



# STOCK MARKET CRASH

## Symptom of capitalist decay

By Deirdre Griswold

Aug. 25 — If anything dramatically shows the irrationality of the capitalist economic system, it is a financial market crash. This happens after a period of euphoria in the markets has driven prices to all-time highs and huge sums of money have been changing hands — in these days, usually electronically.

Then comes the day of reckoning. What had seemed solid wealth the day before suddenly turns into red ink. This is what began happening in the third week of August to markets around the world.

At such times, only those with deep pockets can stay in the “game” and hold on to their investments, hoping for a renewed surge upward. If the billionaires are able to buy when prices have plunged and others are bankrupt, they stand to make a real “killing” on the market — if it goes back up at some point.

By Monday, Aug. 24, some estimates put the losses worldwide at a total of \$10 trillion. That’s a thousand, times another thousand, times another thousand, times a thousand again, times 10. \$10,000,000,000,000 — just to put things in perspective.

How can \$10 trillion of wealth be “lost”? Or did it ever really exist?

Presumably, this \$10 trillion figure vaguely represents the value of real commodities — coal, steel, vehicles, food, shelter, aircraft carriers, gasoline — that would have been produced for sale at some future time, if the process of capitalist production and accumulation had continued on an upward course.

That so much can be “lost” so quickly shows the precarious nature of capitalism. It illustrates in the starkest way how the profit system runs counter to any rational planning of human economic activity in this high-tech era — when the gulf between rich and poor, between social classes and between whole countries, only widens even as productivity leaps ahead.

### The blame game

As this is being written, the media and many economic pundits are trying to talk up the market, emphasizing its partial rebound from record lows just yesterday. No one in the media wants to predict gloom and doom, knowing they could be held responsible for causing a panic and another plunge downward.



Autoworkers meet in Detroit, pledge solidarity with Brazilian GM strikers. Page 3.

PHOTO: FRANK HAMMER

Anyway, the blame gamers have already picked their target. Almost all the propaganda organs of the imperialist ruling classes have fingered who is responsible: China. China’s stock market, after a big rise in prices based on hopes of future economic expansion equal to its phenomenal growth of the last decade, took a dive starting in the middle of June, according to the Shanghai Composite Index.

There was general agreement then that Chinese stocks, especially in real estate, were overpriced, and the decline was considered a “correction.” But now the U.S. financial writers are beginning to describe the continued fall of Chinese stocks as a “plague” that has somehow infected Western markets. The assumption here is that the underlying economic conditions in the Western imperialist countries were healthy before this Chinese pathogen infiltrated markets across the globe.

Give us a break.

What’s healthy about workers’ wages in the U.S. buying less today than they did in 1967? What’s healthy about the economy of a country where a cop can arrest and kill a Black man for the survival “crime” of selling single cigarettes on the street? As happened to Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y. What’s healthy about a parent having to work two part-time, low-wage jobs just to feed her kids?

And speaking of wages, let’s not average




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# 'Labor Day' unmasked Build Workers World!

Did you know that the federal holiday "Labor Day," celebrated the first Monday in September, was founded in 1887? The reason it's in September and not May 1, which is celebrated today in 80 countries as International Workers Day, has nothing to do with honoring the role of labor in building this country. It has everything to do with the capitalist government refusing recognition to the role of socialists and other radical organizers in the labor movement.

The American Federation of Labor, ever fearful of alienating the ruling class, was enlisted to suggest in 1887 that the holiday be in September to take attention away from May Day — and the fight of working people in Chicago for the 8-hour day, which had led to a police riot on May 4, 1886, known as the Haymarket Massacre.

Police were trying to disperse protesters when a bomb was thrown, the cops responded by killing four workers plus seven of their own. That led to a round-up of leading labor organizers, most of whom were well-known so-

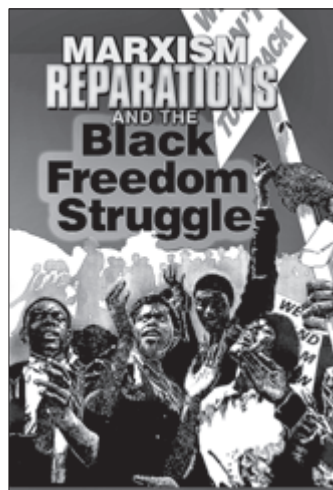
cialists or anarchists who had not even been at the scene. Four of them were executed by the state in 1887.

So there is nothing honorable, worthy or celebratory behind "Labor Day." In fact, its roots are deeply imbedded in the most vile kind of capitalist lies, police terror and fear of working people's rights — most of all the workers' righteous demands for a socialist revolution, which were clearly expressed at Haymarket.

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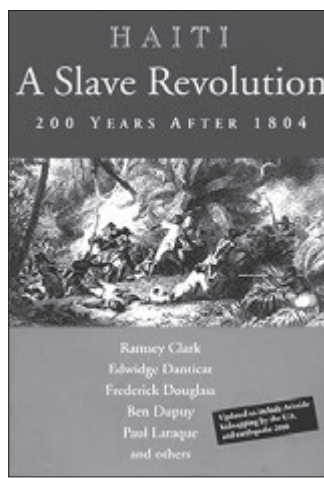
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Workers World  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
 New York, N.Y. 10011  
 Phone: 212.627.2994

E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
 Web: [www.workers.org](http://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

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

**Atlanta**  
 PO Box 18123  
 Atlanta, GA 30316  
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[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

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 2011 N. Charles St.  
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[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lexington, KY**  
[lexington@workers.org](mailto:lexington@workers.org)

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

**Milwaukee**  
[milwaukee@workers.org](mailto:milwaukee@workers.org)

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

**Pittsburgh**  
[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)

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

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

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

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

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

# From Selma to Boston: 'I'm fighting for the union!'

## Interview with school bus driver Georgia Scott

Georgia Scott of Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers Union, spoke on Aug. 21 with Minnie Bruce Pratt of Workers World about the drivers' ongoing struggle against union-busting corporate giant Veolia/Transdev. The company has illegally fired four union leaders and flagrantly violated contract conditions, resulting in almost 700 union grievances.

Scott, the treasurer of Team Solidarity for the union, has been first a bus monitor and then a bus driver for 20 years. In 1965, when Scott was only nine years old, she participated in the historic "Bloody Sunday" march for voting rights over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., where she was born.

**Workers World:** How does Selma connect to your struggle today as a bus driver?

**Georgia Scott:** This is the same struggle as 1965 in Selma. Schools were limited — all Black, all white. The education system did not work for people of color. We didn't have the books, the tools we needed. There were places we weren't allowed to go because of our color, like in the movies, in restaurants. There were neighborhoods we weren't allowed to go into. The purpose of the movement was to give us the same rights as all the other people.

I didn't really understand a lot of what was happening, but I saw the segregated schools, the segregated parts of town. I didn't understand Selma was as big as it was, and I was born there!

Right now in Boston our children can go to school where they need to go to meet their needs. I did not have that opportunity growing up. Veolia cutting back on the buses, that will limit our children, their safety and their choices of education.

The fight in Selma is the same fight as now.

**WW:** How do monitors and drivers help keep the children safe?

**GS:** The children get to know me, tell me if there is something going on at school or home. If there's a fight on the bus, I'm the one who stops the fight. I am the one who is supervising. I am the one who will stop the child from being harmed.



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Women union members at Workers World meeting say, "Victory to the school bus drivers!" Georgia Scott is second from right, back row.

A camera is not going to protect the child. It's me. I'm the one who will protect the child. That's the most important piece of our work, the monitors and the drivers.

We are the safety zone for the children.

**WW:** Why is this union a social justice union — fighting also for other people, marching with people for Palestine, for LGBT rights and so forth?

**GS:** I think we are all born with the will to resist. For me it comes with being born and raised in Alabama. My mother was on that bridge too, and I learned from her.

I also think for this union it goes back to the 1974 busing struggle [against segregation] when the drivers were transporting our children into South Boston where they weren't wanted. The drivers that came on board had the mentality of standing firm and being strong, knowing that the things going on were wrong.

This union is based on listening, going out into the community, listening to the parents, building on that, and needing to struggle.

**WW:** Some in the union are from Cape Verde and fought for liberation from Portuguese colonization, and many in this majority Haitian union are part of the struggle against imperialism in Haiti with Fanmi Lavalas.

**GS:** Our strength could also be we are a mixed group of people, from all walks of life. We've had different struggles. From being in the union, I've learned how to fight.

Sitting at the table with Transdev in particular — I call it Trans-devil! — I'm looking across the table at one of them with a smirk on his face. He is dealing with thousands of children. There is nothing funny about talking about children on the street corner, and then boxing drivers in about the children's safety.

So when I see that smirk, my feeling is I have to fight this guy, and I need to be around people who know how to fight this guy.

**WW:** How is Veolia/Transdev changing the way it computes your pay?

**GS:** The hours we are paid for are the hours listed as the time it takes to drive a route — the flat rate.

The flat rate, before Veolia put in the telematics system, was computed by experienced people who knew the specific routes on the road. They knew how long it really took to drive that particular route.

Arbitration ruled against the use of GPS for the creation and re-evaluation of flat rates, but the company is still illegally using it every day.

Now that the company is using GPS to compute the flat rate, the time they allow on routes is shorter and impossible. It doesn't allow for fire trucks, accidents, emergencies on the bus. Or enough time to stop, get the child across, take a seat, get a seat belt on. They allow half a minute for that.

We have to be able to take care of whatever is going on, and be paid for that. For instance, last year it was so cold, there was

ice inside my bus. I told dispatch I was not going to move until I warmed the bus up for the children.

But management said to me "Oh no, just go, put the kids on, and go" — in a bus with ice inside!

I said no! I'm saying no to a lot of things this company is ordering.

**WW:** I heard Veolia/Transdev tried to make the drivers reapply for their jobs when the company took over.

**GS:** Most of us, 95 percent, did not do the new hire application — one of the first things the company asked for. We said we are not new employees, the company is new. If anyone should do a new application, it should be the company — and if they had applied to us, they would not have gotten the job!

**WW:** Why do workers need a union?

**GS:** My brother is still in Selma. He's 57 years old, worked at a hospital in the kitchen, in and out of the freezer. He developed arthritis, and the doctor put him on medical leave. The company fired him. Twenty years on the job. No union, no support, no protection!

Now he's working at a laundry. I went home and rode out to his workplace to have lunch with him. My brother told me he almost could not get away to go out with me. The company policy is: "You can't have people coming here on the job."

That's what these big corporate conglomerates want, to control us. They've got the power and the money.

They've got the money. We've got the people.

One person standing alone has no power. All of us together, that's our strength.

I know the importance of the union. This is not just about Boston. It's going on in the rest of the county, and it's a global issue.

So I'm going to fight for the union!

For more information, go to workers.org and search for "Boston school bus drivers step up the fight."

To support USW Local 8751, go to [youcaring.com/rehirethe4](http://youcaring.com/rehirethe4).

