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WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

NYC march against killer cops. Page 6

Sanders campaign has people asking What is socialism?

By Peter Gilbert

The large rallies and recent gains in the polls following the debate for Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, a self-proclaimed “socialist,” have many workers wondering what “socialism” is. Many more are confused because his ideas do not seem fundamentally different from those of others in the Democratic Party.

Sanders added to the confusion during the debate on Oct. 13, when questioned about socialism. Instead of clearly defining the term, he attacked wealth inequality as “immoral and wrong,” a view even some capitalists espouse, and promised universal health care and paid family leave, benefits that are available in many countries with capitalist economic systems. He did not distinguish socialism as an entirely different structure for society.

Whatever Sanders means by “socialism,” one thing is clear from his popularity, workers in the U.S. are open to discussing the idea and want to know more about what it means. A lexicographer associated with the Merriam Webster dictionary tweeted about searches for the definition of socialism after the debate: “Socialism’ spiking off the charts.”

Confusion about socialism stems not only from the decades of anti-socialist propaganda by the capitalist media, but also from the fluidity of its definition. Like any concept, the idea of socialism is not fixed or static; people use the word to mean many very different things. Even the co-author of the “Communist Manifesto,” Friedrich Engels, had to carefully distinguish the version of socialism he and Karl Marx described from earlier, “utopian” socialist experiments.

One reason why people with such varied and conflicting ideas all use the same word to describe their politics is that most of these ideas, parties and organizations had historic roots in the same socialist or social democratic parties of the 19th century, parties which were based on the ideas of Marx and Engels. (Workers World, April 26, 2012, tinyurl.com/pffhae9)

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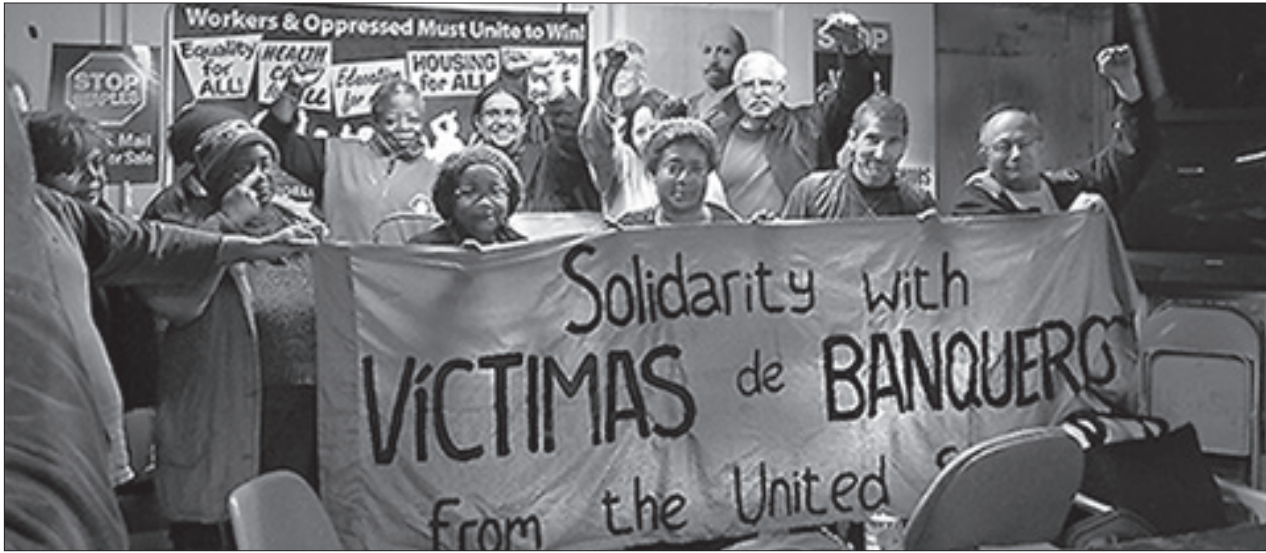
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Colombian GM workers gain new allies



Some participants at Detroit meeting with Jose Parra, Oct. 19.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

By Martha Grevatt
Detroit

Jorge Parra, president of the Association of Injured Workers and Ex-workers of General Motors Colmotores (Asotrecol), came to Detroit in September 2012. For six months he attempted to win a meeting with General Motors' executives, with the goal of resolving the dispute he and hundreds of other former workers have with the company. GM fired them after being injured on the job, and had their medical records forged to state their injuries were not work-related, thus denying them workers' compensation and leaving them with no form of income.

While in Detroit, Parra sewed his lips shut and waged a 72-day hunger strike, but GM would not budge. He returned to Asotrecol's tent encampment outside the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, set up on Aug. 1, 2011, to pressure the U.S. government, then still GM's majority shareholder, to make GM honor the rights of the fired workers. The encampment is still up despite arrests, beatings and eviction attempts.

What Asotrecol won during Parra's stay in Detroit was a diverse network of friends who were moved by this heroic struggle. They welcomed him back to Detroit this October, hosting numerous meetings with autoworkers, social justice activists, church members and others. Parra spent several hours with housing rights

activist S. Baxter Jones, who is in the fourth week of his own hunger strike to keep his home.

Parra returned to Michigan to make a presentation to the Arcus Foundation at Kalamazoo College, which hosted Asotrecol and nine other finalists for its social justice award. Parra explained that while GM was still denying justice to Asotrecol, the struggle was having an impact. GM has stopped discharging injured workers and has installed equipment to make work safer. Injured workers from other sectors, who have suffered the same fate as GM workers, are finding common cause with one another.

While another group won Kalamazoo's juried award, Asotrecol and a Mexican Indigenous women's group shared the audience award.

From Detroit, Parra flew to Stuttgart, Germany, for an international autoworkers conference that attracted workers from India, South Africa, Europe, the U.S. and Latin America. The conference passed a resolution unanimously in solidarity with Asotrecol. Parra made strong connections there, especially with Brazilian autoworkers who have waged successful strikes to stop mass layoffs.

Upon returning to Detroit on Oct. 19, Parra rushed to the meeting of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs. Coalition members posed with Parra, holding a banner in solidarity with the Colombian anti-foreclosure group, Victims of Bankers. □

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Debtors' prisons fill up in deep South

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Across the U.S., local jails have turned into “debtors’ prisons” as cities and counties imprison poor people who can’t pay fines for traffic violations, minor offenses or “court costs.” Nowhere is this more dramatic than in the Deep South, where imprisoned people are disproportionately young Black people, immigrants, people of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and queer people. (blackandpink.org)

In Alabama, Perry County Circuit Judge Marvin Wiggins told a courtroom full of people at an unpaid fines hearing on Sept. 17: “[I]f you do not have any money and don’t want to go to jail, consider giving blood today and bring your receipt back, or the sheriff has enough handcuffs for those who do not have money.” (Equal Justice Initiative)

Debra Shoemaker Ford from Shelby County was jailed there for seven weeks with no court hearing. Her crime? She had not paid the monthly fees charged by a private probation company, Judicial Correction Services (JCS). The company, based in Georgia, had provided her bail for a traffic violation. (themarshallproject.org)

In Chilton County, retired ill steelworker Richard Garrett was jailed for two years and owed \$10,000 simply for traffic and license violations, plus fees and fines accrued over 10 years. (New York Times, July 2, 2012)

Jailing someone for debt who is too poor to pay is a civil rights violation under the 1966 U.N. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is also illegal under the 1982 U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Bearden vs. Georgia*.

But though debtor’s prisons are not allowed de jure — by law — they are on the rise de facto. As part of a prisons-for-profit boom of the last 20 years, “offender-funded” initiatives throughout the U.S. “justice” system have shifted much of the cost for the system to the prisoners themselves. Economically squeezed cities and counties have actively adopted this approach to add to their “revenue stream.”



Free Alabama Movement march at Tutwiler Women’s Prison, August 2014.

PHOTO CREDIT: FREE ALABAMA MOVEMENT

Local governments also augment revenues by contracting with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to arrest and jail undocumented immigrants in order to fulfill quotas to keep “beds filled” at for-profit detention centers run by corporate giants like Corrections Corporation of America and GEO Group. Incarcerated immigrants then incur costs in the local “fee stream.” (grassrootsleadership.org)

Predatory companies like Judicial Correction Services are contracted by local cities and counties to collect fines, restitution and fees from convicted or incarcerated people. Boasting they are “saving taxpayer dollars,” the profit-driven companies hound poor people for all kinds of fees, including jail book-in, public defender application, drug testing, DNA testing, drug rehab, electronic monitoring, as well as jail per diems for pretrial detention, court costs and more. (globalresearch.ca)

The private companies charge the local governments nothing; they make their profits by adding extra fees to court defendant bills.

The companies are bill collectors with the power to decide if someone goes to jail for not paying. Poor defendants have the right to legal counsel in criminal cases, but not in civil cases — such as indebtedness. That leaves poor defendants at the mercy of profit-hungry companies like JCS.

A 2010 study by the Brennan Center for Justice looked at the fee structures in 15 U.S. states with the largest prison populations, including California, Florida and Texas. The study noted the user fees “create new paths to prison for those unable to pay their debts and make it harder to find employment and housing as well as to meet child support obligations.” Criminal-justice debt also affects eligibility for a driver’s license and credit worthiness.

Prisoners fight back

A national campaign against debtors’ prisons is picking up speed. On Oct. 21 the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit against JCS, the city of Biloxi, Miss., its police chief and a municipal judge, charging they operate “a modern-day debtors’ prison ... [that] arrests and jails impoverished people in a scheme to generate municipal revenue.”

Last January the ACLU filed a similar suit in Georgia against DeKalb County and rapidly reached settlement in March, achieving limited systemic reform. Under this pressure, the day before the ACLU suit was filed in Mississippi, the JCS announced it was ceasing business in Alabama.

Militant prisoner actions nationwide preceded these legal challenges and continue to fuel the increasing national struggle against prisons-for-profit and mass incarceration.

In 2011 prisoners in California’s Pelican Bay State Prison launched a hunger strike against solitary confinement sentences that routinely lasted over 10 years. By 2013 over 30,000 California prisoners had joined the strike, the largest in history. Under tremendous pressure from prisoners, their families and their communities, Gov. Jerry Brown bowed to a settlement to phase out indefinite solitary confinement.

This March mothers in the immigrant Karnes Family Detention Camp in Texas went on a work and hunger strike, demanding to be freed with their children. In June mothers at the Berks County, Pa., Family Detention Camp launched a similar work strike. A federal judge ruled in their favor on Aug. 21, ordering the Obama administration to release all detained mothers and children by Oct. 23. (EndFamilyDetention.com)

On Jan. 1, 2014, the Free Alabama Movement announced “a cross-racial collective action ... for Human and Civil Rights, in the form of a work stoppage” that spread to the St. Clair County and Elmore County jails. FAM is a grassroots organization founded by men incarcerated in Alabama.

