



WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Washington, D.C.

## Israel isolated

# Third Intifada in Palestine inspires world solidarity

By Kris Hamel

Oct. 19 — The heroic resistance of the Palestinian people, especially the youth, to the brutal onslaught of Zionist occupation forces, in and outside the military, continues in occupied Palestine. At least 43 Palestinians have been killed.

Israeli attacks began escalating in early October, arousing resistance. Israeli military fired on Palestinians throwing stones at a border fence on Oct. 9, killing six and wounding two dozen others at a protest inside northern Gaza in solidarity with those resisting in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem. The same day, others were killed and wounded as individual racist Israelis and Palestinian resisters wrangled in various areas of occupied Palestine.

The Oct. 9 massacre caused the Hamas leader in Gaza to declare a third Intifada — popular uprising. That day at a mosque in Gaza City, Ismail Haniyeh exhorted in a sermon: “We are calling for the strengthening and increasing of the Intifada. It is the only path that will lead to liberation. Gaza will fulfill its role in the Jerusalem Intifada and it is more than ready for confrontation.” (Guardian, Oct. 9)

On Oct. 18, Israeli forces shot Palestinians throughout the West Bank and Gaza. The Ma’an News Agency described some of the events:

“In the village of Tuqu east of Bethlehem, a Palestinian teenager was shot in the stomach by Israeli soldiers. ... Witnesses said that more than 100 Israeli soldiers raided the village, after a military vehicle was set on fire by a Molotov cocktail. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas, stun grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets during the clashes, they said.

“More Palestinians were reported injured in clashes in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Tulkarem. In al-Bireh, Israeli forces shot and injured Qays Imad Shujaiyeh, 12, in the thigh with live fire before de-

*Continued on page 7*



New York City

PHOTO: NY 4 PALESTINE

An estimated 2,000 Palestinians and their supporters rallied in New York’s Times Square Oct. 18 on three days notice and then marched past a small Zionist gathering.



Chicago

WW PHOTO: JILL WHITE

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Is racial justice

4

## OCCUPY!

Baltimore City Hall sit-in

6

## AFGHANISTAN

More lies, more war

9



## WWP CONFERENCE

at Center honoring Malcolm X

10

## Subscribe to Workers World

4 weeks trial \$4  
 1 year subscription \$30  
 Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program:  
[workers.org/articles/donate/supporters/](http://workers.org/articles/donate/supporters/)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
**Workers World** 212.627.2994  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011  
[workers.org](http://workers.org)



Baltimore jury acquits uprising defendant

3

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

# Queers want a revolution — not a badly made film

By L.T. Pham

“Stonewall,” a film by Roland Emmerich, was released on Sept. 25 and immediately flopped in theaters. The film for Emmerich was a “little movie” for which he wanted to spend “about \$12 to \$14 million.” Emmerich described his “coming-of-age” drama, fictional yet based on the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969, as “about these crazy kids in New York, and a country bumpkin who gets into their gang, and at the end they start this riot and change the world.” The “country bumpkin” is a white, gay teenager who comes out to his parents, is kicked out of his home and leaves his small Indiana town for New York City. In the film, the white teen is the one to throw the first brick and to agitate others to begin fighting in the streets.

At best, this is simply a coming-of-age drama. But at worst, the film is another tool in the capitalist commodification of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and queer people and the struggle for LGBTQ liberation. The Stonewall Rebellions were the result of the fearlessness and radicalism of working-class, queer and trans\* people of color. Many who threw the first punches, incited the first fight-backs, and screamed “No more!” were trans\* people of color — particularly trans women of color, among them Sylvia Rivera and Miss Major Griffin-Gracy. In a Huffpost Live video interview, Miss Major expressed, “They’ve been doing this to us for years. They’re trying to eradicate us as a people and claim that we really do not exist. I guess we are a figment of our own imagination.” (Aug. 25)

By making the protagonist of “Stonewall” a white man, the film sought to make invisible a community that remains vocal about stopping the police violence, murders and brutalization of trans women and people of color. The erasure of the true s/heroes behind the Stonewall Rebellion serves as a tool in the continued erasure of the LGBTQ struggle for liberation. Those on the frontlines today — if they are not white; if they belong to an organized struggle; if they dare present a counternarrative to bourgeois propaganda — are attacked and ignored.

Hollywood was presented with an opportunity to unite the working class by telling a true story about why queer and trans\* revolutionaries fought back. But instead — to no surprise — they acted on their capitalist orientation

and produced a film that further divided working and oppressed people by repressing history. When working-class people and oppressed peoples do not understand our revolutionary history and traditions, we are more susceptible to carrying out the agendas of the ruling class and fighting each other when we should be fighting together.

In August, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network launched an online petition calling for a boycott of the film. GSA Network urged everyone, “Do not throw money at the capitalistic industry that fails to recognize true s/heros. Do not support a film that erases our history. Do not watch Stonewall.” (unite.gsanetwork.org) The petition has gathered more than 24,000 signatures in a clear showing that the LGBTQ community refuses to be satisfied with gross misrepresentation and whitewashing of our radical history.

“Pride,” released in 2014, has a much more political approach to LGBTQ history. The film is based on the true story of gays and lesbians who organized in solidarity with striking mine workers in Wales in 1984. The film captures the struggle to build solidarity between the LGBTQ movement and the labor movement at a time when both groups were led to believe that they were each other’s enemy. Organizers came together to form the group Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners.

LGBTQ people and mineworkers were used as puppets, pitted against each other as the ruling class exploited the struggles of their communities. Mineworkers were seen as poor and invaluable by many in the LGBTQ community, and many mineworkers acted on their bigotry by harming and harassing LGBTQ people. The ways LGBTQ people and miners saw each other were crafted by both the media and bourgeois propaganda. These were the perfect conditions for Margaret Thatcher, the state and the ruling class to proceed with their agenda to privatize the mines. But revolutionaries on both sides recognized that they would be stronger together.

Contrary to “Stonewall,” which made one white teen a hero, “Pride” raised the power of working class unity and what is possible when working and oppressed people fight together against the true enemy: the capitalist ruling class.

*Continued on page 5*

## WORKERS WORLD this week

### ★ In the U.S.

- Third Intifada in Palestine inspires world solidarity . . . . . 1
- Queers want a revolution — not a badly made film . . . . . 2
- Jury acquits Baltimore uprising defendant . . . . . 3
- Happy birthday, Rev. Pinkney! . . . . . 3
- Indigenous Day march and vigil: ‘Columbus invaded!’ . . . 3
- Youths protest new anti-immigrant law . . . . . 3
- Summit links racism, environmental destruction . . . . . 4
- B&H workers protest . . . . . 4
- Detroiters confront corporate looters . . . . . 4
- Fight for \$15 protests firing at KFC . . . . . 4
- On the picket line . . . . . 5
- As ATI lockout drags on, solidarity grows . . . . . 5
- Boston school bus drivers’ union understands solidarity . . 5
- Baltimore students, activists occupy City Hall . . . . . 6
- Pam and Ramona Africa tour Bay Area for Mumia . . . . . 6
- Tamir Rice’s life matters . . . . . 6
- Brave new resister explodes secret U.S. drone kills . . . . . 9
- Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Center . . . . . 10

### ★ Around the world

- 250,000 march in Berlin against trade pact, austerity . . . . 7
- Moataz Zawahreh, presente! . . . . . 7
- Cuba: Socialist health care beating heart disease . . . . . 8
- Haiti election 2015: Fight for voting rights, sovereignty . . 8
- World Bank report highlights poverty in Africa . . . . . 8
- U.S. terror continues in Afghanistan . . . . . 9
- Indonesian bloodbath: What it has meant for the world. 10
- French unions defend workers’ actions . . . . . 11

### ★ Editorial

- Long live the Intifada . . . . . 10

### ★ Noticias en Español

- Rusia, EUA y Siria . . . . . 12
- Editorial: Bombardeos habituales de hospitales . . . . . 12

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
Vol. 57, No. 43 • Oct. 29, 2015  
Closing date: Oct. 20, 2015  
Editor: Deirdre Griswold  
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,  
Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

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

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

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

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

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

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.  
Subscription information is at [workers.org/email.php](http://workers.org/email.php).  
Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, N.Y. 10011.

## WORKERS WORLD PARTY Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

### Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

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

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

**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

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

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

**Virginia**  
[virginia@workers.org](mailto:virginia@workers.org)

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

## BALTIMORE

# Jury acquits uprising defendant

By Joe Piette  
Baltimore

After just 30 minutes of deliberations following a two-day trial, on Oct. 13 a Baltimore jury found Alkebu-Lan Marcus not guilty.

Marcus was one of hundreds of protesters arrested after the Baltimore police killing of Freddie Gray. He had joined thousands of youth in Baltimore in taking over the streets — an uprising that was only quelled through the use of thousands of city cops, state troopers and National Guard soldiers. The fact that Gray was the 353rd person killed by cops in 2015 in the U.S. was a major factor in the two-week-long rebellion. (killedbypolice.net)

Marcus was charged with “failure to obey a lawful order” and “interfering with an arrest” during mass protests on April 25. The arrest took place when a police squad rushed onto a crowded sidewalk to arrest Morgan Malachi. Marcus

was arrested when he and others tried to pull Malachi out of police hands.

Marcus and Morgan Malachi were both part of a “Philly Is Baltimore” contingent. Malachi was eventually charged with disorderly conduct and “refusal to obey a lawful order.” Video of their arrests clearly shows all she was doing was speaking into a bullhorn. There was no cause for an arrest and she was finally acquitted at the end of her trial on July 23.

Following Marcus’ trial, defense lawyer J. Wyndal Gordon told the press, “The prosecution of Mr. Marcus was an attempt to suppress free speech.”

He said there was no evidence of an order to disperse, despite prosecution claims. “No one heard it. It was like a dog whistle that only police heard.”

Gordon also pointed out: “You have the right to resist an unlawful arrest. A person who comes to the aid of someone who is unlawfully being arrested — you have that right as well.”

Members of the Philly Coalition for Racial, Economic and Legal Justice, the Philadelphia Trayvon Martin Organizing Committee and the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly rallied with signs outside the courthouse during the court proceedings and made sure the courtroom was packed with supporters.

The epidemic of police killings that motivated the protests in Baltimore; Philadelphia; New York; Cleveland; Ferguson, Mo.; Oakland, Calif.; and many other cities continues. As of Oct. 12, the death count of men, women and children, including trans people, who have perished as a result of confrontations with cops in 2015 is 923. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Left to right, Alkebu-Lan Marcus, Morgan Malachi and J. Wyndal Gordon.

## Happy birthday, Rev. Pinkney!



PHOTO: VALERIE JEAN

Support continues to build for Michigan political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney. The Detroit Light Brigade lit up the night over Interstate 75 in mid-October with a message to motorists about him.

On Oct. 27 Rev. Pinkney will turn 67 while in Marquette Prison, just 10 months into his 2.5-to-10-year sentence on frame-up charges. Supporters are urged to mail a birthday card or greeting letter to Rev.

Edward Pinkney, N-E-93 #294671, Marquette Branch Prison, 1960 U.S. Hwy 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855. Phone calls protesting Pinkney’s punitive transfer 500 miles from his family and attorney should be made to Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington at 517-241-7238. Urge them to send Rev. Pinkney back downstate.