# Autoworkers speak out against concessions

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

Several dozen autoworkers expressed their feelings at the "Autoworker Speak-out" in Detroit on Aug. 23. This annual event, organized by the rank-and-file advocacy group "Autoworker Caravan," is an opportunity for autoworkers to voice their anger about the concessions they have made and the record profits at Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. This year workers talked about the contracts between the United Auto Workers and the Detroit Three, which expire in the middle of September.

"I'm here because I care about eliminating two-tier, I care about eliminating the alternative work schedule, and I care about moving forward," said Alex Wassell, a member of UAW Local 869 at Chrysler Warren Stamping near Detroit.

"My grandparents came from Alabama

to work for GM. My family members have 600 years at GM," said Antwann Green, from Local 659 in Flint. "This ain't what my family fought for."

Many of those who spoke were third- and fourth-generation autoworkers. Much of what their grandparents fought for — through long strikes to win union recognition, decent wages, benefits and pensions — has been taken away in recent contracts.

The autoworkers' union fought for "equal pay for equal work." Now one of the most objectionable concessions, introduced into auto contracts in 2007, is two-tier pay. Workers hired after October 2007 make at best two-thirds the pay of their higher-seniority counterparts for the same work. Several speakers pointed out that we also have to address unequal benefits and the fact that second-tier workers don't get a pension.

The cost of living allowance, negotiated

over 60 years ago to protect wages against inflation, was taken away in 2009 during the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies. Since then, this concession has cost autoworkers \$4.10 an hour in pay. The annual improvement factor, won around the same time as COLA to compensate workers for their ever-increasing productivity, was taken away in 2007. Now the majority of autoworkers haven't had a raise in 10 years.

Alternative work schedules and mandatory overtime are key issues. AWS force a majority of workers to labor every Saturday for 10 hours, for which they are paid straight time. The overtime premium is only paid after 40 hours in a week, which is mandatory under the Fair Labor Standards Act, but not after eight hours in a day, as had been required under the contract until 2009.

The overwhelming majority of workers at the meeting raised their hands when asked if they would vote "no" on a

contract that didn't get rid of the two-tier wage system. As they have done in the past, activists in the room were prepared to campaign in their plants for a no vote if necessary. Judy Wraight, a retired Local 600 Ford worker, described the 2009 campaign against mid-contract concessions. Ford did not declare bankruptcy, but wanted the same givebacks that had been squeezed out of GM and Chrysler workers. The concessions were rejected resoundingly.

Workers listened to presentations about autoworkers in Mexico, striking GM workers in Brazil and Colombian GM workers who had been fired.

Workers discussed the fact that they might need to strike to get a decent contract. "Be prepared to take to the streets," said Scott Houldieson, vice president of Local 551 at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant. "That's the only way we got anything in the past." □

# Federal gov't: 'College athletes don't deserve rights'

By Scott Williams

Nearly a year and a half after the regional director of the National Labor Relations Board declared that Northwestern University football players have the right to unionize, the national board reversed that decision.

Citing the need for "stability in labor relations," the NLRB claimed that it was denied the jurisdiction to determine whether college players should have the right to collective bargaining. This effectively denies all players the basic right of workers to settle disputes with their employer on issues such as pay, scholarships, benefits, health care and working conditions.

The NLRB argument goes like this: Northwestern University is one of 17 private colleges out of 125 Division 1 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) football teams. The original decision last March by the NLRB, which explicitly stated that students were employees, was only for private colleges. College football players for public universities in North Carolina or Wisconsin, for example, are unable to have a union contract because their states forbid public workers the right to bargain collectively.

Therefore, the federal government does not want to resolve this complex situation by giving "student-athletes" more rights that might encourage a challenge to the "right-to-work" (for less) laws of many states. Instead of taking a bold stance for workers' rights, the board refused to claim its own authority.

The board failed to take up the primary question of whether so-called stu-

dent-athletes were, in fact, workers, with the same rights as any other university employees. In the sickening ruling, the NLRB stated that Northwestern football players "bear little resemblance to graduate student assistants or student janitors and cafeteria workers whose employee status the board has considered in other cases." (The Atlantic, Aug. 17)

## 'Student-athletes' are workers

Northwestern football players, like student-athletes across the country, face 50-hour-a-week practices. They have little or no control over their academic schedules. Former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter testified to the NLRB that he was pushed to pursue a less rigorous degree in psychology rather than studying to become a doctor because of academic scheduling conflicts with daily football practices.

The University of North Carolina, which is known for its excellent women's and men's basketball teams, was recently found to have enrolled thousands of student-athletes in fake classes over 18 years in order to make these students eligible to play.

While academic rigor suffers, sports programs have become a major cash cow for universities. The 10 most profitable college football programs had revenues of \$762 million in 2012. (Newsweek, Aug. 22) While other college sports programs may be less profitable for universities, it is clear that universities have the ability to provide basic pay, health care and other protections for their student-athletes.

The NCAA's unwillingness to treat athletes as workers is a particularly shame-

ful example of how higher education institutions in the United States have been focused on reproducing exploitation and oppression, rather than being institutions of social uplift. In a time of fiscal crisis, universities across the country have spent billions on new facilities, academic buildings and student centers, all of which pad the coffers of banks and developers.

The University of California system, for example, paid out over \$8.9 billion for new projects in 2012, yet at the same time had to cut budgets by over \$2.6 billion, requiring tuition hikes, laying off employees and hiring more temporary, low-wage adjuncts. (Washington Monthly, March 20, 2012)

Total national student debt continues to climb above \$1.3 trillion, as more costs of education are shifted onto the backs of students. Now more than ever, a student-worker movement is needed to combat this growing exploitation on university campuses.

The vast majority of students and student-athletes are workers in training. That doesn't shield them from the fate of other workers. Christian Taylor, a 19-year-old Black man and Division II college football player at Angelo State in Texas, was killed by a white cop in Arlington, Texas, earlier in August. Jonathan Ferrell, a former college football player who was working two retail jobs to survive, was killed by Charlotte, N.C., police in September 2013 while asking for help after a car accident.

Some 98 percent of college athletes never play a professional sport. Many are left with health crises caused by their

work as athletes. According to Newsweek, studies have found that for every one concussion reported by college football players, they have suffered six suspected concussions and 21 hits to the head.

The National Football League Players Association, the union of NFL players, successfully sued the league for over \$1 billion in damages related to concussions. Yet for the most part the crisis of health conditions for football players continues.

## NLRB: Capitalist institution

Why did the leadership of the NLRB unanimously deny Northwestern players the right to unionize?

As long as the exploitation of labor exists, workers will be uniting against the bosses. The struggle for college-athletes' rights has a tremendous potential to ignite broader sections of the population into solidarity with workers' struggles. The NLRB knows this. Hence the NLRB chose "stability" over affirming the basic human rights of these players.

The NLRB's callous exclusion of college-athletes from the same protections and rights as other university employees exudes the class prejudice of the NLRB on all levels. The only rights this institution has ever confirmed are rights that workers have asserted through labor and political struggle. Laws only ratify the rights that are already practiced.

At a time when labor unions are struggling to survive endless attacks by the billionaire owning class, workers must never wait for the capitalist government to give us rights. We must take what is rightfully ours. □

# Joe Johnson, a fighter for workers and the oppressed

By Deirdre Griswold

Picture this: You have fallen in your own home and can't get up. You live alone and the telephone is at one end of a long hall. You are lying at the other end.

Joe Johnson of Chippewa Falls, Wisc., a longtime subscriber to Workers World, first came to our editorial board's attention when he sent us a letter in 2007 describing how he had spent five days — five days! — inching his way along the floor until he could call for help.

It was the thought of Workers World and the struggles of the oppressed everywhere that kept him going, he wrote.

Johnson died on Aug. 5 at the age of 84. He had been living for several years in a modest room at the Wiscota Health and Regional Vent Center dealing with serious health problems. It was cancer that finally brought him down. But up to the very last days of his life, this veteran of many struggles

exuded revolutionary optimism, energy and courage, signing all his letters "In the spirit of Crazy Horse! We shall win!"

In his many letters to the paper and conversations with comrades from Workers World Party who visited him, Joe exuded a fighting spirit and a broad knowledge of history — especially of the class struggle in the U.S. since the 1930s and the heroic battles of nationally oppressed peoples for freedom and sovereignty.

Joe was born in Chicago in 1930. When



Joe Johnson with Ed Childs, Larry Hales and Bryan G. Pfeifer of Workers World Party.

still young, he met the leaders of the great Minneapolis general strike of 1934 — revolutionary socialists who had helped build the Teamsters union. In the 1950s he resisted the draft during the U.S. war against People's Korea and spent time in federal prison for his anti-war stand. He also worked in Canada periodically from the 1950s on. In later years, he promoted progressive knowledge and concepts through bookstores he acquired in the Chippewa Falls area.

Joe Johnson understood the power of the workers when organized and conscious of their goal, and was inspired when labor and youth occupied the State Capitol in Wisconsin trying to stop Gov. Scott Walker's union-busting drive. But he knew they needed revolutionary communist leadership and organization to sustain that struggle.

WW organizer Bryan G. Pfeifer, who visited Joe about twice a year, recalls that "the first thing he'd do is hand me

a stack of bills he had saved in the intervening months since our last visit. Being indigent, he only received on average about \$10-\$20 a month from the state and also possibly some contributions from friends. Handing me his diligently saved funds, he'd say, 'Use this for whatever the party needs and build the party.'

"He wanted to immediately discuss the class struggles going on, all with an internationalist focus. He particularly was interested in the youth and students joining WWP and the work of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST). He was an implacable foe of the repressive bodies of the capitalist-imperialist state such as the police and military.

"He never abandoned the oppressed, consistently insisting on the need for working-class white workers to fight chauvinism and white supremacy and to support formations such as the Black Lives Matter movement."

This was consistent with Johnson's earlier support for the Vietnamese national liberation struggle, the Irish liberation struggle, the American Indian Movement, the Black Panthers and many other Black liberation forces, the Brown Berets and the women's and lesbian-gay-bi-trans-queer liberation movements.