The Free Alabama Movement is clear about the basis for their strategy of resistance: “Prisons don’t function without inmate labor. And every day that the prison doesn’t function, the prison profit margin plummets.” □

Protesters tell Houston sheriff: ‘Stop deportations!’

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

People who support immigrant rights gathered outside the county jail here to protest the Harris County Sheriff’s Office for its complicity in the deportation of over 1,000 people every month in Houston. The Oct. 10 picket line faced dozens of armed sheriffs trying to intimidate the demonstrators while participants took the mic to denounce the recent immigration raids in Houston.

The action was initiated by the Houston Socialist Movement. Speakers included representatives of many organizations, including the International Workers of the World and End Mass Incarceration-Houston. Many undocumented youth participated, including César Fiero, from Immigrant Families and Students in Struggle (FIEL), who proudly announced, “I am undocumented and unafraid!”

Martha Ojeda with the Fe y Justicia (Faith and Justice) Worker Center told the crowd that the raids must stop. The workers’ center is organizing with the families who were taken into custody recently at a tortilla factory.



Activists outside county sheriff’s office, Oct. 10.

WWW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

A speaker representing Workers World Party pointed to the line of cops monitoring the protest and said: “These uniformed goons standing here are the ones separating families, causing untold grief and deporting honest people. This is criminal. They are the people that should be locked up for their crimes against humanity, not the immigrants fleeing terror at home, not families try-

ing to find work, not students denied jobs even after graduating high school and even college.”

After the demonstration, the crowd walked up the steps of the building housing the sheriff’s office, which is inside the huge county jail, in order to deliver a letter to Sheriff Ron Hickman. A line of cops blocked the entrance and doors were locked. Angry protesters be-

gan chanting, “Let us in! Let us in!”

Since the sheriffs had stopped allowing visitors to enter to see their family or friends who were in jail, the protest was ended so that jail visits could resume. All agreed that only by mobilizing the community can the raids and deportations be stopped, that no politician will end the racist attacks on immigrants. Only the people can do it. □

Texas strikes blow at poor women

By Sue Davis

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission stripped Planned Parenthood of its Medicaid contracts on Oct. 19. Defunding was based on alleged violations of its fetal tissue donation program.

Such allegations stem from widely discredited, deceptively edited videos issued in July by the anti-abortion, so-called Center for Medical Progress. The videos insinuate that Planned Parenthood engaged in selling fetal tissue for profit. CMP, currently under investigation in California for fraud, is closely associated with far-right, anti-abortion, bigoted groups like Operation Rescue, which has a history of arrests for blockading clinics and harassing patients.

Meanwhile, Planned Parenthood, the largest national provider of reproductive health care services for women, announced on Oct. 13 that it would no longer request reimbursement from research centers for fetal tissue donations, which are vital in creating lifesaving vaccines and medicines.

Three days later, on Oct. 21, the Texas HHSC issued subpoenas alleging misuse of federal Medicaid funds. It demanded Medicaid records of abortion patients who have donated fetal tissue in the past five years and documents covering patient, billing and personnel records, including employee home addresses and salaries.

To serve the subpoenas, investigators from HHSC's Office of Inspector General arrived without warning at Planned Parenthood facilities in San Antonio, Dallas and Houston and gave the clinics 24 hours to deliver thousands of pages of documents. Ken Lambrecht, head of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, called this "a politically motivated ... fishing expedition."

That charge appears accurate, reported Mother Jones on Oct. 22, because a

reporter arrived at the Planned Parenthood clinic in San Antonio at the same time as state investigators. The state's raid, noted the magazine, seemed to be "looking for an excuse to justify its politically motivated actions."

Also on Oct. 21, the Ohio Senate passed a bill defunding Planned Parenthood. Pro-choice Sen. Edna Brown condemned the bill because it disproportionately impacts low-income women. "There is no one, no one but Planned Parenthood in poor and African-American communities." (RH Reality Check, Oct. 22)

Relentless attacks continue

Though the House of Representatives held a hearing on Planned Parenthood on Sept. 29, during which President Cecile Richards stood up to hours of insulting demands and harangues by anti-abortion critics, the House announced Oct. 23 that it is convening yet another investigation. The eight Republican members of the Select Investigative Panel have "100 percent ratings from the National Right to Life Committee," reported the Huffington Post on Oct. 23.

Pro-choice Democrats criticized the new panel and said they may boycott it as it is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

RH Reality Check Editor-in-Chief Jodi Jacobson compared watching the Sept. 29 hearing to "witnessing an inquisition" like those of anti-communist Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s. (Oct. 5) She pointed out that no evidence was presented to substantiate charges of selling fetal tissue for profit. She denounced charges against Planned Parenthood as lies and demands for lists of providers, clinics and staff as ways to intimidate and frighten people.

Jacobson quoted two dictionary definitions of McCarthyism: "the practice of making accusations unsupported by proof or based on slight, doubtful or irrelevant evidence" and "the practice of mak-



Anti-choice bigots picketing a Planned Parenthood clinic and harassing patients Oct. 25 in Portland, Ore., were stopped cold when Mary Numair, a PP supporter, came outside with her sign thanking PP and chanted loudly, "Yeast infections! Yeast infections!" one of many health problems treated by PP.

ing unfair allegations or using unfair investigative techniques especially in order to restrict dissent or political criticism."

A startling example of today's McCarthyism is the website set up Sept. 28 by the deep-pocketed anti-abortion group known as the Alliance Defending Freedom. (Oct. 22) The purpose of the site, getyourcare.org, is to provide "alternatives" to Planned Parenthood if it is defunded nationally. The website, based on data from lists of Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers, is supported by 17 of the country's most prominent anti-abortion groups, including the ultraright Family Research Council, which is also hostile to same-sex marriage.

Yet when RH Reality Check writers called dozens of these facilities, they discovered elementary, middle and high

schools; homeless shelters; nursing homes; pediatric centers; and even the District of Columbia jail. All of them said they were not prepared to provide reproductive health services for poor women.

Drawing a parallel between McCarthyism and today's reactionaries is spot on. These right-wingers seek to promote their ruthless austerity agenda against oppressed and working people, while lining the pockets of the already-rich.

The attacks on Planned Parenthood — because they strike at the quality of life for millions of poor women of color, youth, immigrants, women who are homeless due to domestic violence, women with disabilities and rural residents — are integral to that reactionary agenda.

All progressive people must join the fightback to defend Planned Parenthood.

Chrysler workers vote 'yes' on new contract

By Martha Grevatt

A new contract between the United Auto Workers and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles went into effect Oct. 26. It was ratified by an overwhelming majority of workers, after they rejected a previous agreement by a 2-to-1 margin. The first deal faced mass, organized opposition on the shop floor, with rank-and-file workers making T-shirts, distributing leaflets and holding demonstrations attacking CEO Sergio Marchionne's advocacy of a "culture of poverty."

What made the first contract so unpopular?

In 2007 the Big Three auto companies had leveraged their negative financial position to get the UAW to accept a two-tier pay structure. This meant that while the existing workers did not have to take a pay cut, future employees would receive substantially less pay and fewer benefits.

Many workers at General Motors, Ford and especially Chrysler — now FCA — had voted against that contract; two members of the Chrysler negotiating committee had campaigned against it, opposing two-tier.

Eight years later, the divisions and inequalities have led a majority to now conclude that two-tier must go. Yet UAW International President Dennis Williams and Vice President Norwood Jewell brought a contract before the members that would have kept the system in place.

Also, thousands of second-tier workers were promised four years ago they would be brought to top pay when the last contract expired — a broken promise. That contract created even lower pay scales for workers in the axle plant and the Mopar parts division.

There were other worker complaints about the first contract they rejected, such as an overly strict attendance and tardiness procedure, no relief from unpopular "alternative work schedules," a questionable plan to create a health care co-op and projected product moves that threatened to eliminate jobs.

What changed in the new contract is that nearly all current second-tier workers, including Mopar workers, have a path to earn the same top wages as first-tier workers. Many will reach the top before the end of this contract, which will mean substantial pay raises. That is a huge victory and a setback for Marchionne, who was determined to create a permanent lower tier, as higher seniority workers retired.

The solidarity behind the shop floor vote forced Williams to push for equal pay, which had never been his intention. At the UAW Special Bargaining Convention in March, a resolution was presented on two-tier that called for changing a demand on "bridging the gap" to "eliminating the gap." Williams opposed it. A delegate to the Chrysler subcouncil, which reviewed the contract before it was voted on, heard him argue that "ending two-tier is bullshit."

Yet when the second contract was pitched, with the aid of a high-priced New York public relations firm, the main selling point was that two-tier was history. In addition, the health care co-op was dropped, the attendance procedure was liberalized and vague language was added on revisiting alternative work schedules.

This time 77 percent of production workers and 72 percent of skilled trades voted in favor of the agreement.

Some votes were driven by fear, not enthusiasm. With no strike preparation meetings conducted by the union leadership, many workers were afraid of the consequences of rejecting the second deal. International representatives, rather than explaining that workers' only real leverage is the ability to withhold their labor power, instead cynically instilled fear that workers could legally be permanently replaced if they went on strike.

Many problems remain in new contract

There are many problems with the new contract. Thousands of UAW members did vote "no" again. The claim that it puts two-tier to rest is a false one, but it takes a close reading to find all the hidden tiers.

For example, it will take a worker eight years to make top pay. Those who don't hit the top under this contract could see their pay raises cancelled in the next. Benefits are still unequal. Second-tier workers at the axle plant have an even lower pay rate under the second contract.

Up to now temporary workers worked part time but eventually made the same hourly wage as full-time permanent workers. Now they work full time but will make less than a permanent worker. The negotiators followed the same shameful strategy of 2007 by creating new, lower pay rates for future workers. Future temporary workers make the least of all. The only purpose to these multiple tiers is to offset the added costs to the company under the second agreement.

The biggest additional problem is a \$5.3 billion investment plan, which is pitched as guaranteeing job security. Actually, investing in the latest robotic technology does not create jobs; it eliminates them. Even without a downturn, Metro Detroit could lose over 700 FCA jobs, according to the contract's product commitments.

Workers at Toledo Jeep are not convinced they won't lose jobs when some of their work is moved. The second contract passed there with barely more than 50 percent of the votes; the first was voted down by 87 percent.

FCA workers still have a fight on their hands, but this recent struggle has taught the value of solidarity. Now the fight moves to General Motors, where a tentative agreement was reached Oct. 25 just minutes before a midnight strike deadline.

Grevatt is a 28-year UAW Chrysler worker.

WISCONSIN

Union ratifies contract gains

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 ratified a tentative agreement on Oct. 21.

“We are humbled by the solidarity shown to us from Milwaukee transit riders, labor unions and community activists who stood with us throughout our fight for a fair contract,” ATU 998 President James Macon said in a statement.