— David Sole

## Indigenous Day march and vigil: ‘Columbus invaded!’

Oct. 12 — Supporters of renaming today’s holiday from “Columbus Day” to “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” gathered in Huntington, W.Va., for a march through downtown to a vigil on the campus of Marshall University. Marchers held signs denouncing Christopher Columbus as “a genocidal rapist” who enslaved and killed the Taíno and Arawak people of Hispaniola.

Some signs made links to other resistance struggles around the world such as that in Palestine. Others read “Smash white supremacy!” and “Support Native resistance!” Flags of the Mohawk people and the American Indian Movement were also flown. Activists from the MU Native American Students Association; the Appalachian Left; Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST); Workers World Party; and the MU Muslim Student Association all took part in the event.

Interviewed at the vigil, the president of the MU Native American Students As-



sociation, Genenahgehneh Ohihkdahdet of the Haudenosaunee, told Workers World, “It is important to pay respect to the victims of conquest and genocide that has occurred on this continent for over 500 years.” She also stressed remembering the victims of residential boarding schools, which were designed to force captive Native children to adopt Christianity and Euro-American customs in place of their own identity and culture. To honor these victims, Ohihkdahdet conducted a traditional ceremony using sage and sacred tobacco and sang songs to close the event.

— Report and photo by Benji Pyles

## Youths protest new anti-immigrant law



WW PHOTO: L.T. PHAM

By L.T. Pham  
Raleigh, N.C.

Youths, including many college and high school students, came out to say “no” to House Bill 318 in front of the Governor’s Mansion in Raleigh, N.C., on Oct. 14. They refused to stay quiet as the North Carolina General Assembly heightens its attacks on undocumented Latino/a immigrant workers and their families.

The bill is ironically titled the “Protect North Carolina Workers Act.” The politicians who drafted this bill are pushing the lie that immigrant workers are a threat to other working-class people. In reality, immigrants are not stealing jobs; the bosses are stealing labor. It is the bosses and politicians who underpay, make it illegal to unionize and draft racist, anti-worker bills that pose a threat to all workers.

The proposed new law would make North Carolina an even more dangerous state for immigrants and could be a model for racist legislation in other states. HB 318 passed the legislature on Sept. 29 and is now sitting on Gov. Pat McCrory’s desk. His decision is either to listen to the demands of the youth and immigrant communities or to side with the anti-worker, anti-immigrant and racist interests of the extreme right, and sign the bill into law.

The bill has several disparate features unified only as attacks on workers and immigrants. One critical aspect prohibits law enforcement or government agencies from accepting consular documents as valid forms of identification or proof of residency. Another prohibits cities or counties from adopting “sanctuary” policies.

Such policies allow local governments to determine the extent to which local law enforcement collaborates with federal immigration agencies and procedures.

A third anti-immigrant policy in the law requires that all contractors doing business with the government use the E-verify system to prove their employees are documented to work. E-Verify is a federal Internet system that targets undocumented immigrants. Though criticized as inaccurate, E-verify gives power to employers to threaten workers with deportation by alerting local law enforcement and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when an undocumented person cannot provide approved identification.

Jorge Ramos from the El Pueblo Youth Council made it clear to Gov. McCrory that immigrants “are not monsters hiding under your bed!” and that young people “cannot wait for politicians to have a change of heart. We must force them to stop this bill.”

### ‘We can beat this’

Many impassioned young people, community members, parents and families who would be impacted by HB 318 expressed that this was a fight they want to take on and will win. Laura Aldana, another youth member of El Pueblo Youth Council, told the crowd, “Stay strong my people! We can beat this!”

Other Black and Brown youth expressed solidarity with the undocumented community. They said, “Let’s keep working-class people here!” They also drew di-

Continued on page 5

# Summit links racism, environmental destruction

By Peter Gilbert  
Whitakers, N.C.

The 17th annual summit of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, held Oct. 16-17, brought together communities from across the state facing environmental racism from the impacts of landfills, sewage spray fields, fracking, gas pipelines and industrial animal farms.

Manzoor Cheema, a co-founder of Muslims for Social Justice, defined the Environmental Justice movement in his keynote as “bringing a racial and class analysis to an environmental movement where it is sorely lacking. They can save the whales or the redwood forest, but are blind to Black and Brown people.”

In addition to panels of activists and community members, scientists and academics from as far as Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil presented research documenting the disproportionate impact of various forms of pollution and environmental disasters on Black and Latino/a communities. NCEJN co-founder, scientist and “people’s” professor Steve Wing was honored for his work exposing the toxic exposure of Black communities in Eastern North Carolina to hog farms, landfills and sewage sludge, and for his commitment to participatory research designed to inform and benefit communities rather than exploit them.

## State violence as environmental injustice

The plenary panel linked the direct state violence of police brutality and imperialist wars with environmental racism. Panelists discussed examples such



WWW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

Plenary panel on state violence. Right to left: Loan Tran, Youth Organizing Institute; D'atra Jackson, Ignite NC; Adam Bledsoe, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Saladin Muhammed, Black Workers For Justice.

as that of Agent Orange, an imperialist weapon that not only caused immediate death and destruction, but continued to perpetuate violence through long-term environmental devastation. Others discussed the violence and “micro-aggressions” of schools that resemble prisons and universities that defend racist Confederate monuments.

Saladin Muhammad of Black Workers for Justice described the interplay between state violence and environmental racism in the unnatural disaster of Hurricane Katrina, in which historic underdevelopment left Black communities more vulnerable and the police kept people from seeking higher ground or returning to their homes later. The key link, he said, was in understanding the role of the state and “how it commits violence against oppressed people. The government is not neutral. There is a class that controls it with corporate-driven policies to oppress, exploit and maximize profits.”

Cheema pointed out that Eric Garner, killed by New York police officers last

year, suffered environmental racism in the form of asthma. Due to exposure to pollution and substandard housing, African Americans are 20 percent more likely to suffer from asthma and three times more likely to die from asthma-related causes than whites. Similarly, he pointed out that Freddie Gray suffered lead poisoning due to the environmental racism of substandard housing in Baltimore. Like direct state violence, he said, “environmental racism is a process designed to eliminate Black and Brown people.”

The panel resonated with rural victims of environmental racism. Lewis Dozier, president of the Royal Oak Concerned Citizens Association, noted: “The greatest weapon that Caucasian capitalism has against us is that they have a buffer of poor white people between them and us. How can we get poor and desperate white people suffering to get over the white thing and get with us? If we could

get them to get rid of this color thing — we must see what we can do to get that in motion.” The association recently defeated a landfill proposal for their community.

## Climate change

The summit closed with a discussion of the role of the EJ movement in combating climate change. After lengthy discussion the summit adopted a draft statement, available at [tinyurl.com/NCEJNstatementWW](http://tinyurl.com/NCEJNstatementWW), that links climate change directly to capitalism:

“Climate change is a symptom of global capitalism, just like fever is a symptom of infection. Treating climate change as the fundamental issue is like practicing medicine in the era before germs were identified as the causes of infection. Cold compresses may help a fever, but they do not treat infection. Because fossil fuel is the lifeblood of the global economy, the climate justice movement must engage with the infection — capitalism — and not just the fever, climate change. Treating the symptoms will not prevent disaster. To treat the infection we have to build a movement that is inclusive, which requires putting racial and economic justice and self-determination first. Our job is to bring this environmental justice perspective to our allies and the communities we serve.”

*Gilbert is on the board of the NC EJJN and served on the summit's planning committee.*

## B&H workers protest



WWW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Workers and supporters trying to win a union and a contract with the quarter-billion-dollar retailer B&H rallied at Ninth Avenue and 34th Street in Manhattan on Oct. 18. The action followed a similar one a week earlier in which B&H warehouse workers, organized by the Laundry Workers Center, kicked off a drive to become members of the

Steelworkers union. The workers at the B&H warehouse in Brooklyn list unsafe and unhealthy working conditions as among their major grievances. Their organizing drive led to a confrontation at the warehouse in the week before this latest demonstration. For more information, see [lwcu.org](http://lwcu.org).

— Workers World NYC bureau

## Detroiters confront corporate looters

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

What the system calls looting — maybe grabbing some groceries or a winter coat from a store during a rebellion — can land a person in jail. Looting by the bankers and their servile attorneys is another story. Try stealing a museum, a city park, a water department and the earned pensions of city workers. In Detroit you'll be the toast of the town, although you might have to run a gauntlet of protesters.

On Oct. 13 more than 100 Detroiters, including a large contingent of city retirees, picketed outside the Detroit Institute of Arts. Inside, the city's elite were celebrating the opening of an office of the Jones Day corporate law firm in Detroit.

Jones Day was hired by the firm's own employee, governor-appointed Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, to “represent” Detroit in federal bankruptcy court. What Orr and Jones Day did, in collusion with

Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes, was to construct a “Grand Bargain” to loot pensions and steal city assets. The deal imposed drastic pension cuts on city retirees and cancelled their health insurance, gave the city-owned Detroit Institute of Arts to a consortium of “philanthropists,” and turned the treasured Belle Isle city park into a state park requiring an entrance fee.

At Orr's initiative, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department shut off service to tens of thousands of Detroiters. DWSD is slated to be sold to a suburban-dominated regional water authority and potentially privatized — possibly by the Veolia Corp., which already has a consultancy contract with the new water authority.

Jones Day was paid \$53 million in fees from the city treasury for a year of aiding and abetting the corporate looters. Meanwhile, Detroiters are still on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars in interest payments to some of the world's biggest banks, the result of fraudulent interest-rate swap deals.

The protesters put up a picket line that occupied the turnaround used for dropping people off and valet parking. As a result, valets under police protection had to greet gala attendees at the curb and escort them through a gauntlet of protesters, who loudly confronted each of the millionaires with chants of “Shame” and “Looters, liars, and thieves.” The loudest voices were those of retirees. Protesters swarmed the easily recognizable Orr, following him until he was whisked inside.

The DIA is home to famous auto industry murals painted by the revolutionary Mexican artist Diego Rivera. One of the chants was, “What would Diego Rivera do? Tell Jones Day, the hell with you.”

The protest was called by Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs. □

## Fight for \$15 protests firing at KFC



The manager at Kentucky Fried Chicken on Telegraph Avenue and 28th Street in Oakland, Calif., fired union organizer Shonda Roberts on Oct. 17. Roberts has been a lead organizer for the East Bay Organizing Committee for two years. The firing was retaliation for her organizing work to help her co-workers improve their working conditions and increase their pay. EBOC organizes fast-food workers as part of the national Fight for \$15 movement.

Roberts actually had an impeccable track record at the KFC/Pizza Hut, with zero write-ups and many

loyal customers who consistently go back to the restaurant just to see her. For more than three years, Shonda was the best and most experienced employee in the store.

Almost immediately EBOC, with the help of community supporters, held a seven-hour picket line at the store to demand Roberts's job back. Picketers weren't intimidated when KFC/Pizza Hut called out the Oakland Police Department, who showed up with several cars. The workers and community protesters kept up their spirited picket with continued chanting, such as “Hey hey, ho ho — poverty wages got to go.”