Joe Johnson made his mark on history and will long be remembered with great affection. □

# Military whistleblower gets massive support

By Kathy Durkin

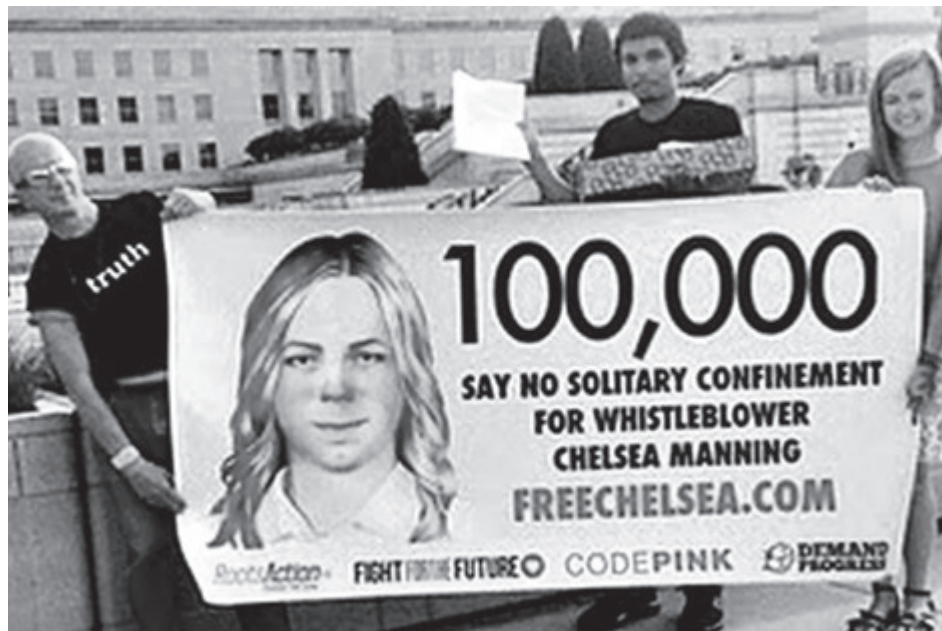
Supporters of imprisoned whistleblower Chelsea Manning held banners and delivered petitions containing 100,000 signatures to the U.S. Army's congressional liaison office in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 18. They called on a secret panel at Kansas' Fort Leavenworth military prison, which was meeting that day, not to sentence this courageous anti-war fighter to "indefinite solitary confinement," as officials had threatened to do for alleged violations of regulations.

The military panel found Manning guilty on all four charges. However, the mass support for Manning had an impact, as officials decided to restrict Manning's access to the gym, library and the outdoors for 21 days, rather than carry out their original threatened punishment of solitary confinement. Manning's attorneys were barred from attending the hearing, despite her request that it be open to the public, particularly to her legal representatives.

But this punishment isn't without repercussions for Manning in the future. As she explained by phone after the hearing to members of her support committee: "Now these convictions will follow me through to any parole and clemency hearings forever. I was expecting to be in minimum security custody in February, but now years [are] added." ([chelseamanning.org](http://chelseamanning.org))

At the same blog, Manning's attorney, Nancy Hollander, responded to the military panel's ruling, saying, "As Chelsea's lawyer, I am horrified and angry about these convictions. This was a star chamber where Chelsea had to defend herself in secret. These convictions will not silence her. She will only be stronger, and we will fight that much harder in her appeal to overturn her convictions and her sentence."

In their continuing harassment campaign against Manning, prison authorities had charged her with ludicrous infractions, including having a tube of toothpaste past its expiration date — which was sold to her by the prison. Another charge was for "disrespecting a



guard." Manning had asked to speak to her attorney while being reprimanded about an incident in the mess hall, for which she was found guilty of disorderly conduct.

Prison officials targeted Manning for having "unauthorized reading material," which included the "U.S. Senate Report on Torture"; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender publications and articles; an issue of *Vanity Fair* portraying Caitlyn Jenner on the cover; and a copy of *Cosmopolitan* containing an interview with Manning. Yet all of these materials

had been delivered through the prison's mail system.

When Manning requested access to the prison library prior to the hearing to help prepare for her defense, prison officials said no.

## The 'war diaries'

The military confinement of Army Pvt. Manning began five years ago. In a May 27 *Guardian* article, Manning reflects on her imprisonment and her decision in 2010 to release "the war diaries," classified documents that revealed, as she put



it, the "horrific outlook" on the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the "war on terrorism" and the "exploitation of developing countries." Manning's intention was to reveal the truth about these wars to the peoples of the world.

For these acts, a military judge sentenced Manning on Aug. 21, 2013, to a 35-year term for violating the Espionage Act of 1917. This extremely brutal punishment has been denounced by scores of human rights, civil liberties, anti-war and legal organizations and activists.

The day after the sentence was pronounced, "I finally announced my intent to change my name [from Bradley to Chelsea] and transition to living as a woman, a personal high point for me, despite my other circumstances," says Manning.

Because of Manning's principled actions, courage and integrity — as an opponent of imperialist war and as a trans person — the military has never let up on its campaign of harassment, looking for any excuse to persecute her.

Manning says what sustains her is the support from her friends, family and millions of people around the world. In that vein, she thanked her supporters for their love and support on Twitter, the day after the hearing at Fort Leavenworth and the protest in Washington.

Free Chelsea Manning! □

## STOCK MARKET CRASH Symptom of capitalist decay

*Continued from page 1*

in those chosen few corporate executives who manage the criminal acts of this dog-eat-dog system and get ever so nicely rewarded with "salaries" in the millions.

### Stocks crash, rise and crash again

Capitalist stock market crashes are nothing new. China was an impoverished, semi-feudal, landlord-ridden country when the first big market collapses began jerking people around in Europe and the U.S. in the 19th century. China was still in that condition when the 1929 global market crash happened in the West, leading to a decade of extreme poverty for the workers — the Great Depression.

Since then there have been market crashes every seven or eight years. Some investors have gained, more have lost. But an interesting thing happened with the 2008-09 crash. There has never been a real capitalist "recovery" since then.

Unemployment has remained high, even in the developed capitalist countries — especially in Europe, but also in the U.S. Millions of workers here have

just given up on finding a job, and millions more are still trying to get into the job market for the first time.

Workers are overburdened with debt that becomes increasingly unpayable. Home mortgages, car mortgages, credit card debt, student loans — they are now seen as the next bubbles to burst.

When the super-rich do relax their tight grip on their money and invest in production, it is likely a super-automated plant that costs billions and will employ at most a few hundred workers.

This is what capitalism has brought us to, and there is no easy way out.

### Tear the system down!

All the glorious expectations created by the enormous scientific and technological breakthroughs of the last century and a half boil down to this: The rich have gotten unspeakably richer, the poor are getting poorer while being beaten down by cops and wars, and the environment, the planet we live on, is being wrecked by an economic system based on greed and exploitation.

That is not China's fault. Hopefully, the lessons of this market collapse will spur

on those in China who want to reorient their development plans away from using the capitalist market to stimulate the economy. It is a stimulant that can become a depressant only too quickly. And it also breaks down the solidarity of the masses — which made China's transformation possible in the first place.

China didn't cause this crisis. On the contrary, it was the success of China's amazingly rapid development over the last few decades that kept the capitalist economies in the rest of the world afloat. They flocked to China to exploit cheap labor and stayed because of the rapidly expanding modern infrastructure and the availability of millions of educated, skilled young workers. But those things came from China's ability to plan its development — the product of its socialist revolution.

Now it looks like the temporary boost that China's growth gave to Western capitalism after the crash of 2008 wasn't enough to keep this system going. All the laws of social development say that it is time to organize and fight here for a thorough overturn of the system — from the bottom up. □

## WAR

### WITHOUT VICTORY

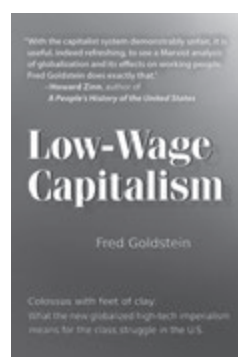
by Sara Flounders

*"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."*

— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and bookstores around the country.

[PentagonAchillesHeel.com](http://PentagonAchillesHeel.com)



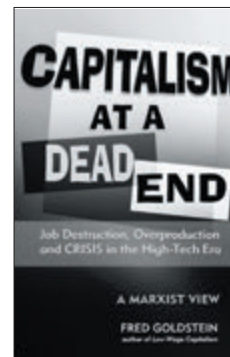
### Low-Wage Capitalism

describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx's law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.



### 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](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)

Available at all major online booksellers.

## Charleston Days of Grace

# Thousands to mobilize vs. racism, police violence and for workers' rights

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

Organizing is accelerating for the “Days of Grace, Love’s Work Is Justice” events to be held in Charleston, S.C., over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5 and 6. The event commemorates the nine Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church parishioners killed on June 17 by a white racist, as well as Walter Scott, killed by the police in North Charleston in early April.

It will pay a special tribute to Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the state senator and church minister who was one of those gunned down by Dylann Roof, a white supremacist. Roof had been photographed with Confederate flags and wearing the insignia of the former racist apartheid and settler colonial regimes in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and the Republic of South Africa.

Roof had sat among the attendees of a bible study for one hour on June 17 before he stood up and said he had to kill African Americans because they were “assaulting white women and taking over the United States.”

The Labor Day events are being coordinated by the International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1422, which has engaged in numerous labor actions over recent years.

A statement posted on the ILA website reads: “Guns inflicted the fatal wounds of April and June, but racism, poverty and the politics of rancor and discord have long inflicted grave wounds on the State’s poor and most vulnerable people. This Labor Day, people of faith and conscience will come together in Charleston to remember our fallen friends and to reflect on the racism and hatred that lay at the root of their deaths, as well as the violence that tears away at the fabric of our communities.”

In addition to being a center in the struggle against racism, Charleston has

been a focal point for a burgeoning workers’ movement led by African Americans. Since the days of slavery, the African population in South Carolina has had its labor exploited by the ruling class and has resisted injustice.

African-American workers are seeking to link the escalation in police and vigilante violence against the community with the need to rejuvenate the movement for jobs and living wages. Following the Mother Emanuel massacre, thousands demonstrated, as part of a protracted struggle, to remove the Confederate flag from the State Capitol building in Columbia, demanding that this symbol of slavery and racism be taken down.

According to Leonard Riley Jr., vice president of ILA Local 1422, “There is a feeling that the people of good will need to be heard in this moment. The removal of the Confederate flag was a hopeful sign that the state is ready to move forward. But we need to back that up with policies that make this a better state to live in for everyone.” (Charleston Post & Courier, Aug. 21)

Riley also noted, “Nearly 70 organizations have joined the call for a march and strategy conference ... to help build a more fair, tolerant and peaceful South Carolina.” These endorsing and sponsoring groups include churches, student organizations, social clubs and civil rights activists.

Thousands of people from the local area and from around the U.S. are expected to travel to Charleston over this Labor Day weekend for the gathering.

On Sept. 5, a demonstration and rally will be held in downtown Charleston. The



action is scheduled to start at Wragg Square and then march to Mother Emanuel and finally end in Marion Square. After the demonstration and rally, a conference will convene that afternoon beginning at 2 p.m. and will continue the following day. (daysofgrace-charleston.org)

### Focus on police violence

Walter Scott was gunned down April 4, the 47th anniversary of the martyrdom of Martin Luther King Jr., by white police officer Michael Slager after a traffic stop in North Charleston. Angry over this racist killing, organizers rallied the community against law-enforcement violence directed against the people.

“We have to heal and we have to do better,” Riley added. “That’s the challenge we face, and that’s the mantra of this call to action.”

