuclear, uno hecho con uranio enriquecido y el otro con plutonio.

En estas dos ciudades no bombardeadas, EUA podría observar lo que harían las armas mientras mataban a 200.000 personas rápidamente y a 150.000 lentamente.

El ejército estadounidense podía mostrar al mundo de lo que era capaz. Luego, abiertamente amenazó con bombas nucleares durante las guerras contra Corea y Vietnam.

URSS declaró la guerra

Los gobernantes japoneses sabiendo que ya estaban derrotados, enfrentaron lo que veían como una amenaza aún mayor que las bombas atómicas. La Unión Soviética, un estado obrero, había declarado la guerra. Dondequiera que ocupara la Unión Soviética amenazaba no solo a la soberanía japonesa sino los derechos de propiedad de la clase dominante japonesa.

A pesar de que odiaba entregarse, los gobernantes japoneses prefirieron someterse a Estados Unidos capitalista, que a la Unión Soviética de orientación socialista. Bajo la ocupación estadounidense de Japón, que duró hasta 1950, el General Douglas MacArthur reprimió al Partido Comunista Japonés y a los sindicatos.

Donde el Ejército Rojo Soviético entró y ayudó a expulsar a los militares japoneses — en Manchuria, que es parte de China, y en el norte de Corea — los pueblos se liberaron de la dominación imperialista japonesa y se apoderaron de la propiedad de los terratenientes y capitalistas. Eso es lo que los gobernantes japoneses temían más que el bombardeo atómico de su población. □

Strikes and protests as Greek Parliament passes new austerity plan

By G. Dunkel

One-day general strikes were held by thousands of members of PAME, the Greek trade union confederation close to the Greek Communist Party (KKE), and members of ADEDY, the union confederation of civil service workers, on Aug. 13. They gathered in Athens' Syntagma Square, in front of the Parliament building, to call for a "no" ("OXI") vote on an austerity plan being proposed by the Syriza government.

The PAME march had begun separately, in Omonia Square, while ADEDY members gathered in Syntagma Square. Video clips show that once PAME got to Syntagma, there was effectively one demonstration.

Workers interviewed by British Broadcasting (BBC), Reuters, Russian television (RTFB) and the French news agency (AFP) all called on Syriza to honor the pledge it had made to end austerity,

which was what got it elected.

In its call for the demonstration, PAME said: "There is no time to lose! No resignation, frustration and acceptance of the attacks from the government, the European Union, employers. We respond by organizing struggles in every workplace, every business, every neighborhood. We strengthen PAME, class trade unions, popular committees." (Red Globe, Aug. 11)

Nevertheless, the austerity proposal still passed by a margin of 222 votes in favor to 64 against, with 11 abstentions. But the government of Alexis Tsipras lost so many votes from his own party — more than 40 Syriza members of Parliament voted against the proposal — that under Greek law, he has to call for a vote of confidence and probably new elections.

Even though the vote was lopsided, there was still a lot of opposition inside Parliament. MPs pointed out that they only had a day or so to go through the 400-page document, which forced them

to rely on summaries.

Panagiotis Lafazanis, former minister of energy, and 12 other MPs announced they would form a coalition against this new memorandum. Lafazanis, who leads a group called the Left Platform inside Syriza, had begun his political career in the KKE. He left it in 1992 to join a eurocommunist organization called Synaspismos.

Zoe Konstantopoulou, speaker of the Greek Parliament and a leader of Syriza, refused to call it an "agreement." In a speech to Parliament on July 22, during the first debate over accepting this proposal, she had said: "Those conditions are blatant blackmail by foreign governments of European Union member states on this government and on the members of Parliament."

German imperialism is the leader in Europe of this anti-Greek, anti-human plan. Its finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, was also architect of the plan

that destroyed the East German economy after the fall of the Berlin Wall. (Workers World, July 18) The austerity plan Schäuble wants to impose on the Greek economy — according to many economists, including those working for the International Monetary Fund — will drive Greece's debt-to-gross-domestic-product ratio to over 200 percent; that is, Greece will owe twice what its economy produces in a year.