— Photo and story by Terri Kay

# As ATI lockout drags on, solidarity grows

By Martha Grevatt

For two months, Allegheny Technologies Inc. has kept members of the United Steelworkers (USW) out on the picket line. Workers at 12 facilities in six states were locked out Aug. 15, despite the fact that the union was willing to keep members working while negotiations progressed. The tactic of starving the workers into submission to get them to cave in to ATI's concessionary demands has not worked; the lines remain solid.

Dozens have responded to the union's request to "nominate a picket line hero." These "heroes," nominated by their locked-out peers, are engaged in exemplary solidarity work in all the states — Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Oregon — affected by the lockout. A typical nominee puts in long hours beyond her/his assigned picket shift, volunteers in the strike kitchen every day, and/or drives all over town asking local businesses to put strike support signs in their windows.

Todd Barbiaux of Local 1196 in Brackenridge, Penn., is one such hero. "He coordinated Local 1196's Blue Tuesday event and has helped out with just about every other action throughout the dispute. He's been on the line and at the hall every single day since the lockout started and he's even converted his car into the USW Pace Car, complete with racing stripes, to be used to run errands to the picket lines." (usw.org) That is the kind of strength this union-busting company is up against.

From the strike communities to halfway around the world, support for the workers is growing. In Oregon locked-out workers "took to the streets of North Albany to thank the community for all of the support it has provided throughout the lockout." (usw.org) In Brackenridge, Local 1196 thanked the local community with a picnic. The New Bedford, Mass., City Council passed a resolution supporting the locked-out Steelworkers. ATI workers in Stalowa Wola, Poland, held a solidarity demonstration.

The USW took on answering the

company's propaganda in the first week of October with a full-page ad in Pennsylvania newspapers. It answered an ad put in by the company to "celebrate the hard work and dedication of all our employees over the decades," in particular salaried personnel, for their "commitment, persistence and ingenuity" in scabbing on the union workers.

"In fact," the USW pointed out, "active and retired salaried workers have had their benefits cut and 40 percent of them face layoffs. By contrast, ATI's top executives rewarded themselves with millions in compensation increases.

"ATI's top executives should know better than to try to sell this fairy-tale," the ad concluded. "ATI must understand that there will be no happy ending without a fair contract and an end to the lockout." (usw.org)

Thousands have signed petitions demanding ATI end the lockout. These petitions will be delivered to corporate headquarters on Oct. 20. To sign the petition, go to [tinyurl.com/ATIpetition](http://tinyurl.com/ATIpetition). □

## On the picket line

By Sue Davis

### Demand higher fine for farmworker's death

Randy Vasquez, 27, was killed Feb. 24 when the tractor he was driving overturned in a manure lagoon at Riverview Ranch Dairy, a member of the Darigold farmer-owned business in Washington state. The state fined Riverview \$6,800, but the dairy appealed the fine, with the support of key members of the state agribusiness industry. On Oct. 13 the fine was reduced to \$2,200, on the condition that Riverview take action to see that such an accident would not happen again.

Nubia Guajardo, Vasquez's spouse, told the Oct. 13 Daily Sun News, "Is \$2,200 all Randy's life is worth? ... The state acts like a farmworker dying is just a cost of doing business. State officials should be ashamed of themselves for slashing their already puny fine. I have faith the public won't accept it."

Sign the United Farm Workers' petition at [ufw.org](http://ufw.org) to demand that Gov. Jay Inslee increase the fine and that Darigold work with the UFW and Vasquez's widow to take real steps to ensure farmworkers can work without fear of death or injury.

### American Airlines agents win first contract

On Oct. 1, the Teamsters and the Communication Workers announced that 15,000 American Airlines passenger service agents have won their first nationwide contract. This is the first pact since the merger of American Airlines and USAirways in 2013. The contract offers major improvements in wages and benefits, including an immediate 3 percent wage hike, with another 9 percent over the five-year contract. The contract must still be ratified by the workers.

This was the second nationwide pact the two unions and others won the week of Sept. 28. More than 4,000 workers at the American Red Cross in 24 states ratified their first three-year contract on Sept. 30. ([dclabor.org](http://dclabor.org), Oct. 2)

### WeWork to hire union janitors

On Oct. 13 WeWork, a start-up valued at \$1 billion that provides temporary office space to entrepreneurs and big businesses (with perks like showers, arcade games and coffee bars), put out a request for proposals from unionized janitorial contractors in New York and Boston. This followed months of protests by cleaners paid as little as \$10 an hour through a nonunion janitorial contractor. After reaching out to Local 1199 of the Service Employees union in New York, the workers demonstrated outside WeWork offices in New York for a raise and union representation.

Things escalated after 100 workers were fired in September. But, according to the Oct. 14 New York Times, many of those who rent WeWork space sympathized with the laid-off janitors. So WeWork sat down with Local 1199 and, reports WeWork's chief operating officer Arthur Minson, "in a matter of a few weeks' time we moved from foes to friends." Ivan Castelan, one of the former janitors who will be rehired, said, "It feels really good to see that when working people stand together, we can change our lives and the lives of other workers for the better."

### Minimum wage, overtime affirmed for home care workers

In 2013 the Department of Labor, after assessing the burgeoning \$84 billion home care industry, issued new rules guaranteeing minimum wage and overtime protections for home care workers hired by agencies. Previously such workers had been deemed informal "sitters," unworthy of basic wage and labor protections. But caring for the elderly and people with disabilities is now big business. More than 90 percent of those who do the demanding, back-breaking work are women; more than half are people of color; one in four are immigrants; and one in five are single mothers. ([phinalational.org](http://phinalational.org), February 2014)

Industry groups challenged the new rules in 2014, arguing they would "destabilize the entire industry" — read "decrease profits stolen from hard-working poor women." Late last year a district court judge blocked implementation of the new rules. But in August a three-judge appeals court reinstated the protections. On Oct. 6, the Supreme Court agreed, signing off on the ruling.

But the greedy industry groups are dug in; they have filed for a hearing before the full appeals court. (RH Reality Check, Oct. 13) Stay tuned. □

## SOLIDARITY IN BOSTON:

# School bus drivers' union understands it

By Martha Grevatt

The Boston school bus drivers' union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, is fighting on many fronts simultaneously. The union has a backlog of 700 grievances it is trying to settle with the notoriously anti-union Transdev, is also trying to win a just contract, has day-to-day issues with route scheduling caused by mismanagement and the illegal use of GPS tracking, and has been in a relentless two-year battle to win reinstatement for four wrongfully fired elected union officials.

Yet this remarkable union has always found time to link its own uphill battle to the fight of all workers and oppressed. On Oct. 4, Local 8751's executive board took action in support of three important struggles.

The first was a resolution to demand justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal and send letters to Pennsylvania's governor and prison officials in support of Mumia. "Given the extensive evidence of Mumia's innocence," wrote President Andre Francois, "wrongful incarceration in solitary confinement for nearly 30 years, his life-threatening medical crisis, and

the prison medical system's failure to diagnose or treat him properly, we add our voices to the international call for the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal."

In September members of 8751 walked the picket lines in New Bedford, Mass., with sister and brother Steelworkers locked out by ATI metals corporation. The board passed a resolution stating, in part, "The Boston School Bus Drivers' Union is in full solidarity with our sisters and brothers who have been locked out by ATI since Aug. 14. We remember the 1937 Little Steel Strike, when our members in Illinois and Ohio gave their lives fighting for our union. If ATI wants a fight, we'll show them a fight."

Thirdly, the union — which endorsed the Million Man March 20 years ago — resolved that "whereas in the intervening years incidences of Police Killings of Black, Latino, Native, Asian and immigrant men and women are on the rise, with

impunity, and ... in the intervening years poverty, homelessness, mass incarceration and unemployment have skyrocketed in the Black, Latino, Native, Asian and immigrant communities throughout the country," that "Local 8751 stands in 100% solidarity with the organizers of the 10/10/15 Justice or Else call to Washington, D.C. and the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan." Several drivers took the bus to attend the march.

Members of Local 8751 are community activists as well as union activists. Some are volunteering to re-elect City Councillor Charles Yancey, now under siege from the corporate and political establishment who want this progressive leader ousted. Many Haitian drivers are connected with the campaign of the Fanmi Lavalas candidate for president in Haiti, Maryse Narcisse.

Team Solidarity — whose candidates swept the local union elections in March — lives up to its name. □

## Protest anti-immigrant law

Continued from page 3

direct connections between the criminalization of immigrants and the racist attacks against all people of color at the workplace, in schools and in the streets.

The only aspect of the law not solely targeting immigrants sets a major limit on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food stamp program. It prohibits the state from extending benefits by seeking waivers from federal time limits on how long someone can receive the benefit. Enacting this bill would cut thousands of North Carolina workers from SNAP.

This bill is the latest effort to divide working and oppressed people by relying on racist, anti-immigrant

rhetoric to suppress workers who have been on the frontlines for better working conditions, \$15 an hour and the right to unionize.

Organizations and activists on the ground have been organizing daily actions since the bill hit the governor's desk on Sept. 30. Some of those organizations include the Comité Popular Somos Raleigh, El Pueblo, El Centro Hispano and Inmigrantes Unidos. Nearly 100 organizations have added their names to an organizational and agency sign-on letter in opposition to HB 318. The organizations plan on demonstrating at the Governor's Mansion until the bill is vetoed. Organizers are mobilizing workers to come out again later this week to talk about the impact of HB 318 on the entire working class. □

## Queers want revolution

Continued from page 2

There is a growing discomfort with the ruling class's violence toward the LGBTQ community in all its forms. Queer and trans\* people are building a grassroots movement for Black lives, against racism and capitalism, for housing, employment, and against gentrification, for workers' rights and climate justice, and for collective liberation. From the Stonewall Rebellion to Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, queers want a revolution — not bourgeois propaganda to keep the masses misinformed about what could be possible when we throw our punches together. □

# Baltimore students, activists occupy City Hall

By Steven Ceci  
Baltimore

Youth and high school students from City Bloc and their supporters held an occupation of City Council chambers on Oct. 14, after demanding a meeting with Baltimore Interim Police Commissioner Kevin Davis and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Some 32 people participated in the occupation in response to a City Council committee's approval of Davis's permanent appointment. City Bloc is a group of students from a college prep high school at Baltimore City College.

A large turnout came to the hearing to express disapproval with the appointment of Davis, whose salary will be \$200,000 a year. Students and their supporters disrupted the hearing several times, chanting, "No justice, no peace! Stop the vote! Stop the vote!" and "If we don't get it, shut it down!" Many who attended the hearing spoke and testified that the proceedings were nothing but a "dog and pony show."

The Rev. Cortly C.D. Witherspoon, president of the Baltimore chapter of the

Southern Christian Leadership Conference, referred to the hearing as a "coronation" and testified that the police commissioner should be elected by the people of Baltimore, not appointed. He called for community control of the police, which would require officers to live in the neighborhoods that they patrol, and an elected civilian review board with the power to criminally charge officers and fire them. It was revealed at the hearing that only 21 percent of Baltimore police officers live in the city.

When the council committee began voting, protesters with the Baltimore Uprising coalition demanded that the voting be halted and that Davis and Rawlings-Blake meet with them. The newly formed coalition consists of City Bloc, Baltimore Bloc, The West Coalition and Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle.

Prior to the hearing the coalition had issued a letter with 19 demands on how the police should interact with protesters. They called for a ban on military-style policing, including the use of armored vehicles and rubber bullets, and for "riot gear" to be used only as a last

resort to protect officers' safety. In addition, they demanded that police officers wear badges and name tags at all times.