Scott was stopped supposedly for a traffic violation and was shot repeatedly in the back by Slager. A Dominican worker walking through the area videotaped the killing on his cell phone, capturing a horrendous crime which is all too common on U.S. streets.

Due to the video documentation of the killing and the mass demonstrations taking place throughout the country surrounding police misconduct, the officer was arrested and charged with murder. It remains to be seen if he will actually be convicted and, if so, receives a sentence commensurate with this crime.

### Anti-racist activities under state scrutiny

This Labor Day event comes amid an escalation in demonstrations and rebel-

lions against racist violence and economic exploitation directed towards African Americans. The two largest rebellions over the last year have taken place in the southern states of Missouri — in Ferguson and St. Louis — and Maryland in Baltimore.

Ruling class forces and law-enforcement agencies are reacting to the rising militancy and intolerance for racism among African-American youth and workers. Consequently, efforts are well underway to attempt to neutralize the growing struggle to end police violence against the people.

Allegations have been made recently that the Black Lives Matter movement and other organizations have come under surveillance by the state. Such charges were made in Charleston after BLM was one of the first groups to protest against the killing of Scott and demand that his killer be arrested and prosecuted.

Black Lives Matter Charleston organizer Muhiyidin d’Baha told the Charleston City Paper that the group had to enforce “a no-cameras policy at its meetings after the Scott shooting when newcomers started showing up and snapping pictures.” (Aug. 21)

“We were aware that there were new people coming into the meetings that were asking a bunch of questions,” d’Baha said. “We were aware that there were people coming into our initial meetings right after Walter Scott that were just taking pictures.”

The activist stressed: “These things were definitely happening and definitely scared people away with the knowing or not knowing of who was behind these cameras and what their intention was. There was a lot of fear, and there’s still a lot of fear, among the people that need to rise up right now.”

The Charleston City Paper also reported, “Recently released emails from North Charleston city employees show that the actions of protest groups including Black Lives Matter Charleston were being monitored by the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the American Red Cross, both of which sent emails to city staff informing them about upcoming organizational meetings and the arrival of Ferguson, Mo., residents at a hotel in Summerville. D’Baha says he does not know if the newcomers at the meetings were working for a law enforcement agency, but the effect of their presence was palpable.”

Due to the current atmosphere prevailing in many cities throughout the U.S., law-enforcement agencies are clearly being coordinated on a national level to contain the protest.

Unrest broke out recently in the city of St. Louis after the police killed an 18-year-old African American. A heavy police presence and its use of teargas and pepper spray triggered the stoning of police and the burning of an abandoned building and a vehicle. In nearby Ferguson the first anniversary of the death of Michael Brown ignited further demonstrations and civil unrest.

Until the federal government addresses the police brutality and killings directed against African Americans and other oppressed people, these demonstrations and rebellions will likely grow and become more militant and politically directed against the state and the corporate ruling interests. □

## Jailhouse death still unexplained

By **Susan Schnur**  
Cleveland

Ralkina Jones was found dead in a Cleveland Heights jail cell on July 26. Only 37 years old, this African-American woman was a mother and friend to many people. As more information is forced out of the Cleveland Heights Law Department, suspicion grows that gross neglect and official indifference may have been important factors leading to her death.

Jones was very worried about the administering of her prescription medications by jail staff and can be seen on camera telling police that she “[does] not want to die in your cell.” (Daily Mirror, Aug. 12) Later footage released to the media shows a gap of six hours before she was found dead in her cell. There are also large slices of footage missing from the period after her body was found. (Cleveland.com, Aug. 22)

Documents released to the media on Aug. 13 show discrepancies in how Jones was given her prescription medications. The medications log sheet shows that she took her medicine two times in 24 hours,



**RALKINA JONES**  
37 years old

while the jail logs show she was given her prescriptions three times in 24 hours.

Dr. Jeannie Lee, an associate pharmacy professor from the University of Arizona, reviewed the logs for NBC News and said there was potential for an adverse drug interaction.

According to the “Standards for Jails in Ohio, Full Service & Minimum Security Jails, Courts and Community Jail Oversight,” updated May 2014, any “health-trained personnel” can dispense prescription medication to people in Ohio jails. These personnel are defined as “members of the jail staff that are trained in limited aspects of health care, including correctional officers and other personnel approved by the jail physician.”

It boggles the mind that a trained and licensed home health aide cannot even touch an aspirin to give to a client, but a jail guard trained in “limited aspects of health care” can hand out multiple medications with absolutely no knowledge of their potentially deadly interactions.

As of Aug. 22, no toxicology data had been released by the Cuyahoga County medical examiner. The family of Ralkina Jones has been very frustrated by the lack of information given them by Cleveland Heights officials.

“We’ve got to fight and stay on it because everything’s not right about this situation,” said Fredrick Johnson, Jones’ cousin. □

# Carlos Riley not guilty! Jury rejects cop story

By Dante Strobino  
Durham, N.C.

It's been a long, two-and-a-half-year fight to free Carlos Riley Jr., from Durham County jails in North Carolina. However, on Aug. 14, after weeks of family members and supporters packing the county courthouse, a big step was taken towards justice in his case.

Jurors found Riley, who had been accused of shooting a Durham police officer, not guilty of all state charges, except for "common law robbery." Riley is appealing the last charge.

On Dec. 18, 2012, Riley had been sitting in his car on the side of the road after dropping his girlfriend off at work. Off-duty Durham police officer Kelly Stewart approached Riley in an unmarked car and began to harass him. Riley struggled in self-defense against an unwarranted stop and being attacked by the cop. Stewart then pulled his gun out and, yelling threatening language, shot himself in the leg.

The Durham Police Department and other officials attempted to keep this from getting out. They accused Riley of fighting with and shooting the officer, and then stealing his gun. But documents presented in court showed otherwise, including "1 shot fired by officer" written on an official DPD Gunshot Residue Analysis form less than two hours after the incident.

Riley was facing 460 months — 38 years — of state prison time, but he refused a plea deal and chose to fight for justice before a jury. "I am happy that he stood strong to not take a plea that was offered," Riley's father, Carlos Riley Sr., told Workers World. He continued, "He was offered a plea to walk free, but he refused because he wanted to fight for not only himself, but other Black men that have been faced with the same situation of police brutality."

District Attorney Roger Echols, working closely with the Durham Police Department, attempted to cover the department's tracks by smearing Riley with criminal charges — just as cops and the



media do in almost every case where Black people are either killed by cops or defend their lives. The DA claimed that Riley shot Stewart with Stewart's gun. The DA and police tried to keep several pieces of crucial evidence — that proved Stewart had shot himself, despite his testimony that he did not shoot his gun — away from the jury.

However, family members and community supporters packed the court for the nearly three weeks of trial, sitting in the room and keeping pressure on the judge and jury, while defense attorney Alex Charns brought out some of the racist tactics of the police. Charns cited figures showing that in the year before Stewart was shot, his traffic stops involved Black people 77 percent of the time. Charns also delivered subpoenas to Police Chief Jose Lopez, which were denied.

Before the trial started, prosecutors had requested an off-the-record sidebar discussion with the judge and attorney Charns, during which they requested the judge remove Charns from the case. Charns then asked that the discussion be put on public record and the judge refused the prosecution's request.

In the lead-up to a previously resolved

federal trial that took place in 2013, three separate public defenders who had been appointed to Riley's case all backed out under political pressure. There had been dozens of demonstrations demanding freedom for Riley. Several community organizations, including Liberty and Justice for Carlos Riley Jr., SpiritHouse, the Inside-Outside Alliance, the Durham Solidarity Center and many others joined together to challenge the city, county and federal governments to drop the charges.

Many of the rallies took place outside the new, state-of-the-art correctional facility in downtown Durham, where Riley was held. On one occasion, the street in front was shut down for 30 minutes by protesters, impacting visitors to the fancy Durham Performing Arts Center across the street. The center draws in millions of

dollars of revenue for the city every year. During the lead-up to his federal trial, Riley — who was only 21 years old at the time — was under extreme pressure. Facing several decades in federal prison, he had agreed to a guilty plea on one charge in exchange for dropping the remaining charges at the federal level. This resulted in a maximum sentence of 10 years, which he is now serving.

The information uncovered as part of this most recent state trial was being withheld by the DPD during the federal trial — illustrating one of the terrible problems that have led to an incredibly unjust system of mass incarceration. Ninety-seven percent of federal convictions are the result of guilty pleas that force people to serve prison sentences without ever getting a trial.

Riley, like millions of other Black, Brown and working-class prisoners in jail, won't be free until a massive movement in this country can topple this entire system once and for all and replace it with a system run by the masses. □



Carlos Riley Jr., above.

Protest in Durham, N.C.

PHOTO: CARLOS RILEY JR. WEEBLY.COM

## Tased man dies from fall

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

On Aug. 21, a crowd of family members and community activists gathered at the DeKalb County Courthouse to protest the death of 32-year-old Troy Robinson, who died after being Tasered by police on Aug. 6.

Robinson was a passenger in a car that was stopped in a neighborhood where police were conducting a "robbery suppression detail." Reportedly, the reason for the stop was a tag violation. The car had a temporary drive-out tag from a dealer. In Georgia, it is illegal for police to stop a vehicle simply to check the validity of a tag.

The driver of the car informed police that he had a legally permitted handgun. While police were securing the gun, Robinson exited the car and began running away.

DeKalb officer Casey Benton followed in pursuit. Robinson attempted to scale an eight-foot cement block wall. Although another police officer was on the opposite

side of the wall, Benton used his Taser to strike the unarmed Robinson in the back, causing him to fall and break his neck.

Numerous witnesses claim that police did nothing to assist the injured man, despite his pleas for help. Authorities say he died at the hospital.

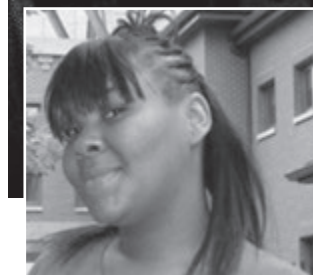
Lawyers for the Robinson family charge Benton with violating the county department's use-of-force rules, which prohibit the use of a Taser when a suspect is fleeing and when its use would likely cause a fatal fall.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is in charge of determining the facts in this case.

Robinson's death at the hands of the police is one more in a list of suspicious deaths that includes those of Kevin Davis and Anthony Hill.

Davis was shot in his own home after he called 911 for help for his injured girlfriend. Hill, an Afghanistan veteran, naked and suffering from a mental breakdown, was shot in the parking lot of his apartment complex. □

## Justice for Rekia Boyd!



Above, protesters outside Police Board hearing in Chicago. Left, Rekia Boyd.

By Danielle Katz and Andy Katz

Hundreds packed and ultimately shut down a Chicago Police Board hearing Aug. 20 as they delivered over 10,000 petitions demanding the termination of Detective Dante Servin.