The IMF has gone further. It has taken the position that Greece's debt is unsustainable, which means that under its rules the IMF cannot participate in this bailout.

Greece is a country in deep distress. Its workers and poor are suffering from an economy that has been in a deep depression for five years, while its bankers are looking forward to an infusion of billions of euros from this latest bailout. But both in Parliament and on the streets, resistance is rising. □

Refugee crisis grows in Greece

By G. Dunkel

Seven thousand refugees arrived in July on the small Greek island of Kos, some 2.5 miles off the Turkish coast, according to the International Organization for Migration. The flow of refugees increased in August.

The IOM said on Aug. 14 that nearly 250,000 migrants had crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe this year. Greece alone reported 134,988 arrivals from Turkey since January. While the number of refugees crossing the Mediterranean from Libya — a more costly and dangerous journey — has remained steady, the flow to Greece is exploding.

But Greece is in the midst of a deep financial crisis, under harsh austerity rules that prohibit hiring enough people to register refugees, according to Panagiotis Nikas, the head of Greece's reception system. (The Guardian, Aug. 14) Since most refugees arrive at Greece's Ionian islands, this personnel shortage is compounded by the difficulty of moving people from island to island.

The situation in Kos is made more difficult by the anti-migrant attitude of its mayor, George Kiritsis. He opposed creating a reception center and providing relief to the refugees since their presence interferes with the tourist trade.

The PAME trade union confederation

in Greece, which represents workers on Kos and other nearby islands, released a statement in Greek, English and French on Aug. 12.

The PAME statement said in part: "The problems created by the staying of migrants in open areas without the minimum hygiene measures, causes justifiable concern among the residents. ...

"You cannot blame the migrants who were 'uprooted' from their countries and their homes to save their lives and seek their future in another country, and not blame the imperialists who are setting up wars and conflicts in the world, sowing poverty and misery, which eventually prevent the migrants from reaching their

destination."

Besides confronting the austerity imposed on the Greek people by the German and other European imperialists, the union federation is expressing solidarity with the refugees fleeing imperialist-inspired violence in their home countries.

Most of the refugees on Kos and throughout Greece are from Syria. Since the imperialist-inspired campaign to remove Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, 2 million Syrians have been displaced and are living in Turkey, where they are not allowed to work or attend school. There are also significant numbers of refugees in Turkey from Afghanistan and Pakistan. □

Native Nations resist EPA's toxic destruction

Continued from page 1

More than 750 families live and farm near the contaminated San Juan River.

No apology from U.S. government

The EPA waited 24 hours before notifying the Diné and other communities of the spill. The agency then distributed through its website a claims form that contains the disclaimer: "I [...] agree to accept said amount in full satisfaction and final settlement of this claim." As Navajo President Russell Begaye pointed out, this form contains "offending language."

"Once the claim is made it will only be for the claims suffered to date and precludes future claims," Begaye said. He has directed Diné citizens not to sign these claim forms. (time.com, Aug. 12)

After finding out about the EPA spill, the Navajo government sprang into action. It launched Operation Tó Litso or Yellow Water. This name is a grim reminder of a uranium waste pond spill of 1,100 tons of solid radioactive mill waste and 93 million gallons of acidic and radioactive waste water into a river tributary in New Mexico in 1979. That spill is still causing health problems for Diné people 36 years later.

Command centers have been set up and legal action against the EPA is being

prepared by the Navajo government.

According to a Navajo government press statement on Aug. 11, Dr. Peterson Zah spoke in the Diné language at the Oljato Council meeting on the reservation about the current emergency and its historical background. Zah recalled Kit Carson's scorched earth campaign against the Diné people and their forced Long Walk migration into the reservation, as well as the 1979 uranium waste spill disaster.

About this current crisis, Zah said: "What I was looking for [from the EPA] was an apology. We didn't even get one. I wanted to hear from the U.S. government that they were sorry.

