



TENNIS AND RACISM EDITORIAL 6

# DEFEND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

## Stop the war on poor women!

By Sue Davis

A wholesale racist, sexist, anti-worker, anti-poor assault on Planned Parenthood is going on. This is outright warfare against millions of women in the U.S. — predominantly women of color, immigrants, youth, rural residents and women with disabilities, who are the lowest paid workers, often single mothers struggling to keep their families together. Some have called the attack “political theater,” but that downplays its seriousness. It is a vicious 21st century witch-hunt.

A fire heavily damaged a Planned Parenthood clinic in

Pullman, Wash., on Sept. 4. The local fire department, with other local officials and federal agencies, ruled it was deliberately set. No authorities have called the arson what it really is — domestic terrorism.

“[The fire is] a predictable ripple effect from the false and incendiary attacks that fuel violence from extremists,” said Karl Eastlund, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho. (Associated Press, Sept. 5)

There is a long history of anti-abortion violence in the Pacific Northwest, DuVergne Gaines, national clinic access project director at the Feminist Majority Foundation, told RH Reality Check. She noted that a group of anti-abortion extremists held a

conference, hosted by the racist, so-called International Coalition of Abolitionist Societies, in northern Idaho two months before the fire. Leaders included justifiable-homicide advocate Matthew Trewhella, founder of Missionaries to the Preborn and a convicted arsonist; Rusty Thomas, director of Operation Save America, who was jailed for destroying clinic property after gaining entry in his police uniform; and members of Abolish Human Abortion. (Sept. 9)

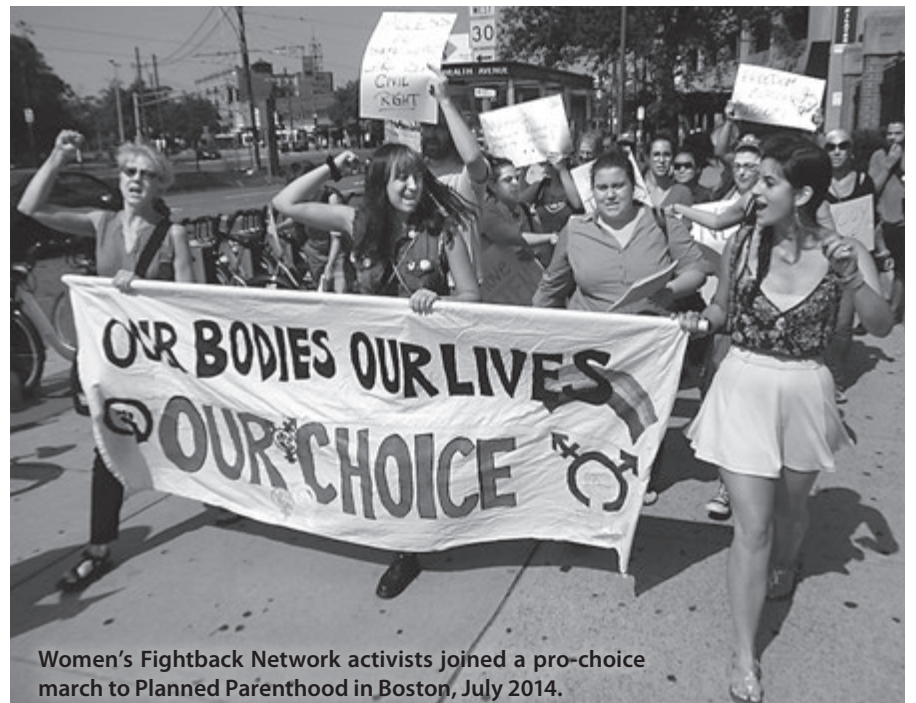
In 1996, a Planned Parenthood clinic in Spokane Valley, Wash., was bombed. The four men convicted were in a white supremacist, anti-abortion group. Both perpetrators of destruction at independent clinics in Missoula, Mont. (firebombed in 1993), and Kalispell (severely vandalized in 2014) were convicted.

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**BDS VICTORY**  
 Veolia forced to divest 7

PHOTO: TEAM SOLIDARITY



Women's Fightback Network activists joined a pro-choice march to Planned Parenthood in Boston, July 2014.

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN



**NO POLICE STATE!**  
 Protests hit military expo 6

PHOTO: LEFTY GOMEZ

Oakland, Calif.

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### MIGRANT CRISIS and international solidarity

# Stop the war on poor women!

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In July, shortly after a notorious anti-abortion group aired a deliberately falsified series of videos showing Planned Parenthood leaders saying the organization profits from the sale of aborted fetal tissue, death threats began. According to the Sept. 3 Huffington Post, an anonymous person posted this warning on Fox Nation: "I'll pay ten large to whomever kills Dr. Deborah Nucatola" [Planned Parenthood senior director in the video]. The same person threatened Cate Dyer, CEO of StemExpress, a biomedical company that uses fetal tissue for medical research, and posted her home address.

Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, which regulates abortion providers, told the Huffington Post, "In my 20 years at NAF, I have never seen such a volume, intensity and escalation of hate speech, threats and criminal activity." Death threats against providers should be taken seriously, warned HuffPost, considering that eight doctors and clinic workers have been murdered — the latest was Dr. George Tiller in 2009 in Wichita, Kan.

When hostile pickets were held at 300 Planned Parenthood clinics around the country on Aug. 22, about 500 protesters gathered in Pullman to call for Congress to defund the largest provider of women's reproductive health care for poor women in the country. The Christian right-wingers have been fired up by ultra-right Republican politicians, who have been trying to defund the organization nationally since 2011.

Currently 28 House Republicans have vowed to make defunding Planned Parenthood grounds for shutting down the government when the budget comes up for a vote on Sept. 30. While Democrats say no such bill will pass in the Senate, President Barack Obama says he would veto it. (HuffPost, Sept. 8)

## Deliberate attack on poor women

Those who oppose Planned Parenthood say that if the organization is defunded of \$528 million for Medicaid health care services for poor women — contraception and counseling, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and breast exams and other cancer screening — many health care providers will fill the bill. Not so says a Guttmacher Institute study, issued Sept. 8 in response to a Congressional Budget Office request, based on the latest 2010 statistics.

In two-thirds of the 491 counties where its clinics are located, Planned Parenthood serves at least half of all women obtaining contraceptive care. In a fifth of the counties it serves, it is the sole safety-net family planning center. The study points to Texas as a "cautionary tale;" the state family-planning program for low-income women "served far fewer women" after Planned Parenthood clinics were cut from the rolls.

Push is coming to shove in Louisiana. After the governor defunded Planned Parenthood, the organization sued the state to prove it could help poor women. The state produced a list of 2,000 family planning providers who could take new patients. After viewing the list, which included dentists, nursing home caregivers and cosmetic surgeons, the judge cut it to 29. At a Sept. 2 hearing, the judge was reluctant to allow Planned Parenthood's contract to expire on Sept. 15 because "the state hadn't articulated a good reason for doing so." (Mother Jones, Sept. 10)

The Sept. 9 Congressional hearing, entitled "Planned Parenthood Exposed: Examining the Horrific Abortion Practices at the Nation's Largest Abortion Provider," was called a "farce" by Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY). No witnesses were called from either Planned Parenthood or the so-called Center for Medical Progress, which created the deceptive videos.

Pro-choice views were represented by Priscilla Smith, director of Yale Law School's Program for the Study of Reproductive Justice. Smith observed that the health care provider has been the target of nine sting operations over the past 15 years and has never been indicted. "The horrible irony here is that defunding Planned Parenthood would increase the number of unintended pregnancies and drastically, I fear, increase the number of abortions." (RHRC, Sept. 10)

Just as firebombing the clinic in Washington state should be called domestic terrorism, defunding Planned Parenthood is class warfare because it would deny poor women their right to essential, needed medical care — their human right to control their very lives. It's time for all progressives to defend Planned Parenthood and demand reproductive justice for all women.