In March 2012, Servin fired shots into a group of unarmed Black people, killing 22-year-old Rekia Boyd. In April 2015, Servin was acquitted of manslaughter charges related to this killing.

Before the demonstrators shut down the meeting with chants of "Say her name" and "Will you fire Dante Servin?" Boyd's brother, Martine Sutton, addressed the hearing: "For three years my family has been disrespected. I've been harassed

and I've stood tall. All I'm asking is that this officer gets fired. He killed my sister in cold blood."

Outside police headquarters, hundreds more demonstrated in support of those inside the hearing. Holding banners and signs that read, "Say her name," "Unapologetically Black" and "Fire Dante Servin," those gathered spoke out against police murders and brutality.

"This board is not valid," said one Black Youth Project 100 member to the crowd. "No one is going to bring their grievances in front of this board."

"Justice does not live here, it lives in the hearts of all of us out here in the streets, in the struggle. Rekia should be here with us." □

## COLOMBIA

# Stop victimizations by the state!

*The Peace Delegation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia- People's Army (FARC-EP) has been holding peace talks in Havana, Cuba, with representatives of the Colombian government since 2012. The delegation sent out the following declaration (www.pazfarc-ep.org) on Aug. 22 that WW publishes here. Translation by WW managing editor John Catalinotto.*

In previous statements we have insisted that there should be consistency between the purposes outlined in the commitment to expedite the talks in Havana and de-escalate the conflict in Colombia. And while the FARC-EP have put all their effort into it, the Colombian State has lacked the corresponding energy and commitment.

We should emphasize that although we have acted with full transparency and rigor to implement the unilateral ceasefires, State ground operations have caused deaths and injuries to guerrilla fighters and have captured them in different parts of the country, jeopardizing the truce and the proper conducting of the peace pro-

cess. The position of holding talks without stopping the battles is a losing formula.

Circumstances that make it difficult to make advances through talks are precipitated when it is apparent that simultaneously with the unleashing of attacks against the insurgency, there is also an increase of threats, harassment, imprisonment, assassinations and all kinds of hostilities against popular leaders, defenders of human rights and the Colombian social movement in general.

Recently the eleventh report of the Asturian Delegation Verifying the Status of Human Rights in Colombia, 2015, documented that "Colombia continues to suffer from a situation of social and armed conflict. The country is far from living in a postconflict situation or of normalcy regarding human rights. Most of the recommendations made to the government and the commitments regarding human rights remain unfulfilled."

The reports notes, in the context of the data it presents, the overwhelming responsibility of the State, adding that "there continue to be attacks against

trade unionists, people who defend human rights, journalists, political opponents and opponents of mining, energy and agri-food multinational projects." It was said that "continuing violations of international humanitarian law, violations of the principle of distinction [between civilians and combatants] and the use of property of civilians in armed conflict ...; the vast majority of crimes go unpunished and underreported, as in the case of enforced disappearances, sexual violence and torture," among other major indicators that include the increase of paramilitaries, army abuses and the greed of transnational corporations.

Now, among several other testimonies that attest to the persisting humanitarian crisis, the report "The Nobodies" [Los Nadie] has become known; it was presented by the program We Are Defenders, which describes the dramatic situation faced by those defending human rights, who are condemned to a daily sacrifice in a scenario that apparently exposes the collusion of the regime with the perpetrators of the crimes.

It has been confirmed by several independent sources, for example, that in the first six months of this year, 34 people who were human rights defenders were killed, and that during the five years of government of Juan Manuel Santos the total number was 317. But, in addition, reports indicate that there were at least 1,480 attacks and 196 threats, with the aggravating circumstance that, as told by the We Are Defenders program in its semi-annual report January-June 2015, "the Attorney General's Office has a decided lack of political and administrative will to find those responsible for attacks against defenders of human rights in Colombia; but in contrast, one can see a strong and determined speed and effectiveness of this institution and its investigative bodies to prosecute and criminalize human rights defenders and their actions when they are accused of various crimes."

With absolute willingness to carry forward the talks to reach the signing of the Final Agreement, as representatives of the insurgency, we say it is already past time to stop generating additional victims. □

## Dominicans, Haitians protest deportation

On Saturday morning, Aug. 22, the organization "We are all Dominicans" held a protest at the Dominican Republic Consulate in New York City's Times Square to demand "No deportations, here or there!"

Some Haitians and progressive North Americans, as well as Dominican workers, participated in the protest.

In 2013, a Dominican court moved to strip citizenship from hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent, covering those born in the Dominican Republic as far back as 1929. Since then, the government has instituted a staggered program of deportations, a few at a time. Racist vigilante groups, using intimidation and violence, have been "encouraging" more people to self-deport.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians who went to the DR more recently to do



low-paid cane cutting and construction work are likewise under attack.

"We are all Dominicans" has been active in the Dominican community in the United States in raising the issue of racism and keeping pressure on the government of the DR.

The Coalition for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic, organized by Haitian militants in the U.S., had held a march from Grand Army Plaza in Brook-

lyn to City Hall on Aug. 14. That is the anniversary of "Bois Caiman," the clandestine meeting that touched off the Haitian Revolution in 1791.

The Haitian march, which drew support from progressive Dominicans as well as North Americans, not only raised the issue of racism in the DR but also brought up the inadequate response of the Haitian government.

On Aug. 17, thousands of Haitians demonstrated at the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo, the capital of the DR, to demand identification documents that the Dominican government requires for residency permits. They had paid a processing fee of \$22 — a lot of money for a cane cutter or construction worker in the DR — but the embassy had failed to produce the papers.

According to the Dominican Interior Ministry, only 7.2 percent of the foreign residents in the DR had been given residency permits, called carnets, as of the first week of August.

The Unión de Trabajadores Cañeros de los Bateyes (UTC) called the demonstration at the Haitian Embassy, as well as an earlier one of 15,000 sugarcane cutters outside the Presidential Palace in Santo Domingo, to demand residency permits.

The UTC is an independent labor organization founded by cane cutters from Haiti. (Haïti-Liberté, Aug. 19-25)

Pressure is growing both in the DR and in Haiti to resolve this issue before it becomes a major catastrophe. The U.S. government obviously has a lot of influence over what happens in the DR, but has remained silent.

— Report and photo by G. Dunkel

## Solidarity with the people of Ecuador & Brazil

*U.S. imperialism attempts to undermine any government in Latin America that exhibits independence from Washington's dictates. In the past weeks especially, the governments of Ecuador and Brazil have been facing protest demonstrations, including rightist elements, which are promoted by imperialist media. The following statement was written by leftist intellectuals in the region opposing U.S. intervention and translated by WW managing editor John Catalinotto.*

Aug. 20, 2015

We, representatives of social movements of Panama, as a broad expression from the Panamanian people, first of all express our strong support for the statement by the Political Council of the ALBA-TCP, developed at an extraordinary meeting in Caracas on Aug. 10. [ALBA-TCP is a trade agreement among Latin American nations. — WW]

Likewise, we denounce the plans of imperialism, which by using strategies of destabilization, stalks and conspires to overturn progressive governments of the region legitimately elected by their peoples.

It is no coincidence that demonstrations with similar characteristics are taking place simultaneously in countries

whose peoples have decided to take the path of emancipation. Such demonstrations are encouraged and supported by external elements and the media that serve the interests of the oligarchies.

This description fits the specific cases involving the incessant attacks against Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Ecuador, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and more recently against the Federal Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Ecuador, where similar destabilization scripts have been repeated, put into effect through financing, training, manipulation and other strategies of UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE,\* like those that have already been carried out in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Libya, Ukraine and others, in order to undermine the sovereignty and seize natural resources belonging to the people.

\*According to Training Circular 18-01, one of the principal U.S. documents on the doctrine of unconventional warfare for the Special Forces Operations of the United States Army, unconventional warfare is interference in a country, and its political purpose is to obtain dominance without using war technology. It is a physical penetration of a political, economic and cultural character, carried

out by a powerful country in unequal conditions in order to force the other country to submit and to expropriate its water, mineral and/or energy resources. This tactic has been devised not only as a major form of aggression, but as a strategic tool of U.S. foreign policy.

The United States deploys all its might beyond its borders, using a strategy that is not in itself new, but it is now assigning this strategy a new level of priority. Acts of unconventional warfare are those aiming to undermine and degrade the morale and the political, psychological, military and economic strength of the country as well as to trigger events that are catalysts for creating conditions leading to foreign intervention.

The media play a crucial role in this strategy. In Panama, for example, we have a press that misrepresents the facts, spreads disinformation and distorts the news in the interest of powerful groups in the country.

In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to respect the sovereignty of states and non-intervention in the internal affairs of our people. At the same time, we express our repudiation of the attempt to undermine the democratic institutions of Ecuador and Brazil, carried out by sectors

of the right wing orchestrated by U.S. imperialism and groups possessing media and economic power at an international level. We support the people and the government led by President Rafael Correa in Ecuador and President Dilma Rousseff in Brazil, in their efforts to solve their problems while preserving peace, democracy and the well-being of their peoples. We reject the implementation of "soft coups," through the use of psychological warfare operations that undermine legitimately constituted governments using the means of communications.

Likewise, the undersigned reaffirm the need to strengthen the continental unity of our peoples and regional integration, to address these threats, in order to defend human rights, our sovereignty and the free development of our peoples.

We the undersigned: Network of Intellectuals, Artists and Social Movements in Defense of Humanity, Panama chapter.

Coordinators: Ana Maria Pinilla V; Gilma Camargo; Association of Relatives and Friends of the Fallen of Dec. 20, 1989 - Trinidad Ayola; Broad Front for Democracy-FAD; Peoples Party - Moisés Carrasquilla; Citizens' Pole - Olmedo Beluche; Independent Movement for National Re-foundation - MIREN. □



# Donbass residents rally as Kiev regime prepares new military assault

By Greg Butterfield

The rightist regime in Kiev, Ukraine, carried out overnight shelling of Donetsk city and threatened an imminent new military offensive by Ukrainian troops. Despite this, thousands of people in Donetsk city rallied Aug. 24 to demand that the Kiev regime, headed by President Petro Poroshenko, stop the war against the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics of the Donbass region.

The anti-war protest, titled "Ukraine's Dependence Day," was a rejoinder to the jingoistic independence day celebrations organized in Ukraine by the junta of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and fascists. This grouping took power with U.S.-European Union backing in February 2014. The far-right regime has been dependent on Western economic and military support ever since.