"Many years from now, the Navajo people will still be here on our tribal lands," Zah said. "They keep trying to get rid of us, but we're still here surviving."

Diné and Apache youth confront McCain

When Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain went to the Navajo Nation's capital, Window Rock, on Aug. 14, angry Diné and Apache protesters, many of them youth, decried violations of their water rights and copper mining in Oak Flat, Ariz.

Deidra Peaches, a Diné woman, said, "The activists were from all over [the West] and came to show inter-tribal soli-



Window Rock, Ariz., Aug. 14. Right, Apache youth confronts Sen. John McCain.

darity. ... McCain and his entourage were definitely thrown off." (phoenixnewtimes.com, Aug. 17)

During his visit, McCain was confronted by protesters throughout the day who chanted in the Diné language, "Water is life!" and held banners reading, "McCain = Indian Killer" and "McCain's not welcome here."

McCain is a staunch supporter of copper mining interests in Arizona. When high school senior Adriano Tsinigine, an Apache, saw the senator and Republican Gov. Doug Ducey surrounded by people trying to shake their hands and take photos, he seized the moment. Tsin-

igine pushed his way up to the senator. "I pulled out my [Protect] Oak Flat card. He took it, looked at it, and threw it back at me."

McCain was driven off Navajo land and chased by activists all the way to the airport.

In a statement released later that day, the protesters stood firm: "We will rise up as the new leaders of our Nations in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and we start by saying NO MORE ALLOWING state or federal politicians and the corporations they represent entrance into our homelands."

Kris Hamel contributed to this article.



Escalada de guerra EUA contra Siria socava pacto de Irán

Por Sara Flounders

La atención internacional se centra en la próxima lucha en el Congreso estadounidense para aprobar el acuerdo nuclear de Irán, al mismo tiempo que EUA y Turquía intensifican la intervención en Siria. Bajo esas condiciones, tenemos que considerar: ¿Intentarán las fuerzas militaristas sabotear el acuerdo con Irán provocando una guerra más amplia contra Siria, país que tiene una alianza con Irán?

Fuerzas poderosas con financiación multimillonaria se han alineado para colocar anuncios en periódicos como el New York Times y presionar al Congreso para detener el acuerdo. ¿Limitarán estas fuerzas reaccionarias sus acciones a anuncios de periódicos o cabildeo? ¿O planean otras acciones?

Este es un momento peligroso. Poderosas fuerzas reaccionarias se han desatado en el suroeste de Asia. Han sido cultivadas, financiadas y entrenadas directamente por el Pentágono en algunas situaciones, con guiño de las agencias secretas, o mediante financiación Saudita o en las bases de Turquía y Jordania.

Estas fuerzas tienen un interés material muy concreto en la guerra, no en normalizar las relaciones. Se estima que hay 1.000 bandas mercenarias diferentes y 100.000 combatientes muy bien financiados de 60 países que ahora operan en Siria. Estos son los mismos terroristas que EUA y sus aliados regionales están intentando utilizar como pretexto para intensificar aún más el conflicto sirio.

¿Será posible la provocación de una guerra por los intereses económicos estadounidenses que obtienen enormes beneficios del militarismo? ¿Podría venir de países como Israel y Arabia Saudita que se movilizan contra el acuerdo nuclear de Irán?

Estos son los pasos concretos que aumentan las posibilidades de una nueva y ampliada guerra:

- El gobierno turco ha dado permiso al Pentágono para utilizar dos importantes bases aéreas en el sudeste de Turquía, Incirlik y Diyarbakir, para bombardear Siria e Irak. Seis F-16 y 300 militares estadounidenses estacionados previamente en la base aérea Aviano en Italia, llegaron el 9 de agosto a Incirlik.
- Washington y la OTAN están apoyando la nueva ofensiva del ejército turco y estableciendo una llamada “zona de seguridad” en Siria, en la frontera turca. Aparentemente contra el Estado Islámico, estos movimientos están realmente dirigidos tanto contra organizaciones kurdas que luchan contra el EI, como contra el gobierno sirio. Turquía llevó a cabo un bombardeo contra el EI y 185 incursiones aéreas contra el Partido de los Trabajadores del Kurdistán en Irak.
- El Pentágono ha capacitado a un pequeño número de combatientes mercenarios sirios que Washington llama la “Nueva Fuerza Siria” y describe como yihadistas “moderados” que son aliados de EUA. El objetivo de la Nueva Fuerza Siria es derrocar al gobierno de Damasco.
- Si bien el objetivo manifiesto de la bomba estadounidense es el EI, el 3 de agosto la Casa Blanca anunció que ha autorizado ataques contra cualquiera que dispare a la NFS, incluyendo a la Fuerza Aérea Siria.
- El gobierno sirio respondió que se opondría a cualquier movimiento militar dentro de su territorio que no fuera coordinado con Damasco.

¿Una guerra ampliada?

Todas las piezas están en su lugar para expandir la guerra. Lo único que se necesita es provocación. Aunque no se puede

predecir el momento exacto de las acciones militares estadounidenses, es sin embargo muy importante que el movimiento anti guerra aquí no sea sorprendido.

Siempre los medios corporativos de EUA proveerán cobertura inflamatoria sin cesar para justificar la guerra. Ya han suavizado la oposición a la intervención en Siria presentando la intervención como una contra el Estado islámico.

El costo de la resistencia a la dominación imperialista ha sido alto para los sirios. Más de un tercio de los 23 millones de habitantes de Siria han sido desplazados/os y más de 250 mil han muerto en la guerra.

Sin embargo, para frustración del imperialismo estadounidense y de la OTAN, y a pesar de muchas predicciones de colapso, el gobierno de Bashar al-Assad ha sobrevivido más de cuatro años desde que se iniciaron los ataques contra él.

Hay puntos de vista y tácticas opuestas entre los estrategas estadounidenses sobre cómo cambiar esto. Pero todas las opciones tienen por objeto aumentar la dominación EUA sobre toda la región. Todas incluyen la destrucción de Siria como un estado soberano con una agenda independiente. La política de destrucción de Siria sigue, ya sea derrocando al gobierno o dividiendo la nación.

La llamada ‘zona segura’

La “zona de seguridad” de 70 millas en la frontera entre Turquía y Siria es una copia de lo que en el pasado fueron propuestas de corredores humanitarios, zonas de amortiguación, refugios o zonas de no sobrevuelos. Alegando su compromiso a defender tal región en guerras pasadas contra Irak, Libia y Yugoslavia, le ha permitido a Washington bombardear sin parar y destruir al gobierno existente. La promesa de las guerras del

pasado era que la protección a través de bombardeos sería un compromiso limitado. Nunca lo ha sido.

TASS emitió una declaración del comandante ruso de las Tropas Aero-transportadas, coronel general Vladimir Shamanov el 4 de agosto: “Las tropas aerotransportadas rusas están listas para ayudar a Siria en la lucha contra los terroristas, si tal tarea es pedida por los líderes de Rusia”. Más tarde, noticieros rusos informaron que Siria no ha pedido tropas rusas ni otras fuerzas. Pero la declaración del general parece ser una advertencia.

Reunión del IAC-CAI contra la guerra

Una reunión fue organizada en el Centro de Acción Internacional (IAC), el 11 de agosto para poner estos peligrosos acontecimientos en relación con Siria en perspectiva y distribuirlos a través de los medios de comunicación social a un público más amplio. Las/os oradores incluyeron al fundador del IAC Ramsey Clark; portavoz del Fórum Siria Estadounidense Dr. Ghias Moussa; Lawrence Hamm de la Organización de los Pueblos para el Progreso; Margaret Kimberly del Informe de la Agenda Negra; Joe Lombardo de la Coalición Nacional Unida contra la guerra. Cynthia McKinney, ex congresista y activista antirracista y antiguerra, hablará a través de video.