*Kathy Durkin contributed to this article. Davis is a longtime reproductive justice activist and author of the pro-choice novel "Love Means Second Chances."*

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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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## Michigan

# Native peoples fight oil pipeline

By **Jeremy Royer**  
Straits of Mackinac  
Michigan

Organizers from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians were among Native-American and environmental activists who took to the waters under the Mackinac Bridge over Labor Day weekend.

The activists were protesting Enbridge Inc.'s two 62-year-old oil pipelines running under the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Huron and Lake Michigan meet and the state is divided into the Lower and Upper Peninsulas. Connecting the peninsulas over the Straits is the Mackinac Bridge, a five-mile-long suspension bridge.

Starting originally as a single day event, the protest ended up as a two-day demonstration with a "kayaktivist" flotilla on Sunday, Sept. 6, followed by participation in the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk, which involves some 40,000 people. Both protests included banners, T-shirts and signs displaying demands to shut down what is known as Enbridge's Line 5. The large banners included the slogans "Shut down Line 5" and "Water is life."

The LTBB of Odawa Indians are a federally recognized tribe under Public Law

103-324 and, according to the Treaty of Washington of 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621), are ceded as protectors of our Lakehead Systems and the surrounding bodies of fresh water where Enbridge's Line 5 is being used to transport crude oil. If a spill were to occur, the LTBB of Odawa Indians' territory would be contaminated beyond restoration — putting an end to the Odawa's current way of life.

Line 5 is an environmental threat to Michigan's Great Lakes when used to transport crude oil of any kind. Enbridge is responsible for spilling over 6.8 million gallons of oil into our environment. This includes the Line 6B catastrophe in 2010 that devastated the Kalamazoo River — with diluted bitumen being one of the many toxic compounds found in the spill. This disaster sparked the Odawa Tribe's justification for shutting down Line 5, as outlined in Tribal Resolution #030515-01. This includes the Line 6B catastrophe in 2010 that devastated the Kalamazoo River — with diluted bitumen being one of the many toxic compounds found in the spill. This disaster sparked the Odawa Tribe's justification for shutting down Line 5, as outlined in Tribal Resolution #030515-01.

Enbridge jeopardizes not only the LTBB's lifeline to freshwater, but the rest of Michigan's Great Lakes community is endangered as well. Our freshwater is a shared resource, according to the easement and agreements made under Act 10, P.A. 1953 — Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act and public trust law. Therefore, any entity putting our public resources

at risk is not only in violation of the GLSLA; they are also violating Tribal land agreements made between Indigenous populations and respective governments.

This lack of accountability and public oversight into corporations that exploit our shared commons is not a surprise considering today's neoliberal capitalist environment. Corporations are allowed to undermine both state and federal laws to maximize their profits. And it is because of corporate entities like Enbridge that Treaty lands are being exploited with little to no respect for the sovereignty of Indigenous tribes.

**#ShutDownLine5 #ProtectTheSacred #HonorTheTreaties #LTBB #Odawa**

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1. Tribal Resolution, Decommission and Safe Removal of Pipeline Running under the Straits of Mackinac (<http://tinyurl.com/04p8ve7>, March 19)
2. FLOW Takes Lead Authoring Line 5 Letter to Governor: Elevating the Public Trust



PHOTO: NANCY HUAN

Flotilla protesters set out under the Mackinac Bridge, Sept. 9.

Duty to Protect the Great Lakes (<http://tinyurl.com/pzsyllum>, July 2, 2014)

3. Enbridge Must Restore Environment Injured by 2010 Kalamazoo River Oil Spill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region (<http://tinyurl.com/07ekg5r>, June 8)
4. Enbridge Line 5, An Oil Pipeline Under the Great Lakes (<http://tinyurl.com/oyc589m>, April 28)
5. Lack of Transparency (<http://tinyurl.com/nmgx040>, Sept. 3)

*Jeremy Royer is a Blackfoot Indigenous-Aboriginal activist who took part in the action in the Straits of Mackinac. He is a Detroit resident and member of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs.*

## Peltier thanks supporters on 71st birthday

*U.S. political prisoner Leonard Peltier released the following statement from prison on his 71st birthday.*

September 12, 2015

Greetings everyone,

Well, today is another b-day for me — my 71st. I had hoped I would not be here [in prison] at this age, but that's not to be. So I have to take a deep breath and slowly let it out ... and prepare myself for yet another day in here.

February 6th marks my 40th year in prison. How many of you know that when I was indicted a life sentence was seven years? I was sentenced to two life sentences, so with good time I have served six-plus life sentences. I suppose all of this time has taken its toll on my body. I have a number of different health issues that come with old age. The one I'm most concerned about is my prostate.

Otherwise, I'm still getting compliments on how good I look for my age (smile). People can be nice and say things that make me feel good once in awhile. But I'm told this so often that I'm starting to believe it (smile).

Did you know that the last time I went before the parole commission (2009), I was denied because I looked young and healthy. ... And a reason given for denying me parole was that I might be too much of an influence on the young natives? Yeah, only in America.

And get this: In October 1984, when the Parole Commission was repealed by Congress, the commission was given six years to give me a parole date — all of us "old time" prisoners really (those convicted prior to 1984). Yes, this is all true. All you have to do is research it, and I bet you will come away shocked as hell that this can happen in your country. The Parole Commission is

the only government agency that has been repealed and reinstated 35 days later without having to go through the normal congressional channels and signed into law by the president. How does this happen in a democracy?

I've been encouraged by things I've read recently though. And looking back ... it's been over 60 years, maybe a little longer. I was around seven or eight years old when I heard the old people talking about taking care of Mother Earth. But for me anyway, as with all young people, I did not really understand what they were trying to tell us. But I see today the traditionalists were correct and [American Indian Movement] People were right when we took it up as a rallying cry to the world.

Still, when we spoke out against the destruction of Mother Earth, we were called a bunch of nuts. Well, today, it is called climate change, and there are now millions of us crying out against the destruction of our Mother Earth. Amazing, huh? Thankfully I have lived this long and can see we just might win this war. I know it's not over — far from it — but the world is waking up and talking about it now. So it can be won in our lifetime.

Well, People, I don't know how much longer I have left on Mother Earth — or if I will even be around for the next few years — but I always hope and pray that I can be out there to spend my last few remaining years with you. If not, so be it. I have been in here too long to cry now. I just wish for more time to give to my People and to all freedom-loving People in the world.

Thanks again for all of the love you have shown me over these 40 years. You have all been worth it.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse ...

**Doksha,  
Leonard Peltier**

## Seattle teachers strike for better schools

By **Jim McMahan**  
Seattle

Sept. 12 — Fed up with a hail of attacks on public schools, 5,000 Seattle teachers and staff workers went on strike on Sept. 9. The strike remains strong heading into its fourth day. It's the first contract strike in 30 years for the Seattle Education Association. The school board had voted to seek an injunction against the strike, but the Seattle School District hasn't acted on this so far.

Picket lines of dozens of teachers can be seen in neighborhoods all over the city at the more than 90 schools in the district. Outside West Seattle and Garfield high schools, the honks of passing vehicles seem to never stop. A teacher at Garfield, Jesse Hagopian, said the high school band had played for the teachers. A folk singer with other musicians played at the West Seattle picket line. "Strong support for SEA is coming in from across the country and the world," reported Jonathan Knapp, SEA president.

Hagopian also reported that teachers had found out that district superintendent Larry Nyland was having a meeting at the Lincoln building. A group of teachers went there and picketed, and when Nyland was leaving they surrounded his car with a picket line.

The SEA says the school district seems to recognize only the wage demands, which the district basically opposes. The teachers also want more support staff hired, such as more psychologists and more secretaries. Those presently employed are overworked. They want race and equity teams in each building to deal with problems of disproportionate discipline actions

and institutionalized racism. Teachers want the district to uncouple test scores from teacher evaluations. The teachers have forced the district to give students 30 minutes of recess when, before the strike, most poor and working-class schools gave only 15 minutes.

The district wants teachers to work 30 minutes longer each day. The SEA has forced the district to agree to compensation for this. The administration doesn't want teachers and staff to have anything more than a paltry raise. The SEA wants a 10 percent increase over two years, which is a compromise over what they asked for originally.