The demands are very moderate, but the fact that mostly high school students decided to occupy City Hall is extremely significant and showed that there is militancy within the youth of Baltimore. They should be praised for their courage.

After the vote 32 people refused to leave City Hall until the mayor or commissioner met with them. In an early morning telephone interview with teleSUR on Oct. 15, City Bloc activist Makayla Gilliam-Price said that police were turning off power outlets to prevent protesters from charging their phones, cameras and other electronic equipment. She said the police had not granted them access to the restrooms and they had limited water and food.

"They are currently forcing us to choose between our survival and our political beliefs," she said.

At around 3:15 a.m., police gave an ultimatum that they would start arresting people. Twelve people decided to defy the ultimatum and risk arrest. At 4:45

a.m., police moved on the building and arrested the remaining 12 occupiers. The age range of those arrested was 16 to 38, three being juveniles.

Those inside City Hall had put out a call for folks to come and stand in solidarity with them while they faced arrest. The Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly immediately mobilized a delegation to City Hall, which arrived at 11 p.m. to support the students.

One of the arrestees, ShaiVaughn Crawley, said: "Early Thursday morning on Oct. 15, 2015, I was arrested with some pretty inspiring protesters for 'refusing to leave a public building,' which would later be translated to trespassing. The motives were pretty simple: The youth of Baltimore City have not ever had a voice in anything that this city pursues and these teenagers have been tired of it for a very long time. I remember even living in South Carolina how bad the school system was, and is, and to see that very same practice echoed [times] 100 here in Baltimore is pretty devastating. We knew we had to do something." □

## Pam and Ramona Africa tour Bay Area for Mumia

By Terri Kay

Pam Africa of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Ramona Africa of the MOVE organization have been on a four-city tour of the California Bay Area to build support and raise money to prevent the execution by medical neglect of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Since late March, when Abu-Jamal was found passed out on the prison floor, there has been a growing international effort to see that the State of Pennsylvania and its rotten prison system are not allowed to carry out a medical execution of the internationally revered political prisoner. It was discovered that he was suffering from high blood sugar levels, diabetes, liver endangerment, lethargy, elevated blood pressure and related symptoms, such as skin discoloration and severe itching.

It has since been discovered that Abu-Jamal has the hepatitis C virus, which may have lingered silently from a

prison blood transfusion many years ago. A class action lawsuit has been filed on Abu-Jamal's behalf and for the estimated 10,000 other inmates in the state's prisons who also carry the hepatitis C virus.

Pam Africa and Ramona Africa spoke at rallies in San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento. Angela Davis, the former political prisoner, author and scholar, also spoke on Abu-Jamal's behalf at the Oakland rally. They called on people to continue the pressure on the prison administration and the state government to get Abu-Jamal the appropriate medical treatment immediately. Funds were also raised to support his medical and legal needs.

Davis talked about how prisoners are often used as guinea pigs in drug experiments, but when the prisoners actually need drugs, they're told that the drugs are too expensive. She pointed out how a life

sentence is a death sentence to a prisoner. She said that President Obama is starting to think about his legacy as his final term draws to an end, and that he could free Abu-Jamal as part of his legacy.

Ramona Africa also talked about the MOVE 9, who have been in prison since 1978. She asked the crowd to sign a petition to free them, as they are coming up for parole hearings in the near future. She

quoted from John Africa, one of the nine, who said that all power is in the people, but we have to gain that power back by using that power.

Pam Africa closed the meeting, stating that this is war and that we have to be in it. If we don't do something now, they will kill Abu-Jamal. She asserted that the only reason Abu-Jamal hasn't died yet is because of the love of the people. □



WW PHOTOS: TERRI KAY  
Left to right, Pam Africa, Ramona Africa and Angela Davis.

## TAMIR RICE'S LIFE MATTERS

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Question: When is a child not a child? Answer: When it's a Black child.

That question and answer came to me when I heard that the police killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice of Cleveland was ruled "justified" by two so-called "independent" boards of inquiry recently.

The cop was justified, they ruled, because he saw a gun. Period.

Did it matter that the gun was a toy? Or that Tamir was a boy?

No. Both facts were declared irrelevant.

And a beautiful Black boy is dead.

What kind of system is this, where a child's life can be so easily, so utterly, dismissed?

What kind of country is this, where this can happen?

For almost a year, state forces dithered around the case. Now they have issued their cold, leaden decision: No biggie. The cop was scared. It's justified.

Next.

What's next? Killing pregnant women? Pregnant Black women who are suspected of birthing Black boys?

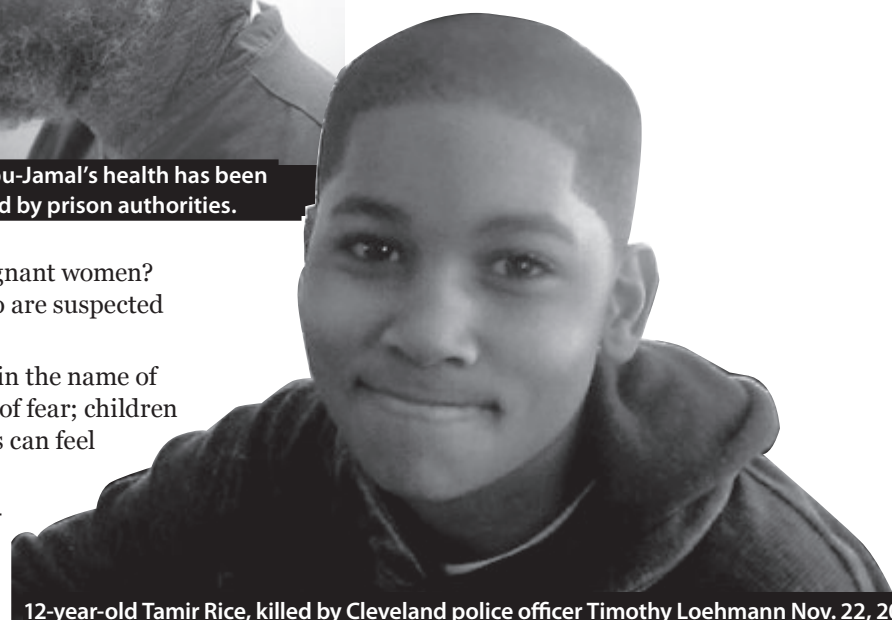
In the name of protocol; in the name of tradition; in the cold name of fear; children are killed so that killer cops can feel safe.

If this be the system supported by Black taxes and Black votes, then such a system must be abolished.



Mumia Abu-Jamal's health has been threatened by prison authorities.

Taken from an Oct. 11 audio recording by prisonradio.org.



12-year-old Tamir Rice, killed by Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann Nov. 22, 2014.

# 250,000 march in Berlin against trade pact, austerity



Organizers reported that 250,000 people marched in Berlin on Oct. 10 to protest the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and its Canadian equivalent, CETA [the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement]. Like the Trans-Pacific Pact before the U.S. Congress, both are to be shoved through Parliament in Germany with little discussion of their contents. The vote is to

follow years of top-secret sessions involving big business experts and lobbyists. The TTIP is expected to cost jobs, reduce the already inadequate environmental protections and increase austerity for workers.

The march organizers consisted of two opposition parties — The Left and the Greens — and hundreds of environmental, health, cultural and various left groups, as well as the trade union movement. The



immense crowd waited patiently, then slowly moved off through one-time East Berlin thoroughfares, past the big Bundestag building and the Soviet War Memorial near the Brandenburg Gate, into a long, wide avenue cutting through one-time West Berlin's Tiergarten park.

— John Catalinotto

## Israel isolated

# Third Intifada in Palestine inspires world solidarity

*Continued from page 1*

taining him. Six other Palestinians were shot and injured in clashes in the area.

“Clashes also erupted in the Gaza Strip, with three Palestinians shot and injured with live rounds east of al-Buriej in central Gaza. Ashraq Qidra, a spokesman for Gaza’s Ministry of Health, told Ma’an that in addition to the three shot with life fire, several others suffered excessive tear gas inhalation and were treated on site.

“Some 43 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of the month, and eight Israelis have died in attacks by Palestinians in the same period.

“The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that the second week of October saw the highest number of Palestinian deaths and injuries in the West Bank and Israel recorded in a single week since 2005.” Various accounts state more than 1,900 Palestinians have been injured.

The hashtag #Intifada has grown widely on social media throughout the world. In cities across imperialist Europe, including London, Paris, Brussels and Copenhagen, demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance have taken place and are still being organized. Johannesburg, Sydney, Melbourne and other cities across the world also had protests.

### U.S. protests: ‘Free, free Palestine!’

Here in the United States, where taxpayers fork over more than \$10.2 million per day (ifamericansknew.org) to apartheid Israel, demonstrations occurred as well. Workers World Party members and activists in affiliated organizations took part in many of them.

The night of Oct. 15, hundreds filled the sidewalks facing the Israeli Consulate in the financial district of **SAN FRANCISCO** to demand an end to the continued brutal occupation of Palestine. The protest, organized by the General Union of Palestinian Students, urged supporters to “Rise with Palestine” and support the youth-led Intifada.

Palestinian youth led the protest and rally in both English and Arabic. Chants of “When Palestine is occupied, resistance is not a crime!” brought cheers and loud support from rush-hour drivers passing through the district. The protest, co-sponsored by a broad coalition of Palestinian, anti-war, social justice and other groups, demanded the immediate return of Palestine to its 1948 borders and an end to the apartheid Israeli state.

In **ATLANTA** on Oct. 18, a speak-out, organized by Jewish Voices for Peace, was held in front of CNN headquarters.

In **NEW YORK CITY**, the New York Campaign for the Boycott of Israel called another rally against Zionism Oct. 16 as Israel’s Idan Raichel was performing at Manhattan’s City Winery. He is among the targets of a Palestinian boycott be-



Rochester, N.Y.



Dearborn, Mich.

TOP, WW PHOTO: LYDIA BAYONETA; ABOVE, PHOTO: JEREMY ROYER

cause he serves as an official cultural ambassador of the colonizer state and is an outspoken supporter of the Israeli army, according to Adalah-NY.

On Oct. 18, a counter-rally opposed a “Jewish Lives Matter” rally by Zionists. In addition to hijacking the Black Lives Matter slogan, the racists held a moment of silence for Israelis killed, with no regard for the disproportionate violence and death experienced by Palestinians every day under 60-plus years of occupation.

Militant demonstrators in front of the Federal building in downtown **ROCHESTER, N.Y.**, withstood a torrential downpour on Oct. 16 to show support for Palestine and to protest the murder of Palestinian youth.

The march was sponsored by local Palestinian activists, a large number of them youth, as well as the International Action Center, Christians Witnessing for Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, and other religious and community organizations.

Carrying signs that called for an end to U.S. aid to Israel and its occupation of Palestine, protesters chanted, “Free, free, Palestine, democratic Palestine!” and “Resistance is justified when oppressed people are occupied.”

The demonstration moved to a down-



New York

town street corner where it was warmly received by passing motorists who loudly honked their horns.