El foro se tituló “Siria después de los acuerdos de sanciones Irán-EUA; ¿Qué podemos esperar: Diplomacia o escalada militar?”

La autora es co-directora del Centro de Acción Internacional y ha sido portavoz líder del IAC desde hace más de dos décadas. Dos veces en los últimos cuatro años Flounders ha viajado a Damasco en delegaciones de solidaridad con la resistencia de Siria a la agresión imperialista.

Fuerzas de clase detrás del genocidio estadounidense en Hiroshima y Nagasaki

Por John Catalinotto

En el 70º aniversario de los asesinatos en masa de la población civil de Hiroshima y Nagasaki en Japón, el 6 y 9 de agosto respectivamente, un debate en los medios corporativos de EUA se ha centrado en la siguiente pregunta: ¿Es verdad que las bombas forzaron una rendición japonesa y evitaron víctimas estadounidenses?

Estudios históricos han demostrado que esto es el pretexto en lugar de la razón de EUA para utilizar las bombas. Las fotografías muestran el horror. Aquí queremos centrarnos en las siguientes preguntas: ¿Cuál era el carácter de clase de los dos regímenes principales que luchaban en esta guerra en el Pacífico? ¿Cuáles eran sus objetivos? ¿Por qué su confrontación condujo a Washington al uso de tan nefastas armas contra una población civil?

Tanto EUA como Japón eran países imperialistas. Ambos tenían economías

capitalistas, con la riqueza concentrada en un pequeño número de familias de la clase dominante en la industria y la banca. Estas clases dirigentes explotaron a la clase trabajadora en sus respectivos países. Japón gobernó Corea y partes de China, donde su clase dirigente invirtió capital para explotar a los trabajadores locales y saquear las materias primas. EUA gobernó las Filipinas, Puerto Rico y Hawái, donde hizo lo mismo.

La competencia entre las dos potencias imperialistas por el control de las islas del Pacífico y Asia Oriental condujo a la 2da Guerra Mundial en el Pacífico. El objetivo de cada clase dominante era el control de las islas del Pacífico y Asia Oriental. Ni en Japón ni en EUA las/os trabajadoras y agricultoras/es tuvieron nada que ganar con una victoria de “sus” gobernantes.

Para el imperialismo estadounidense, el objetivo era destruir el estado japonés para que estuviera subordinado total-

mente a Washington. Hoy en día el imperialismo estadounidense todavía quiere tener hegemonía en esa región, pero esta vez con una clase dirigente japonesa rearmada como un socio menor en una alianza contra la República Popular China.

El pueblo chino y el coreano todavía están tratando de que los gobernantes japoneses admitan los delitos militares cometidos mientras iba camino a la conquista. Un tal crimen fue el trabajo forzado de los coreanos en Hiroshima. Unos 20.000 coreanos han muerto allí el 6 de agosto 1945. El presente Primer Ministro de Japón Shinzo Abe, un derechista, rehúsa pedir disculpas y lo que quiere es un ejército japonés rearmado y agresivo.

Crímenes del imperialismo estadounidense

Siendo comunistas en EUA, nos enfocamos en los crímenes del imperialismo estadounidense. La clase dominante utilizó

la propaganda chauvinista y racista más vil contra el pueblo japonés, presentándoles como subhumanos, para movilizar a la población para ir a la guerra y matar al pueblo japonés. Estas medidas incluyeron internar a personas de origen japonés en campos de concentración estadounidenses y el uso de bombas incendiarias y atómicas contra civiles japoneses.

El ejército de EUA aprendió cómo bombas incendiarias pueden destruir ciudades, del ataque estadounidense-británico a Hamburgo en julio de 1943 en el cual murieron 43.000 civiles alemanes, y del ataque a Dresden en febrero de 1945 que quemó o asfixió entre 30.000 y 90.000 personas, en su mayoría refugiadas/os.

Después de que EUA había capturado islas cercanas a las principales islas japonesas, la Fuerza Aérea inició una campaña de bombardeo incendiario que

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