The district seems to be following the lead of the state Legislature, which has disrespected the needs of teachers, students and communities to fund basic education in a state with the most regressive tax structure in the country. Due to the pressure of teachers and communities, the Legislature is now under a court order to provide more funds. But they haven't released enough, so now the court is fining the Legislature \$100,000 a day!

Support continues to grow. On Sept. 10, a meeting called by City Councilperson Kshama Sawant was held to discuss the strike issues, especially getting the strike more support. There were 200 people there, including many teachers. Holding a citywide rally to support the teachers was discussed. A report was given by a Denny Middle School teacher about a delegation of striking Pasco, Wash., school teachers who drove more than 200 miles to picket and meet with Seattle school teachers. The 1,100 Pasco teachers represent an oppressed city of mostly Latino/a and Black people. □

## EUROPE

# Migrants face inhumane treatment

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

Sept. 14 — Wars Washington initiated aimed at reshaping the political landscape of large regions of Africa, the Middle East and Asia are continuing and creating an enormous refugee crisis. Bombing operations by the Pentagon in Iraq and Syria are displacing hundreds of thousands of people every month and are now spreading the crisis to Europe.

In response to this growing surge of refugees, Hungarian officials have again threatened migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia with imprisonment if they continue to cross Hungary's borders or resist repressive treatment.

The regime in Budapest says it completed a fence across its border with Serbia to halt the flow of migrants into the country. Hungarian officials also indicated they would prevent migrants from entering on trains.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees reported that Budapest was shipping thousands of migrants and refugees to Hungary's border with Austria on special trains, making it appear that they will no longer register them.

Refugees herded into makeshift detention areas face overcrowding, a lack of food, constant police harassment and brutality. A Sept. 11 BBC article noted, "Footage has emerged of migrants being thrown bags of food at a Hungarian camp near the border with Serbia. An Austrian woman who shot the video said the migrants were being treated like animals."

Nonetheless, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban lauded the police for their actions against what he called "rebellious migrants" and threatened to take

more repressive measures. His country has been one of the most openly vicious and racist in blocking migrants' passage through European Union countries. This passage is supposed to be guaranteed by a treaty member-states signed several years ago.

These developments were taking place while EU interior ministers were holding an emergency meeting in Brussels on Sept. 14 in an effort to coordinate their policy for processing and integrating the migrants. In response to the influx of hundreds of thousands of people from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, various governments have imposed travel restrictions, including Austria, Slovakia and the Netherlands.

The German government of Chancellor Angela Merkel also announced that it would put checks on its border with Austria. This tightening of the borders came following weeks of pronouncements from Germany that appeared to welcome migrants.

On Sept. 13, officials in Berlin said that if the flow of migrants was not stopped, there would be no place for people to live and they would be sleeping in the streets.

Temporary housing for migrants is planned at a large transportation facility built during the 1930s. The Telegraph wrote, "Berlin's famous Nazi-era Tempelhof airport is to become a refugee shelter. The airport, which has been out of service since 2008, will house up to 1,200 refugees in two former hangars, the Berlin state government has announced." (Sept. 14)

On Sept. 14, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said, "The focus will initially lie on the border with Austria. The goal of this measure is to restrict the

present inflow of migrants into Germany." (CNN)

The German government said it was stopping train transport to and from Austria for thirteen hours on Sept. 13, according to a tweet sent out by the Austrian Federal Railways. Halting train traffic between the two countries extended from 5 p.m. on Sept. 13 to the next morning at 6 a.m.

Spokespeople for the Austrian police reported that 7,000 people had crossed the border from Hungary on Sept. 14. On the previous day some 14,000 entered the country.

Austrian government leaders said military personnel were sent to the entry and gathering points and that "If Germany carries out border controls Austria must put strengthened border controls in place." (BBC, Sept. 14)

## EU and U.S. fail to address causes of crisis

Meanwhile, the political and security crisis in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Turkey and other states are creating the conditions for further dislocation. Rather than dealing with the root causes of the crisis, the U.S. and EU states are instead arguing about how few refugees to take into their countries.

Some EU leaders have rejected any quotas of refugees as proposed by Germany and France. This rejection creates logistical challenges in the transport of migrants to states where the official position is to accept migrants for resettlement.

President Barack Obama's administration issued a Sept. 11 statement that the U.S. would allow 10,000 Syrians to enter the country. This is only a small fragment

of those forced to leave Syria and other states on two continents due to Washington and Wall Street's foreign policies.

British Prime Minister David Cameron visited a refugee camp in Lebanon on Sept. 13 and said his government would open its borders to 20,000 displaced persons. Successive governments in London have supported U.S. military interventions in various states, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya, among others.

Resistance among migrants to repression in Hungary indicates that the EU is unprepared to integrate what may be millions of new residents. Hungary has said that they want to keep people out to preserve their European "Christian heritage."

Wars funded, coordinated and given diplomatic cover by U.S. imperialism in Yemen, Libya, Egypt and elsewhere are worsening the plight of tens of millions. U.N. and other humanitarian agencies are incapable of meeting the needs of refugees and migrants under conditions of armed factional struggles and the total breakdown of state structures involving transportation, food distribution, fuel supplies, medical services and education.

The current situation involves the massive deaths in the Mediterranean of those seeking refuge in Europe. This and the social restrictions and racist repression they will be subjected to in the EU member-states warrants a response from the anti-war and social justice movements in both Western Europe and North America. With an economic crisis still prevalent in several European countries, the harsh situation of the migrants can provide a basis for an alliance between the workers and oppressed living in Europe and those streaming in as a direct result of the imperialist policies of the U.S. and NATO. □

# Venezuela defends against Colombian border attacks

By **Gene Clancy**

In late August, after months of outrages and provocations, Venezuela temporarily closed down some sections of its border with neighboring Colombia.

The move came following an attack by Colombian paramilitary forces on three members of the Venezuelan military and one civilian inside the borders of Venezuela who were trying to stop smuggling in the border city of San Antonio del Tachira. This latest incident followed a pattern of increasing paramilitary violence. The Venezuela government has arrested 32 alleged paramilitaries.

The U.S. media immediately showed their customary hostility to just about anything the Venezuelan government and President Nicolas Maduro do to defend the Bolivarian Revolution.

On Aug. 27 the New York Times published a scurrilous article accusing President Maduro of "a crackdown on immigrants." This propaganda piece, along with other similar lies including from the U.S. government, is, of course, pure hogwash.

There are 5.7 million Colombian citizens living peacefully in Venezuela, a country with a total population of 30 million. An estimated 150,000 Colombians arrive annually in search of a better life — and a safer life.

Unlike the reaction of many imperialist countries, including the United

States, Venezuelan society welcomes immigrants. They are included in all social programs that Venezuelans receive, including free education, health care and subsidized food and housing.

There are no refugee camps like the private prisons in the U.S. On the contrary, the U.N. Human Rights Council has given singular recognition to Venezuela for its humane recognition of refugees.

The problem along Venezuela's border with Colombia is not about immigration at all.

## International trade and socialism

The Bolivarian Revolution underway in Venezuela aspires to build a socialist society. In a world dominated by capitalism and imperialism, a government aiming toward socialism needs to maintain a monopoly on foreign trade. Without this, socialist planning for people's needs is next to impossible.

This problem is especially acute for Venezuela, which has a long border with Colombia — a country whose ruling class is completely lined up with and under the domination of U.S. imperialism. The Colombian masses must endure the presence of U.S. troops and a militarized government which attacks every vestige of progressive development. They are also victims of a trade arrangement that allows goods produced in the U.S. to overwhelm local industry and farming.

Poor and working people in Colombia are at the mercy of so-called market reforms and austerity, not to mention the depredations of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Billions of dollars have been spent trying to suppress progressive revolutionary forces like the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). At the same time the military and paramilitary forces have run roughshod over the political and human rights of the people, killing trade unionists and human rights workers.

The government of Venezuela has sought to ease the impact of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis by subsidizing necessities for its people. Unfortunately, unscrupulous capitalists, with the full support of the imperialists, have sought to undermine the Bolivarian Revolution. They illegally buy subsidized gasoline, food, medicine and other basic products in Venezuela and smuggle them for resale in Colombia at a huge profit, where prices are much higher.

The Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela published a statement in the New York Times on Sept. 9, entitled "The Truth about the Venezuela-Colombia Border Situation." It explains that the government has had to impose "extraordinary measures by closing a partial section of its border" to protect its people "from serious threats to our national and economic se-

curity." (eeuu.embajada.gob.ve)

The statement says that "oil smugglers can obtain a 3,000 percent profit by transferring gas illegally from Venezuela to Colombia. In Cucuta, Colombia, 5 gallons of gasoline cost 14,000 bolivares, while in Venezuela the cost is ... 3 bolivares." Corn flour costs 650 bolivares in Colombia compared to 19 in Venezuela.

Other facts are that "30 percent of Venezuela's food imports are smuggled out of the country; 40 percent of Venezuela's goods in general are smuggled out; 80 percent of products sold in Cucuta, Colombia, are smuggled out; the partial border closing is saving Venezuela over 260,000 gallons of gas a day; [and] Venezuela loses at least \$2 billion a year from contraband."

Is there any wonder that shortages have appeared in Venezuela? This is not only an attack on the Venezuelan government, but on the very lives of poor and working people in both countries.

Furthermore, it has always been the case that it is far easier for a society to provide luxuries for a few than basic necessities for the vast majority of people. As a nation that is attempting to build socialism, which is under constant attack and subversion by the U.S. — including a blatant coup attempt in 2002 — and is struggling to protect its population from the ravages of the world capitalist crisis, Venezuela has a right to defend itself against these imperialist- and capitalist-inspired attacks. □

# Tens of thousands say 'Refugees welcome!'

By Kathy Durkin

A European "Day of Action" in solidarity with refugees from the Middle East and Northern Africa who are entering Europe took place on Sept. 12 in a number of capital cities on the continent and even as far away as Sydney, Australia.

The huge outpouring of tens of thousands of migrant supporters countered the corporate media's focus on right-wing hostility to the refugees in some countries. Many protesters asserted opposition to their government's plans to limit the number of refugees who would be admitted into their country.

The point was stressed at several countries' rallies that the migrants are fleeing

their homelands besieged by wars — wars in which their own governments are complicit. Activists insist that their governments have a responsibility to open the borders, welcome all migrants and provide essential services to them, especially those from Syria, who have fled their homes after four years of imperialist-led war and dislocation.

"Refugees welcome here!" was the theme on banners and signs in demonstrations in London, Glasgow, Dublin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, The Hague, Geneva, Vienna, Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid, Athens, Lyons and Paris, France; Budapest, Hungary; Warsaw, Poland; and elsewhere.

In a "Solidarity with Refugees" action, tens of thousands marched in London

to Prime Minister David Cameron's office. Holding signs reading "Open the Borders," "Shut down all detention centers now!" and "Refugees in, Tories out!" they aimed their demands at government leaders, calling on them to do much more to help the migrants. A few days before the demonstration, Cameron said that Britain would take in 20,000 more refugees, but over five years — hardly adequate, given the severity of the crisis, and unacceptable to the demonstrators.

Some 30,000 people assembled outside Denmark's parliament building in Copenhagen and protested their government's proclamation that it would severely limit the number of migrants who would be allowed to enter the country.

In other cities, various slogans were chanted and written on placards, such as "Welcome Syrians" in Lisbon, "Deportations for racists" in Athens, "Down with Europe's walls" in Stockholm and "Berlin sees Syria" at that city's rally at Potsdamer Platz.

It is noteworthy that some demonstrations were held in Eastern European countries where governments and ultra-right groups have exhibited anti-migrant hostility. Activists protested the Hungarian government's mistreatment of Syrian refugees by rallying at Keleti train station, where migrants have assembled in their attempts to reach other European countries. Demonstrators loudly chanted "Not in my name!" and showed strong solidarity with migrants. □

# Revolutionary Venezuela welcomes refugees

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Venezuela has offered asylum to 20,000 Syrian refugees. President Nicolás Maduro, head of the revolutionary Bolivarian government, made the announcement on Sept. 7. Nearly 11 million Syrians — almost half of the population — have been displaced by war: 6.5 million internally, while 4.1 million have fled the country. (CNN, Sept. 11)

Syrian refugees are part of a global emergency in which millions of people are being displaced by the wars and crises of a failing capitalist economic system. The great majority of recent refugees are Libyans and South Sudanese from Northern Africa, Syrians and Iraqis from the Middle East, and Afghans from Central Asia.

These refugees are fleeing areas where the United States has either invaded militarily or waged indirect war through proxies. The U.S. has also fomented covert destabilization through sectarian fighting, arms shipments and sending military "advisers." These areas are all important to U.S. corporate interests in-



GRAPHIC: TELESUR

wars halfway across the globe. The revolutionary country is already home to more than 175,000 Colombian refugees.

According to the Sept. 14 Latin American Herald Tribune, Mohammed Alwash, of the U.N. High Commission on Refugees, praised Venezuela for its "generosity" in taking in Colombians fleeing the violence in their own country. The UNHCR profile on Colombia says that "widespread security risks and violence, the forced recruitment of children and youth, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), threats, disappearances and murders continue to occur."

(tinyurl.com/qa9t2v6)

## U.S. foments terror

United States business interests have historically backed Colombian right-wing military and paramilitary death squads that carry out systematic terror against workers and communities in the country. Particularly targeted are workers who organize in industries dominated by U.S. corporate interests, such as mining, oil, coal, flowers and bananas.

At one point, four out of every five labor unionists murdered in the world were in Colombia. Legal charges have been brought in the U.S. against Coca-Cola and Drummond Coal for hiring paramilitary squads to intimidate, torture and assassinate workers in the Colombian branches of their businesses.

Fomenting war and terrorism by the U.S. in Latin America has continued with the establishment of seven U.S. military bases in Colombia. One is being developed as the new "School of the Americas," reported the Sept. 10 Workers World. Its purpose is to train police and military forces in repression, torture and special operations covert actions.

Wall Street can move capitalist money across national borders in milliseconds. But millions of workers fleeing imperialist bombs and starvation face barbed wire fences and internment camps when they seek to cross those borders.

The Bolivarian government's welcome to both Syrian and Colombian refugees is a ringing call for the workers and oppressed in every country of the world to unite and fight to "open the borders" to all those increasingly displaced by wars waged for corporate profits. □

# Turkish regime opens fire on Kurds, leftists

By John Catalinotto

The Turkish government, as well as admittedly fascist elements, have opened a broad attack on democratic organizations throughout western Turkey. Meanwhile, the Turkish army has continued its assault on the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK), both guerrillas and civilians, in the majority Kurdish southeast of the country.

The U.S. and other NATO governments support the Turkish regime's offensive. The Ankara regime recently granted the U.S. Air Force the right to use military bases inside Turkish borders to carry out bombing raids against Syria and Iraq. Turkey's government has also waged war and subversion against the Syrian government.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan schemed in last June's national election for his ruling Justice Party (AKP) to increase its majority to 60 percent of the seats in Parliament. Had he achieved this, Erdogan would have been able to change the Turkish Constitution and consolidate his presidential rule.

Instead, his AKP lost 71 seats, winning only a minority — 258 — of the 550 seats. A new leftist coalition party, the Peoples

Democratic Party (HDP), with much support from the Kurdish population, won a surprising 79 seats. The AKP, still the biggest party in parliament, was forced to call a new national election for November.

Fortified by its deal with the Pentagon, the Erdogan regime then opened up an air war on the PKK in Iraq and against Kurdish forces in Syria, while stepping up repression in the Kurdish regions. The PKK liberation forces, which had been engaged in peace talks with the Erdogan regime over the past two years, fought back. Turkish army and police forces killed Kurdish fighters and many civilians, but also took casualties as the PKK retaliated.

In the latest escalation, the AKP and the fascist Nationalist Movement Party, also known as the Grey Wolves, attacked and firebombed offices of the leftist HDP and the homes of some of its members throughout Turkey on Sept. 8 and 9.