The struggle by ATU 998 members and labor-community supporters ended when negotiators eliminated the bosses’ demands to increase the number of part-time workers and also deleted existing language about part-timers in the old contract. Other victories included no coinsurance payments by workers; un-

capping the cost of living allowance (meaning the COLA has no ceiling and no expiration date); the work stoppage won’t count against workers’ attendance records; and the pension, while not increased, was not decreased.

This people’s win occurred despite a climate of deep austerity and union busting in Wisconsin. A highlight of the struggle was the three-day work stoppage in July during the world’s biggest music festival, Summerfest. This action showed the possibilities going forward for creative uses of social-union organizing models in this state.



WW PHOTO: BRYAN G PFEIFER

Supporters of ATU 998 struggle.

Born in the 1934 fires of class struggle, ATU 998 has long been a union employing a civil- and human-rights approach. Father James Groppi, the late civil rights activist, was once president of the union, and for decades the membership of drivers and mechanics had a significant num-

ber of Black workers in its ranks.

This history was brought to life in ATU 998’s latest contract fight. From the beginning, and increasingly through the struggle, ATU 998 leaders employed a social-union approach, which sparked mass support from a wide variety of progressive forces, many of whom are anti-capitalist and anti-racist.

During the course of the months-long battle, youth, students and many labor-community supporters assisted ATU 998 with outreach, social media, rally support, media coverage, making banners and placards, and providing supplies during the work stoppage. Tactics included mass rallies, picket lines, marches that took the streets, petitions, social media campaigns, packing hearings and more. The union also received a range of national progressive media support, including articles in Workers World and interviews with the Labor Forum radio show in Atlanta. (facebook.com/LaborForumWrfg)

A decisive component of the struggle was major support provided by the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association and the Coalition For Justice, a Black Lives Matter coalition in Milwaukee.

For more information, see facebook.com/ATU-Local-998 or atu998.org. □

Detroit union supports political prisoner

By David Sole
Detroit

The case of Michigan political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney has attracted the attention of — and won support from — professors employed by the Wayne County Community College District, based in and around Detroit. Five faculty members who had been discussing Rev. Pinkney’s plight brought the issue before the Oct. 23 membership meeting of Local 2000 of the American Federation of Teachers.

After hearing about the many racist injustices committed against Rev. Pinkney and his sentence of 2.5 to 10 years in prison, the local, representing 800 college professors, went on record in his support.



Rev. Pinkney at Moratorium NOW! Coalition meeting in October 2014.

The resolution also called upon the director of the Michigan Department of Cor-

rections to reverse the punitive transfer of Rev. Pinkney to the Marquette branch prison, some 500 miles away from his spouse and attorney.

Copies of the resolution will be sent to Rick Snyder, the state’s right-wing governor, the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court. These courts are hearing various appeals on the case. The resolution also calls upon the Michigan state AFT and the national executive board of the AFT to publicize Rev. Pinkney’s case and educate the membership about his situation. A collection was taken up for Rev. Pinkney’s attorney to help pay his legal fees.

Sole, a chemistry professor, is a member of AFT Local 2000 and helped draft the resolution supporting Pinkney.

Longshore workers:

‘Shut it down May Day 2016’

By Cheryl LaBash
Baltimore

The Baltimore Workers World Party branch meeting on Oct. 11 featured veteran African-American longshore workers Clarence Thomas and A.J. Mitchell. Both had attended the Justice or Else commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 1995 Million Man March a day earlier.

Thomas and a delegation of International Longshore and Warehouse Union members from various locals had only a month before attended the Charleston, S.C., “Days of Grace” Labor Day march, rally and conference, in the aftermath of the racist murder of nine women and men at the historic Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, as well as the videoed police killing of Walter Scott. The longshore workers traveled from the West Coast to demonstrate solidarity with International Longshore Association Local 1422, whose membership lost family members in the church murders.

It was in Charleston that an ILWU Local 10 resolution calling for a “National Day of Mourning” on May 1, 2016 — International Workers’ Day — was announced. And it was news that broke

the night before on Oct. 10 of reports justifying the police slaying of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland that focused Thomas’ reflections.

Thomas recalled that the 1995 Million Man March was on a work day, yet huge crowds of working-class Black men traveled to Washington, D.C., instead of reporting to their jobs. Although the call was from Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan, most of the attendees were not Muslims or adherents of the NOI.

Organized labor, unfortunately, did not have a voice at these events, except at the 2005 10th anniversary Millions More Movement. Pat Ford from the Service Employees union, Chris Silvera from the Teamsters National Black Caucus and Thomas all spoke from the platform after Farrakhan had spoken at an earlier TNBC Educational Conference. In his talk Silvera, representing 400,000 Black Teamsters, challenged the Bush administration for suspending prevailing wage requirements, opening the door to substandard wages for the cleanup of the devastation from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Facing wide opposition from the labor movement, the

Bush administration reversed itself.

Referring to the report laying groundwork for the exoneration of the cops who killed Rice, Thomas thought that if the police were not held responsible there might be a large response to a National Day of Mourning on May Day in ports across the U.S. “That could be the spark,” said Thomas.

To be heard, labor must shut it down, Thomas asserted. “That is the only leverage we have. All of this talk means abso-

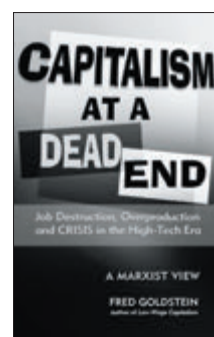
lutely nothing. We have had discussions about cameras on dashboards, cops’ body cameras, and they still are killing us.

“If we can get longshore workers across the country to shut down for eight hours on International Workers Day 2016 — and it is on a Sunday — I think we may be able to get some real serious discussion about income inequality and structural racism.”

A longer version of this article can be found at workers.org.

Capitalism at a Dead End

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



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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

COREY JONES:



Another victim of a killer cop

By Kathy Durkin

Early on the morning of Oct. 18, Corey Jones was sitting in his broken-down SUV on the roadside of an I-95 exit ramp, waiting for a tow truck to arrive. Jones, 31 years old and African American, was driving home from a gig as a drummer with his band, when his vehicle broke down in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. At 2:52 a.m., Jones spoke to his brother by cell phone. By 3:15 a.m., he was dead, felled by three police bullets.

The Jones' family and their attorneys, Benjamin Crump and Daryl Parks, met with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's office on Oct. 22, asking how and why their loved one was killed. The lawyers reported that plainclothes police officer Nouman Raja had driven a large, unmarked department van with tinted windows to the encounter with Jones, without flashing police lights or showing his badge.

Raja fired six bullets at Jones. He claims that Jones confronted him with a gun, but the young man, who had a legal permit for a gun he'd purchased only three days ear-

lier, never fired a shot. Attorney Crump said that Jones was running away, and that his body was found nearly 100 feet from his vehicle. His gun was not found near his body or his car.

Crump stressed: "There are so many unanswered questions. It's hard to understand because it makes no sense to them and it makes no sense to me." (Guardian, Oct. 22)

Raja has a history of violating police procedures. He was disciplined three times for mishandling documents and evidence with his former employer, the Atlantis, Fla., Police Department. By driving an unmarked police van to confront Jones and not identifying himself, Raja breached departmental rules. He is now on administrative leave — with pay.

After their meeting, Jones' relatives joined hundreds of demonstrators assembled outside the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department, demanding the truth about Raja's actions and Jones' death. They dispute the officer's version of events, and are calling for an independent investigation.

The next evening, hundreds of people gathered at a Town Hall meeting in West Palm Beach to demand accountability for Jones' death and discuss racism in the criminal justice system and police use of deadly force. Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin's mother, told the crowd to never stop demanding justice. Her son, an unarmed African-American youth, was slain by vigilante George Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla., in 2012. Zimmerman's acquittal for the crime set off nationwide protests.

Jones' family tells of who their son and brother was — a city housing authority worker, college graduate, church drummer, music lover and bringer of good cheer to his friends and relatives.

Police brutality: 'business as usual'

But to police, Corey Jones was merely a statistic, one of 931 people killed by U.S. law enforcement officers doing "business as usual" so far this year — through Oct. 23. Of these deaths, 228 were of African Americans, says "The Counted," at the Guardian's blog. Although 13.2 percent of the U.S. population, African Americans

comprise 25 percent of police-caused fatalities.

Due to public pressure, the FBI says it will investigate Jones' death. But how will he get justice? FBI officials claim that close "scrutiny and criticism" of police officers due to "publicized" police brutality episodes, is causing higher crime rates, because officers are constrained and "less aggressive." (New York Times, Oct. 24) No proof of that exists. Even top Department of Justice officials dispute it.

In fact, a perusal of the Guardian's comprehensive data base shows the continuing reality of police aggression. It has not diminished at all. Terror against people of color has not lessened. That blog estimates that the number of lethal police assaults will reach more than 1,100 this year, with disproportionately high numbers of fatalities of African Americans and other people of color.

Corey Jones' horrific death has evoked national outrage. It has once again put the spotlight on the racist, violent police — and on the inherently bigoted and brutal criminal justice system, which itself must be challenged. □



Thousands say 'Stop police terror!'

Thousands rallied and marched in New York City from near Washington Square Park uptown on Sixth Avenue to Bryant Park on Oct. 24 in an action called "Rise Up October" with the goal to "Stop Police Terror and Murder." Many family members of people killed by police

spoke and were at the front of the march, which included many people of color and young people directing the action. "Stop Mass Incarceration" called the march, which attracted the participation of well-known personalities like Dr. Cornel West and film director Quentin Tarantino. The action had support from many left and other anti-racist organizations.

— Workers World New York Bureau

Families of those killed by police lead march, Oct. 24.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Activists demand hep-C treatment for Mumia

By Henry Hagins
New York

A phalanx of battle-savvy community activists and seasoned health care providers sat across from a politically armed audience at 1199's Hospital Workers Union headquarters on Oct. 20. The assembled were there to be updated on the current effort to secure hepatitis C treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal and the 10,000 other captives in the state of Pennsylvania's prison system, who've been bureaucratically denied such treatment. Mumia was brought to near death earlier this year by this denial.

The hepatitis C virus has been known to trigger a myriad of illnesses and ultimately death. An anti-viral medication, currently available, has shown itself to be 95 percent effective in combating this "silent disease." Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections administrators have been chronic foot-draggers in dispensing this medicine to the imprisoned population, citing "cost" as the main inhibitor.

Each well-informed panelist gave moving testimony. None embraced the specious notion that high cost was a valid excuse. A doctor from the U.S., trained in Cuba, graphically compared health care in Cuba to that here. The stark contrast when it comes to quality and cost is best illustrated by the phrase, "night and day,"

with top-shelf-care being found in Cuba for all its citizens, regardless of income or ethnicity. Health care is free there!