In **DEARBORN, MICH.**, a western suburb of Detroit, Palestinians, Muslims and Christians alike gathered Oct. 18 to stand with the oppressed and show solidarity with the people of Palestine who are fighting just to live in their homeland. Many of the protesters were young. A contingent of children, teens and other youth led hundreds in chanting in solidarity with the Intifada. Representatives from the



## Moataz Zawahreh, PRESENTE!

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Comrade Moataz Zawahreh, a 27-year-old Palestinian refugee from Dheisheh camp, was shot and killed on Oct. 13 while confronting the Zionist occupation forces with stones and Molotov cocktails. He was targeted directly for assassination in the demonstration. We will never forget our comrade and brother Moataz.

— Michael Kramer



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Detroit progressive movement came from Workers World Party and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice. Abayomi Azikiwe, a MECAWI leader, was one of the rally speakers.

More protests are planned to continue the struggle for a free Palestine. At the next Dearborn City Council meeting, activists will ask the city to divest from Israel.

Gene Clancy, Jerry Goldberg, Judy Greenspan, Dianne Mathiowetz, Anne Pruden and Brenda Ryan contributed to this article.

# Cuba: Socialist health care beating heart disease

By Phebe Eckfeldt

As in much of the world, heart disease is a leading cause of death in Cuba, but the country has made remarkable strides in minimizing heart-disease-related deaths.

On Oct. 9, the Cuban newspaper Granma reported, "Cuba has achieved a heart surgery survival rate of over 95%, including coronary and vascular operations and those linked to congenital heart defects, a figure which places the island among the most advanced countries in this field."

Dr Eduardo Rivas, president of the Cuban Society of Cardiology, stated that the results correspond to the will of the Cuban government to improve the population's quality of life. He also stated that excellent results with pediatric heart surgery are due to early diagnosis of sick children, with immediate intervention before

the disease develops.

How is Cuba able to reach this amazing medical achievement while enduring a 52-year U.S. blockade? An article in InterNations called "Health Care and Education in Cuba" states, "The fall of the socialist bloc and the tightening of the U.S. embargo in the early 1990's put a strain on the economy. ... The budget for medicine and medical equipment shrunk by 70%. However, the health of Cuba's population remained stable. This is due to the fact that health care remained a top priority for the government. ... Today, lack of medical equipment still takes its toll. ... Particularly the specialized medical fields were harmed in the 1990's when specialized equipment and medicine was scarce."

After the 1959 socialist revolution, a top priority of Fidel Castro and the government was to bring health care to the

people, especially to the poorest and most oppressed, most urgently the campesinos in the rural areas. In 1960 the Ministerio de Salud Publica (Ministry of Public Health) was created along with the Rural Health Services, establishing free health care for all. Serving the people became the culture of revolutionary medicine for new young doctors who received free medical school tuition. Upon graduating, many answered the call by Fidel to serve the people and went to the countryside, including to the Sierra Maestra. This was health care for people, not for profit.

Successful health campaigns instituted by the socialist government relied on the participation of the masses, who became active in figuring out solutions to health care problems in their neighborhoods or villages. Two of the largest mass organizations to engage in this grassroots problem solving were the Commit-

tees for Defense of the Revolution and the Cuban Women's Federation.

Cuban health care puts emphasis on preventative medicine through nutrition and hygiene and using natural and alternative approaches. "A key node in the system [of public health care] has been the network of family doctors who live in the communities they serve," explains professor Elise Andaya at State University of New York at Albany. "This both allows patients continual access to health care and gives doctors an intimate knowledge of individual, familial and neighborhood risk profiles. While the medical budgets of many developed countries reflect their emphasis on costly curative medicine, Cuba achieves comparable health indices with a fraction of the cost by focusing on community-based preventative care." (NACLA Report on the Americas, Sept. 1, 2009) □

# Haiti election 2015: Fight for voting rights, sovereignty

By Dave Welsh

Elections in Haiti for a new president and Parliament are set for Oct. 25 — after a violence-plagued first-round vote for Parliament on Aug. 9.

Thousands of demonstrators have filled the streets to demand annulment of the low-turnout August elections, which the Miami Herald said were "marred by violence, fraud and late starts at polling stations across Haiti. Balloting at dozens of polling stations had to be suspended because of armed disruptions." (Oct. 2)

As expected, the ruling party of Haitian President Michel Martelly and his allies dominated the fraudulent first-round results, achieved with a turnout estimated by the Miami Herald at 18 percent nationwide and less than 10 percent in the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Martelly, who is termed-out and cannot run in this election, has ruled by decree since January 2015 after refusing to hold elections for local offices or Parliament since 2011. Haitians have demonstrated repeatedly against the government's repression and corruption.

"The U.S. government, Martelly, and the Haitian elite hope to use this coming round of elections to put in their own handpicked government and declare that 'democracy' exists in Haiti," said

a statement issued by the Haiti Action Committee. "The Haitian grassroots majority, however, has other ideas. For the first time in 15 years, Fanmi Lavalas, the party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and widely acknowledged as the most popular political movement in Haiti, is fielding candidates. Despite intimidation and terror, they are mobilizing the vote and fighting for a free and fair process."

"Lavalas's presence on the electoral scene is, in and of itself, a remarkable feat," the HAC statement continued. "The intent of the two coups against President Aristide in 1991 and 2004 was to destroy Lavalas, the movement that has represented Haiti's poor since the late 1980s. While President Aristide was in exile in South Africa from 2004-2011, U.S.-backed Haitian regimes carried out a classic counter-insurgency strategy designed to finish the job that the coup had started.

"U.N. forces and Haitian police violently attacked the Lavalas popular base in Cite Soleil and other communities, killing many. Thousands of political prisoners were arrested and held for years with no charges under horrendous conditions. Money was spread to divide and weaken the Lavalas infrastructure. Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine, a human rights advocate, Lavalas leader and candidate

for Senate, was kidnapped and disappeared in 2007."

## 'An electoral coup d'etat'

On Sept. 30, the anniversary of the 1991 coup, Aristide made his first public speech since his return from forced exile in 2011, standing side by side with Dr. Maryse Narcisse, the Fanmi Lavalas candidate for president. Speaking in the street and surrounded by thousands of people, many of whom had walked miles to be there, he denounced the August elections as an "electoral coup d'etat" and urged people to get out the vote for Dr. Narcisse.

Dr. Narcisse, a medical doctor and long-time Lavalas militant, was setting up health clinics in rural communities at the time of the 1991 coup. Like many Aristide supporters, she went into the streets to protest the military and then was forced into hiding. After Aristide was re-elected in 2000, she joined his administration. Exiled after the 2004 coup, she returned in 2006 to help rebuild Lavalas and serve as Aristide's spokesperson. If she wins, she would be the first elected woman president in Haiti's history.

"The strength of Fanmi Lavalas, a party rooted in the poor majority of Haitians and their demands for a just society, is precisely the reason it is under such at-

tack in this election," stated the HAC. "Throughout this campaign, Lavalas supporters have been arrested, threatened, jailed, beaten and killed. Fraud and intimidation prevented many Fanmi Lavalas candidates from running in the Parliamentary races, and strong candidates were denied victories through rigged vote-counting.

"Haitians know all the tricks and terror the Martelly regime is using to prevent them from voting. ... They are determined to exercise their legal rights, enshrined in the popular 1987 constitution, to publicly organize and promote a platform — one more front in Haiti's struggle for independence, sovereignty, and liberation."

A big factor in the elections is the U.S. government, which has funneled millions of dollars to influence the conduct and outcome of Haiti's elections. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Haiti on a jaw-boning trip in early October, just as his predecessor Hillary Clinton intervened in past Haitian elections without regard to the sovereignty of Haiti. In addition, the elections are taking place under the shadow of the continuing U.S./U.N. military occupation of Haiti, which was put in place at the time of the U.S.-sponsored coup in 2004. □

# World Bank report highlights poverty in Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Despite reports for the last several years that there have been significant declines in poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, a recently released World Bank study indicates that, despite "growth," the actual number of people living in poverty has increased by 100 million over the last 15 years.

In an attempt to reinforce the view of poverty decline, figures are presented that the proportion of people living in severe economic deprivation has declined. But with rising populations, those who are in distress are in fact numerically increasing.

The World Bank presented its report on "End Poverty Day" in Ghana, the first

country south of the Sahara to gain national independence from Britain in 1957. Ghana is now often championed by Western financial publications as a "success story" in the broader effort to ameliorate poverty and underdevelopment in Africa.

A World Bank press release states: "The report finds that progress in ending poverty in all its forms has varied greatly across countries and population groups, with the levels of achievement remaining challengingly low. Africa posted the slowest rate of poverty reduction of all major developing regions, with the share of people living in extreme poverty (less than US\$1.90 a day) declining only slightly, from 56% in 1990 to 43% in 2012. But since 2012, extreme poverty fell to a projected 35 percent in 2015 in the region, based on the World Bank's new poverty

line of \$1.90 a day. Globally, according to Bank estimates released earlier this month, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty will likely fall to under 10 percent for the first time, to 9.6 percent this year." (Oct. 16)

These figures are plagued by conjecture due to the lack of credible measurement tools and, moreover, whether reliable data was collected on these subjects. In rural areas the number of people living without adequate supplies of water, fuel, food and communications technology often goes overlooked.

The report itself acknowledges this fact: "Gauging Africa's human well-being remains tremendously difficult. The report shows that in 2012, just 25 of the region's 48 countries had conducted at least two household surveys over the

past decade to track poverty. The authors urge action across Africa in improving the availability and access to regular and reliable data on income poverty and other dimensions of well-being. They also stress that national support for adhering to methodological and operational standards is essential."

## How is growth, development measured in Africa?

The World Bank report reveals the contradictions between foreign direct investment growth and actual income levels, quality of life improvements and socioeconomic development. Setting an extreme poverty level at below \$1.90 for individuals and households is problematic.

Many of the advances made in Africa  
*Continued on page 11*



# U.S. terror continues in Afghanistan

By Sara Flounders

There is no end in sight to the U.S. war in Afghanistan, now the longest war in U.S. history. Despite past promises to end the war and bring all the troops home and later promises of a substantial drawdown, President Barack Obama announced on Oct. 15 that the present level of 9,800 U.S. troops would remain for a year. He also confirmed plans to pass the occupation on to the next administration, with at least 5,000 official U.S. troops still in place.

The announcements regarding numbers of troops are intentionally deceptive. They do not include the thousands of troops from the 42 other countries the U.S. has piled onto this debacle. Nor do they include the more than 30,000 contractors and mercenaries currently in Afghanistan. Each time a drawdown or surge of U.S. troops is announced, the number of contractors fluctuates. The number of contractors, considered a “disposable army,” has reached the level of 155,000 during this 14-year war.

Currently the U.S. funds an Afghan military force of 350,000 personnel.

During his re-election campaign on June 12, 2012, in Baltimore, Obama promised that “by 2014, the war in Afghanistan will be over.” On Sept. 2, 2012, in Boulder, Colo., he declared, “We are bringing our troops home from Afghanistan. And I’ve set a timetable. We will have them all out of there by 2014.” (whitehouse.gov)

On May 27, 2014, the White House promised that U.S. troops would be out by the end of 2016. (New York Times)

The current timeline not only pushes back the withdrawal date, but also calls for the U.S. to maintain an indefinite presence in Afghanistan.

Obama’s announcement that the nature of the mission has not changed makes it clear that there will not be any re-evaluation of the policy that has been a howling failure, even for U.S. aims. For the people of Afghanistan it has meant years of chaos and ruin.