During the June elections, the HDP campaigned on demands to raise the minimum wage, improve access to university education and achieve gender equality. It promised to create a ministry of women and make International Women's Day a national holiday. The HDP has a man and

woman, respectively, as co-chairs: Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yukseldag.

## 300 HDP offices attacked

At a press conference in the eastern city of Diyarbakir on Sept. 9, Demirtas charged that while the army and police are carrying out state terror against civilians under a curfew in the majority Kurdish cities in eastern Turkey, in the west of the country, Erdogan is encouraging open street terror by fascist thugs. Within two days, there were more than 400 assaults and attacks on party offices, newspaper offices, shops and houses of Kurds and tents of Kurdish seasonal workers across the country. More than 300 attacks were carried out on HDP offices, with some burned to the ground. (Junge Welt, Sept. 11)

Demirtas called on supporters of his party to organize self-defense squads. He said the attacks were not spontaneous reactions from the population in response to attacks by PKK guerrillas, as the government alleged, but a dress rehearsal for a civil war. He accused the AKP and the Turkish secret service of coordinating the attacks on his party.

On Sept. 10, the German daily newspaper Junge Welt published an interview

with Semra Dogan, co-chair of HDP in the Kadiköy district of Istanbul, in which she explained her party and the new situation.

The HDP "is a joint project of the Kurds, the left and the democrats," she said. "We are fighting for equality, freedom and peace. Since we got 13.2 percent of the vote in the parliamentary elections on June 7, the state has been trying to stop us. The police and military operations are part of a long-prepared plan to crush the democratic forces and open the way for the presidential system sought by Erdogan."

She continued: "Kurdish cities have proclaimed autonomy because they feel threatened. It serves a legitimate self-defense. The state wanted to lynch the residents. The guerrilla forces have repeatedly stated that they will not go to war, and will limit their action to self-defense. But the armed forces bombard the guerrillas and their base areas, trying to provoke them into an active war."

"Erdogan and his AKP need dead soldiers [to arouse nationalist fervor against the Kurds]. The president knows that he was backed into a corner by these tactics — he is now trying to mobilize nationalist votes to continue to hold on to power." □

# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

### Racism and Black tennis players

The Public Broadcasting Station recently aired an “American Masters” documentary on Althea Gibson, the first African-American tennis star to break the color barrier in the virtually all-white, highly privileged professional tennis world. She has been compared to Jackie Robinson.

Gibson was born in 1927 in Silver, S.C., into a sharecropper family. To escape dire poverty, her family moved to Harlem, N.Y., where she started her tennis competition as a teenager at the predominantly Black American Tennis Association.

When she first stepped foot on the manicured lawns of Forest Hills in Queens, N.Y., to play tennis in 1950, she was constantly bombarded with the n---er epithet from racist spectators.

She eventually became the first Black person to win the French championship (today’s French Open) in 1956. In 1957, she won Wimbledon and U.S. National (today’s U.S. Open) championships. She won the same 1957 championships in 1958 — a remarkable feat.

Gibson eventually quit tennis to take more remunerative work because women tennis players were paid next to nothing in those days. She was contemplating suicide when a close woman tennis friend raised \$1 million for Gibson from admiring fans worldwide.

#### Despite racism, Williams sisters remain dominant

Serena and Venus Williams were mere toddlers when Gibson died in 1984. They both consider Gibson to be an important role model, as she overcame the many obstacles she faced as a Black woman to reach the highest pinnacle of recognition in the racist tennis world, similar to those faced by these amazing sisters.

The Williams sisters began to play tennis at a very young age in Compton, Calif., thanks to their father, Richard, who coached them. Since the late 1990s, they have dominated women’s tennis in the most amazing way, with Venus winning seven single Grand Slam titles and Serena winning 21 single titles. Serena came very close to winning her first calendar Grand Slam title at this U.S. Open (winning all four major competitions in one year) and to tying with Steffi Graf at 22 wins in the modern tennis era.

Serena’s mother, Oracene Price, said that her daughter felt so much pressure to become just the fourth woman in history to win the calendar Grand Slam. (ESPN, Sept. 11)

Both Williams sisters have faced horrific racism even to the present day. Richard Williams paid children to yell out racist epithets to his daughters on the Compton practice courts to prepare them for what they would face as adults, playing professional tennis in front of largely white crowds.

As Serena began to rack up the single titles on the U.S. Tennis Association tour,

she faced ugly racist epithets, most notably at an Indian Wells tournament in California in 2001. She boycotted playing tennis there until earlier this year.

Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev was forced to publicly apologize last October to the Williams sisters after he publicly referred to them as “brothers” and called them “scary” to look at. He was banned for a year by the Women’s Tennis Association and fined. Serena characterized his remarks as racist and sexist.

Serena may be ranked the number one women’s tennis player, but not in terms of “marketability” in the corporate world. According to Forbes, Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova is the world’s highest-paid woman athlete in terms of endorsements. Serena has beaten Sharapova 18 out of 20 times. In terms of the overall Forbes list of men and women, Sharapova is ranked 12th and Williams 20th.

On more than one occasion, Serena has been ridiculed in sexist terms in print and social media for her powerful body image — being 5’9” and 150 pounds — but she has never been on the defensive about it.

At 33 and 35 years old, respectively, Serena and Venus Williams are just as dominant today as they were 18 years ago, when they both played at the U.S. Open as teenagers. When asked which athlete she would like to meet today, Serena answered, “Muhammad Ali,” due to his heroic stance in 1967 when he refused to fight in Vietnam.

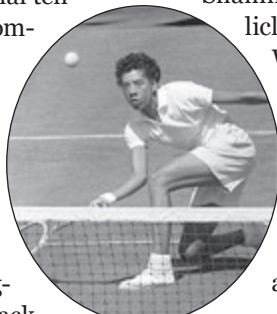
#### James Blake: standing while Black

Black tennis stars like Althea Gibson, the Williams sisters, Arthur Ashe and others not only face racism on the tennis courts but off them as well. Take the lesser-known James Blake, once ranked the fourth-best tennis player in the world before he retired in 2013. A surveillance tape caught Blake being viciously attacked by a plainclothes New York police officer outside of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in a case of so-called mistaken identity. Police Commissioner William Bratton stated that the person that Blake resembled

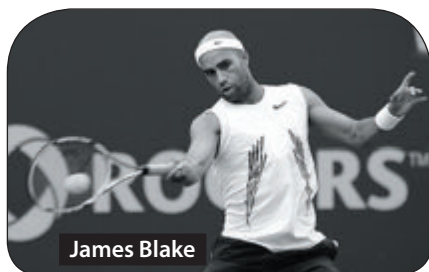
could have been his “twin,” a reminder of the racist cliché that all Black people look alike — especially if they are Black young men.

The white cop who attacked Blake, James Frascatore, was named in four civilian complaints in a seven-month period of 2013. He has been named in two federal civil rights lawsuits as being among the group of officers accused of beating, pepper spraying and falsely arresting two Queens men in separate incidents that year.

Blake has demanded that Frascatore be fired. While Bratton was forced to publicly apologize to Blake, he should also be pressured to arrest and charge Frascatore with assault and battery based on racism. □



Althea Gibson



James Blake

### People’s victory in Freddie Gray trial



Freddie Gray

By Colleen Gillan  
Baltimore

On Sept. 10, a protest called by the People’s Power Assembly demanded justice for Freddie Gray and that the trial against the cops who killed him be held in Baltimore. More than 100 demonstrators rallied outside of the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse in Baltimore, where a hearing was held to decide upon a motion to change the trial venue to a county outside of Baltimore city.

Sharon Black of the People’s Power Assembly said, “The police murdered Freddie Gray in Baltimore, and they need to be held accountable in Baltimore. We remember the case of Rodney King and the trial in Simi Valley [Calif.] that led to the acquittal of the police who brutally beat King.”

The Rev. C.D. Witherspoon continued, “What we are doing today is for all of the victims of police terror, including the murders and abuse of women, the LGBTQ community, everyone!” Along with Witherspoon, Kwame Rose — who was arrest-

ed at a Sept. 2 protest along with members of FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) and the PPA — helped lead a march around the courthouse despite police intimidation.