On the same date — Aug. 24 — in 1991, pro-capitalist and nationalist forces in Ukraine had declared "independence" from the Soviet Union. This year, a social media call for a flashmob in central Donetsk brought young and old into the streets. They marched from the statue of Taras Shevchenko, an 18th-century Ukrainian nationalist figure, to the statue of V.I. Lenin, leader of the revolution that established the first modern, multinational Ukrainian state as part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

They carried flags of the Donetsk republic and signs reading, "Poroshenko — puppet in the U.S. show," "You've already perished, Ukraine" (a reference to Kiev's national anthem), and "Stop the war, bloody President Poroshenko." (From online reports by Denis Grigoryuk and Novorossia Today)

## Offensive looms, death toll grows

The human rights ombudsman of the Donetsk People's Republic reported that 23 civilians were killed and 32 injured in shelling by Ukrainian troops from Aug. 15 to Aug. 21. Some 17 people were killed

and 45 wounded in the prior week. (Novorossia Today, Aug. 24)

The death toll has grown steadily over the summer. Sporadic Ukrainian shelling, which has claimed a few lives each week, has intensified. Attacks in the Lugansk People's Republic have also increased, especially near villages under the protection of the Ghost Brigade anti-fascist militia.

According to the United Nations, nearly 7,000 people have been killed since the start of Kiev's "Anti-Terrorist Operation" in the spring of 2014.

There is no doubt now that Kiev's army and volunteer neofascist battalions are preparing a new offensive. Poroshenko boasts of sending more troops and weaponry to the front — obtained directly or indirectly through the U.S. and other NATO powers. The anti-fascist militias that defend the Donbass republics have reported a steady buildup of Ukrainian troops for months.

On Aug. 20, Donetsk Deputy Defense Minister Eduard Basurin reported on intelligence received from a high-ranking member of the Ukrainian military who opposes the junta's latest moves. (Donetsk News Agency)

According to this information — which confirms what the militias have observed on the ground — Ukraine now has, on or near the front line, more than 90,000 troops; 450 tanks; more than 2,500 armored personnel carriers; five mobile rocket launcher complexes; 230 multiple launch rocket systems; over 1,000 artillery guns and mortars; and more than 3,500 anti-tank weapons. (Col. Cassad blog, Aug. 21)

The planned Ukrainian offensive is said to be modeled on the Croatian assault that defeated Serbian forces in Krajina during the Yugoslavian civil war, also masterminded and manipulated by U.S. and German imperialism. It resulted in the deaths of thousands of Serbs and drove the entire Serb population out of Krajina.

Attacking from several directions simultaneously, Kiev's forces hope to reach Donetsk's eastern border with Russia, preventing any military or humanitarian support from reaching the resistance, and blocking Lugansk militia forces from coming to their aid. (For maps and in-depth information in English, see RedStarOverDonbass.blogspot.com.)

However, military analyst Col. Cassad points out that in Krajina, Croatian forces outnumbered Serbian troops by 10 to one. Ukraine, he notes, has not even twice the number of troops as the Donbass republics.

Since the troops drafted into Kiev's army are unwilling fighters, the Donbass republics have resoundingly defeated previous Ukrainian offensives.

## U.S. policies lead to war, not peace

The military buildup by Ukraine is a direct violation of the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement it signed in February with Russia, Germany and France. Even after the Donbass republics unilaterally withdrew heavy weaponry from the contact line, Kiev refused to budge.

An intervention by U.S. officials to force Kiev to pass legislation required by the Minsk accords in June led to speculation that Washington might try to tamp down the war. Now it appears, however, to have been another figleaf to cover Pentagon and NATO training and arming of the Ukrainian military, while giving the Kiev regime more time to build up its offensive forces.

As Workers World reported previously, the war in Donbass is a step in a long-term U.S. effort to undermine the existence of an independent Russian Federation, even though it is now capitalist. This policy, pursued by Republican and Democratic administrations for more than 20 years, may take tactical twists and turns, but there are no signs that Washington and Wall Street plan to fundamentally change course. (See "Ukraine, Donbass and the

New Cold War against Russia" in Workers World, July 31)

What the Obama administration, congressional leaders and the Pentagon have done is to strengthen U.S. control over the disparate, competing factions of the Kiev regime. These factions are united mainly by their hatred of Russia and the people of Donbass.

Earlier this summer, the Right Sector fascist group repeatedly threatened to overthrow Poroshenko. In late August, this group's leaders suddenly announced on social media that some of their squads would be integrated into the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) — the Ukrainian political police similar to the FBI.

Right Sector members will be put on the government payroll, issued "official" weapons and have the legal cover of the SBU.

The integration of Right Sector into the state apparatus came shortly after statements by the U.S. ambassador and other officials defending Poroshenko from the most recent flare-up between the rival factions. (Col. Cassad blog, Aug. 22) It fits a pattern that has seen neo-Nazi contingents like the Azov Battalion integrated into the Ukrainian military structure and trained by U.S. troops.

Add these developments to the International Monetary Fund's declaration that it will continue to bail out Kiev, even if the bankrupt regime defaults on its loans. Meanwhile, the regime pours money into the war and imposes ever greater austerity measures and repression on the working people of Ukraine.

The message is clear: U.S. imperialism wants the war in Donbass to continue at all costs. Washington is determined to use Ukraine to wear down the People's Republics and Russia and doesn't care how many people on both sides are killed in the process.

But, as Donetsk residents showed with their protest on Aug. 24, the people of Donbass are prepared and determined to resist. □

# DPRK mounts strong response to U.S.-led 'war games'

By Deirdre Griswold

Aug. 25 — Once more, the U.S. imperialists have threatened the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the Pentagon's formidable war machine, carrying out annual "war games" from the territory of south Korea. Imperialism's warships and planes simulated an attack on the northern part of the Korean peninsula beginning Aug. 17. The war practices are scheduled to run to Aug. 28.

And once more, the people and leaders of the DPRK have shown that they will not be intimidated by this kind of saber-rattling.

According to the U.S. military publication Stars and Stripes of Aug. 17, some 30,000 U.S. and 50,000 south Korean troops were mobilized for the "war games," which the U.S. had the gall to describe as "non-provocative."

Having 80,000 combat forces practice war against their country, and the DPRK is supposed to just take it lying down?

Such a claim of innocence is preposterous, especially given the horrible and tragic history of the 1950-53 U.S. war against the Korean people, in which the

Pentagon tried to completely obliterate the socialist north. Only the most craven apologists for imperialism — read almost the entire U.S. corporate media establishment — could swallow such a lie and then regurgitate it to the public.

Certainly the DPRK took it seriously.

The current president in south Korea is Park Geun-hye, daughter of Gen. Park Chung-hee, a military dictator who ruled the south from 1961 to 1979, after seizing power in a coup with U.S. blessing.

There is widespread opposition in the south to the right-wing grouping now in power. This could be seen last year when protests erupted over the role of government corruption in the unsafe conditions on a passenger ferry that sank, killing 304 people, most of them high school students.

The reactionary government in Seoul, which is totally subservient to the dictates of the U.S. and its continued military occupation of southern Korea, prepared for the "war games" by planting huge banks of loudspeakers on the edge of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that separates the two halves of the Korean nation and started blasting hostile and insulting propaganda toward the north.

Aug. 17 protest in Seoul, so. Korea, against U.S. war threats.

PHOTO: SPARK



## 'An open act of war'

The DPRK reacted by calling an emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea — the political party that has led the DPRK since 1946.

A press release from the country's U.N. mission issued Aug. 21 read: "Psychological warfare against the DPRK is, in essence, an open act of war against it. In this regard, the General Staff of the Korean People's Army on Aug. 20 sent an ultimatum to the south Korean puppet Ministry of Defense that a strong military action would be launched at once unless it stops the anti-DPRK broadcasting for psychological warfare and removes all psywar means within 48 hours. ...

"The meeting discussed the measures to convert the party and power bodies, working people's organizations, state security, people's security and judicial and prosecution organs, factories, enterprises, cooperative farms and other units in the relevant areas into the semi-war system as the semi-war state has been de-

clared in the area along the front. It also set forth the duties and tasks of officials in charge of external affairs to fully lay bare the truth about the prevailing situation caused by the enemies' undisguised and surprise aggression."

The people were organized and prepared in case of war. The DPRK moved troops closer to the DMZ and reoriented other defense units.

It seemed as though real war could be imminent under cover of U.S.-led "war games."

But this strong response by the DPRK and its young leader, Kim Jong Un, brought results. Within a day a meeting was held at Panmunjom, where a building straddles the DMZ and has been used ever since the 1950s for meetings between the two sides.

As of this writing, the regime in south Korea has agreed to dismantle its offensive and provocative loudspeakers and the crisis appears to have been forestalled. But the U.S.-led war exercises are continuing and the DPRK is maintaining its vigilance.

# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

### Migrant crisis in Europe: Who caused it?

Behind the horror stories about the treatment of migrants trying to reach Europe is the imperialist system of exploitation of their countries of origin, the policies exacerbating this exploitation and the imperialist wars that made their home countries unlivable for them and their children.

Recently, these horror stories in the corporate media have focused on how migrant human beings are suffering during their journey through the Balkan peninsula. Most of these recent migrants are from Syria, Iraq and other countries of Southwest and Central Asia. The intention of most of these suffering people is not to stay in the Balkan countries that are themselves impoverished colonies of either Western Europe or the United States. The migrants want asylum in Germany or Britain where jobs are still available.

Some who reached Germany wound up besieged by Nazis on the Aug. 20-21 weekend in the small city of Heidenau in Saxony in the East. "Nazis" is not just name calling. The so-called National Democratic Party of Germany, which organized the anti-immigrant riot and attempted pogrom, is the actual continuation of the Nazi Party. During that weekend the NDP mobilized its storm troopers, who nearly burned down the migrants' temporary housing.

As some working-class organizations in Germany have pointed out, the so-called democratic politicians in Chancellor Angela Merkel's government and party, as well as many Social Democratic Party politicians, have made the Nazis' work easier. They've done this with their own vicious anti-migrant statements — similar to what politicians here say regarding migrants from Mexico and Central America. Think Donald Trump, who is only the worst of a reactionary pack in the United States.

Now some of these government leaders in Germany are condemning the Nazi violence. But they created the atmosphere that allowed the Nazis to mobilize.

The corporate media's coverage omits the back story. Why? Because this story exposes the role of imperialism and the major imperialist countries.

For example, when the International Monetary Fund imposes austerity on African countries to assure their debt payments, it results in less work and social benefits, which drives young workers out of Africa. A consequence is the drowning of hundreds, maybe thousands of people

when boats capsize in the Mediterranean Sea.

What drove this crisis to unprecedented heights was NATO's bombing, invasion and subversion of Libya and Syria, starting in 2011.

Libya's economy had employed a million workers from sub-Saharan Africa before 2011. U.S.-NATO bombs and the arming of elements similar to the Islamic State overthrew the stable and relatively prosperous Libyan government of Col. Moammar Gadhafi, killing him and making the country hell to live in.

In Syria, too, the U.S. and its NATO allies, especially Britain, France and Germany, as well as Turkey, provided arms to elements that consolidated into the Islamic State. To overthrow the Damascus government, the imperialists provoked a disastrous war that has torn apart the country, creating a mass exodus.