Panelists included the following defenders of Mumia: Joe Piette, from the International Action Center and a Workers World writer; Sue Davis, National Writers Union, United Auto Workers 1981; Estela Vasquez, executive vice president of 1199; Pam Africa, minister of confrontation of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Dr. Suzanne Ross, psychologist, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition-NYC; Kamau Bektemba, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Maggie Tobin, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; Orié Lumumba, member of the MOVE Organization; Baron Graham, After Hours Project, hep-C outreach program; Bob Boyle, one of Mumia's lawyers; and Dr. Melissa Barber, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, a Cuban-trained doctor.

All panelists supported medical justice for Mumia and the right of hep C prisoners in the Pennsylvania prison system to receive the proven anti-viral medication due them. Audience participants were of like mind when it comes to Mumia: adequate health care from a doctor of his choosing for the hep C treatment and his right to be free because he was/is innocent "from jump-street!" □



PHOTO: KAMAU BECKTEMBA

From left: Bob Boyle, Pam Africa, Suzanne Ross, Joe Piette, Estela Vasquez, Sue Davis and Dr. Melissa Barber.

Sanders campaign has people asking What is socialism?

Continued from page 1

V.I. Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, was a member of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party. Over the last 150 years, disagreements over two main ideas led to the big differences between groups claiming the term socialist. Those main points of contention are over the issue of ownership of the means of production and the idea of revolution.

Ownership of the means of production

The "means of production" is a term used by Marx to mean all the infrastructure of modern society that produces and transports goods and services. It includes factories, trains, stores, farms and ware-

houses. In a capitalist society these are all owned by a relatively small number of people, even though millions of people worked to build them and work to make them useful. Even when workers own shares of stock directly or through their pensions, the control of these industries remains in the hands of the ruling class. The owners take huge profits while people who work there their whole lives barely survive.

Engels wrote in his book, "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific," that prior socialist experiments failed because they were not based upon an understanding of the progression of society and its productive forces. The scientific socialism that Marx and Engels described would be based upon workers seizing the "socialized

Activists demand

'Stop IRS attacks!' & end Cuba blockade

By Anne Pruden
New York

Four participants in the 26th Friendship Caravan shared their experiences traveling to Cuba in July at a New York City meeting at Riverside Church on Oct. 22. A major focus of the meeting urged action to block the current attack by the Internal Revenue Service on the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. The IRS said it plans to revoke IFCO's tax exempt status, jeopardizing the oldest African-American foundation.

Behind the headlines about normalized U.S./Cuba diplomatic relations, Gail Walker, IFCO/Pastors for Peace executive director, asserted the attack on IFCO shows the



Gail Walker speaks, Oct. 22.

WW PHOTO:
ANNE PRUDEN

IFCO for its humanitarian caravans to Cuba, which the foundation has organized since 1991.

International solidarity like IFCO's built the stage for the announcement last Dec. 17 by President Raul Castro and President Barack Obama on new U.S.-Cuba relations and the release of the last three Cuban security agents —

hypocrisy of the Obama administration. It is calling on Congress to end the blockade while using the IRS as a tool to punish

known as the Cuban 5 — who were held in U.S. prisons since 1998.

Walker urged people to "go the the website and demand the attacks on IFCO be stopped!" (tinyurl.com/qg4sxo7) In addition to background information and an online petition, the IFCO/Pastors for Peace website also lists phone and fax numbers, as well as email addresses for IRS Commissioner John Koskinen and Secretary of Treasury Jacob Lew, so people can express their support for IFCO directly and demand an end to the IRS attacks.

Also at the Oct. 22 meeting, IFCO Board member Ninaj Raoul announced IFCO's endorsement of the International Campaign to End Apartheid in the Dominican Republic. □

Hunger striker demands truth about Ayotzinapa students

Houston activist Leobardo Santillan, aka El Tigre, went on a hunger strike, camping outside of Houston's Mexican Consulate. His aim was to bring attention to the 43 disappeared students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College in Iguala a year ago in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero. The students disappeared on Sept. 26, 2014.

With supporters holding signs and banners, Santillan began his fast on Oct.

14 by announcing his plans to the media and the steady stream of people going in and out of the consulate. He condemned the government of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and demanded that a true investigation of the students' disappearance be conducted so that they can either be returned to their families or their whereabouts accounted for.

Santillan stayed outside of the consulate for six days and nights, only drinking

water. During the hunger strike, supporters came and went, many staying for a few hours, some for a whole day. Several spent the nights on the center median facing the consulate guarding Santillan as he slept. He has announced that there will be another hunger strike beginning on Nov. 21.

— Story and photo by Gloria Rubac



PHOTO: ERNESTO LEON

Leobardo Santillan, right, with supporter Brother Vincent.

means of production," from the capitalist class that currently owns them, the "1%" (really one-tenth of one percent), and converting them into socialized production, based upon a planned economy, with the output of production put to the use of all of society rather than simply to produce profit for the few.

Sanders does not advocate taking the ownership of factories and corporations away from billionaires, ending the profit system that exploits workers, or creating a system where decisions about how and what to produce are made based upon human need rather than private profit. He describes himself as a "democratic socialist," and seeks to keep the capitalist system in place, only expanding the social safety net, providing universal health insurance, lowering barriers to education and increasing taxes on corporations.

Several European capitalist countries provide more benefits for workers, better health care, more vacation time and higher wages, similar to what Sanders proposes. Those countries are often labeled "socialist" or "social democracies," even though they still have predominantly capitalist systems, where corporations generate massive profits by exploiting workers.

Some ruling-class political scientists have said that Sanders is really more of a "social democrat" than a "democratic socialist," terms that only further confuse many workers. (Washington Post, Oct. 17, tinyurl.com/o9vh2z4) What they mean is that a social democrat would, like Sanders, keep the capitalist system in place but seek to reform it. On the other hand, as the Washington Post goes on to say, "Democratic Socialists in the United States want a system where workers or the government own factories and other means of production."

In the April 26, 2012, editorial referred to earlier, WW wrote, "When Workers

World describes someone or some party as socialist without quotes, this means they are for taking the means of production — including land — out of the hands of the capitalist ruling class and having it owned publicly." Some who describe themselves as democratic socialists also demand public ownership of the means of production, but what they usually mean is nationalized property, industries owned by a capitalist government, or worker-owned collectives within a capitalist society, not the planned, socialized production described by Engels, where everything is held collectively for the benefit of all.

This brings us squarely to the second key question that separates socialists like Workers World Party from democratic socialists or social democrats, an understanding of the state and the necessity for revolution.

Revolution

When Bernie Sanders talks about a "political revolution," he makes clear that he is not talking about the kind of revolution made by Lenin and the Bolsheviks in 1917. Lenin thought it necessary to smash the capitalist state because the state itself is a tool of the capitalist class used for oppression and exploitation. Sanders rhetorically calls for a "political revolution," asking for people to vote for him and others who promise various reforms to the capitalist system, but he opposes fundamental changes to the government. He praises "American [U.S.] democracy" even though it is founded on the genocide of Native Americans and slavery and continues to deny even basic democratic rights to women, people of color and immigrants.

Social democrats and democratic socialists, even those who advocate some form of collective ownership of the means of production, believe that sufficient changes to society can be made by

working within the existing "democratic" process, that is, within what Marxists call bourgeois or capitalist democracy. History has proven this is false. Where socialist candidates have been elected who seek to make revolutionary change, world imperialism has used violent methods to overthrow them, such as with Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973, or with the imperialist coup in 2002 against Hugo Chávez, when he was subsequently defended by a mass uprising. The tiny ruling class refuses to give up capitalism — and the huge profits it makes for the capitalists — without a violent response.

Even the modest promises of Bernie Sanders, as attractive as they are to workers, clash with the current corporate drive to increase profits while constantly de-

creasing the number of workers employed. Corporations worldwide are demanding "austerity" from the workers, which means expropriating even more of what workers produce. Any concessions to workers can only be won through struggle.

In its statement, "What is WWP," the party writes, "Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party dedicated to organizing and fighting for a socialist revolution in the United States and around the world." (tinyurl.com/q3exuww) That means that WWP recognizes that only through revolutionary struggle can the racist exploitation of the capitalist system be overthrown.

Capitalism won't allow systemic change to be simply voted into policy. □

NATO war maneuvers protested in Europe

By John Catalinotto

Anti-war forces have been demonstrating throughout Europe, especially in Europe's southern states. They are protesting NATO's aggressive "Trident Juncture" exercises.

These war games tested the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's command structures from Oct. 3 to Oct. 16, and troop movements and operations from Oct. 18 to Nov. 6. They involve 36,000 troops from 33 countries, using 60 ships and 200 aircraft and are taking place on the territories of Portugal, Spain and Italy.

NATO was founded in 1949 as a U.S. initiative. U.S. generals have always commanded NATO. Washington mobilized the ruling classes of the West European

capitalist countries to confront the Soviet Union and prevent the Western European working classes from putting their representatives in power.

In post-Soviet 1999, Washington succeeded in turning NATO into a sort of worldwide intervention force for use in Eastern Europe, Africa and West Asia. In recent years, NATO has carried out direct aggression against Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya and has worked through proxy forces in Ukraine and Syria. The NATO interventions have left all these countries in turmoil, with 1 million to 2 million people killed and millions more made refugees.

The "Trident Juncture" exercises are aimed at testing a rapid "Response Force."

Continued on page 10

Global warming, nuclear power and China Part 1

By Deirdre Griswold

In a surprise move, China and Britain's Conservative Party government have signed an agreement in which China will participate in the building of nuclear reactors in Britain. Criticism of the deal comes from those, including members of the British Labor Party, who claim that China's participation could compromise the "national security" of this NATO member-state.

China General Nuclear Power Corp., a state-controlled corporation, will provide \$6 billion toward the completion of the Hinkley Point C power station, giving China a 33.5 percent interest in the plant.

Until now, the plant has been primarily a project of the French company EDF. It has been over-budget and long-delayed in its construction, prompting criticism from anti-nuclear groups over money they say could have been spent on developing other renewable energy sources. However, China's entry into a consortium with EDF, with Britain's approval, has revived the project.

In the contract just signed, China will only be supplying technology to EDF to build Hinkley Point C, but the deal opens the way "for China to invest in future British nuclear projects and possibly to play a larger role in building the plants, giving more credibility to the Chinese nuclear industry and perhaps helping it to sell more nuclear plants abroad." (New York Times, Oct. 21)

Britain has not built a new nuclear power plant since 1995. However, its aging nuclear infrastructure contributes almost 20 percent of the country's electric power. When completed in 10 years, Hinkley C "is intended to meet around 7 percent of Britain's current electricity needs and run relatively cheaply for at least 60 years."

Adds the Times: "China has by far the most ambitious nuclear building program in the world, with 68 commercial reactors under construction or in the planning stages, according to the World

Nuclear Association, an industry group. China has received help from the French and the big Japanese company Toshiba but has gradually developed its own local designs and built up a large chain of domestic suppliers.