Earlier in the morning, a young woman, Randi Gross, was arrested as she carried a sign in front of the courthouse. Pastor West, who also participated in last week’s protests, was arrested the evening before on a variety of charges, including alleged inciting to riot during the Sept. 2 march.

Tawanda Jones spoke of the necessity to keep fighting and never give up until justice is served. Her brother, Tyrone West, was beaten to death by the police in 2013, and she has been fighting and demanding justice for her brother for the past two years.

After hours of protesting, the verdict was announced: The cops who murdered Freddie Gray will not have a change of venue and will be tried here in Baltimore, where the brutality was committed. The protest ended as the crowd erupted in cheers and celebration. □

### Protests hit police-state expo



PHOTO: LEFTY GOMEZ

By Dave Welsh  
Oakland, Calif.

Urban Shield, a million-dollar expo for training and sales of military hardware to local police departments, was kicked out of Oakland last year after militant community actions including street blockades. This year, the four-day event, called “the largest tactical exercise in the nation” for domestic war games, retreated to the county fairgrounds in Pleasanton, Calif., but drew continued protests on Sept. 11.

Several hundred people took over the intersection outside the Alameda County Sheriff’s office for 90 minutes of guerrilla theater, music and speeches to denounce Urban Shield, which trains about 5,000 people from 100 agencies, including SWAT team tactics. A 13-year-old Latina girl took the mic to tell how a police SWAT team raided her home at 4:30 a.m. and searched a baby sibling. “As soon as I hit the door, I opened it, they started screaming at me to put my hands up, pointing rifles at me,” she said. “It seemed like a movie.”

The Stop Urban Shield Coalition, which includes the Arab Resource & Organizing Center, the Anti-Police-Terror Project, Bayan, Code Pink, Occupy Oakland, Critical Resistance, Workers World Party and the War Resisters League, stated: “While Urban Shield is just one front in the fight against the state’s attempt

to militarize every aspect of our lives — from its war-making here and abroad, to the increasing presence of police in our schools, to the systemic murder of Black and Brown people at the hands of police — stopping it would be a major victory against growing militarization, from Oakland to Ferguson to Baltimore.”

Urban Shield was created in the wake of Sept. 11 by the Department of Homeland Security and its business partners. Mohamed Shekh of Critical Resistance said that police use Sept. 11 as an excuse to become militarized and to spy on people. Urban Shield, he said, teaches law enforcement how to “better control and repress communities around the world.”

The Urban Shield extravaganza will include police enacting “Active Shooter/Immediate Action Team scenarios” normally used in combat zones. Its sponsors include the Homeland Security Department, Elephant Hunt Clothing (guns and skulls), iRobot (unmanned ground vehicles), Mile High Shooting Accessories (sniper rifles), Winchester and other suppliers.

The event is open to teams from anywhere, including south Korea this year. In past years, teams from police or sheriff’s departments in Jacksonville, Fla.; Miami; Boston; Philadelphia; Chicago; and Dallas have participated, in addition to the French National Police and agencies from the Kingdom of Jordan, Bahrain and the settler state of Israel. □

## BDS victory

# Veolia/Transdev ends all investment in Israel

By Terri Kay

In late August, Transdev, a subsidiary of the giant, France-based, transnational corporation Veolia, sold its final 5 percent stake in CityPass, which runs Jerusalem Light Rail. This rail line runs trains driving over illegally expropriated Palestinian land for the benefit of Zionist settlers on the West Bank. The trains bypass Palestinian neighborhoods.

In 2009, the U.N. Human Rights Council described the light rail project as “built to service the settlements.” The rail was designed to connect the western part of Jerusalem with the Israeli settlements surrounding the city in the occupied West Bank. These settlements were built in violation of international law.

This was the last and final in a series of withdrawals/sales Veolia has made in Israel and the Occupied Territories. It follows the sell-off of Veolia’s energy, water and waste businesses there in April to the private equity firm Oaktree Capital Management. In September 2013, Veolia had sold its local bus services subsidiary to the Afikim Company. Veolia’s bus company had transported Israeli settlers to the illegal West Bank settlements, while excluding all Palestinian towns and riders.

Veolia acquired a damaging and toxic reputation for its involvement in Israel, which included transferring waste from Israel to occupied Palestinian land in the

Jordan Valley along with its transportation companies.

### The bigger they are, the harder they fall!

According to the Sept. 1 Newsweek, “The BDS movement has waged a seven-year boycott campaign against Veolia — a company that employs 179,508 people and boasts a market capitalization of \$10.9 billion — and claims that lost contracts across Europe and the U.S. have cost the company approximately \$20 billion.”

Additionally Morningstar online reported that between 2010-13 Veolia lost or withdrew from waste contracts worth over \$15 billion worldwide.

Riya Hassan, the European coordinator of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions National Committee, said, “Veolia is still a target for union activists, environmentalists and anti-privatization campaigners, due to its record of anti-labor policies and involvement in the privatization of public water. All those still being affected by Veolia’s policies and struggling for accountability and reparations can continue to count on our solidarity. The BDS movement takes cross-struggle solidarity to heart.”



Boston Jewish Voice for Peace protest, Nov. 14, 2012.

Pam Africa with Steve Kirschbaum, one of leaders of the Boston school bus drivers union fired by Veolia.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Workers World spoke with Lara Kiswani, executive director of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, about her group’s victory. “It is becoming clearer to the world,” said Kiswani, “that the partnership between the U.S. and Israel is central to global policing and repression. The impact on workers and Black and Brown communities has made it easy for grassroots organizing to connect the dots and build power across movements.

“The enormous Boycott, Divest and Sanction victories are a reflection of just that. It is no longer OK for Israel to do business as usual anywhere. State violence is being challenged everywhere. The accomplishments of the Veolia cam-

paign are a win for all those fighting for dignity and justice in the workplace, in the schools and in the communities.”

### Salutes Boston school bus drivers

Finally, addressing the struggle of the Boston School Bus Drivers union, United Steelworkers Local 8751 against Veolia/Transdev, Kiswani added, “The Arab Resource and Organizing Center salutes the Boston school bus drivers in their fight for justice. We know all too well the role that corporations such as Veolia play in facilitating and perpetuating oppression and colonial violence globally. The Palestine solidarity movement has fought them and won. And we know that the bus drivers’ demand for equity in education and in the workplace is a struggle of all people, and a struggle that will be won.” □

# What does Corbyn’s Labor Party victory mean?

By John Catalinotto

An electoral earthquake has shaken Britain’s Labor Party. Jeremy Corbyn, who, while taking consistent leftist and anti-militarist positions as the representative in Parliament of London’s Islington North neighborhood since 1983, was elected party leader by a landslide 60 percent of the vote against three other candidates. The Sept. 12 Guardian newspaper described Corbyn as “one of the most left-wing, anti-establishment leaders in [Labor’s] history.”

The next national election is scheduled for 2020. Corbyn’s election as leader of the number two party makes him head of a shadow cabinet. His group will confront the ruling Conservative Party and rightist Prime Minister David Cameron. Corbyn’s election is a rebuff by the working class and youth in Britain to the politics of anti-worker austerity and imperialist war that has characterized both Conservative and recent Labor governments.

Whatever its impact on the 2020 election, Corbyn’s victory opens the possibility to mobilize both mass sentiment and street demonstrations to oppose austerity and war.

The Conservatives have already reacted by calling Corbyn “a threat to national security.” This frontal attack is itself a

sign of their nervousness that behind this change in Labor’s leadership is a change in the mood of the masses in Britain. It means that workers and youth especially are fed up with politics as usual and are looking outside the box for solutions to their crisis.

Britain was not the first country in Europe to show that the working class is fed up. Expressions of this through voting shifts have already taken place in the following countries:

- **Spain:** The new anti-austerity party called Podemos got 8 percent in the 2014 elections and may win more.
- **Turkey:** seating of the leftist-Kurdish electoral coalition known as the People’s Democratic Party in Parliament.
- **Greece:** victory of the social-democratic Syriza party last January, despite its now obvious limitations.
- **Scotland:** Scottish National Party winning 56 of 59 seats in the General Election in May, which was also at least partly a rebellion against the British Labor Party’s pro-austerity positions and a harbinger of the latest change.