The reactionary Hungarian regime, taking a page from the U.S. anti-immigrant book, is building an obscene fence on its borders to try to keep out the suffering migrants. As criminal as this act is, it is not Budapest that caused the crisis. Nor did the Greek, Macedonian and Serbian governments. The richer NATO countries and the U.S. government are to blame. They should be paying reparations to the Syrians and other migrants for the nightmare they, the imperialists, have caused. Such payments would not be charity, but reparations for their war crimes.

Workers in Europe should not be misled by demagogues who make migrants scapegoats for the problems these workers face in their own countries. The European workers' enemies are not their fellow workers who are forced to migrate, but the imperialists who have systematically undermined postcolonial governments that have been trying to exercise their independence and autonomy after at least a century of bondage.

If all this sounds like a mirror image of what is happening regarding migrants to the United States from Mexico and Central America, this is no accident. Imperialism is the enemy of workers and farmers worldwide. There will always be reactionary politicians — Trump comes to mind, but he's not alone — who try to play the demagogue and scapegoat migrants. Shut them down!

The migrants are our class allies, and we should stand in solidarity with them, in Europe as well as in the United States. □



French gendarmes attack migrants on the Eurotunnel site in Coquelles near Calais.

### Fortress Europe kills

In an article in the *Workers World* of Aug. 15, Deirdre Griswold wrote of the migrants to Europe: "These refugees are fleeing their homelands because of the damage done by horrendous wars unleashed by the imperialists, particularly the U.S. and NATO, [that have caused] destruction — not only of people, their homes, villages and infrastructure — but of the basic social institutions that were built after these nations finally broke free of colonialism."

The German daily newspaper *Junge Welt* on Aug. 21 published the article below by André Scheer, with Andre Wokittel in Belgrade, that describes what the refugees face from U.S. allies and client states in Europe after U.S. wars of aggression drive them from their homelands. The translation is by WW managing editor John Catalinotto.

If there were an election for France's head of state today, Marine Le Pen with her neofascists [the National Front] would have a good chance of winning the vote. Polls place her with around 30 percent, winning either first or second place, and a victory in the runoff election no longer seems impossible. In Sweden, too, the influence of the racists continues. For the first time the "Sweden Party" was the strongest force in a survey published on Aug. 20 by the daily newspaper *Metro*.

And how do the "democratic" poli-

ticians respond to the threat from the right? Once again by adopting neofascist and racist slogans themselves.

Thus, the spokesman of the Slovak Ministry of the Interior, Ivan Metik, speaking to the BBC, declared that Bratislava would accept only Christian refugees in the upcoming years; Muslim immigrants would be rejected. Similar rants come from Latvia, Estonia and Poland. Hungarian President János Áder called the people traveling through his country "besiegers" and spoke of a new "Great Migration." General Secretary Andreas Scheuer of the Christian Social Union (Bavaria, Germany) also chose this formulation to incite against what he called "massive abuse" of asylum.

In Calais on Aug. 20, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve and his British counterpart, Theresa May, signed an agreement to wall off the border between the two countries even more than it is now. They'll form a joint command and control center to coordinate the hunt for refugees who are trying to get through the Eurotunnel to the British Isles. Already, high fences, barbed wire and heavily armed police are there to deter people.

The country of Macedonia on Aug. 20 imposed a state of emergency for two regions. Four thousand refugees are

*Continued on page 11*



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Muslims in united march against Saudi destruction in Yemen and Syria.

## Marchers condemn U.S.-backed Saudi oppression

By Bill Starr  
New York

Demonstrators marched from the United Nations to the Saudi U.N. Mission on Aug. 21 to protest the kingdom's persecution of Shia Muslims and its refusal to allow the rebuilding of Islamic graves and holy sites it has destroyed.

They demanded the release of imprisoned Shia community leader Ayatollah

al-Nimr and an end to the detention and torture of pilgrims visiting the destroyed sites. The march also condemned the Saudi kingdom's bombing of the people of Yemen and funding of terrorist violence in Syria. Saudi airstrikes have killed thousands of Yemenis since March.

The event was endorsed by YaFatimaZahra.com, the Shia Association of North America, the United Muslim Foundation of North America, the Al

Mahdi Foundation, the International Action Center, the United National Antiwar Coalition, and several masjids and Islamic schools in the New York metropolitan area.

Saudi Arabia and Israel are Washington's two main allies in the Middle East.

In the 1920s, with British support, the Saudi family used terror, force and massacre to seize control of most of the Arabian peninsula. It persecuted and mur-

dered Muslims who did not accept the puritanical ideology of Wahabism, which it used to justify its rule.

Thousands were hanged from trees in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. On April 21, 1925, King Ibn Saud demolished mausoleums in Jannat ul Baqi, where relatives and companions of the Prophet Muhammad are buried. Also destroyed were the tombs of his mother, Bibi Amina; his wife, Bibi Khadijah; his grandfather,

# U.S. transnationals seek greater profits in Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The U.S. State Department opened a conference in Libreville, Gabon, on Aug. 24 to promote trade between Wall Street and Africa. It is ostensibly designed to promote the African Growth and Opportunities Act, in place since 2000 to facilitate trade between Africa and U.S. companies. While the U.S. says that AGOA represents the cornerstone of its economic policy in Africa, in reality it is an imperialist tool. Congress recently reauthorized the program.

An Aug. 21 State Department press release read: "The theme of this year's Forum is 'AGOA at 15: Charting a Course for a Sustainable U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment Partnership.'" It raises the importance of all sectors in "promoting trade, expanding inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and generating prosperity." Also, it reported that government officials from the U.S. and the "39 African beneficiary countries" would

## Fortress Europe kills

*Continued from page 10*

trapped in the border area between the Balkan state and Greece, blocking the railway line from Thessaloniki in Greece to Skopje in Macedonia. Hungary built a 110-mile-long fence on the border with Serbia.

Inhumane conditions already prevail in Serbia. For about three months, the square in front of the main railway station in Belgrade has served as a makeshift camp for people from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of the families have received donated tents; others are camping under the stars or in a parking garage. They can hardly provide their children and babies with food.

On Aug. 19, Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic visited the square. Just in time, the green areas were cleaned to rid them of the stench. Before the European media, Vucic promised improvement. Hours later, it started to rain heavily. The approximately 2,000 people, including children and old people, fled to the nearby train station and to a parking garage, where they tried to dry their clothes under a canopy. On Aug. 20, the situation was hardly better. The number of toilets had been doubled; it is cleaned more often. But there is no guaranteed sanitation, medical help or meals for the people.

Thus, a death strip moves through the middle of Europe. At the same time, the European Union countries keep trying to lock out the people fleeing war and misery at its external borders. Refugees are still dying during the journey across the Mediterranean Sea or on the fortifications around Ceuta and Melilla, the Spanish enclaves in North Africa. Fortress Europe kills. □

attend.

Gabon, a former French colony, is an oil producer. The government has maintained friendly relations with Paris and Washington. Imperialist France has increased its military presence in Gabon, where its troops have been activated against mass demonstrations and instability.

## U.S. imperialism's goals

When President Barack Obama recently visited Kenya, he hosted a trade conference there emphasizing African entrepreneurship. He also delivered a speech at the new African Union center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His administration has great concerns about the decline in the value of trade between Africa and the U.S. The decrease in oil and commodities prices exemplifies this phenomenon.

Simultaneously, Wall Street and Washington have emphasized maximizing profits — which come at the expense of working people and their communities.

Critics of the U.S.'s AGOA strategy say it empowers large transnational corporations and further marginalizes local producers and workers. Through AGOA, clothing and other factories have been established in Kenya, Lesotho and other states. These production centers attract rural dwellers to urban areas and working-class jobs. Nonetheless, when demand declines and there are gaps in U.S. funding of AGOA, workers are laid off and forced to return to their villages.

Significantly, Washington utilizes AGOA funding to exercise its policy imperatives in attempts to influence Afri-

can states' internal and regional affairs. Consequently, AGOA is a tool to exert U.S. imperialism's political will.

Washington's role in Africa has been characterized by its military intervention. The U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) stations thousands of troops in Djibouti and maintains other intelligence stations, airstrips and naval operations to protect U.S. corporate interests.

## Foreign investment boon to corporations

Although Africa is designated as a rapidly growing region and a center for foreign direct investment (FDI), structural issues emanate from capitalism's continuing dominance. Most Western investment is designed to enhance the profit margins of the transnational corporations and banks — not to empower the workers, farmers, youth or even local business interests.

Jostein Lohr Hauge, University of Cambridge Ph.D. candidate, wrote on Aug. 20 in African Arguments that Africa is the fastest-growing region for FDI worldwide. "From 1990 to 2013, FDI inflows in Africa increased 19-fold from \$3 billion to \$57 billion. This trend ... is typically seen as a good thing for low-income countries. And especially in Africa, where most countries have small stocks of savings, attracting FDI to grow the economy and create jobs can be crucial."

However, Hauge concludes, "This trend is all well and good for the huge companies involved — and usually for the economies of the countries in which they are based. But the problem with the expansion of powerful multinationals is that it can allow a small number of actors to capture larger shares of profits over

larger markets. They do this so easily ... because they have dominant technologies (often fortified by strong intellectual property protection) and brand name recognition."

## China helps Africa build infrastructure

International attention has increasingly focused on the People's Republic of China's growing economic and political role with AU member-states. China is the largest trading partner with the continent. Unlike the former colonial rulers, it is emphasizing the construction and maintenance of infrastructure projects related to national affairs, medicine, science and transportation.

A multitude of joint projects between Beijing and AU member-countries include construction of the modern AU conference center in Addis Ababa. China is busily constructing a new railway line covering vast areas across East Africa. It will enhance trade and employment opportunities for people in the region, where the legacy of colonialism and imperialism has hampered the free flow of people and goods.

Agreements to build a new railway line in East Africa with Chinese help were signed in Nairobi, Kenya, reported the BBC on May 12, 2014. "It is to run from Mombasa to Nairobi and will extend to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. ... In Kenya, the line [will] replace a narrow-gauge track built more than 100 years ago during British colonial rule. China is to finance 90 percent of the first stage, put at \$3.8 billion, with work carried out by a Chinese firm."

## Independent economic program needed

A continental strategy independent of imperialism is the only solution to capitalist domination of Africa's economic development. This can only be carried out when African states place the needs of their people above those of the global corporations and banks.

A prerequisite for genuine independence is the enhancement of industrial, agricultural, educational, medical and scientific capacity in postcolonial African states. Dependence on the West is a byproduct of the legacy of slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism.

Socialist economic construction in Africa poses an alternative to the world capitalist system. In China, where the people gained liberation from imperialism nearly 66 years ago through a profound revolution, tremendous strides have been made through a state-controlled economy. In recent decades China has allowed private capital to operate and grow, but the basic infrastructure and the land are owned and under the control of the government, led by the Communist Party.

Revolutionary Cuba has outstripped U.S. imperialism in providing advanced medical services to its people and millions more in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. This accomplishment has been made despite a nearly 55-year blockade and U.S. attempts to overthrow the socialist government.