Despite more than \$1 trillion of U.S. tax funds to military contractors and corrupt officials, Afghanistan remains the poorest country in the world. Today one in three Afghans are living in what is considered “absolute poverty” by the U.N. Half of the urban population is without access to potable water. Public facilities have collapsed. More than 2.5 million people are homeless war refugees.

As the U.S. war on terror continues, it is clear that the real terrorists are the U.S. occupation army and their collaborators, mercenaries and contractors. Terror tactics, including drone attacks, use of torture, mass round-ups, assassinations, bombings of hospitals and civilian centers, and targeting of peasants working in the fields and every conceivable social gathering, including weddings, parties and funerals, are standard operating procedure.

The occupation is committed to continuing its payoffs to the most corrupt officials on a local and national level. The policy of pitting one nationality against another, while intensifying rivalries and old national antagonisms, will continue. There will be no change in these terror

tactics or even in the number of troops.

## Women suffer greatest loss

Women face mounting violence, including threats, sexual assaults and assassinations. The U.S. media regularly describes the Taliban’s reactionary position on women’s rights. But the government held in place by U.S. troops is full of reactionary, feudal figures whose position is not any different toward women. The few laws to supposedly support women, which were window dressing of the U.S. occupation, are not even implemented.

Women have suffered car bombings, grenade attacks on homes, killing of family members and targeted assassinations. Arranged marriages, even of pre-teen girls, the sale of women and rape continue unchallenged. Eighty-five percent of women still have no formal education and are illiterate. The life expectancy of women is 51 years, while infant and maternal mortality are at world record highs.

This is because the U.S. military has been in an alliance with the same reactionary and corrupt military officials and feudal landlords that the U.S. colluded with against the Afghan Revolution in 1979.

Afghanistan today is less stable — with far greater hatred of U.S. occupation after 14 years than of the Taliban. The role of U.S. bombers in the continual bombing of the well-marked hospital in Kunduz on Oct. 3 is just the latest war crime among hundreds of attacks on civilian targets. These crimes are never prosecuted, just as racist police killings

in the U.S. are routinely covered up.

Two weeks after that war crime, on Oct. 15, an armored vehicle forced its way through the hospital gate in Kunduz and “destroyed potential evidence.” In an email to NBC News on Oct. 16, Doctors Without Borders, which ran the hospital, claimed the tank contained a “U.S./NATO/Afghan investigation team.”

The growing number of U.S. troops, NATO troops and contractors regularly targeted by the Afghan soldiers they are assigned to train confirms the depth of anger among Afghan people at the racist insults, routine humiliations and cultural offenses committed in training sessions. These attacks, labeled “insider attacks” or “green-on-blue attacks,” are so routine that the number of attacks has been classified.

Continued occupation will only increase the resistance. An American F-16 fighter jet flying over Afghanistan on Oct. 13 was forced to land at its base after being shot, according to Pentagon officials. The shots fired from the ground damaged the jet and forced the pilot to release its fuel tanks and damaged munitions.

Although Obama ran on a platform to end U.S. wars in the Middle East, it has never happened because, despite campaign promises then or now, policy is set by the needs of Wall Street, U.S. corporate power and the Pentagon. For the military industries, banks, oil companies and contractors, war is profitable, even when they are losing. We pay; they profit.

The only solution for the people of Afghanistan is a total end to the U.S. occupation. □

# Brave new resister explodes secret U.S. drone kills

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Classified U.S. Department of Defense documents were released on Oct. 15 by an “extremely principled and brave whistleblower” in the U.S. war apparatus. The secret papers highlighted the death and destruction from widespread U.S. use of remotely piloted drone planes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere. (The Guardian)

The Drone Papers, published on The Intercept website, revealed that the U.S. military routinely classifies any unidentified people killed in targeted strikes as “enemies killed in action.” That means all victims are called “enemies,” including family members, friends, neighbors and passing strangers. The report asserts this labeling is a deliberate strategy to conceal civilian deaths.

According to the Drone Papers, in one five-month period nearly 90 percent of the people killed by drones died due to their proximity to intended “targets.”

The report also calls into serious question the accuracy and reliability of U.S. methods used to target people as “legitimate enemy.”

The whistleblower elaborates: “It’s stunning the number of instances when selectors are misattributed to certain people. And it isn’t until several months or years later that you all of a sudden realize that the entire time you thought you were going after this really hot target, you wind up realizing it was his mother’s phone the whole time.” (theintercept.com, Oct. 15)

## UnDrone the U.S.

As the Drone Papers were being re-

leased, a stalwart group of UnDrone UpState marchers were coming to the end of a 165-mile journey intended to organize resistance to the “weaponized terror” of drones.

On Oct. 19 and 20 marchers arrived at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station after beginning their trip Oct. 7 at Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, N.Y. The walk was organized by the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones. (upstatedroneaction.org)

Soldiers at both bases operate MQ-9 Reaper/Predator drones that drop “Hellfire” bombs on locations in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The New York Air National Guard’s 174th Attack Wing is stationed in Syracuse and the Guard’s 107th Air Wing in Niagara Falls.

As U.S. capitalism declines, the ruling class relies more and more on military expansion to dominate and control areas in the global market. At the same time, the U.S. cannot rely on a military draft to supply soldiers as “boots on the ground” for these unpopular “wars without end.” This means an increasing reliance on high-tech warfare: smart bombs, field robots, satellite systems, high-tech missile ships — and drones.

Military-industrial contracts related to drone development are big business in Central and Upstate New York and throughout the U.S. The 2016 Department of Defense budget allocates \$1.94 billion for research, production, maintenance and munitions for the MQ Reaper drones like those piloted out of Syracuse



PHOTO: RUSSELL BROWN

The March to UnDrone Upstate setting out from Syracuse, Oct. 7.

and Niagara Falls.

The total drone budget for the U.S. military is exponentially greater as the DOD intends to up its drone use by 50 percent in the next four years. For instance, the U.S. Air Force plans to build a drone base at Agadez, Nigeria, in addition to its current drone base in Niamey, Niger. These will enable extensive U.S. drone surveillance and strikes in eastern and northern Africa. (dronecenter.bard.edu)

But the use of high-tech warfare also opens up the possibility of new kinds of resistance.

Many more people are needed in the chain of command for a high-tech weapon like the MQ Reaper/Predator — with

more opportunities for a break in that chain.

Micah Zenko, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, points out that to fly the MQ Reaper more than 130 people are needed, with most looking at video screens and doing analysis of drone data collection.

The Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones has run TV ads urging Army Reserve drone operators to refuse to commit war crimes by remotely piloting the drones.

Answering that kind of appeal in the military-industrial ranks are people in the chain of command like the anonymous Drone Papers whistleblower, who decided “enough was enough”

and released the drone-damning data.

Vietnam-era resister Daniel Ellsberg praised the Drone Papers source as part of a whistleblower chain including Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning, both of whom leaked U.S. classified documents related to recent wars. Ellsberg released the classified Pentagon Papers in 1971 that helped incite popular resistance to the U.S. war on Vietnam.

Ellsberg said of the long chain of command linked to U.S. war crimes: “It comes down to this. Hundreds could have done what I did, literally. ... [Snowden, Manning and the Drone source] did the right thing. The others were wrong to keep those secrets.” (Guardian, Oct. 15) □

# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

### Long live the Intifada

Oct. 19 — In every single part of Palestine — from the West Bank and Jerusalem to Occupied Palestine since 1948 — the most recent phase of the resistance to occupation and racism has impacted the Zionist settler population with fear and apprehension.

Self-sacrificing Palestinian youths armed only with knives and determination have let the settler population know that they can no longer hide in their shopping malls, trendy downtowns with al-fresco dining and 24-hour cable-TV mindsets.

The Israeli settler population now finds itself in the same psychological place as the plantation class in Southampton County, Va., in 1831 when Nat Turner led a slave rebellion.

Despite an estimated total of over \$137 billion in direct U.S. aid in the form of military and economic grants since 1949, and with at least \$3.74 billion paid out in 2015 (Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, October 2015), the so-called “State of Israel” still has no answer to Palestinian resistance and steadfastness.

The Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon does not work in Jerusalem alleyways. The Merkava Mark IV battle tank, with its German MTU Friedrichshafen-designed

diesel engine, doesn't operate inside a Beersheva bus station. And cruise-missile-carrying, Dolphin-class submarines built in Germany offer no protection to Israeli settlers swimming and sunning on the beaches of Tel Aviv.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has just issued a report titled “Israel's Arbitrary Killings and Its System of Structural Violence.” It documents how Israel routinely violates the Geneva Convention and is guilty of war crimes. For example: “On July 23, Israeli forces killed Falah Hamdi Zamel Abumaria, 53, from the village of Beit Amr in Hebron. Soldiers stormed his house to detain his son, Muhammed; when they shot the younger man, Abumaria panicked and threw a pottery vase at the soldiers from his balcony. The soldiers responded by firing three live bullets at his chest.”

This is why 16-year-olds attack settlers with knives. □

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

[facebook.com/  
WorkersWorldParty](https://facebook.com/WorkersWorldParty)

#Time4SocialistRevolution



## Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center

By Dolores Cox  
New York

This year, Workers World Party's annual conference will be held on Nov. 7 and 8 at the historic Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York.

The center was previously known as the Audubon Ballroom. It is where Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, and where the Organization of Afro-American Unity that he co-founded held their meetings. Important public events were also held at the Audubon.

The Audubon Ballroom fell into disrepair following Malcolm's death, and was subsequently closed. It became the property of New York City in the early 1980s due to owed back taxes. The building was later purchased by Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, which scheduled it for demolition.

It was saved, however, due to community protests and public outcry, including

appeals by educator Dr. Betty Shabazz for historical preservation of the site of her spouse's murder. After much debate the medical center agreed to restore a section of the building as a memorial to Malcolm X, but the stage where he was murdered was demolished.

The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center opened on May 18, 2005, the 80th anniversary of Malcolm's birth. It is a memorial to Malcolm X's humanitarian efforts and honors the leadership and integrity of his legacy. It is also a symbol of the ongoing struggle of African Americans for social justice and equality. Shabazz, who was instrumental in negotiating for and contributing to the planning of the center, died in 1997.

The Shabazz Center consists of a lobby, a ballroom on the second floor and a basement meeting room. In the lobby is a life-sized bronze statue of Malcolm X by sculptor and activist Gabriel Koren. A large painted mural in the ballroom by Daniel Galvez depicts Malcolm's life in historic detail. The most complete archives anywhere on the lives of Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz are located at the center, which includes interactive kiosks, a photo gallery, documents and handwritten postcards by Malcolm.

Programs such as teacher workshops for all disciplines are held at the center. The history of civil rights and social justice is taught, and curriculum outlines and lesson plans for the classroom are jointly composed. Hands-on experiential presentations, exhibits and story boards are utilized, including art work, social studies and language. K-12, undergraduate and graduate students are taken on field trips and guided tours to enhance classroom experience.

Events at the center include jazz evenings, film screenings, memoir-writing workshops, lectures and talks about love and liberation, policing, mass incarceration, community organizing and workshops in activism. □

## The Indonesian bloodbath, Part 2

# What it has meant for the world

By Deirdre Griswold

In Part 1 of this article, we wrote about the U.S. role behind the scenes in bringing about the horrendous massacre of up to a million people in Indonesia in 1965-66.