In the United States, Bernie Sanders’ large and energetic rallies are also a sign that a large number of people, especially youth, are fed up with politics as usual and want to fight austerity and increase

economic equality. Sanders’ own shortcomings — support for U.S. imperialism and Israel and his insensitivity to the Black Lives Matter movement — may understate how ready his supporters are to back an anti-war program and African-American equality.

### Corbyn’s history in the Labor Party

Corbyn has been virtually unknown in the United States, even within the radical movement. This writer first became aware of him in November 2001, soon after the U.S.-British invasion of Afghanistan. At a protest meeting in Madrid, Spain, we represented the anti-war movements of our respective countries. It was early in the post-9/11 imperialist aggression that was to swallow up Afghanistan and Iraq under George W. Bush in the U.S. and Labor’s Tony Blair in Britain — two war criminals.

Corbyn was impressive with his lack of swagger. He showed more sensitivity to helping the meeting be a success than to spotlighting his talk. He went on in subsequent years to become a leader of the Stop the War Coalition, and currently is chair of that organization, which has been the leading anti-war group in Britain. In January 2003 he spoke at a major anti-war rally we helped organize in Washington against the oncoming war on Iraq.

Corbyn was the first to invite Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein to the British Parliament as early as 1984. He is also known for supporting rights for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer communities.

Corbyn also opposed NATO’s 2011 attacks on Libya and its current aggressive stance on Ukraine. He spoke out against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006 and its bombings of Gaza in 2008 and 2014. On Sept. 12, just hours following his election as Labor leader, he left

Parliament to speak at a London rally of 50,000 people in solidarity with the refugees in Europe.

Corbyn has been one of the few Labor members of parliament to consistently oppose all privatization. He has flouted the official Labor leadership in Parliament to vote against all austerity — that is, all anti-worker measures.

Within Labor’s group in Parliament, Corbyn got support from only 20 of the 230 members. Betting odds against his election were 200 to 1. Recent changes in Labor’s voting rules, however, tripled the eligible rank-and-file voters to 500,000. And he won support from some of the major trade unions. The mass of rank-and-file youth and worker votes overwhelmed the Tony Blair-Gordon Brown “New Labor” parliamentary faction.

As Friedrich Engels wrote in “The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State” in 1884, all elections can do is provide a “gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more in the modern state.” Since that time, the capitalist ruling class has tightened its hold on elections and on state power.

No matter how principled the individual, a Labor Party leader who doesn’t surrender to the ruling class will face enormous hostility from those who control the enormous banking, media, police and army power of British imperialism, including the monarchy. A much different kind of struggle — a class struggle — will be needed to actually change this balance of forces.

Nevertheless, Corbyn’s election to Labor Party leader shows that a large section of the masses in Britain — which now has a broad, multinational working class — is ready for struggle. Let’s hope this “maturity” develops and spreads throughout the imperialist countries. □

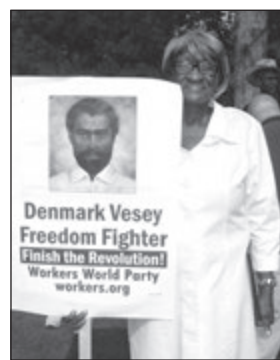


PHOTO: WISCONSIN BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE

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## Rasmea Odeh habla en contra de los crímenes de la policía

4 de septiembre 2015

*WW-Mundo Obrero reproduce aquí un discurso de la activista palestina Rasmea Odeh, originalmente distribuido por el Fight Back News Service. Odeh habló en la marcha por el control comunitario de la policía del 29 de agosto en Chicago. Fight Back News Service insta a ir a Cincinnati-Ohio el 14 de octubre cuando los argumentos de la apelación de su injusta condena serán escuchados en la corte federal. Para obtener más información, vaya a Stopfbf.net.*

“Es increíblemente poderoso ver a miles de personas reunidas aquí para alzar nuestras voces para detener los crímenes de la policía, para exigir un Consejo Civil de Responsabilidad Policial, y para seguir luchando por la justicia, porque todas/os tenemos las mismas esperanzas y sueños y creemos en los mismos principios de libertad, justicia e igualdad.

Nosotras/os los palestinos, hemos estado luchando durante casi 70 años bajo la ilegal ocupación militar colonial y las prácticas opresivas y racistas de Israel. Continúan aterrorizando a nuestro pueblo y cometiendo crímenes brutales. Así que sabemos de la rabia, la indignación y la motivación para levantarse contra las políticas policiales racistas que empujan a nuestras comunidades a los márgenes de la sociedad.

Los crímenes de la policía contra las/os negros en EUA son casi idénticos a los que experimentamos en Palestina a manos de los israelíes. Es por ello que hablamos de la lucha conjunta, y por eso es nuestra responsabilidad apoyar las luchas de las/os oprimidos en este país, en Palestina, y en todo el mundo. Nosotras/os, palestinos y árabes, estamos de pie en solidaridad incondicional con la valiente comunidad negra, que como todas/os ustedes, se levanta en contra de todos los casos de viciosa violencia policial en este país.

Exigimos además, la rendición de cuentas de la policía y el fin del perfil racial discriminatorio. Es por eso que estamos aquí como endosantes de la campaña para establecer un Consejo Civil de Responsabilidad Policial. Por eso estamos apoyando el desafío de Acusamos de Genocidio a las políticas de “Parar y Registrar” del Departamento de Policía de Chicago, y por qué mi organización, la Red de Acción Árabe-Americana, ha puesto en marcha una campaña dirigida por jóvenes para detener la represión y discriminación racial contra las/os árabes y musulmanes.

Creo que nuestros desafíos son difíciles. No es fácil desmontar el racismo y la opresión nacional. Detener los crímenes de la policía no será tarea sencilla. Pero no nos deben asustar los desafíos mientras creamos en nuestros derechos y los principios que defendemos, y luchemos juntas/os, pues así nos hacemos más fuertes y más eficaces. Entonces podremos alcanzar nuestras metas.

Estamos a favor de la justicia social y la liberación de este país, de la misma manera que mi pueblo ha dedicado sus vidas a la liberación de Palestina. La lucha del movimiento de Liberación Negra en este país, y las luchas anti-coloniales en África, América Latina y Asia siempre nos han inspirado. ....y reconocemos que la Liberación Negra en este país conducirá a la liberación de todas/os.

Por último, quisiera decir que estoy muy orgullosa de ver que la mayoría es gente joven. Ustedes están liderando y proporcionado el aire fresco que nuestras comunidades necesitan. Junten sus recursos con la sabiduría de la generación anterior; con las experiencias de sus aliados; y con otras comunidades para asegurarse de que puedan lograr los sueños y metas que les pertenecen a ustedes y a todas/os nosotros. Sigán organizándose.... hasta que logremos un Consejo Civil de Responsabilidad Policial. ¡Sé que juntas/os lograremos esta meta! □

## Guerras de Estados Unidos causan crisis de refugiados

Por Sara Flounders

Las guerras de Estados Unidos, las sanciones y la desestabilización planificada, son la causa abrumadora de la oleada de cientos de miles de refugiadas/os de guerra que inundan las fronteras de Europa y el mar Mediterráneo. Las principales potencias de Europa y la OTAN han colaborado con el imperialismo norteamericano en cada guerra.

Los medios corporativos están publicando imágenes dolorosas de niños ahogados, barcos que se hunden, noticias de camiones sofocantes e informes de miles acampados en las estaciones de tren y a lo largo de las carreteras. Quitar estos informes de contexto omitiendo la causa de la crisis de refugiados. Algunas personas temen que la enorme cobertura de prensa podría ser una cínica preparación para justificar una nueva ofensiva militar por parte de países de la OTAN contra Siria.

**Aviones EUA bombardean Libia**

Las dimensiones reales de la catástrofe humanitaria están en gran parte ocultas. Las/os 340.000 refugiados que han llegado a Europa, constituyen sólo el 3 por ciento de las más de 10 millones de personas desplazadas que apenas sobreviven en campos de refugiados en Siria o en países limítrofes. Estos países vecinos también están desestabilizados por el aumento de refugiados y las sanciones contra Siria que repercuten en toda la región.