With considerably more natural resources and agricultural potential, a socialist Africa could become a bulwark for economic growth and set standards for the rest of the world. □

## December 2008 map of the world, according to the Pentagon.



Abu Talib; and his uncle, Abu Talib. That day is commemorated by Shia Muslims around the world as the Day of Sorrow.

Saudi "puritanism" did not stop the royal despots from turning over Arabia's vast oil reserves to the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO), controlled by a very non-Islamic dynasty, the Rockefellers. Nor does it stop Saudi royals from today making huge indirect investments in the racist state of Israel.

In the 1970s, ARAMCO was in theory

taken over by the house of Saud. But in an agreement engineered by Henry Kissinger, it continues to pay tribute to Wall Street and the military-industrial complex, subsidizing U.S. banks and arms companies with hundreds of billions of dollars. ARAMCO supplies ExxonMobil with oil at below market prices and U.S. executives still sit on its board.

Israel's 1967 and 1973 wars against Arab nationalist forces likely saved the Saudi monarchy. In 1982, Ronald Reagan

pledged to never allow the Saudi dynasty to be overthrown. The Saudis obligingly funded the CIA's covert wars against Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

Today, Saudi money funds Washington's covert war in Syria and the Saudi military rains U.S.-made missiles and bombs down on the impoverished land of Yemen. The Saudi military also intervened to suppress the movement for democracy in neighboring Bahrain, where the U.S. Fifth Fleet is based. □



## COLOMBIA

# Alto a las victimizaciones

La Delegación de Paz de las FARC-EP ha estado participando en diálogos de paz con el gobierno colombiano que se están llevando a cabo en La Habana, Cuba, desde 2012. El 22 de agosto, la emitió la siguiente declaración que MO publica aquí.

En pronunciamientos anteriores hemos insistido en que debe haber coherencia entre los propósitos trazados en el compromiso de agilizar las conversaciones en La Habana y desescalar el conflicto en Colombia. Y aunque las FARC-EP han puesto todo su empeño en ello, ha faltado correspondencia y mayor compromiso por parte del Estado.

Resaltemos que aunque hemos actuado con absoluta transparencia y rigor en el cumplimiento del cese unilateral de fuegos, las operaciones por tierra han ocasionado muertes, capturas y heridas a guerrilleros y guerrilleras en distintos lugares del país, poniendo en riesgo la tregua y el buen desenvolvimiento del proceso de paz. La posición de dialogar sin que paren los combates, es una fórmula condenada al fracaso.

Difíciles circunstancias para adelantar

las conversaciones se precipitan cuando se advierte que simultáneamente con el despliegue de las agresiones contra la insurgencia, se incrementan las amenazas, persecuciones, encarcelamientos, asesinatos y todo tipo de hostilidades contra las dirigencia popular, defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos y el movimiento social colombiano en general.

Recientemente el XI Informe de la Delegación Asturiana de Verificación del estado de los Derechos Humanos en Colombia, 2015, daba noticia documentada de que “Colombia sigue inmersa en una situación de conflicto social y armado.

El país está lejos de vivir una situación de posconflicto o de normalidad en Derechos Humanos. La mayoría de las recomendaciones hechas al gobierno y los compromisos asumidos en Derechos Humanos siguen sin cumplirse”. Se señalaba en el contexto de sus datos la aplastante responsabilidad del Estado, agregando que “se mantienen los ataques contra sindicalistas, personas que defienden los Derechos Humanos, periodistas, opositores políticos y opositores de los proyectos mineros, energéti-

cos y agroalimentarios de las multinacionales”. Se decía que “continúan las violaciones del DIH, las violaciones del principio de distinción y la utilización de bienes de la población civil en el conflicto armado...; la gran mayoría de los delitos quedan impunes y subregistrados, como en el caso de la desaparición forzada de personas, la violencia sexual y la tortura”, entre otros graves indicadores que incluyen el incremento del paramilitarismo, los abusos del ejército y la voracidad de las transnacionales.

Ahora, entre otros varios testimonios que dan fe de la crisis humanitaria que persiste, se ha conocido el informe “Los Nadie”, presentado por el programa Somos Defensores, en el que se describe la dramática realidad que sufren los defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos, condenados al sacrificio diario en un escenario en el que pareciera ponerse de manifiesto la connivencia del régimen con los victimarios.

Se ha constatado por diversas fuentes independientes, por ejemplo, que en los primeros seis meses de este año, 34 personas defensoras de los derechos hu-

manos fueron asesinadas,

y que durante los cinco años de gobierno de Juan Manuel Santos el número asciende a 317. Pero además, los informes apuntan que se han registrado al menos 1.480 amenazas y 196 atentados, con el agravante de que, según lo dicho por el Programa Somos Defensores en su informe semestral enero-junio de 2015, “la Fiscalía General de la Nación tiene una decidida falta de voluntad política y administrativa para dar con los responsables de las agresiones contra los defensores y defensoras de los derechos humanos en Colombia; pero en contraposición, se evidencia una marcada y decidida celeridad y efectividad de esta institución y sus cuerpos investigadores para JUDICIALIZAR Y CRIMINALIZAR a los defensores de derechos humanos y sus acciones cuando son acusados de diversos delitos”.

Con absoluta disposición de sacar adelante las conversaciones, hasta alcanzar la firma del Acuerdo Final, como insurgencia decimos que se debe poner freno ya a la generación de más víctimas.

[www.pazfarc-ep.org](http://www.pazfarc-ep.org)

# Declaración en solidaridad con el pueblo ecuatoriano y brasileño

El Imperialismo estadounidense intenta socavar a cualquiera de los gobiernos de América Latina que de señas de independencia de los dictados de Washington. Especialmente en las últimas semanas, los gobiernos de Ecuador y Brasil han estado experimentando manifestaciones dominadas por elementos derechistas y promovidas por la prensa imperialista. La declaración siguiente fue escrita por intelectuales izquierdistas de la región que se oponen a la intervención estadounidense.

Nosotros y nosotras, representantes de los movimientos sociales de Panamá, como expresión diversa del pueblo panameño, expresamos en primer lugar, nuestro firme respaldo a la declaración del Consejo Político de la ALBA-TCP, desarrollada en una reunión extraordinaria realizada en Caracas a los 10 días del mes de agosto.

Así mismo, denunciamos los planes del imperialismo, quien mediante el uso de estrategias de desestabilización acosa y conspira para perturbar a los Gobiernos progresistas de la Región, legítimamente electos por sus pueblos.

No es coincidencia que simultáneamente se desarrollen manifestaciones con similares características en países que ha decidió transitar por los caminos de la emancipación. Dichas manifestaciones son alentadas y apoyadas por sectores externos y medios de comunicación que sirven a los intereses de las oligarquías.

Tales son los casos particulares de los ataques incesantes contra la república Argentina, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, la República del Ecuador, el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia y más recientemente contra la República Federa-

tiva del Brasil y la República del Ecuador, cuyo guión de desestabilización se repite de forma similar, a través del financiamiento, el adiestramiento, la manipulación y demás estrategias de GUERRA NO CONVENCIONAL\*, que ya se han llevado a cabo en países como Libia, Irak, Siria, Ucrania y otros, para socavar la soberanía y hacerse de los recursos naturales que le pertenecen al pueblo.

\*Según la Circular de Entrenamiento 18-01, uno de los principales documentos doctrinales norteamericanos sobre la Guerra no Convencional de las Fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales del Ejército de Estados Unidos, Guerra No Convencional es la injerencia en un país con intencionalidad política de dominación sin usar la tecnología bélica. Una penetración física política, económica, cultural de un país poderoso en otro en desigual condiciones con la finalidad de someterlo y expropiarlo de bienes hídricos, minerales y / o energéticos. Erigida no solo como forma principal de agresión, sino como herramienta estratégica de la política exterior norteamericana.

Estados Unidos despliega todo su poderío más allá de sus fronteras, con una estrategia que no es nueva, pero que tiene como novedad el nivel de prioridad que le están asignando. Socavar y degradar la moral, la fuerza política, psicológica, militar y económica, así como provocar eventos catalizadores que creen condiciones para una intervención extranjera, son actos de la Guerra No Convencional.

El rol mediático dentro de estas es crucial, en el caso panameño contamos con una prensa que tergiversa los datos,

desinforma y deforma las noticias a gusto de los grupos de poder del país.

En este sentido, ratificamos nuestro compromiso con el respeto a la soberanía de los Estados y la no intervención en los asuntos internos de nuestros pueblos. Al mismo tiempo manifestamos nuestro repudio al intento de socavar la institucionalidad democrática de Ecuador y Brasil, por parte de sectores de la derecha instrumentalizada por el imperialismo estadounidense y grupos de poder mediático y económico a nivel internacional. Apoyamos que el pueblo y el gobierno liderado por el presidente, Rafael Correa en Ecuador y la mandataria Dilma Rousseff en Brasil, resuelvan sus problemas preservando la paz, la democracia y el bienestar de sus pueblos. Rechazamos la ejecución de “golpes blandos”, por medio de operaciones de Guerra Psicológica a través de los medios de comunicación, atentando contra gobi-

ernos legítimamente constituidos.

Así mismo, los abajo firmantes reafirmamos la necesidad de fortalecer la unidad continental de nuestros pueblos y la integración regional, para hacer frente a estas amenazas, en defensa de los Derechos Humanos, nuestra soberanía y el libre desarrollo de nuestros pueblos.

Nosotros los abajo firmantes:

Red de Intelectuales, Artistas y Movimientos Sociales en Defensa de la Humanidad, capítulo Panamá

Coordinadoras:

Ana María Pinilla V; Gilma Camargo; Asociación de Familiares y Amigos de los Caídos del 20 de diciembre de 1989 — Trinidad Ayola; Frente Amplio por la Democracia-FAD; Partido del Pueblo — Moisés Carrasquilla; Polo Ciudadano — Olmedo Beluche; Movimiento Independiente de Refundación Nacional (MIREN)

Jueves, 20 de agosto de 2015 □

## El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida



[www.lowwagecapitalism.org](http://www.lowwagecapitalism.org)

La tesis de este libro es que la crisis económica, que se inició en agosto de 2007, marcó un punto de inflexión en la historia del capitalismo. El autor sostiene que el sistema no se recuperará, no volverá al ciclo capitalista normal de auge y caída.

Durante décadas, la clase capitalista ha utilizado la revolución tecnológica digital para aumentar la productividad del trabajo a un ritmo récord. Menos trabajadores producen más bienes y servicios en menos tiempo con salarios más bajos. El resultado es una serie de “recuperaciones sin empleos” que hace que las cosas vayan aún peor.

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.

El continuo estancamiento y el desempleo generalizado provocarán inevitablemente un resurgimiento de la lucha de clases que no se ve en EE.UU. desde la década de 1930; esta vez se dirigirá contra el propio sistema.