It is now 50 years since the military coup and slaughter began that drowned in blood the Indonesian Communist Party and also decimated the mass organizations of workers, peasants, women and youth that the party had built up over decades of struggle. Together, at least 15 million activists had participated in this broad progressive movement, which was then crushed by the reactionary, pro-imperialist forces in the military, backed by U.S. imperialism and much of Indonesia's capitalist and landlord ruling classes.

We look now at what effect this monstrous setback had on the world struggle against imperialism, which had been gaining momentum as more countries won their liberation from the colonial powers.

After World War II, Washington tried to turn back the revolutionary tide that was sweeping Asia. A key part of this effort had been the U.S. imperialists' massive invasion and war in Korea, which lasted three years. But even though the

U.S. Air Force dropped more bombs on People's Korea in the north than it had on Europe in all of World War II, the conflict ended in 1953 with a stalemate at the 38th parallel, where it had begun. In reality, this was a hard-won victory for the Korean people's struggle for sovereignty. It was the first time that U.S. imperialists had been fought to a draw.

By the 1960s, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was strongly moving ahead with reconstruction on a socialist basis after the ravages of the war.

The People's Republic of China, which had assisted the Korean struggle in the 1950s by sending more than a million volunteer soldiers and workers to the front, had hundreds of millions of mouths to feed. It was now focused on modernizing agriculture through the revolutionary development of communes.

Socialist North Vietnam was building up industry and agriculture while at the same time supporting the struggle in the south for liberation and national reunification.

Communist-led guerrilla movements were fighting for national liberation in the Philippines, Malaya and Laos.

How did the massacres in Indonesia affect the liberation struggles going on in Vietnam, Laos and later Cambodia? Cer-

tainly, the success of Washington's maneuvering with the Indonesian generals emboldened the U.S. ruling class in their anti-communist crusade in Asia. They continued their terrible wars in Southeast Asia for another 10 years, until the U.S. itself was engulfed by anti-war and anti-racist struggles.

### 'Jakarta is coming'

The bloody massacres in Indonesia were hailed by hardliners in the imperialist countries and by the regimes they had cultivated and brought to power in areas formerly "owned" outright by the colonial powers. These reactionaries hoped that the ferocious elimination of those fighting for the rights of the masses in that large and strategic country would undercut similar movements elsewhere.

Indeed, what the forces of imperialism and reaction had achieved in Indonesia was soon used to intimidate progressive movements as far away as South America. One can see the hand of the CIA in graffiti that appeared on the walls in Santiago, Chile: "Jakarta is coming." Similar threats were directly conveyed to members of the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende before the fascist coup there. (Andre Vltchek in

Counterpunch, Nov. 22, 2013)

Most leaders of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) had refused to back down or grovel before the fascist generals, speaking out forcefully at the phony "trials" that preceded their deaths. But the international left movement was painfully lacking in their support. Much of this was due to the internal crisis that had occurred in the Communist movement with the Sino-Soviet split.

### Sino-Soviet split

The Chinese leaders had rightfully opened up criticism of the policies advocated by the Communist Party of the USSR, beginning several years after Nikita Khrushchev became its general secretary in 1953. They accused it of accommodating to the pressures of U.S. imperialism and the Cold War by openly revising principles that had been basic to communism, at least on paper, since the time of Lenin.

However, this split between the two socialist giants degenerated from a political struggle to a state-to-state one, leading many imperialist analysts to gleefully predict war between the two. That did not happen — beyond a very brief border

*Continued on page 11*

# French unions defend workers' actions

By G. Dunkel

The pictures flashed around the world Oct. 5. Faced with angry workers who tore off their bosses' white collars, top executives of Air France had to climb over a fence to escape.

The executives had planned to lay off 3,000 workers in a drive to impose austerity. French law requires a meeting of workers and management to discuss such a layoff.

The next day, French President François Hollande gave a national address calling the workers who took the strong action "thugs." The workers are mainly members of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) or of Workers' Force (FO), which together have about a million members. Prime Minister Manuel Valls apologized to the executives.

A week later on Oct. 12, police arrest-



ed five employees of Air France at 6 a.m. in their homes on charges of violently interfering with the executives' right to work. Lilia Mhissen, the CGT lawyer, in

a statement on I-Tele said, "This arrest was totally disproportional. It is how bandits or terrorist are treated while in principle they could have been given a

letter asking them to come to the police station."

A few hours after the arrest the unions held a small demonstration in front of Air France headquarters at Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris and a larger one in Metz, in northeastern France, where the minister of the economy was holding a meeting.

The CGT has called a strike for Oct. 22 to support the arrested workers and all those facing layoffs. On the union confederation's Facebook page it tells the president, "You do not know the fear of losing your job; you are president; you do not know insecurity and misery" of the unemployed.

There, the CGT also satirizes the French media and its support for Air France and the heads of the French government, calling them the "real thugs" who are threatening French workers. □

## World Bank report highlights poverty in Africa

*Continued from page 8*

involve the availability of mobile phones and other consumer goods. These goods have enhanced the standard of living in many states by facilitating communications and therefore economic, political and social interactions. Nonetheless, these products come at a price, whether they are manufactured outside the country, as is the case more often than not, or domestically.

Consequently the cost of living is increasing, creating hardship despite the rising household income generated through increased production and trade. Recent strikes in Ghana by private, public and educational workers have largely centered on the decline in the value of the cedi (national currency), requiring larger amounts of money to cover expenses.

In Nigeria, proclaimed in 2014 by the

Western-based financial publications as having the largest economy in Africa, many strikes involve workers who are more skilled and have higher incomes. Work stoppages in the medical, educational and oil sectors demand not only higher wages and better employment conditions, but also that employees actually receive their salaries on a regular basis.

In various state departments in Nigeria, public sector workers have gone months without salaries. This has also been a major issue in Ghana among junior physicians and educators.

The distribution of national wealth is the most important factor in determining actual development. Africa has produced billionaires in Nigeria, South Africa and other states. However, the existence of abject poverty remains. Class structures inherited from colonialism have not been

eliminated. Those who are in a position to benefit from the continuing integration of Africa into the world capitalist and imperialist system stand to advance their social positions in society.

In Nigeria and South Africa, the largest and most advanced states on the continent, both labor unions and community organizations have demanded that the mining and other extractive multinational corporations reinvest in the environmental and social well-being of the areas where they derive their wealth. Although the workers may earn more than people living in and confined to the rural areas, if resources are not reinvested into creating schools, improving education, cleaning up chemical and industrial waste, and constructing roads and health care facilities, it is not possible to define such a set of circum-

stances as genuine development.

### Wealth must be equitably distributed to foster development

The issues of wealth distribution and production relations must be addressed before there is real qualitative development in Africa and other geopolitical regions. Of course, the World Bank cannot address these issues due to the inherent class bias of its approach to economic growth.

Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were founded by the U.S. capitalist class at the conclusion of World War II to facilitate its dominant position in the imperialist world. In the earlier phase of this development, tremendous resources were poured into Western Europe to rebuild industry and infrastructure destroyed from 1939 to 1945.

However, after the emergence of independent African states during the 1950s and 1960s, IMF-World Bank officials arrived, ready to restructure the postcolonial political economy, emphasizing a neoliberal approach to development by shrinking the size of the public sectors and lowering the value of currencies. Rather than establish import-substitution industries, a path to growth was engineered to emphasize Western foreign investment.

With fluctuations of energy and commodity prices, such a set of international relations leaves the postcolonial states dependent upon the strength of the economies in the former colonial and still imperialist countries. This vulnerability of the oppressed nations, largely located in Africa, the Asia-Pacific and Latin America, stifles and even obliterates the capacity to engage in long-term planning for the benefit of the broad populations in these states.

The constraints placed on making major advancements in agricultural, industrial, educational and social service industries and sectors requires alternative approaches. Socialist economic planning could channel earnings from worker productivity and trade into those aspects of the economy that would produce the most desirable outcomes.

Internal conflict is cited in the World Bank report as a major factor in preventing economic growth. However, the World Bank cannot acknowledge the imperialist destabilization of Africa through military operations and covert activity, since it would directly challenge the foreign policy imperatives of the ruling classes in North America and Western Europe. □

**GET HISTORIC WW BOOKS FREE ONLINE! Two ebooks on the U.S. role in the Indonesian bloodbath of 1965-66.**

**Indonesia: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century**, by Deirdre Griswold.

A historic overview of the Indonesian struggle for true independence, after 350 years of colonialism, and Washington's key role in the coup by fascist generals that led to the slaughter of a million Indonesians. Go to [workers.org/books/](http://workers.org/books/).

**The Silent Slaughter:** Transcript of the historic Public Inquest into the Indonesian Massacre, held at Columbia University on June 2, 1966.

Contributors: Bertrand Russell, Deirdre Griswold, Eric Norden, journalist William Worthy, Prof. Andrew March, Atty. Mark Lane.

Out of print for 40 years! **Available soon as an ebook at [worldviewbooks.info](http://worldviewbooks.info).**

*Continued from page 10*

clash in 1969 — but the effects on the international movement were severe. In almost every country, the parties divided into pro-Moscow and pro-Beijing wings. The PKI was not immune to this.

Nor were the parties in most of the imperialist countries themselves. Instead of mobilizing in defense of the PKI and the left in Indonesia, the opposing factions blamed each other for the defeat.

This needs to be brought up because the need for a united front against capitalist reaction must be understood in the movement. Political differences should not be papered over; they are real and need to be debated to achieve clarity. But in the struggle with the capitalist enemy, the working-class movement must seek to present a united front.

### Environmental destruction

There is another area of great concern to today's progressive movements that is directly connected to the bloodbath in Indonesia: the destruction of the environment.

The victory that imperialism achieved through the bloody elimination of Indonesia's progressive forces opened up the country for massive exploitation by transnational corporations, especially those that had greedily eyed Indonesia's abundant natural resources.

Corporations like Mobil Oil, Freeport Sulphur, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Uniroyal, Union Carbide and Unilever rushed in, sometimes availing themselves of virtually free labor from the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners. Of course, the military overlords got their cut.

Once the imperialists were in control of Indonesia's underground resources and its precious trees, some of which had been growing for centuries in rainforests teeming with life, the result was an ecological disaster.

In the words of Greenpeace.org: "Indonesia is a treasure chest of biodiversity; it is home to between 10 and 15 percent of all known species of plants, mammals and birds. Orangutans, elephants, tigers, rhinoceroses, more than 1,500 species of birds and thousands of plant species are all a part of the country's natural legacy. The mass destruction of Indonesia's rainforests and carbon-rich peatlands for palm oil and paper threatens this and is the main reason why Indonesia is one of the world's largest emitters of climate-changing greenhouse gases."

Solidarity with the young workers' movement now struggling to breathe in Indonesia is one of the important ways to fight for a better future — for them, for us and for the planet. □



**WORKERS WORLD**  
**MUNDO OBRERO** ★

### Bombardos habituales de hospitales

*Continúa de página 12*

Roja de Bagdad, matando e hiriendo a médicos y pacientes. Un año después, en Faluya, cohetes estadounidenses arasarón el recién construido hospital Hai Nazal. Bombas estadounidenses mataron a 63 empleadas/os y pacientes en la Clínica Central de Salud de Faluya.