"Industry executives say this building boom means that Chinese nuclear contractors have gained considerable knowledge and experience, which they hope to apply outside China."

Nuclear vs. burning of fossil fuels

Today, the burning of fossil fuels is the main source of electric power around the world.

Just days after the announcement of the China-British nuclear deal, a hurricane with the strongest winds ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere hit the Pacific coast of Mexico. Amazingly, no lives were reported lost, but it was a chilling reminder of the growing frequency of superstorms as global warming continues.

With the stronger storms, prolonged droughts, and melting of glaciers and polar ice caps that have accompanied record-high world temperatures, there is no longer any doubt that the burning of fossil fuels, which has created a warming blanket of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere, must give way to other forms of energy if even greater disasters are to be avoided.

Nuclear plants produce no carbon dioxide (CO₂). While many today are looking to nuclear energy as one of the alternatives to fossil fuels, that is not how it got started. The successful splitting of the atom came on the scene long before anyone was aware of the CO₂ problem.

Rather than being developed as a source of energy for peaceful purposes, the first nuclear programs were rushed into production for political and military reasons: to build atomic bombs. The first use of the bomb — to incinerate hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians at the very end of World War II — allowed the U.S. capitalist ruling class to claim the

role of leading power in the postwar world.

It soon became clear, however, that the energy in the atom could be a virtually unlimited source of electric power. The first nuclear reactor to generate electricity was built by the U.S. government in 1951. However, the focus of U.S. research continued to be military, aimed at providing nuclear power for Navy submarines and aircraft carriers.

While Washington was mainly funding research for war purposes, the Soviet Union in June 1954 put into operation the world's first nuclear plant to generate electricity for the civilian power grid at Obninsk, 160 miles south of Moscow.

It was followed by Britain, which started up its first commercial nuclear power station in 1956, named Calder Hall. Not until December 1957 was the first U.S. commercial nuclear plant opened in Pennsylvania, called the Shippingport Reactor.

It soon became clear that there were many inherent problems in the first two generations of nuclear plants. Some were immediate, including the possibility of a disastrous failure in the cooling systems.

The accident at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1979 caused no deaths, but there was great apprehension over the release of radioactive elements and the possibility that the accident could have led to a complete meltdown of the plant. Since then, two other major accidents have occurred — at Chernobyl, in the Ukraine area of the then-Soviet Union, and at Fukushima in Japan, after damage to the nuclear plant there from a major tsunami. The total number of immediate deaths from these two accidents came to less than 50. Estimates of the long-term mortality due to radiation exposure vary widely.

The other major issue involved in nuclear energy is long-term: what to do with the radioactive waste products.

Problem of radioactive waste

As both military and commercial re-

actors began to proliferate, investigators found that the storage of nuclear wastes — which could continue to be radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years — was being done so poorly that there could be serious effects on people and the environment.

The problem of what to do with radioactive waste continues to be a huge barrier to the use of nuclear energy. It is the main stated reason why the German government under Chancellor Angela Merkel has abandoned its nuclear power plants and is spending hundreds of billions of dollars to decommission them. Germany now gets about half its electricity from coal, which is the worst polluter in terms of CO₂ emissions.

As of 2014, the U.S. got about 19 percent of its electric power from nuclear energy. But the vast majority of it, 68 percent, came from fossil fuels: coal, gas and oil. Only 13 percent came from hydroelectric and other renewables.

China gets most of its electric power from coal and has a very serious air-pollution problem. At present, it has 28 nuclear power reactors in operation, 23 under construction, and more about to start construction. Additional reactors are planned, including some of the world's most advanced, to give China more than a threefold increase in nuclear capacity to at least 58 GWe by 2020-2021, then some 150 GWe by 2030, and much more by 2050, according to the World Nuclear Association.

What has transformed China, which was a war-torn, impoverished country at the time the U.S. dropped the first atomic bombs, into such a powerhouse for nuclear energy? And are there reasons to believe that its reactors will be safer than those of the past?

Next: China's energy program, including its fourth-generation Experimental Fast Reactor, which is powered by "spent" nuclear fuel from earlier reactors.

Personal disclosure: The author lives five miles from two of the U.S.'s aging and dangerous commercial nuclear reactors.

Canada voters reject rightist government

By G. Dunkel

The clearest message the Canadian people delivered during their federal election on Oct. 19, after a 79-day campaign, was that they wanted to see the end of the Conservative Party running the government of Canada as it had done since 2006. Some 68 percent of them voted for a party other than the Conservatives, whose seats in Parliament dropped from 166 in 2011 to 99 this year.

The Liberals, with a majority of 184 seats, up from 34, will form a new government. Justin Trudeau, son of a former prime minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, will be prime minister. The social democratic New Democratic Party won 44 seats, down from 103.

The biggest lesson from Canada's election is how various communities came together to reject a rightward drift in running the country.

Because of the fall in the price of oil and other commodities, the Canadian economy slipped into a recession sometime in the first half of 2015. Prime Minister Stephen Harper dealt with the economic hardship that Canadian workers were facing by quibbling over the definition of "recession" and maintaining his policy of deficit reduction. He even cut

spending on scientific research and historical monuments and museums that are tourist destinations.

The NDP's election campaign proposed spending more, but still cutting the government's deficit, by raising taxes on corporations and the very rich. The Liberals proposed a program of deficit spending to increase employment, which polls found appealed to many Canadians.

While Harper was cutting spending on human needs, his government took on a role beside Washington, bombing in Iraq against Islamic State forces, and promising to buy the new F-35 fighter jet.

Justin Trudeau, the new Liberal prime minister, told Barack Obama during the U.S. president's customary, congratulatory telephone call that he was going to end the bombing inside Iraq, something he had promised during the campaign.

Defense News on Oct. 25 predicted that Canada would withdraw its purchase of the F-35 "fifth-generation fighter jet," manufactured by Lockheed-Martin.

Broader representation in Parliament

The Conservatives had incensed the members of Canada's First Nations, its Inuit and its Métis peoples, by passing bill C-51, misnamed the Fair Elections

Act. This bill was designed to limit the influence of the Idle No More Movement, which has been struggling to assert the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The Conservatives designed C-51 to create obstacles for Indigenous people in getting the identification they needed to vote.

The law boomeranged. According to National Newswatch, "Some aboriginal communities saw voter turnout spike by up to 270 percent in the Oct. 19 election despite the Fair Elections Act. ... In the riding [electoral district] of Kenora, which includes 40 First Nations in northern Ontario, voting on the reserves was up 73 percent — almost 3,000 voters." Greg Rickford, the Conservative Party incumbent in Kenora and a Harper cabinet minister, came in third.

There will be 10 Indigenous members of the new Parliament.

There will be 46 members of Parliament from groups Canada calls "visible minorities," which elsewhere are called people of color. Eighteen of them are Punjabi-Canadians. According to The Tribune, a website directed to the Indian community in Canada, there will be more Punjabis in Canada's Parliament than in India's.

There was a lot of anger in the immi-

grant communities about a campaign to ban the wearing of a niqab, which completely covers a woman except for her eyes, during citizenship ceremonies, and to ban acts that the Harper government slandered as "barbaric cultural practices." Both the Liberal Party and the NDP supported the right of Muslim women to wear a niqab.

Another issue that came up during the campaign was "proportionate representation."

Canada is divided into 338 election districts, called ridings. Under the current law, the candidate with the greatest number of votes in each riding wins the seat in Parliament. Three major political parties — the Conservatives, the Liberals and the New Democrats — run candidates in all ridings. At least two provincial parties, the Bloc Québécois and the Greens, compete in a smaller number of ridings. Candidates can win with 35 percent of the vote or less.

This system can produce wide swings in seats. For example, the Liberals gained an additional 150 seats from 2011 to 2015 and won 53 percent of the seats in Parliament with just 39.5 percent of the vote. The Greens got 1 seat with 3.5 percent of the vote while the Bloc Québécois got 10 seats with 4.7 percent. □

'Escalate the flames' of Palestinian Intifada

The following statement was issued Oct. 21 by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in response to the ongoing resistance of Palestinian youth to apartheid Israel's stepped-up campaign of genocide and displacement.

The cold-blooded killings and extrajudicial executions being carried out against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, Jerusalem and the 1948 occupied lands by Israeli soldiers will not break the will of the Palestinian youths rebelling for the victory of Jerusalem and

Palestine, said Comrade Jamil Mizher, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and leader of its branch in Gaza.

Mizher noted that there is a proposal being brought by the Front to the factions to form a unified leadership to build these mass actions and revolt into a massive popular uprising. He described these executions and assassinations as a desperate attempt to stamp out the fire of the uprising.

"These attempts to kill the young men

and women of Palestine in cold blood reflect the racism and fascism of the Israeli state and its goal to break the backbone of the Intifada. On the contrary, these executions are, in fact, a strong incentive to continue the Intifada and deter the terrorist settler attacks," said Mizher. □



PHOTO: PFLP

PFLP Gaza leader, Jamil Mizher.

Solidarity with Palestinian prisoners

By Nick Maniace
New York

Demonstrators gathered in front of the G4S security company office on Manhattan's 44th Street to "Stand with Ahmad Sa'adat, Georges Abdallah, and all Palestinian Prisoners." Samidoun, the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, called the action as its contribution to the international week of solidarity with the two prisoners. Ahmad Sa'adat is the secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist-Leninist and pan-Arab Palestinian

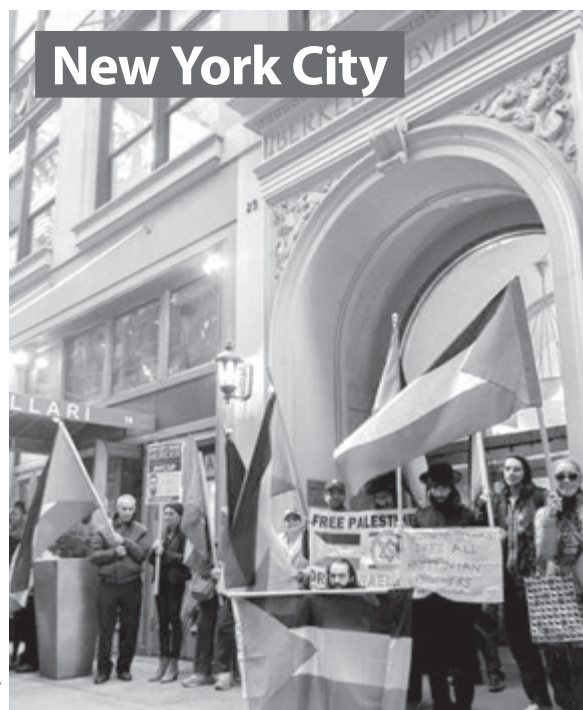
resistance organization; he is accused of involvement in the killing of a platoon commander of the "Israeli Defense Forces."