Los gobiernos europeos desestimaron los estragos causados por la guerra, siempre y cuando la crisis se mantuviera fuera de sus puertas.

Las condiciones calamitosas de las/os refugiados se agravaron porque el exiguo Programa de Alimentos de la ONU ha agotado sus fondos y ahora está cortando a cientos de miles de refugiadas/os en los campos de refugiados administrados por la ONU en Jordania, Turquía, Irak y Siria. La agencia de la ONU necesita solo \$236 millones para mantener el programa financiado hasta noviembre.

Según la NationalPriorities.org, el gobierno estadounidense ha gastado eso y más en guerras en Irak, Afganistán y Siria cada 28 horas desde el año 2001.

El mayor número de refugiadas/os son de Siria, Irak, Afganistán, Libia y Sudán del Sur. El poder corporativo estadounidense, impulsado por su insaciable motivación de asegurar el control de los recursos valiosos y hacer retroceder cambios progresistas, tenía en la mira cada uno de estos países.

Ninguna de estas guerras fue con fines humanitarios. Cada una es fuente de súper ganancias en contratos militares para EUA y las corporaciones de la Unión Europea ... y la ruina de millones de personas.

La estrategia de Washington en cada una de estas guerras imperialistas, ha sido la de encender las diferencias sectarias, étnicas, nacionales y religiosas. Esto significa organizar milicias contendientes, enfrentar un grupo contra otro para romper el orgullo nacional y la resistencia unificada. Divide y vencerás es la estrategia que se remonta a las guerras de EUA contra los pueblos indígenas en el subcontinente de América del Norte.

El Pentágono cínicamente apunta contra la infraestructura civil, incluyendo redes eléctricas, depósitos de combustible, riego, purificación del agua, saneamiento, industrias locales y especialmente las escuelas, en un esfuerzo para desmoralizar y desorientar a la población. Washington arma y empodera a las fuerzas más reaccionarias y caudillos corruptos como colaboradores.

**Los refugiados de las guerras actuales de EUA**

Siria tiene hoy el mayor número de personas desplazadas por la guerra. Las sanciones de EUA a partir del 2010 fueron seguidas en el 2011 por el armamento y financiamiento de las fuerzas mercenarias por EUA/OTAN y Arabia Saudita. Esta guerra ha destruido un país anteriormente próspero donde la población tenía una moderna infraestructura, atención médica gratuita y de calidad y educación gratuita.

Ahora, casi la mitad de la población siria de 23 millones se encuentra desplazada. Más de 4 millones han huido a países vecinos. Las fuerzas sectarias, mercenarias y fanáticas dentro de Siria ahora alcanzan cerca de 125.000 miembros, en miles de bandas que compiten de unos 80 o más países.

La guerra de Estados Unidos en Irak desde 1990 hasta el 2003 incluyó la destrucción masiva y sistemática de la infraestructura y 13 años de sanciones económicas. La invasión y ocupación de Irak por EUA y Bretaña ocasionó ruina catastrófica y fomentó violencia sectaria desconocida en la historia iraquí. Las/os refugiados y desplazados internos sumaron 4,7 millones de personas. Casi la mitad de las/os refugiados iraquíes recibieron refugio en una sobrecargada Siria.

Desde la Revolución de Saur en 1978, que derrocó a la monarquía en Afganistán, el Pentágono ha proporcionado más de \$3 mil millones para las fuerzas contrarrevolucio-

narias para destruir la revolución. Durante tres décadas, el azotado Afganistán lideró las listas de refugiados de guerra de la ONU. Durante la década de 1980, había 3,5 millones de refugiadas/os afganos en Pakistán y 2,0 millones en Irán.

La ocupación de Afganistán por EUA/OTAN en el 2001 creó nuevas oleadas de refugiadas/os. Actualmente hay 1,5 millones de refugiadas/os afganos en Pakistán, un millón en Irán y millones de personas desplazadas dentro del propio Afganistán.

En Libia, siete meses de bombardeos EUA/OTAN en 2010 destruyeron toda la infraestructura de un estado moderno donde el petróleo nacionalizado ayudó a alcanzar el más alto nivel de vida en África. Cientos de miles de trabajadores de toda África habían encontrado trabajo en Libia, que también habían proporcionado ayuda para el desarrollo económico en África.

Al apelar por asistencia, el presidente de Túnez Moncef Marzouki explicó que dos millones de libias/os, o un tercio de la población pre-intervención OTAN de Libia, se ha refugiado en Túnez. El número es equivalente a una quinta parte de la población de Túnez.

Hoy en día, Sudán del Sur tiene el mayor número de refugiadas/os en África. Según la Agencia de Refugiados de la ONU, hay 2,25 millones de refugiadas/os y una espiral de guerra civil en ese país rico en petróleo. Como explicó el New York Times el 3 de enero de 2014, Sudán del Sur es en muchos sentidos una “creación de EUA, cercenada de una Sudán devastada por la guerra en un referéndum en gran parte orquestado por EUA, estando sus instituciones frágiles nutridas con miles de millones de dólares en ayuda estadounidense”.

Más de 2 millones de refugiadas/os en Ucrania representan la crisis más reciente, causada por la expansión a las fronteras de Rusia de la alianza militar de la OTAN comandada por EUA. Aunque Washington no proporciona fondos para alimentar refugiados de sus guerras de agresión, el gobierno estadounidense gastó \$5 mil millones para financiar las fuerzas fascistas y redes sociales que derrocaron al gobierno electo en Ucrania. La secretaria de estado Victoria Nuland incluso se jactó de esta financiación. El gobierno golpista de Kiev ahora libra una guerra contra los antifascistas en el este de Ucrania.

Según las estadísticas del Servicio Federal de Migración Ruso, un total de 2,6 millones de ucranianas/os están actualmente en territorio ruso. Cerca de 1 millón son de

las regiones del sudeste de Ucrania que huyen de los conflictos armados en las regiones de Donetsk y Lugansk.

**Refugiados anteriores de guerras de EUA**

Las guerras de EUA en el sudeste de Asia desgarraron Vietnam, Camboya y Laos en los años 1960 y 1970. El esfuerzo por dominar la región fracasó, pero la destrucción masiva dejó 4 millones de muertos, millones de mutilados y 2 millones de refugiadas/os vietnamitas y camboyanos desesperados por migrar.

La financiación de milicias, guerrilleras y narcos era la política estadounidense en Centroamérica en la década de 1980. La ONU estima que un tercio de la fuerza laboral de El Salvador huyó del país en la década de 1980. Más de medio millón llegó a EUA.

La guerra para ampliar la OTAN y desmembrar Yugoslavia, en Bosnia en 1995 y en Serbia en 1999, de nuevo usó la destrucción de la infraestructura civil e inflamó las diferencias sectarias. Según el Alto Comisionado de la ONU para los Refugiados, de 3,7 - 4,0 millones de personas fueron desplazadas, convirtiéndose en refugiados.

Sin olvidar los más de 60 años de financiamiento y equipamiento de Israel por EUA que facilitó la expropiación de cientos de miles de personas de Palestina, el problema de refugiados más largo y prolongado del mundo. BADIL, un centro de investigación y apoyo a derechos de las/os refugiados, estima que hay más de 7 millones de refugiadas/os y desplazados palestinos. Esta cifra incluye las/os 4,2 millones de palestinos registrados en la Agencia para la Ayuda a los Refugiados de Palestina en el Cercano Oriente (OOPS) de la ONU y a otras/os palestinos desplazados en 1967 y aún desplazadas/os en el interior de Israel.

Mientras miles de millones de dólares están siendo asignados para la guerra, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos suspendió a un millón de refugiadas/os iraquíes y millones de refugiadas/os sirios de recibir \$14 mensuales en cupones de alimentos. Esto confirma en los términos más violentos que los gobernantes capitalistas son incapaces de resolver el desastre humanitario que han creado. La preparación de guerra da ganancias. La distribución de alimentos excedentes no. □