Con mucho apoyo internacional, Médicos Sin Fronteras continúa exigiendo la verdad y rendición de cuentas del Pentágono y de la administración Obama.

Se debe hacer más. ¡La asquerosamente rica clase dominante estadounidense debe pagar reparaciones por sus crímenes de guerra! □

## Ayuda rusa en Siria posterga planes EUA de 'cambiar régimen'

Por Sara Flounders

Los planes de EUA/OTAN de derrocar al gobierno sirio y reconocer a un régimen disfuncional de colaboradores imperialistas han sufrido un serio revés.

Bajo el pretexto de luchar contra la fuerza terrorista llamada Estado Islámico, el Pentágono ha involucrado a otros 13 países para efectuar bombardeos y acciones militares en Siria. Con la coordinación de EUA, aviones bombarderos de los miembros de la OTAN Gran Bretaña, Francia, Turquía, Canadá, Bélgica y Países Bajos, han llevado a cabo acciones militares en Siria el pasado año.

Además, Israel, Qatar, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Arabia Saudita, Jordania, Bahrein y Australia, también han utilizado sus aviones para bombardear adentro de Siria.

Todos estos países se encuentran frustrados ante el continuo crecimiento del Estado Islámico. Todos están decididos a derrocar al gobierno de Siria. Mientras tanto, el pueblo sirio ha quedado devastado por esta guerra impuesta desde el exterior, con 12 millones de los 23 millones de habitantes de Siria desplazados y sin hogar.

Ha habido intensas discusiones sobre la imposición de una zona de exclusión aérea y también de acciones en el terreno, pero ambas se han encontrado con intensa oposición en los países imperialistas de Europa y EUA.

Sin embargo, la destrucción apenas comienza. Combatientes de 80 países, incluyendo mercenarios, organizados en 1000 grupos armados de oposición y que alcanzan más de 100.000 combatientes reaccionarios y fanáticos, están ya operando en Siria.

El que el dinero saudita los equipa y les paga no es un secreto. Unidades operan abiertamente desde bases en Turquía y Jordania. Caravanas de cientos de camiones abastecen a estas unidades. Sin embargo, a pesar de toda esta asistencia durante más de cuatro años, estas fuerzas mercenarias no han logrado derrocar al gobierno sirio.

Las zonas de exclusión aérea en discusión tenían la intención de crear una zona de seguridad para que un ejército de oposición organizado por EUA se reforzara. Decenas de miles de refugiados sirios serían conglomerados en esta "Zona Protegida".

En el 2011, la máquina guerrista del Pentágono y sus conspiradores de la OTAN declararon una zona de exclusión aérea en Libia con el fin de autorizar siete meses de bombardeo incesante contra ese país, lo que llevó al brutal derrocamiento del gobierno libio. Han sido incapaces de repetir esto en Siria.

### Ayuda de Rusia e Irán, cambio de juego

En medio de toda esta intervención externa, la intervención de Rusia e Irán y los ataques aéreos de Rusia contra el Estado Islámico, repentinamente han levantado protesta y gritos entre los imperialistas. Esto se debe a que Rusia e Irán, junto con las fuerzas del Hizbolá del Líbano, tienen como objetivo defender la soberanía de Siria, no de derrocar al gobierno de Bashar al-Assad. La entrada de Rusia a la guerra ha cerrado los planes occiden-

tales de crear una zona de exclusión aérea en Siria.

Un artículo publicado el 8 de octubre en el New York Times, expone el pensamiento de Washington y la UE detrás de la publicidad masiva dada a la crisis de las/os refugiados y su enorme frustración ahora con la ayuda de Rusia a Siria. "En primer lugar, [el presidente ruso Putin] ha cerrado las opciones occidentales que podrían haber amenazado al actual régimen en Damasco, la capital siria.

El gran flujo de refugiadas/os este verano procedentes del conflicto sirio, había comenzado a centrar las mentes europeas sobre cómo resolver el problema de fondo. Bretaña, Francia, Jordania, Turquía y Washington habían empezado a hablar en serio sobre la creación de las llamadas zonas de exclusión aérea sobre Siria.

"Esas zonas fueron pensadas para crear zonas de seguridad dentro de Siria para las fuerzas de la oposición y para miles de personas desplazadas, reduciendo el flujo de refugiados. La táctica fue pensada para evitar que la fuerza aérea siria atacara a los rebeldes y sus partidarios opositores al presidente Bashar al-Assad, quien iba perdiendo terreno mien-

tras sus funcionarios admitían la escasez de personal.

"La presencia de sofisticados aviones de combate rusos y personal ruso en el terreno, hace que sea casi imposible para los EUA y sus aliados arriesgar tal zona de exclusión aérea".

¿Qué puede estar más claro?

Este artículo expone el pensamiento cínico de Washington y los planes militares de la OTAN. Esto también pone en perspectiva el aluvión de medios corporativos que repentinamente se compadecían de la ola de desesperadas/os refugiados. El flujo de refugiadas/os pretendía romper la resistencia en Europa y promover la participación de la OTAN.

El drástico recorte de la magra asistencia alimentaria de la ONU a las/os refugiados de guerra en los campamentos en Jordania, Turquía, Irak y Siria también impulsó a la desesperada gente a la peligrosa huida hacia Europa. La agencia de la ONU necesitaba solo \$236 millones para mantener el programa financiado hasta noviembre, pero no los consiguió. Según NationalPriorities.org, el gobierno estadounidense ha gastado esa cantidad en las guerras en Irak, Afganistán y Siria cada 28 horas desde el año 2001.

¿Tenía este recorte prevenible en los alimentos a las/os refugiados también la intención de provocar la migración con el fin de "centrar las mentes europeas... a hablar en serio sobre la creación de las llamadas zonas de exclusión aérea sobre Siria"?

A pesar de las palabras de los diplomáticos estadounidenses que instan cooperación con las fuerzas rusas e iraníes, es poco probable cualquier tipo de cooperación, porque los objetivos de las dos partes son diametralmente opuestos.

Las fuerzas estadounidenses y occidentales todavía están decididas a conseguir "cambiar el régimen" en Siria; Rusia e Irán saben que su propia soberanía y la estabilidad de toda la región están conectadas a la capacidad de Siria para defenderse de la subyugación de estilo colonial.

La respuesta de Estados Unidos ha sido aumentar el envío de equipo militar a las diversas fuerzas reaccionarias y escalar la creciente confrontación.

La única manera de resolver este conflicto es que ¡EUA, la OTAN - incluyendo Turquía - y las monarquías del Golfo, salgan de Siria y permanezcan fuera! □

### Editorial WW-MO:

## Bombardeos habituales de hospitales

¿Accidente o crimen de guerra?

Aviones estadounidenses bombardearon y destruyeron un hospital operado por Médicos Sin Fronteras (MSF) en Kunduz, Afganistán, el 3 de octubre. Durante 65 minutos, un helicóptero de combate AC-130U circundó el hospital, apuntando fuego de cañón y municiones incendiarias a su principal edificio que alberga la unidad de cuidados intensivos, quirófanos y salas de emergencia.

Unos 180 pacientes y las/os empleados estaban adentro. Al menos 12 empleados de MSF y 10 pacientes, todas/os afganas, murieron; algunos fueron incinerados. Otras/os 37 quedaron heridos; 33 siguen desaparecidas/os a la fecha del 12 de octubre.

Para evitar este tipo de ataque, el personal del hospital había informado en repetidas ocasiones su coordenadas GPS a EUA, a la OTAN y a las fuerzas afganas. Durante el bombardeo, los funcionarios de MSF llamaron a los funcionarios estadounidenses en Kabul y Washington, incluyendo al Estado Mayor Conjunto del Pentágono, pidiendo que se detuvieran los ataques aéreos. Pero los ataques continuaron durante 30 minutos más.

Como consecuencia, MSF se fue de Kunduz. El norte de Afganistán se encuentra ahora sin un centro de trauma para tratar heridas de guerra. La organización de ayuda médica acusa a EUA de haber cometido un crimen de guerra en violación a los derechos humanos fundamentales y al derecho humanitario e internacional. MSF afirma que el bombardeo fue un ataque a los Convenios de Ginebra que protegen a la población civil, incluidos las/os trabajadores médicos y prohíben bombardeos de hospitales en

zonas de guerra. EUA ratificó estos principios en 1955.

Al oír un clamor mundial, el Pentágono cambió su historia cuatro veces. Insistió que los ataques aéreos fueron "accidentales". Ahora el general John Campbell, comandante de las fuerzas estadounidenses en Afganistán, admite que el asalto letal fue resultado de una "decisión de EUA tomada dentro de la cadena de comando estadounidense". Hasta el momento el ejército se niega a dar detalles.

En un raro acto durante una guerra, el presidente Barack Obama pidió disculpas a MFS. El Pentágono hasta ha ofrecido una indemnización a las familias de las víctimas. Esto está muy lejos de lograr un perdón por un crimen tan atroz.

MSF repudia energicamente las investigaciones establecidas por EUA, la OTAN y Afganistán, y está exigiendo una investigación independiente del bombardeo bajo un organismo creado en virtud de los protocolos de la Convención de Ginebra.

Después de 14 años de ocupación de Afganistán, los imperialistas siguen perdiendo. En su desesperación, la clase dominante de EUA y sus aliados de la OTAN están dispuestos a cometer cualquier crimen, violando cualquier tratado internacional, burlándose de los derechos humanos y despreciando la vida humana. Es su comportamiento estándar en la búsqueda de súper ganancias.

### Bombardear hospitales - nada nuevo para EUA

El imperialismo norteamericano es un criminal de guerra reincidente, con una larga y sórdida historia de bombardeos de hospitales y matanzas de civiles her-

idos y personal médico. No han sido accidentes. Son actos destinados a aterrorizar a la población y forzar a los gobiernos a rendirse. Los hechos hablan por sí mismos.

Durante la guerra de EUA contra Corea del Norte en los años 50 aviones de guerra estadounidenses bombardearon cientos de hospitales. Bombardeos B-52 destruyeron el Hospital Bach Mai en Hanoi, la instalación médica más grande en el norte de Vietnam, durante los "bombardeos de Navidad" en diciembre de 1972.

En 1993, en Mogadiscio-Somalia, tropas de Turquía y EUA parte de una "fuerza de mantenimiento de paz" de la ONU bombardearon un hospital en Digfer.

Cuando EUA y la OTAN libraron la guerra para desmantelar Yugoslavia, la OTAN lanzó misiles de crucero contra un hospital de Belgrado, dejando caer bombas de racimo en un hospital en Nis en mayo 1999, bombardeando cuatro hospitales más.

La invasión y ocupación de Afganistán por EUA tras el ataque contra las torres gemelas el 11 de septiembre de 2001, fue aparentemente para perseguir a Osama bin Laden y al-Qaida. Aviones de guerra estadounidenses bombardearon a continuación, al menos seis hospitales y clínicas en Kabul, Kandahar y en otros lugares. En un golpe criminal, aviones estadounidenses incluso tiraron una bomba racimo de 1.000 libras en un hospital de Herat.

En la campaña de bombardeos "Comoción y Pavor" de 2003 contra Irak, aviones del Pentágono bombardearon un hospital de maternidad de la Media Luna

Continúa a página 11