Even Amnesty International, a liberal organization that supports so-called humanitarian interventions by U.S. imperialism, has declared that the detention of Ahmad Sa'adat is illegal because his trial was illegitimate.

Georges Abdallah is a Lebanese revolutionary who was found guilty of the assassination of a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel in Paris in 1982 and sentenced to life imprisonment. At the time, the U.S. mili-

tary was occupying Lebanon in collaboration with Israel, which had invaded Lebanon. Georges Abdallah is currently held in a French prison.

The Oct. 23 protest targeted the security company G4S because of its direct connections with the Israeli state. Equipment from G4S is used in Israeli prisons — most likely in Ahmad Sa'adat's prison — at military checkpoints and in Zionist settlements in the West Bank. At the protest were members of NYC Students for Justice in Palestine and members of Neturei Karta, Orthodox Jews United



New York City

Manhattan demonstration, Oct. 23.

Against Zionism. On Oct. 30 Samidoun is calling another "protest to end Zionist polit-

ical detentions and free all Palestinian prisoners" at 4 p.m. at the G4S office at 19 West 44th St. in Manhattan. □



WW PHOTO: JILL WHITE

Chicago demonstration supports Palestinian resistance.

Commentary

Palestine will be free

By Francisco Javier Peña-Ariet

The situation in the Middle East has been a hotbed of chaos for some time now. From the unjust wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the quagmire you have now in Syria regarding the Islamic State group. Not even Yemen has been spared from the imperialist forces interfering in the self-determination of its peoples. There is one struggle, however, that has remained since 1948, and that is the struggle for the liberation of Palestine from the grip of the cruel Zionist police state.

Less than a year after the conflict in Gaza during the summer of 2014, we see another conflict arise from Palestinian lands, this time including not only Gaza but the West Bank and Jerusalem as well.

This chapter in this long struggle to freedom started a month ago, when in mid-September the Israeli military decided to go into the Al-Aqsa mosque, the second holiest site in Islam, and allow Zionist extremists to wreak havoc among the Muslim/Palestinian worshippers. Even though the Palestinians and Muslims were defending their right to be at the mosque against these religious extremists, they were treated like the aggressors. Their rights were squashed, and the Zionist radicals were allowed to continue.

This led to a wave of instability across occupied East Jerusalem, which poured into the West Bank and Gaza and started confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli settlers and military. This

all occurred as the flag of free Palestine was finally allowed to wave at the United Nations, and exactly at the same time that Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas declared that the 1993 Oslo Accords with Israel, which are not being upheld by Israel, are no longer valid and that Palestine no longer has to adhere to them.

This is obviously retaliation on behalf of the Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, who already has the blood of several thousand Palestinians on his hands. A third Intifada is in the works, and we must support Palestine in its right to freedom and equality.

The hard-handed tactics being used at this moment by the Israeli military are just more violations of human rights on top of an already exhausting list of atrocities. These include the diversion of agricultural water supply to prevent crops from growing in Gaza, not allowing food and supplies into the Palestinian territories, and bulldozing the houses of hundreds of Palestinian families to establish illegal settlements.

The violence that is being seen now in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza is provoked and caused by the Zionist government. What we see from the Palestinian side is the reaction to Israeli tactics. We are also watching the Intifada take form again and resistance begin to solidify across the Palestinian territories. We must stand in solidarity with Palestine and all oppressed people across the world. Long live a free Palestine! □

ICAP Pres. Kenia Serrano, go to NNOC.info

WED. NOV. 4TH

CUBA SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Dinner - Reception 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Program 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Speakers with Q&A:

- Kenia Serrano, President, Cuban Institute for Friendship With the People's (ICAP)
- Leima Martinez, Director, ICAP North American Division

Above: Kenia Serrano

The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center
3940 Broadway, New York, NY 10032
(Take the A or 1 Train to 168th St. Washington Heights)
ADHOC COMMITTEE TO WELCOME ICAP TO NY/NJ

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Two desperate, racist lies

Along with the club, the Taser, tear gas and the gun, imperialism maintains its grip over the oppressed and workers around the globe by spawning falsehood after falsehood.

The reason for this is quite simple. When they have to rely on brutality alone, it's a sign they're in trouble, losing ideological control of the population. But the more desperate their lies and the less believable they are, the more trouble the imperialists are in.

Thus, we examine two statements made this October, one in the U.S. and one in occupied Palestine, that strain credibility so much that their repetition may boomerang on the liars.

Netanyahu's Big Lie

The first was so unbelievable that it defies all reason. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu turned to a vicious, racist lie to attack the new Palestinian rebellion. In a speech Oct. 20 before the 37th Zionist Congress, Netanyahu stood history on its head. He said that, until 1941, Adolf Hitler had only planned to expel Jews from German-occupied Europe, not kill them, and that it was the Grand Mufti Haj Amin al Husseini, a religious leader from Jerusalem, who convinced the Nazi leader to exterminate the Jews.

There is absolutely no evidence that such a conversation ever took place. Every non-Nazi historian, including Israeli historians who have contradicted Netanyahu, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, agree that the systematic murder of European Jews was entirely the idea of Hitler and other Nazis.

Palestine Liberation Organization Secretary General Saeb Erakat pointed out that by telling this Big Lie, Netanyahu is "further fueling the political issue into a religious one, and underscoring his commitment to the continued occupation and violence against Palestinians." (cnn.com, Oct. 22)

At least 45 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli occupation forces and racist settlers since a new Intifada rebel-

lion erupted in early October, in further proof that the Israeli oppressors even within Jerusalem have to rely on brute force. In this case, Netanyahu exposed his desperation and further exposed the racist nature of apartheid Israel.

The FBI's Big Lie

A few days after Netanyahu's speech, FBI Director James Comey made his own fabrication. Comey tried to argue that the Black Lives Matter movement, by its criticism of police shootings of unarmed Black people, is causing a huge increase in crime. He claimed, on Oct. 23 at the University of Chicago Law School, that the cops are not as aggressively enforcing the law because they are intimidated.

This Big Lie is what the U.S. police establishment calls the "Ferguson Effect," where the militant demonstrations in the U.S. and indeed worldwide against the murders of Black people, such as Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray and so many more, at the hands of police have emboldened "criminals" and spawned a nationwide crime wave.

The Ferguson Effect is a myth. Study after study shows no correlation between the crime rate and the Black Lives Matter movement. There is no evidence, either, that cops are killing fewer unarmed Black people. There does exist evidence, however, "that many officers unfairly singled out African Americans for stops and arrests, and too often used force that was unjustified." (nytimes.com, Oct. 24)

What binds together these two slanders, one from Israel's bloody leader and the other from the chief U.S. cop, is their goal: to undermine the growing strength of oppressed people to throw off their chains and to achieve liberation from the racist forces arrayed against them.

Young people today, however, both in occupied Palestine and the imperialist U.S., seem to be adhering in greater and greater numbers to the words of Malcolm X when it comes to Big Lies and the struggle: "I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against."

NATO war maneuvers protested in Europe

Continued from page 7

These war maneuvers are employing 40,000 troops to project military force to the east and south in order to expand the domination of corporations from the U.S. and the European Union. The operational headquarters for the exercises is located in Naples, Italy.

Protests in three countries

In the week ending Oct. 25, labor and anti-war organizations mobilized demonstrations in Portugal, Spain and Italy to protest the Trident Juncture war games.

Several organizations, including the large labor confederation CGTP-IN, plus anti-war and women's groups, demonstrated on Oct. 24 in Lisbon, Portugal. Public meetings and protests took place in other Portuguese cities leading up to that date. The main slogan was, "Yes to peace! No to NATO!" (cgtp.pt)

In Spain, demonstrations took place in Zaragoza, in the Canary Islands and on Oct. 25 in Madrid, where thousands marched. A one-day meeting for the Forum Against Imperialist War and NATO is scheduled for Oct. 27 in Barcelona, and a three-day tribunal on Nov. 6-8 in Madrid



Thousands march in Naples, Italy, Oct. 24.

will put the imperialist military and its collaborators on trial. (tinyurl.com/pbb66ht)

In Italy, thousands of demonstrators held a national march through Naples on Oct. 24 and a protest in Rome the next day. The "No to NATO" organization is holding public meetings in different cities, including the capital, in the coming weeks.

On the opening day of the active exercises, U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershkov, the vice secretary general of NATO, held a news conference at Trapani-Birgi military airport in Sicily. Vershkov promoted the NATO maneuvers and criticized Russia.

A determined war resister named Marinella Correggia managed to get the microphone and answered Vershkov's speech: "But it was exactly NATO's war

U.N. OKs EU naval attacks on migrant ships

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A further militarization in the Mediterranean has been approved through a resolution passed by the U.N. Security Council on Oct. 9. By a 14 to 1 vote, European Union naval forces were empowered to halt and turn back vessels transporting migrants across the Mediterranean into Southern Europe. Only the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela abstained in the decision. Millions of people have been displaced throughout Africa, the Middle East and Asia in the worst refugee crisis since the conclusion of World War II.

This renewed effort, called "Operation Sophia," consists of six naval warships from the EU in constant patrols off the coast of Libya. These vessels have been given the ability to halt, seize, detain and destroy boats used by human traffickers bringing thousands to Europe every week.

One Italian aircraft carrier, a French frigate and another from Britain, along with a Spanish ship and two German ones will be spearheading the mission, which follows the same pattern as the EU anti-piracy expeditions off the Horn of Africa.

France 24 news agency reported Oct 7: "At least three other vessels supplied by the Belgian, British and Slovenian navies are expected to arrive in the area at the end of October to complete the force, which also includes four aircraft and 1,318 personnel. But the operation is a drop in the ocean compared to the huge scale of a problem that has seen 630,000 migrants illegally enter the EU this year as people flee conflict in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq."

Imperialists want unity amid crisis

The migrant crisis has deeply divided the imperialist-led EU member-states, prompting the leaders of France and Germany to issue a joint statement calling for unity.

Other countries such as Hungary have erected fences to keep migrants out, while abusing those who have entered by forcing them into detention centers and by beating and gassing seniors, men, women and children.

European states were hit hard by the world capitalist crisis of 2007-09. High rates of unemployment and poverty increased even in relatively wealthier countries such as France, Germany and Britain. Racial tensions between oppressed communities and governments in these states have intensified over the last decade.

While Germany and France frame their response to the migrant and refugee crisis — which is designed to continue their neocolonialist role — as a "humanitarian mission," the Europeans are attempting to defuse a potential calamity or rupture within the EU structures.

The inter-imperialist rivalry between the EU member-states and the U.S. and Canada necessitates fomenting the illusion of unity in relation to the migrant crisis. However, more recent members that were formerly socialist-oriented

in Libya that put the jihadist in power who helped spread terrorism, and it was NATO that created a failed state in Libya. And NATO members who destroy countries with direct or proxy wars. And it was NATO that bombed the hospital in Afghanistan days ago." (email message)

With courageous individual actions, meetings and mass demonstrations, resisters in Europe are speaking out against Trident Juncture and NATO. □

states in alliance with the Soviet Union, such as Hungary, are in a weaker position economically and politically, particularly in light of the right-wing political parties in power in several of these countries.

Long-term implications of the migrant crisis

Hundreds of thousands of migrants, many of them from Syria and other states throughout the Middle East, Asia and Africa, have presented a humanitarian and political crisis, with more than 3,000 killed so far in 2015.

Images of floating bodies washing up on beaches are a profound symbol of failed imperialist policies over the last 13 years since the beginning of the wars in Afghanistan and later Iraq. The photographs and videos of migrants dying in the Mediterranean represent an extension of the invasions by Pentagon and NATO forces allied with their political surrogates in the impacted geopolitical regions.

President Barack Obama's administration is still attempting to justify its role in destroying large swaths of territory in the once stable and prosperous Middle Eastern state of Syria. The Russian Federation air campaign against armed opposition groups in Syria is a direct challenge to the imperialist wars of regime change that have characterized U.S. policy in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Media reports indicate that more than \$500 million in working people's tax revenues has been wasted in a failed attempt to create a so-called "moderate anti-Syrian army." After several years of effort, only five individual fighters have actually been able to remain within the framework established by the U.S. Despite these claims, there are obviously other groups fighting against the Syrian government that are fighting with U.S.-supplied arms.

All that these other armed groups have been able to do is cause monumental death, destruction and displacement. Many people in the Middle East and around the world have welcomed the intervention of Moscow and Iran to defend the Syrian state.

Divisions among the EU member-states will not shield even France and Germany from inevitable social unrest. Washington has announced that it will welcome anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 Syrians into the U.S. — a completely inadequate number considering that it is the military and political policies of Washington and Wall Street that lie at the base of the crises in Syria, Central Asia, Libya, Yemen and Iraq.

The migrant crisis is a direct result of U.S.-led imperialist militarism in various geopolitical regions as well as the ongoing world capitalist crisis. Turkey, a NATO state, is heavily involved in the destabilization of Syria, raising questions about the source of the bombing in Ankara on Oct. 10 that killed nearly 100 people.

The only real promise of reversing the situation in the Mediterranean, the affected war-ravaged states on three continents, and the suffering of workers and oppressed in the imperialist countries due to the draining of national resources through war and destabilization efforts is to unite the peoples of these oppressed nations, along with the workers and oppressed in the industrialized states, in order to force the Pentagon, CIA and NATO forces out of the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. Then the people of these regions will be able to resolve their own internal problems and bring about genuine peace and security. □

South Africa

Student struggle stops tuition hikes

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

Oct. 26 — South African President Jacob Zuma announced a moratorium on planned tuition increases of 6 percent on Oct. 23. These fee hikes were scheduled to go into effect for 2016 as Africa's most industrialized state faces a burgeoning economic crisis of sluggish growth and increasing uncertainty in the labor market.

The president's proclamation came as two weeks of student protests closed universities in Pretoria, Fort Hare, Johannesburg, Cape Town and other cities and towns. The Twitter hashtag, #feesmustfall, became a rallying cry for students throughout South Africa. They demonstrated in the streets, at the parliament building in Cape Town, the Union Building in Pretoria and even outside the ruling African National Congress party headquarters at Luthuli House.

At the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, a premier higher educational institution, administrators closed the campus after protests on Oct. 14. These demonstrations rapidly spread to other campuses and shut many down.

The Witwatersrand Acting Student Representative Council President, Shaera Kalla, explained a broader context, "There is a majority of Black students every year who are academically excluded from this university and financially excluded from this university. That is the reality and we are tired of that reality." (enca.com, Oct. 16)

Government officials and vice chancellors, who were meeting in Durban the week of Oct. 12 during the National Education Summit to discuss the state of higher education, were taken off-guard by the protests. Witwatersrand University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Adam Habib, was compelled to leave the conference and immediately return to Johannesburg to meet with protesting students.

The administration at Witwatersrand, which is at the center of the nationwide dispute, had proposed increases in regis-

tration, tuition and accommodation fees by an average of 10 percent for 2016.

Despite Zuma's announcement, student protests continued on Oct. 26. At Witwatersrand, student activists interrupted a university senate meeting designed to discuss the resumption of the academic program. They demanded the senate address the demand for free university education, among others.

The Oct. 26 South African Mail & Guardian reported that on most campuses students continued the protests: "They are demanding free education for all and that universities stop the outsourcing of staff and services."

Education reflects broader challenges

The problem of higher education affordability is a manifestation of the increasing economic crisis in South Africa where the government, due to its adoption of neoliberal policies, has been unable to implement free education, a mandate of the 1955 Freedom Charter.

Since the ANC took office in 1994, assistance to students pursuing postsecondary education has increased substantially. Nevertheless, these measures have not adequately met the demands of working-class and poor communities.

Additionally, South Africa's university system allows individual schools to determine internal governance issues such as fee increases, and student and labor affairs. Many aspects of the former apartheid system of institutional racism and class bias remain in the functional framework of education.

On Oct. 21, when Minister of Finance Nhlamhla Nene was delivering the mid-term budget before parliament, police were using teargas to disperse the thousands of students demonstrating outside the building. That did not deter the stu-



South African students demand lower fees and free education.

dents from battling with security personnel.

Nene reported that the national debt has grown from 26 percent to 47 percent of the gross domestic product since the 2008-09 global economic crises when South Africa instituted countercyclical measures to combat the downturn. The growth of debt service is a major concern for bond ratings agencies, which can determine the cost of borrowing and foreign capital's investments in the national economy.

These developments are aggravated by the decline in the rand's value, which has slipped to the level of more than 13 to 1 against the U.S. dollar; it was about 7 to 1 in 2007. Nene's administration expects the debt to rise another \$44 billion over the next three years, while stabilizing as a percentage of the GDP.

Debt service is the government's fastest growing expense. Many of these difficulties stem directly from declining prices for commodity exports — and capitalist relations of production, where private businesses seek to cut labor costs amid declining currency values.

Debate intensifies inside Tripartite Alliance

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr. Blade Nzimande, who is also the Secretary General of the South

African Communist Party, has been criticized for not acting decisively to solve the problems of increasing fees for education. The South African press also reported that some youth leaders, including newly elected ANC Youth League President Collen Maine have called for Nzimande's resignation.

Others in the Tripartite Alliance — the ANC, SACP and Congress of South African Trade Unions — have rejected what they describe

as "scapegoating" of Nzimande, saying that the problems of higher education cannot be assessed independent of the overall capitalist crisis.

Nzimande told the South African press agency eNCA on Oct. 26, "There is enough money in this country. The problem is that a lot of it is in the private sector." He added that "not all universities can afford to pay even a cent towards this" and that although the higher education sector is largely funded through state revenues, the private sector must increase support.

The SACP, ANC, along with the Economic Freedom Fighters, the Democratic Alliance and other opposition parties, have taken varying positions on this question in a wide-ranging debate. Accusations from elements in the ANC and the SACP say they support the demand for free education. However, there could be other political aspects to the struggle and views about the demonstrations.

A polemic between the SACP and the ANC has surfaced about the ANC's National General Council held Oct. 8-11. The African Communist, a theoretical journal of the SACP, openly criticized the General Council's program in its third quarter issue, saying there needs to be a move away from neoliberal economic policy through larger state spending geared toward correcting the legacy of apartheid and colonialism. □

South African coal miners face challenges

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

An agreement between the National Union of Mineworkers and coal sector firms ended a more than one-week coal strike involving thousands of employees. Workers returned to their jobs on Oct. 14.

Bosses and unions began conciliation talks after reaching a deadlock in negotiations in August. The NUM, which represents 72 percent of the 17,000 employees covered by the deal, had demanded wage increases of as much as 14 percent.

On Oct. 9, mining companies including Anglo, Glencore and Exxaro Resources Ltd. presented a revised two-year deal; further changes were made on Oct. 12. The final agreement adds another 750 rand (\$56) to 1,000 rand (\$74) to monthly wages, retroactive to June.

Several factors have contributed to South Africa's overall economic downturn, including more than two decades of problems within the mining industry. Gold, diamonds, coal, iron ore and platinum mining had turned South Africa under apartheid into the largest industrial center on the African continent.

Since the African National Congress

took power in 1994, downsizing by the mining industry bosses has resulted in the decline of employed workers from 800,000 to below 500,000.

Many gold mines have been closed in South Africa. More gold is now being produced in Africa, China, Australia, the United States, Canada and Latin America. Prior to the 21st century's first decade, South Africa was the world's largest gold producer. This situation has changed dramatically over the last decade. Yet South Africa is still the world's fifth-largest gold producer.

Mine owners say mechanization of South Africa's mining industry is due to "rising production costs." For more than three decades, militant mine workers seeking improved wages have pressured the ever profit-seeking owners. Consequently, mine owners have instituted massive layoffs, increased workloads and cut real wages to reduce labor costs.

Even in the platinum sector, which mines most of that strategic metal globally, thousands of workers have lost their jobs in the last three years. Since the major strike in Marikana in 2012, the platinum sector has experienced major changes. Owners now threaten to lay off

up to 35,000 workers. The ANC government has pressured the capitalists not to cut more jobs.

Gov't must nationalize mining industry

The South African Chamber of Mines reports the loss of more than 35,000 mining jobs from 2012 through 2014 — 22,900 in the gold sector, 10,800 at platinum sites and 1,600 in iron ore mines.

Despite this crisis, the government will not take control of the mining industry and nationalize it under workers' control to halt the layoffs and redirect mineral production based on the laboring class's interests. Such measures would prove popular among the masses, but would prompt a negative response among mine owners, international financial institutions and Western governments.

Mining firms have reaped billions of dollars in profits from exploiting African labor for the last 150 years. When workers today demand a greater return on their productivity, owners seek ways to undermine their rights to a decent wage and living standard.

Without the working class's militant organizing and activism, the ANC would not have been able to gain a majority

within the nonracial government which took over in 1994. The ANC cannot ignore the plight of union members in the struggle against the bosses without damaging its relations with its popular base.

The reduction in commodity prices has led to many global financial problems, particularly in the "emerging economies." Capitalist states in Europe and North America are concerned by the independent efforts of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa [the BRICS countries], which have proposed the formation of an alternative global lending institution that could challenge the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Imperialist spending on militarism and bank bailouts in advanced capitalist countries also drain resources that could be reinvested into projects to rebuild cities and improve public services, social programs, education and scientific research. However, it will take a movement of the working class, farmers and the nationally oppressed to reverse the economic policies of the ruling classes, whose primary aims are to increase profits.

A longer version of this article can be found at workers.org.



Resistente expone asesinatos por drones EUA

Por Minnie Bruce Pratt

Documentos clasificados del Departamento de Defensa de Estados Unidos fueron publicados el 15 de octubre por un “denunciante muy valiente y con grandes principios” en el sistema guerrista de EUA. Los informes secretos destacaron la muerte y la destrucción causadas por el amplio uso de drones por EUA en Afganistán, Irak, Yemen, Somalia y otros lugares. (The Guardian)

Los Documentos Drone, publicados en el sitio web The Intercept, revelaron que

Editorial WW-MO

¡Viva la Intifada!

En cada parte de Palestina — desde Cisjordania y Jerusalén a la Palestina Ocupada desde 1948 — la fase más reciente de la resistencia a la ocupación y el racismo ha afectado a la población de colonos sionistas con miedo y aprensión.

Abnegados jóvenes palestinos armados únicamente con cuchillos y determinación, le han dejado saber a la población de colonos que ya no pueden ocultarse en sus centros comerciales, sus modernos centros de la ciudad cenando al aire libre y con sus 24 horas de televisión por cable.

La población de colonos israelíes se encuentra ahora en la misma posición psicológica que los amos de plantación en el Condado Southampton-Virginia en 1831 cuando Nat Turner encabezó allí una rebelión de esclavos.

A pesar de más de \$137 mil millones en ayuda militar y económica directa de EUA desde 1949, y con al menos \$3.74 mil millones pagados en 2015 (Informe Washington sobre la Actualidad Oriente Medio de octubre 2015), el llamado “Estado de Israel” todavía no tiene respuesta para la resistencia y firmeza palestina.

El avión de guerra Falcon F-16 de la Lockheed Martin no funciona en los callejones de Jerusalén. El tanque de batalla Merkava Mark IV, con su motor diesel MTU Friedrichshafen alemán no opera dentro de una estación de autobuses en Beersheva. Y los submarinos de clase Delfín que cargan misiles de crucero, construidos en Alemania no ofrecen ninguna protección a los colonos israelíes que nadan y toman el sol en las playas de Tel Aviv.

El Monitor Euro Mediterráneo de Derechos Humanos acaba de publicar un informe titulado “Las ejecuciones arbitrarias de Israel y su sistema de violencia estructural”. Se documenta cómo Israel viola sistemáticamente la Convención de Ginebra y es culpable de crímenes de guerra. Por ejemplo: “El 23 de julio, las fuerzas israelíes mataron a Falah Hamdi Zamel Abumaria, de 53 años, de la aldea Beit Amr en Hebrón. Los soldados invadieron su casa para detener a su hijo, Muhammed; cuando dispararon al joven Abumaria se asustó y tiró un jarrón de cerámica a los soldados desde su balcón. Los soldados respondieron disparándole tres balas en el pecho”.

Esto es el porqué jóvenes de 16 años atacan a colonos con cuchillos. □

el ejército de EUA habitualmente clasifica a las personas no identificadas que mueren en los ataques dirigidos, como “enemigos muertos en acción”. Eso significa que todas las víctimas son llamadas “enemigos”, incluyendo miembros de una familia, amistades, vecinas/os y transeúntes anónimos. El informe afirma que este etiquetado es una estrategia deliberada para ocultar la muerte de civiles.

Según los Documentos Drone, en un período de cinco meses, casi el 90 por ciento de las personas asesinadas por los drones murieron debido a su proximidad a los “objetivos”.

El informe también pone seriamente en duda la exactitud y fiabilidad de los métodos estadounidenses utilizados para señalar a la gente como “enemigo legítimo”.

El denunciante explica: “Es impresionante el número de casos cuando los selectores son erróneamente atribuidos a ciertas personas. Y no es sino hasta varios meses o años después que de repente nos damos cuenta de que cuando pensabas que ibas tras un objetivo muy importante, terminamos dándonos cuenta de que era el teléfono de su madre”. (Theintercept.com, 15 de octubre)

Desarmar a EUA de drones

Mientras los Documentos Drone eran publicados, un grupo de manifestantes llegaban al final de una jornada de 165 millas con la intención de organizar una resistencia al terror armado de los drones.

El 19 y 20 de octubre manifestantes llegaron a la Estación de la Reserva Aérea en las Cataratas del Niágara después de comenzar su viaje el 7 de octubre en la Base Aérea de la Guardia Nacional Hancock en Syracuse-NY. La caminata fue organizada por la Coalición Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones.

Por Martha Grevatt, Detroit

Lo que el sistema llama saqueo — tomando quizás algunos comestibles o un abrigo de invierno en una tienda durante una rebelión — puede llevar a una persona a la cárcel. El saqueo por banqueros y sus abogados serviles es otra cosa. Intente robar un museo, un parque de la ciudad, un departamento de agua y las pensiones devengadas de las/os trabajadores. En Detroit será celebrado, aunque puede que tenga dificultades con las/os manifestantes.

El 13 de octubre, más de 100 residentes de Detroit, incluyendo un gran contingente de trabajadoras/es jubilados, se manifestaron frente al Instituto del Arte. Adentro, la élite de la ciudad estaba celebrando la apertura de una oficina del bufete de abogados corporativos Jones Day en Detroit.

Jones Day fue contratada por Kevyn Orr, empleado de la empresa, quien fue nombrado Director de Emergencias para “representar” a Detroit en el tribunal federal de quiebras. Lo que Orr y Jones Day hicieron, en complicidad con el juez de bancarrota Steven Rhodes, fue construir

(upstatedroneaction.org)

Los soldados en ambas bases operan los drones MQ-9 Reaper / Predator que lanzan bombas “Hellfire” en Afganistán y otros lugares. El cuerpo de ataque 174 de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de Nueva York está basado en Syracuse y el 107 está en las Cataratas del Niágara.

Al declinar el capitalismo estadounidense, la clase gobernante se basa más y más en la expansión militar para dominar y controlar áreas del mercado global. Al mismo tiempo, EUA no puede contar con un reclutamiento militar para suplir soldados y mandarlos al frente para estas impopulares “guerras sin fin”. Esto significa que debe basarse más en las guerras de alta tecnología: como las bombas inteligentes, robots, sistemas de satélites, naves de misiles de alta tecnología y drones.

Los contratos militares-industriales relacionados con el desarrollo de drones son un gran negocio en el centro y el norte de Nueva York y en todo EUA. El presupuesto del Departamento de Defensa de 2016 asigna \$1.94 mil millones para la investigación, producción, mantenimiento y municiones para los drones MQ Reaper como los manejados en Syracuse y las Cataratas del Niágara.

El presupuesto total para los drones es exponencialmente mayor porque el Departamento de Defensa intenta aumentar el uso de ellos en un 50 por ciento en los próximos cuatro años.

Por ejemplo, la Fuerza Aérea de EUA planea construir una base de aviones a control remoto en Agadez, Nigeria, además de su base de drones actual en Niamey, Níger. Esto permitirá una extensa vigilancia y ataques por drones estadounidenses en el África oriental y septentrional. (dronecenter.bard.edu)

Pero el uso de la guerra de alta tec-

nología también abre la posibilidad de nuevas formas de resistencia.

Se necesitan muchas más personas en la cadena de mando para un arma de alta tecnología como el MQ Reaper/Predator — con más oportunidades para un rompimiento en esa cadena.

Micah Zenko, un alto miembro del Consejo de Relaciones Exteriores, señala que para volar el MQ Reaper se necesitan más de 130 personas, la mayoría para mirar pantallas de video y analizar la recopilación de datos del dron.

La Coalición Upstate to Ground the Drones ha corrido anuncios de televisión instando a los operadores de drones de la Reserva del Ejército a negarse a cometer crímenes de guerra piloteando remotamente los drones.

Respondiendo a esa clase de llamado en las filas militar-industrial hay personas en la cadena de mando como el denunciante anónimo de Drone Papers, quien decidió que “ya basta” y liberó los datos críticos al uso de drones.

Daniel Ellsberg, resistente de la guerra contra Vietnam, elogió la fuente de los documentos sobre los drones como parte de una cadena denunciante que incluye a Edward Snowden y Chelsea Manning, quienes filtraron documentos clasificados por EUA relacionados con las guerras recientes. Ellsberg publicó los Papeles del Pentágono clasificados en 1971 que ayudó a incitar una resistencia popular a la guerra de EUA en Vietnam.

Ellsberg dijo sobre la larga cadena de mando vinculada a los crímenes de guerra de EUA: “Todo se reduce a esto. Cientos pudieron haber hecho lo que hice, literalmente. ... [Snowden, Manning y la fuente de Drone] hicieron lo correcto. Los demás estaban equivocados en mantener esos secretos”. (The Guardian, 15 de octubre). □

Residentes de Detroit enfrentan saqueadores corporativos

una “gran oferta” para saquear las pensiones y robar los activos de la ciudad. El acuerdo implantó drásticos recortes de pensiones a las/os jubilados de la ciudad y canceló su seguro de salud, dio el Instituto de Artes de la ciudad de Detroit a un consorcio de “filántropos”, y convirtió el atesorado parque Belle Isle de la ciudad en un parque estatal que requiere una cuota de entrada.

Por iniciativa de Orr, el Departamento de Aguas y Alcantarillado de Detroit cortó el servicio a decenas de miles de personas de Detroit. El DAAD está programado para ser vendido a una autoridad regional de agua suburbana y potencialmente privatizada — posiblemente por la Veolia Corp., que ya tiene un contrato de consultoría con la nueva autoridad del agua.

Jones Day recibió \$53 millones en honorarios de la tesorería de la ciudad para ayudar a los saqueadores corporativos por un año. Mientras tanto, las/os residentes de Detroit están todavía en deuda por cientos de millones de dólares en pagos de intereses a algunos de los mayores bancos del mundo, el resulta-

do de tratos fraudulentos de cambiar las tasas de intereses.

Las/os manifestantes colocaron un piquete que ocupaba la glorieta utilizada para dejar a los invitados en el estacionamiento de servicio de valet. Como resultado, los asistentes del estacionamiento tuvieron que estar bajo la protección de la policía y recibir a los asistentes a la gala en la acera acompañándoles a través de una hilera de manifestantes que ruidosamente enfrentaron a cada uno de los millonarios con gritos de “vergüenza” y “saqueadores, mentirosos y ladrones”. Las voces más fuertes fueron las de las/os jubilados. Las/os manifestantes rodearon al fácilmente reconocible Orr, siguiéndolo hasta que fuera escoltado hacia dentro.

El IAD alberga los famosos murales sobre la industria automotriz pintados por el revolucionario artista mexicano Diego Rivera. Una de las consignas era: “¿Qué haría Diego Rivera? Decir a Jones Day, al diablo con ustedes”.

La protesta fue convocada por la Coalición Moratoria Ahora para Acabar con Ejecuciones Hipotecarias, Desahucios y Cierres de Servicios Públicos. □